

October 13, 2022

CA State Board of Forestry  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: Municipalities Regulating Timber Harvest of Group A/B species

Dear Board Members:

As I mentioned during the public comment portion of the Board of Forestry Meeting on October 10, 2022, I am writing to bring to your attention an issue that the consulting professional forestry community is experiencing on a routine basis.

As you are keenly aware given your appointments, the CA State Board of Forestry, is the governing body that is responsible for creating rules that guide the timber harvest process of commercial timber species on lands deemed timberland in this State. Any County within the state that would like to have special rules needs to propose rules through BOF for approval and adoption.

However, several municipalities within CA, both County and City, have alternative processes in addition to the permitting process and rules governed by the BOF and CALFIRE. Some municipalities will not allow any timber harvest, even with a CALFIRE permit on lands in their jurisdiction. Others do not recognize a CAL Fire permit as allowing harvest and are requiring RPFs to have a secondary permit approved by local planning departments or commissions, often governed by unlicensed staff. These permits often require fees and an inventory of each tree designated for harvest that is to be submitted to the planning departments for approval and review. The work is often not required to be done by a RPF. These requirements are being required on timberlands outside of the 150' structure protection zone and are being required on emergency timber permits for post fire/insect infestations, fuel hazard reductions, structure protections and less than 3-acre conversions. Often these non-forestry entities restrict timber removal and thus are not allowing the professional foresters community to conduct fuel reduction within communities and thus not allowing the much-needed work to reduce fuel loading to reduce catastrophic wildfire without their approval.

This is especially troubling given the very narrow opportunities for LTO's or mills to take fiber off of these landscapes and around communities to experience additional delays from unlawful rules enacted by entities that are not familiar with the State process of timber harvest in this State. I would welcome a discussion to discuss specific instances where timber harvest has been regulated by municipalities that do not have special BOF authorization with members of the board or the boards executive officer.

Thank you,

Danielle Lindler, CEO

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