

Hannigan, Edith@BOF

From: clarkemh@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, December 5, 2019 10:37 AM
To: Office of the Secretary CNRA; Public Comments@BOF
Subject: Comments in OPPOSITION to the Proposed Vegetation Treatment Program (Item 9, Dec. 11, 2019)

Warning: this message is from an external user and should be treated with caution.

To: Board of Forestry
From: Mary H. Clarke, Co-Chair, North San Diego County Multiple Species Conservation Plan Task Force,
Sierra Club, San Diego Chapter
Subject: Comments in opposition to the proposed Vegetation Treatment Program (VTP)
Date: Dec. 5, 2019

Dear Board of Forestry,

The proposed VTP would remove native vegetation across a vast 250,000-acre footprint EACH YEAR, at tremendous financial and ecological cost.

CalFire's proposed VTP will be ineffective in containing the types of fires that cause the great majority of loss of life and property damage, which are ones that are wind-driven. In many parts of the state, the VTP will not only do no good, but will be counterproductive by promoting the growth of highly flammable weeds.

What is needed is a ground-up, scientific, cost benefit assessment of the causes and solutions to wildfire control. The proposed VTP is tremendously over-scaled and extremely detrimental to the environment and wildlife.

Please direct the Natural Resources Agency and Cal Fire to re-assess the VTP and confer with fire ecologists, fire managers, and stakeholders about how and where vegetation treatments can actually achieve benefits.

Being smarter about development in the wildlands interface, enforcing defensible space, creating thoughtful and highly strategic fire breaks, and improving early warning and evacuation systems all make sense and are advised by fire scientists. But the huge VTP, by Cal Fire's own admission, does not even address the problem of catastrophic wind-driven fires.

I urge you not approve this destructive and ineffectual program.. Instead, insist that Cal Fire develop a plan based on scientific study and fiscal responsibility..

Sincerely,

Mary H. Clarke

cc: Secretary of Natural Resources