



Legislation Text

File #: 22-0845, **Version:** 1

Planning and Building Department, Planning Division, recommending the Board approve and authorize the Chair to sign a letter to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection appointing Karen L. Garner, Director of the Planning and Building Department, as El Dorado County's primary authorized designee and Robert Peters, Deputy Director of Planning, as El Dorado County's secondary authorized designee to review Timberland Conversion Permits (or equivalent) and Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemptions.

FUNDING: There is no funding associated with this action.

DISCUSSION / BACKGROUND

The conversion of timberland to a use other than growing timber requires, prior to conversion, a Timberland Conversion Permit or, if eligible, a Less than 3 Acre Conversion Exemption from CAL FIRE. The County's authorized designee is provided notification by CAL FIRE whenever such a permit or exemption is requested, thereby giving the County the opportunity to determine if the request is in conformance with County regulatory requirements.

Traditionally, Timberland Conversion Permits and Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemptions have been reviewed by the Planning Division for compliance with local regulations. Although this had not been a formalized process in the past, the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection sent the County a letter dated August 23, 2017 requesting the County formally appoint an authorized designee in order to improve the communication between the RPFs, local jurisdictions, CAL FIRE, and the State Board of Forestry (Attachment A).

On May 19, 2020, Legistar File 20-0586, the Board authorized the Chair to sign a letter to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection appointing Tiffany Schmid, Director of Planning and Building, as El Dorado County's primary designee and Robert Peters, Deputy Director of Planning, as El Dorado County's authorized secondary designee to review Timberland Conversion Permits (or equivalent) and Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemptions.

In January 2022, Karen L. Garner was hired as the new Director of the Planning and Building Department and it is recommended that the County designee be updated with CAL FIRE.

ALTERNATIVES

- 1) The Board could choose to appoint another County representative as El Dorado County's authorized designee(s) to review Timberland Conversion Permits (or equivalent) and Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemptions.
- 2) The Board could choose to decline appointing a County representative, which will relinquish the County's opportunity to determine if a proposed timberland conversion is in conformance with all County regulatory requirements.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION

On May 19, 2020, Legistar File 20-0586, the Board appointed Tiffany Schmid, former Director of

Planning and Building, as El Dorado County's authorized primary designee and Robert Peters, Deputy Director of Planning as El Dorado County's authorized secondary designee to review Timberland Conversion Permits (or equivalent) and Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemptions.

On January 15, 2019, Legistar File 19-0034, Item No. 20, the Board appointed Tiffany Schmid, former Director of Planning and Building, as El Dorado County's authorized primary designee and Anne Novotny, former Deputy Director of Planning, as El Dorado County's authorized secondary designee to review Timberland Conversion Permits (or equivalent) and Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemptions.

On October 10, 2017, Legistar File 17-1017, Item No. 26, the Board appointed Roger Trout, former Director of the Planning and Building Department, as El Dorado County's authorized designee to review Timberland Conversion Permits (or equivalent) and Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemptions.

OTHER DEPARTMENT / AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

California State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Approve as recommended.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There is no financial impact associated with this action.

CLERK OF THE BOARD FOLLOW UP ACTIONS

- 1) The Clerk of the Board to obtain the Chair's signature on the original letter to the State Board, appointing Karen L. Garner, Director of the Planning and Building Department, as El Dorado County's primary authorized designee and Robert Peters, Deputy Director of Planning, as El Dorado County's secondary authorized designee.
- 2) The Clerk of the Board to provide a copy of the signed letter to the Planning and Building Department, attention of Kathy Witherow, Executive Assistant to the Director of Planning and Building.

STRATEGIC PLAN COMPONENT

Good Governance

CONTACT

Karen L. Garner, Director

Planning and Building Department