### Elected Officials

Letter E1 **Assembly California Legislature**

Jim Patterson, Assemblymember 23rd District

July 22, 2019

###### Comment E1-1

As a member of the California State Assembly and representative of the Central Valley, I am writing to express support for the proposed statewide Vegetation Treatment Program.

Fire suppression practices have resulted in the unnatural buildup of fire fuel in many locations throughout the state of California. This program will substantially increase the pace and scale of vegetation treatments while lowering the risk of wildfires and contributing to California's greenhouse gas reduction goals. Additionally, the program will improve ecosystem health in fire-adapted habitats by safely mimicking the effects of a natural fire regime using prescribed burns.

The implementation of the Vegetation Treatment Program will reduce the risk to life, property, and natural resources by managing our forests consistent with California's 2018 Strategic Fire Plan.

Thank you for your consideration. Please call my office at 559-446-2029 should you have any questions.

###### Response E1-1

The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

Letter E2 **California State Senate**

Bill Dodd, Senator 3rd District

August 5, 2019

###### Comment E2-1

I write in support of, and urge the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to adopt the California Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP).

###### Response E2-1

The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

###### Comment E2-2

Since the catastrophic North Bay wild fires of 2017 I have been heavily involved in legislative efforts to advance the cause of wildfire reduction in our state. I was the author of SB 901, which among other things, amended state law to allow better forest management practices, and established a $1 billion allocation of funding over 5 years for Cal Fire to step-up vegetation management in high fire-threat districts. This year, l, and several of my legislative colleagues are authoring numerous bills pertaining to defensible space, community resilience, wildfire weather forecasting and more, all in an effort to reduce the risk of future wildfire catastrophes.

It is imperative that the wildfire prevention policies and programs approved by the Legislature and Governor Newsom be implemented efficiently and effectively. As we know all too well, the threat of wildfire is with us for most of each year. California must act now to protect life and property, natural resources, and the environment.

###### Response E2-2

The need to implement wildfire prevention policies and programs efficiently and effectively is noted. No further response is warranted.

###### Comment E2-3

CalVTP is compliant with CEQA, and focuses on vegetation treatments designed to reduce the risk of destructive wildfires. CalVTP will assist in expanding statewide vegetation treatment activities up to 500,000 acres per year while providing a robust environmental analysis and project level mitigation measures.

I thank the Board for consideration of this request, and stand ready to assist the Board and CalFire to meet the challenge of wildfire risk reduction in California.

###### Response E2-3

The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

Letter E3 **Assembly California Legislature**

Laura Friedman, Assemblymember 43rd District

August 1, 2019

###### Comment E3-1

Extreme wildfire risk is becoming the new norm in California. Last year saw the largest recorded fire in California (the Mendocino Complex), and the deadliest and most destructive (the Camp Fire). Fire season is becoming a year-round problem. These wildfires cause significant damage to life and property, serious air quality problems and jeopardize California's ability to meet its climate goals. Many of the areas burned will suffer permanent ecological damage. California could end up with many of its forests becoming weeds and grasses because of these intense fires.

Across our state, bigger, more frequent and more intense wildfires are having significant health impacts and destroying our communities at an alarming rate. As these losses continue to mount, it has become clear that public and private partners need more tools to implement wide-ranging fire prevention programs in their communities. The California Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP) is a California Environmental Quality Act-compliant program that would create a streamlined process for communities to engage in prevention projects that would reduce hazardous vegetative fuel conditions and restore ecosystem resiliency.

A combination of manmade and natural factors has resulted in drastic increases in economic losses, resulting from not only wildfire suppression, but also lost lives, homes and infrastructure. This crisis requires a statewide strategy. The ability to tier the environmental analysis for these projects off a statewide programmatic environmental impact report would substantially reduce costs to communities and allow them to timely address hazardous vegetative fuel and potentially reduce catastrophic losses.

###### Response E3-1

The summary of wildfire risks and the use of the CalVTP PEIR as a tool to streamline environmental review is noted. No further response is warranted.

###### Comment E3-2

The CalVTP provides a framework for communities to plan and implement fuel reduction and ecosystem resiliency projects to protect their landscapes from wildfire. I would like to lend my support to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in the development of the CalVTP.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact my office at (916) 319-2043.

###### Response E3-2

The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

Letter E4 **Assembly California Legislature**

Jim Wood, Assemblymember 2nd District

August 1, 2019

###### Comment E4-1

I am writing today in support of the proposed California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP). In October 2017, in my district, we lost more than 6,000 homes and 31 lives to the wildfires that devastated the North Bay. Unfortunately this was not an isolated incident. Across our state, bigger, more frequent and more intense wildfires are having significant health impacts and destroying our communities at an alarming rate. As these losses continue to mount it has become clear that public and private partners need more tools to implement wide-ranging fire prevention programs in their communities. The CalVTP would create a streamlined process for communities to engage in prevention projects that reduce hazardous vegetative fuel conditions and restore ecosystem resiliency.

Our current approach to wild land management, in combination with our changing climate, has turned our natural landscape - an asset that should be our best weapon against climate change - into an untenable liability. The tens of thousands of acres that bum uncontrolled across our state every year cost us billions of dollars in firefighting costs and property losses, and simultaneously undermine the hard fought carbon reductions we have achieved in California. This dynamic has reached a critical tipping point.

As the fires both in Southern California and in the North Bay so clearly demonstrated, these emergencies do not follow jurisdictional boundaries. A statewide PEIR for vegetation management will help jurisdictions implement projects that benefit communities regardless of geographical boundaries, and will place these individual projects within the larger context of fuel reduction work in California. Vegetation management conducted under the CalVTP would be part of a landscape-level strategy to reduce fire risk in California.

The CalVTP provides an essential avenue for communities to engage in fire prevention projects. The implementation of fuel reduction work has diminished in recent years, leaving communities in the wildland-urban interface vulnerable to wildfire. By opening a new path to CEQA compliance, the CalVTP provides a framework for communities to plan and implement fuel reduction and ecosystem resiliency projects to protect their landscapes from wildfire. I would like to lend my support to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in the development of the CalVTP.

###### Response E4-1

The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

Letter E5 **California State Senate**

Brian Dahle, Senator 1st District

August 1, 2019

###### Comment E5-1

As the size, frequency and intensity of wildfires across California increase, so too does the loss of life and property. As these losses continue to mount it has become clear that public and private partners need the ability to implement wide-ranging programs in their communities. The Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environment Impact Report (VTP PEIR) would create a streamlined process for communities to engage in prevention projects that would reduce hazardous vegetative fuel conditions and restore ecosystem resiliency. The ability to tier the environmental analysis for these projects off a statewide programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR) would substantially reduce costs to communities and allow them to timely address hazardous vegetative fuel and potentially reduce catastrophic losses.

A combination of manmade and natural factors has resulted in drastic increases in economic losses, resulting from not only wildfire suppression but also losses of lives, homes and infrastructure. Much of this occurred during the 2018 fire season, when California experienced both the Camp Fire, with the most fatalities in California history, and the Mendocino Complex Fire, which became the largest fire in our state's history. These and other fires result in increased costs to taxpayers, homeowners, utility ratepayers, and business owners. This precipitous increase in costs goes beyond jurisdictional boundaries and thus requires a statewide strategy. A statewide PEIR for a vegetation management program will help jurisdictions implement projects that benefit communities regardless of geographical boundaries, and will place these individual projects within the larger context of fuel reduction work in California. Vegetation management conducted under the VTP PEIR would be part of a landscape-level strategy to reduce fire risk in California. It is a level of planning and vegetation management that the state is currently in need of.

The VTP PEIR provides a much-needed avenue for communities to engage in fire prevention projects. The ability for implementation of fuel reduction work has diminished in recent years, leaving communities in the wildland­urban interface vulnerable to wildfire. By opening a new path to CEQA compliance, the VTP PEIR provides a framework for communities to plan and implement fuel reduction and ecosystem resiliency projects to protect their landscapes from wildfire. I would like to lend my support to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in the development of the VTP PEIR.

###### Response E5-1

The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

Letter E6 **Assembly California Legislature**

Marc Levine, Assemblymember 10th District

August 5, 2019

###### Comment E6-1

California finds itself in the midst of a "New Normal," with climate change and the historical use of fire suppression leading to increasingly destructive and deadly wildfires. In the last two years, Californians have witnessed record-breaking wildfires and the decimation of entire communities. The scope of this devastation requires community engagement and a statewide strategy to help mitigate these harmful effects.

###### Response E6-1

The summary of wildfire risks is noted. No further response is warranted.

###### Comment E6-2

The proposed California Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP) will provide a streamlined process for communities to engage in prevention projects to reduce hazardous, vegetative fuel conditions and improve the resiliency of our state's ecosystems. CalVTP will achieve this while providing a robust environmental analysis as required by the California Environmental Quality Act to help ensure the protection of public trust resources.

###### Response E6-2

The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

###### Comment E6-3

More than 25 million acres of California wildlands are classified as under very high or extreme fire threat. Approximately 25 percent of the state's population - 11 million people - lives in that high-risk area. For the many Californians at risk, I would like to lend my support to the Board of Forestry and Fire protection in the certification of CalVTP.

###### Response E6-3

The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

Letter E7 **Assembly California Legislature**

Randy Voepel, Assemblymember 71st District

August 12, 2019

###### Comment E7-1

Climate change and fire suppression have led to larger, deadlier, and more destructive wildfires in California. The California Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP) is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-compliant program that would create a streamlined process for communities to engage in prevention projects that would reduce hazardous vegetative fuel conditions and restore ecosystem resiliency.

A combination of manmade and natural factors have resulted in drastic increases in economic losses, resulting from not only wildfire suppression, but also lost lives, homes and infrastructure. This crisis requires a statewide strategy. The ability to tier the environmental analysis for these projects off a statewide programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR) would substantially reduce costs to communities and allow them to timely address hazardous vegetative fuel and potentially reduce catastrophic losses.

The CalVTP provides a framework for communities to plan and implement fuel reduction and ecosystem resiliency projects to protect their landscapes from wildfire. I would like to lend my support to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in the development of the CalVTP.

###### Response E7-1

The summary of wildfire risks and the use of the CalVTP PEIR as a tool to streamline environmental review is noted. The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

Letter E8 **California Legislature**

Andreas Borgeas, Senator 8th District and Frank Bigelow, Assemblymember 5th District

August 12, 2019

###### Comment E8-1

Extreme wildfire risk is becoming the new norm in California. Last year saw the largest recorded fire in California (the Mendocino Complex), and the deadliest and most destructive {the Camp Fire). Fire season is becoming a year-round problem. These wildfires cause significant damage to life and property, serious air quality problems and jeopardize California's ability to meet its goals of a healthy environment. Many of the areas burned will suffer permanent ecological damage. California could end up with many of its forests becoming weeds and grasses because of these intense fires.

Across our state, bigger, more frequent and more intense wildfires are having significant health impacts and destroying our communities at an alarming rate. As these losses continue to mount it has become clear that public and private partners need more tools to implement wide-ranging fire prevention programs in their communities. The California Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP) is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-compliant program that would create a streamlined process for communities to engage in prevention projects that would reduce hazardous vegetative fuel conditions and restore ecosystem resiliency.

A combination of manmade and natural factors has resulted in drastic increases in economic losses, resulting from not only wildfire suppression, but also lost lives, homes and infrastructure. This crisis requires a statewide strategy. The ability to tier the environmental analysis for these projects off a statewide programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR) would substantially reduce costs to communities and allow them to timely address hazardous vegetative fuel and potentially reduce catastrophic losses.

The CalVTP provides a framework for communities to plan and implement fuel reduction and ecosystem resiliency projects to protect their landscapes from wildfire. I would like to lend my support to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in the development of the CalVTP.

###### Response E8-1

The summary of wildfire risks and the use of the CalVTP PEIR as a tool to streamline environmental review is noted. The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

Letter E9 **Assembly California Legislature**

James Gallagher, Assemblymember 3rd District

August 8, 2019

###### Comment E9-1

Every year brings fresh evidence that the severity of wildfires is increasing, as buildups of vegetation provide more fuel for fires. In November 2018, the Camp Fire killed 85 people and destroyed over 18,000 structures in my district. In July 2018, the Mendocino Complex Fire burned nearly 720 square miles and destroyed 280 structures. In October 2017, the Tubbs Fire took 22 lives and destroyed 5,600 structures. With approximately 25% of the state's population living in high fire-risk areas, this means that more people are at risk of loss of life or property due to wildfire than ever before.

While action is being taken to prevent the ignition of wildfires, the point remains that once fires are started, they often encounter far more fuel than our wildlands historically yielded and burn hotter, faster, and deadlier than ever before. In many cases, plants rely on naturally occurring fires to clear surrounding dead fall and reproduce. However, recent fires have burned hotter than ever before, killing trees that would normally flourish and scorching the earth to a point where it can no longer bond to itself, let alone support plant life.

One barrier to proper wild land management has been cumbersome environmental regulations for vegetation management projects. Under the current model, many vegetation management projects are sidelined by the costs of going through the process and the length of time they can take to complete. I believe that CalVTP is a step in the right direction to address this issue. By streamlining the environmental review process and enabling local entities to conduct vegetation management projects, CalVTP would help protect our communities and significantly boost efforts to treat the State's goal of 500,000 acres of wildland per year.

As the individuals and entities tasked with wildland management, we have a moral imperative to change the direction of the trend. As the representative of an area devastated by wildfire, l respectfully urge you to support CalVTP and help protect the people of this State.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact AJ Rossitto in my office at (916) 319-2003.

###### Response E9-1

The summary of wildfire risks is noted. The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

Letter E10 **California State Senate**

Jim Nielsen, Senator 4th District

August 8, 2019

###### Comment E10-1

As someone who has represented much of Northern California during my time in the State Capitol, and who has seen firsthand the crippling impacts of wildfires to communities both large and small, I strongly encourage the Board to accept the Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (VTP PEIR) and move forward with this critical program.

Communities that face catastrophic fires are often those which already have difficulty bearing the costs of state mandates and regulations. VTP PEIR will create a streamlined process that allows communities to work on prevention projects while also benefitting local ecosystems. Importantly, the ability to tier the environmental analysis for these projects off of a statewide PEIR would substantially reduce costs to communities to comply.

In 2017 and 2018, the state was faced with the clear evidence that wildfire suppression must become a statewide policy priority - not merely left to a handful of rural communities. The massive fires that we as a state faced did not limit themselves to jurisdictional boundaries; we should not limit our policy response to the same. A statewide PEIR will allow numerous governments and agencies to work across boundaries and create the impetus for a comprehensive, statewide vegetation reduction effort.

By opening a new path to CEQA compliance, the VTP PEIR provides a framework for communities to plan and implement fuel reduction and ecosystem resiliency projects to protect their landscapes from wildfire.

###### Response E10-1

The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

Letter E11 **California State Senate**

Mike Morrell, Senator 23rd District

August 9, 2019

###### Comment E11-1

Extreme wildfire risk is becoming the new norm in California. Last year saw the largest recorded fire in California (the Mendocino Complex), and the deadliest and most destructive (the Camp Fire). Fire season is becoming a year-round problem. These wildfires cause significant damage to life and property, serious air quality problems and jeopardize California1s ability to meet its climate goals. Many of the areas burned will suffer permanent ecological damage. California could end up with many of its forests becoming weeds and grasses because of these intense fires.

Across our state, bigger, more frequent and more intense wildfires are having significant health impacts and destroying our communities at an alarming rate. As these losses continue to mount it has become clear that public and private partners need more tools to implement wide-ranging fire prevention programs in their communities. The California Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP) is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-compliant program that would create a streamlined process for communities to engage in prevention projects that would reduce hazardous vegetative fuel conditions and restore ecosystem resiliency.

A combination of manmade and natural factors has resulted in drastic increases in economic losses, resulting from not only wildfire suppression, but also lost lives, homes and infrastructure. This crisis requires a statewide strategy. The ability to tier the environmental analysis for these projects off a statewide programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR) would substantially reduce costs to communities and allow them to timely address hazardous vegetative fuel and potentially reduce catastrophic losses.

The CalVTP provides a framework for communities to plan and implement fuel reduction and ecosystem resiliency projects to protect their landscapes from wildfire. I would like to lend my support to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in the development of the CalVTP.

###### Response E11-1

The summary of wildfire risks and the use of the CalVTP PEIR as a tool to streamline environmental review is noted. The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

Letter E12 **California State Senate**

Hannah-Beth Jackson, Senator 19th District

August 9, 2019

###### Comment E12-1

California continues to face unprecedented threats from wildfires, due in no small part to a warming climate and altered precipitation patterns. As author of legislation that provides state and local authorities with needed tools to proactively manage vegetative landscapes for mitigating wildfire impacts, I recognize the importance of the California Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP). Statewide programmatic environmental impact reports allow for agencies to tier and implement consistent projects with greater administrative efficiency and reduced costs.

I am pleased that CalVTP considers the unique treatment needed for the chaparral and coastal scrub ecosystems throughout my district. Central Coast and Southern Californian landscapes vary greatly from other California regions, and it is critical that agencies recognize these differences in developing program guidelines and implementing specific projects.

###### Response E12-1

The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

###### Comment E12-2

I request that the board continue to incorporate science-based information from experts and conservation groups when further developing and finalizing CalVTP, and that CalVTP ensures that projects tiered off of it are driven by the most up-to-date science, including science on the differences in mitigating wildfire potential in chaparral and coastal shrub landscapes, from forestlands that are more traditionally considered.

###### Response E12-2

Information provided in comments in the Draft PEIR, as well as any relevant science-based information updated since publication of the Draft PEIR, has been considered in preparing this Final PEIR. As described in Master Response 4 regarding PSA preparation, the determination that a project is within the scope of the PEIR is a factual determination that must be supported by substantial evidence. The substantial evidence to support the finding is developed using the PSA checklist provided in Appendix PD-3 of Final PEIR Volume II. State CEQA Guidelines Section 15384(b) states that substantial evidence shall include facts, reasonable assumptions predicated upon facts, and expert opinion supported by facts.

###### Comment E12-3

I also request that the board continue to consider all science and research from academic experts, researchers, and conservation groups that identifies techniques and practices that bolster wildland resilience while minimizing disturbance to habitats. We must act to prevent future wildfire risk, and I support CalVTP as a tool to do so, but we must also continue to review and incorporate science that conserve ecosystems and allow our landscapes to be naturally resilient to changing environmental conditions.

###### Response E12-3

Refer to response to comment E12-2 regarding consideration of relevant science-based information in the PEIR and in the environmental review of later treatments using the PEIR for CEQA compliance.

Letter E13 **Assembly California Legislature**

Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Assemblymember 4th District

August 9, 2019

###### Comment E13-1

I am writing to express my support for the development of the California Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP).

Extreme wildfires are becoming the new normal in California. Last year, California had both the largest recorded fire in the state's history the (Mendocino Complex) and the deadliest and most destructive fire (the life Camp and Fire). Fire season is becoming a year-round problem. These wildfires cause significant damage to life and property, serious air quality problems and significant health impacts, and jeopardize California's ability to meet its climate goals. Many of the areas burned will suffer permanent ecological damage, and many of California's forests could end up becoming weeds and grasses because of these intense fires.

Across our state bigger, more frequent and more intense wildfires are destroying our communities and causing economic losses at an alarming rate. As these losses continue to mount, it has become clear that public and private partners need more tools to implement wide-ranging fire prevention programs in their communities. The CalVTP is a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)-compliant program that would create a streamlined process for communities to engage in prevention projects that would reduce hazardous vegetative fuel conditions and restore ecosystem resiliency.

This crisis requires a statewide strategy. The ability to tier the environmental analysis for these projects off of a statewide programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR) would substantially reduce costs to communities and allow them to address hazardous vegetative fuel in a timely manner and potentially reduce catastrophic losses. The CalVTP provides a framework for communities to plan and implement fuel reduction and ecosystem resiliency projects to protect their landscapes from wildfire.

For these reasons, I would like to lend my support to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in the development of the CalVTP. Please contact my office if you have any questions.

###### Response E13-1

The summary of wildfire risks and the use of the CalVTP PEIR as a tool to streamline environmental review is noted. The commenter’s expression of support for the proposed CalVTP will be provided to the Board for consideration in its decision-making process regarding the CalVTP.

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