

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0023  
(916) 319-2023  
FAX (916) 319-2123

# Assembly California Legislature



**JIM PATTERSON**  
ASSEMBLYMAN, TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT

DISTRICT OFFICE  
6245 N. FRESNO STREET  
FRESNO, CA 93720  
(559) 446-2029  
FAX (559) 446-2020

Letter  
E1

July 22, 2019

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
California Vegetation Treatment Program  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Re: Support for the proposed statewide Vegetation Treatment Program

Dear Board Members,

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Patterson".

Jim Patterson

Assemblyman, 23<sup>rd</sup> District

E1-1

STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4032  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4003  
FAX (916) 651-4903

# California State Senate

## BILL DODD

SENATOR, THIRD DISTRICT



CHAIR: SENATE GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

Letter  
E2

COM  
BUSINESS,  
& ECONOMIC  
ENERGY, UTILITIES  
& COMMUNICATION  
INSURANCE  
TRANSPORTATION & HOUSING  
JOINT COMMITTEE  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
SELECT COMMITTEE  
CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY  
CO-CHAIR

**RECEIVED BY**  
AUG 05 2019  
**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

July 30, 2019

Matt Dias, Executive Officer,  
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
1416 9th Street, Room 1506-14  
Sacramento, CA, 95814

Re: CalVTP

Dear Mr. Dias:

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).

E2-1

Since the catastrophic North Bay wildfires 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 CalFire to step-up vegetation management in high fire-threat districts. *This year, I, 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.*

E2-2

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.

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.

E2-3



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.

E2-3  
cont.

Sincerely;



BILL DODD  
Senator, 3<sup>rd</sup> Senate District

Cc. Wade Crowfoot; Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency  
Rachel Wagoner; Deputy Legislative Secretary, Governor's Office  
Thom Porter; Chief, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Tobias Halvarson; CalFire Legislative Affairs

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0043  
(916) 319-2043  
FAX (916) 319-2143

DISTRICT OFFICE  
300 EAST MAGNOLIA BOULEVARD, SUITE 504  
BURBANK, CA 91502  
(818) 558-3043  
FAX (818) 558-3042

# Assembly California Legislature



LAURA FRIEDMAN  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-THIRD DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
CHAIR: NATURAL RESOURCES  
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,  
TOURISM, AND INTERNET MEDIA  
HUMAN SERVICES  
TRANSPORTATION  
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

July 31, 2019

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: CalVTP  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RECEIVED BY

AUG 01 2019

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

To Whom It May Concern:

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.

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.

Sincerely,

LAURA FRIEDMAN  
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

E3-1

E3-2

SECRET

NOV 10 1954

SECRET

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**COMMITTEES**  
CHAIR: HEALTH  
BUDGET  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT  
WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE

**SUBCOMMITTEE**  
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 1 ON HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES

**SELECT COMMITTEE**  
HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEMS AND  
UNIVERSAL COVERAGE

Assembly  
California Legislature



**JIM WOOD**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SECOND DISTRICT

**STATE CAPITOL**  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0002  
(916) 319-2002  
FAX (916) 319-2102

**DISTRICT OFFICES**  
200 S SCHOOL STREET, SUITE D  
UKIAH, CA 95482  
(707) 463-5770  
FAX (707) 463-5773

50 D STREET, SUITE 450  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404  
(707) 576-2526  
FAX (707) 576-2297

1036 5TH STREET, SUITE D  
EUREKA, CA 95501  
(707) 445-7014  
FAX (707) 455-6607

August 1, 2019

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
ATTN: Edith Hannigan, Board Analyst  
CalVTP Comments  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Ms. Edith Hannigan,

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 wildland 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 burn 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.

Sincerely,

**JIM WOOD**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, DISTRICT 2



# California State Senate

Letter  
E5

SENATOR  
**BRIAN DAHLE**  
FIRST SENATE DISTRICT



August 1, 2019

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
ATTN: Matt Dias, Executive Officer  
VTP Draft PEIR Comments  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Mr. Matt Dias,

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 wildland-urban 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Dahle".

**BRIAN DAHLE**  
Senator, 1<sup>st</sup> District

E5-1

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0010  
(916) 319-2010  
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**E-MAIL**  
Assemblymember.Levine@assembly.ca.gov

**WEBSITE**  
www.assembly.ca.gov/Levine

**SOCIAL MEDIA**  
@AsmMarcLevine

# Assembly California Legislature



**MARC LEVINE**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TENTH DISTRICT  
CHAIR: SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL AGREEMENTS

DISTRICT OFFICE  
3501 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE  
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903  
(415) 479-4000  
FAX (415) 479-4001

11 ENGLISH STREET  
PETALUMA, CA 94952  
(707) 576-2631

50 D STREET, SUITE 301  
SANTA ROSA, CA 95404  
(707) 576-2631

**Letter  
E6**

August 5, 2019

Mr. Matt Dias  
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: CalVTP  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Mr. Dias:

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.

E6-1

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.

E6-2

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.

E6-3

Sincerely,  
*Marc Levine*

MARC LEVINE

ML: dl



STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4009  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0071  
(916) 319-2071  
FAX (916) 319-2171

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
8760 CUYAMACA STREET, SUITE 201  
SANTEE, CA 92071  
(619) 258-7737  
FAX (619) 258-7739

**E-MAIL**  
Assemblymember.Voepeel@assembly.ca.gov

# Assembly California Legislature



**RANDY VOEPEL**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTY-FIRST DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES**  
VICE CHAIR: AGING  
TERM CARE  
VICE CHAIR: PUBLIC  
AND RETIREMENT  
VICE CHAIR: VETERANS AFFAIRS  
INSURANCE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT

Letter  
E7

August 5, 2019

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: CalVTP  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RECEIVED BY  
AUG 12 2019  
BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

To Whom It May Concern:

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.

Sincerely,

RANDY VOEPEL  
Assemblyman, 71<sup>st</sup> District

E7-1

# California Legislature

RECEIVED BY  
AUG 12 2019  
BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

August 7, 2019

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: CalVTP  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

To Whom it May Concern:

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.

Sincerely,



Andreas Borgeas  
8<sup>th</sup> Senate District



Frank Bigelow  
5<sup>th</sup> Assembly District

E8-1

COMMITTEES  
VICE CHAIR: ELECTIONS AND REDISTRICTING  
VICE CHAIR: JUDICIARY  
VICE CHAIR: WATER, PARKS, AND WILDLIFE  
BUDGET  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
PRIVACY AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

E-MAIL  
Assemblymember.Gallagher@assembly.ca.gov

# Assembly California Legislature



**JAMES GALLAGHER**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, THIRD DISTRICT

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95834  
(916) 319-2000  
FAX (916) 319-2000

Letter  
E9

DISTRICT OFFICES  
1130 CIVIC CENTER BOULEVARD, SUITE F  
YUBA CITY, CA 95993  
(530) 671-0303  
FAX (530) 671-0308

2060 TALBERT DRIVE, SUITE 110  
CHICO, CA 95928  
(530) 895-4217  
FAX (530) 895-4219

August 8, 2019

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: CalVTP  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

**Re: Support for CalVTP as Proposed June 24, 2019**

Dear Board Members:

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 deadfall 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 wildland 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, I 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.

Respectfully,

James Gallagher  
Assemblyman, Third District

E9-1

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 651-4004

CHICO DISTRICT OFFICE  
2635 FOREST AVE., STE. 110  
CHICO, CA 95928  
(530) 879-7424

ROSEVILLE DISTRICT OFFICE  
2200A DOUGLAS BLVD., STE. 100  
ROSEVILLE, CA 95765  
(916) 772-0571

YUBA CITY DISTRICT OFFICE  
1110 CIVIC CENTER BLVD., STE. 202-A  
YUBA CITY, CA 95993  
(530) 751-8657

# California State Senate



**SENATOR  
JIM NIELSEN**

FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEE  
BUDGET & FISCAL  
VICE CHAIR  
ELECTIONS & CONSTITUTIONAL  
AMENDMENTS  
VICE CHAIR  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
GOVERNANCE & FINANCE  
VETERANS AFFAIRS

Letter  
E10

August 8, 2019

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
ATTN: CalVTP  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

To Whom It May Concern:

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Nielsen".

JIM NIELSEN

E10-1

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 3056  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL (916) 651-4023  
FAX (916) 651-4923

DISTRICT OFFICE  
10350 COMMERCE CENTER DRIVE  
SUITE A-220  
RANCHO CUCAMONGA, CA 91730  
TEL (909) 919-7731  
FAX (909) 919-7739

# California State Senate

**MIKE MORRELL**  
SENATOR, TWENTY-THIRD DISTRICT



Letter  
E11

LABOR, P  
AND RETIREMENT  
VICE CHAIR  
PUBLIC SAFETY  
TRANSPORTATION

August 8, 2019

J. Keith Gillless, Chair  
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: CalVTP  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Chair Gillless:

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 (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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Morrell".

MIKE MORRELL  
Senator, 23<sup>rd</sup> District

MM: trs

E11-1

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 2032  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
TEL 916-651-4019  
FAX 916-651-4919

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY OFFICE  
222 E. CARRILLO STREET  
SUITE 309  
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93101  
TEL 805-965-0862  
FAX 805-965-0701

VENTURA COUNTY OFFICE  
300 E. ESPLANADE DRIVE  
SUITE 430  
OXNARD, CA 93036  
TEL 805-988-1940  
FAX 805-988-1945

# California State Legislature

SENATOR  
**HANNAH-BETH JACKSON**

NINETEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



Letter  
E12

CH  
SENATE  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
WORK & FAMILIES  
VICE CHAIR  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
COMMITTEES  
HUMAN SERVICES  
LABOR, PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT  
& RETIREMENT  
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER  
PUBLIC SAFETY  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON  
CALIFORNIA'S WINE INDUSTRY

August 9, 2019

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: CalVTP  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

To Whom It May Concern:

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.

E12-1

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.

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.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hannah-Beth Jackson".

Hannah-Beth Jackson  
Senator, 19<sup>th</sup> Senate District

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0004  
(916) 319-2004  
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Assembly  
California Legislature



CECILIA M. AGUIAR-CURRY  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
CHAIR: LOCAL GOV  
AGRICULTURE  
GOVERNMENTAL O  
TRANSPORTATION

Letter  
E13

JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

August 9, 2019

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: CalVTP  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

To Whom it May Concern:

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 Camp 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.

Sincerely,

  
CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY  
Assemblymember, 4th District

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