

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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June 6, 2017

Ken Pimlott
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 94244

RE: EXEMPTION FROM CONTRACTORS LICENSE REQUIREMENT FOR LICENSED
TIMBER OPERATORS

Dear Mr. Pimlott,

On behalf of El Dorado County, our Board provides this letter to support the Associated California Loggers in its request to allow both tree service contractors who are licensed by the CSLB and licensed timber operators to work on the tree mortality crisis without requiring them to hold both types of licenses. This request is consistent with the Proclamation that Governor Gray Davis made for the tree mortality crisis in Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties in 2003. The Proclamation said the following:

“[C]onditions of extreme peril to the people, property and environment exist within the Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties due to imminent fire danger caused by the extraordinary number of dead, dying and diseased trees resulting from prolonged drought, overstocked forests and infestation by bark beetles and other decay organisms[.]”

The Proclamation went on to state:

“IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that to expand the number of contractors available to perform services to property owners for cutting and removing trees for fire safety purposes by authorizing use of tree service contractors licensed to perform tree removal work under Business and Professions Code section 7000 et seq., in addition to timber operators licensed under the Public Resources Code to perform timber operations, pursuant to Government Code section 8571, the provisions of Public Resources Code section 4571(a) providing that only licensed timber operators may perform timber operations are hereby suspended. [In addition], [a] licensed timber operator need not obtain a contractor’s license under the Business and Professions Code in order to carry out work under this Proclamation.”

This language effectively modified existing statutory requirements to allow affected jurisdictions to retain either licensed timber operators OR licensed tree removal contractors to perform tree removal work. We find ourselves in exactly the same condition today in El Dorado County as

the affected counties of the 2003 Proclamation. We strongly urge a revision to the Governor's 2015 Emergency Proclamation on the Tree Mortality to include similar language that will allow licensed timber operators to participate in doing the work under the current Emergency Proclamation without also holding a CSLB license. Similarly, a tree service contractor who is licensed to perform tree removal work by the CSLB need not also simultaneously hold a license under the Public Resources Code. This revision is justified by the urgent nature of the hazardous conditions created by the number of dead and dying trees as result of the bark beetle epidemic.

Our forests are in a critical state of danger, and the request made by the Associated California Loggers will go a long way toward helping to mitigate the tree mortality crisis by providing local jurisdictions with the flexibility they need to take swift action. Local jurisdictions will be able to assess what qualifications their unique circumstances may require, and to exercise their discretion for the ultimate preservation of the health and safety of our residents and our forests. For these reasons, El Dorado County is supporting the request of the Associated California Loggers.

Sincerely,

Chair, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

cc:

Members, El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Eric Carleson, Executive Director, Associated California Loggers

Malcolm Dougherty, Director, California Department of Transportation