

# “YG” GEORGE GENTRY

## RPF #2262

### 2023 Francis H. Raymond Award Nomination

Respectively Submitted by Lindsey Mauldin

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June 2, 2023

Attn: FHR Nomination Review Committee  
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: Nomination of "YG" George Gentry for the 2023 Francis H. Raymond Award

Dear members of the FHR Nomination Review Committee,

It is with deep appreciation and pride that I submit the nomination of "YG" George Gentry for the 2023 Francis H. Raymond Award. YG embodies California Forestry in his very being, he is a renowned forestry expert and his passion for the lands in California is unmatched. YG is sought after as an incredible resource for his knowledge, generosity and kindness throughout the state of California and he is due to be recognized. As you will see in this letter and narrative, YG's contributions have been so widely impactful making him an excellent candidate for the Francis Raymond Award:

1. **Senior Vice President, The California Forestry Association** since 2018 and the Vice President since 2015, YG has been the regulatory affairs expert for the State of California. His consistent dedication to developing and maintaining relationships with members and staff of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection is evident. You will find YG in the same chair, toward the back left of the room in every BOF meeting. While he may not say much, we all know that he is thinking about exactly what will come out of these discussions and the impacts to the land itself. YG works on policy development within Calforests and was instrumental in the passage of SB901, the joint commission of wildfire response to the Camp Fire near Paradise, CA. In the role of Senior VP at Calforests, YG has served many adjacent roles such as Co-Chair for Wildfire and Forest Resilience work group addressing permit synchronization; President , , CLFA. YG also dedicates his time by sitting on a myriad of CLFA committees such as Forest Practice, Water and Wildlife, Education, Legislative Committees and more.



2. **Executive Officer, California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection** 2003 to 2015: YG served the state of California's Board of Forestry as executive director for 12 years, supervising regulatory and policy development for the Board. During his tenure at the BOF, he managed to successfully navigate recessions and governmental changes. He helped bring to life many important improvements to the industry with his direct, and uncomplicated regulations like the State Responsibility Mapping (SRA) mapping, protection of anadromous salmonids, and AB 1504 Forest Carbon Inventory program.
  
3. **Mentorship and Leadership** has been a priority for YG over the years. He has never failed to step up and fill the gap to bring younger people into forestry. YG has mentored Calforests interns, and so many other professional foresters. The mentorship that I have had the privilege to experience with YG is just that, an absolute privilege. YG has shared with me the stoic principles, how to be humble and content under any circumstance. One of the most impactful statements he has shared with me goes: "Just for today I will be happy. This assumes that what Abraham Lincoln said is true, that "most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be". Happiness is from within; it is not a matter of externals. Just for today I will try to adjust myself to what is, and not try to adjust to everything to my own desires. I will take my family, my business, and my luck as they come and fit myself to them. Just for today I will take care of my body, I will exercise it, care for it, nourish it, not abuse it nor neglect it, so that it will be a perfect machine for my bidding. Just for today I will try to strengthen my mind. I will learn something useful. I will not be a mental loafer. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration..." -Dale Carnegie.

Since 1983 YG has served as a member and chair of California Licensed Foresters Association, CLFA. Since 1983 he is a member of the Society of American Foresters. Since 2006 he has taught at CalPoly Swanton Pacific Ranch in support of their forestry program. Most impressively, since 2019 YG works as an RPF exam preparation instructor and RPF grader. YG dedicates months of time to students preparing for the RPF exam and spends an additional 40-60 hours grading each exam which occur twice per year. As the Greek Proverb says, "A society grows great when old men plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit." Through his work with the RPF, he is planting the seedlings of the next generation of leaders in California Forestry.



4. **CLFA Workshops:** Since 1983 YG has organized workshops at CLFA on topics including: Geology, Silviculture, THP Preparation, Road Location and Design, Archaeology, Timber Harvest in Sensitive Areas, Business Practices, Long Term Management Planning, Growth Projection and Harvest Scheduling, Cumulative Impacts, Growth and Yield Models, Spotted Owl Management, Site Preparation and Erosion Control.

For all of these reasons, I, with the support of many others, highly recommend George “YG” Gentry for the 2023 Francis H. Raymond Award. His dedication and lifetime of professional work in Forestry in California has changed the regulatory landscape of the state. Behind him, are a multitude of individuals who have learned from him and have benefited from his hard work. Honoring YG with this award would send the message to California and other foresters that RFP’s are valued and needed within the state, that regulations matter and policy can change the landscape. Awarding YG would show that his generosity of knowledge and willingness to lead and listen are what bring about solutions which are greatly needed.

Sincerely,

*Lindsey Mauldin*

**Lindsey Mauldin**

Former Calforests Administrative Assistant

Sales Executive, Forestry

SCS Global Services, Scientific Certification Solutions

## **Nomination of George “YG” Gentry for the 2023 Francis H. Raymond Award**

George “YG” Gentry was born to be a forester. His father George Gentry was also a forester and was YG’s inspiration to join the field. After graduating from West Point Military Academy in 1976, he joined his father’s consultancy Gentry and Gilliam. As a result of their close working relationship, George got his nickname, YG, as a distinction from George senior (Old Growth, OG); he became Young Growth, YG for short. At that point, YG knew forestry was his future and returned to school to get his B.S. in Forest Production at Humboldt State University, graduating in 1983. YG continued working alongside his father as a partner-appraising, forest inventory, and developing Timber Harvest Plans (THP’s) and management plans for timberland owners throughout California. He grew deep roots in the forest and his love and appreciation for the natural world is a critical motivator. As Rich Gordon said in his letter of support, “George is probably more comfortable in the woods where his knowledge and talent allow him to understand how to best create environments that support forest health.” He loved his work in the forest, hard hat and dirty boots, until 2002 when he left the scenic, heavily forested Northern California coast and headed down to Sacramento.



In 2002 YG accepted a position with the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) as the Assistant Executive Officer and the Executive Officer of Foresters Licensing. This was just the start of YG’s public service for the state, because just one year later, he was promoted to the Executive Officer for the BOF. YG served in this role for 12 years, through variation in leadership, economic trials, and a shifting mindset of forests role in climate change mitigation. Throughout his time at BOF, YG worked on several issues such as assisting the Board in developing a Strategic Fire Plan, the regulations conserving anadromous salmonids, the State Responsibility Area fees, and the Lumber Assessment. YG also guided the Board on climate issues as they relate to the the forestry sector. In addition and maintaining his true form, , YG served on many committees during his tenure which include: the Monitoring Study Group, the Effectiveness Monitoring Committee, the Interagency Forestry Working Group on Climate, the Fire

Plan Steering Committee, the Jackson Advisory Group, , and the Board of Equalization Timber Tax Advisory Committee, . The work that has been accomplished through these writings, policy creation and committees under YG's direction have shifted the course of the state of California's forests for the better. His shepherding of the next generation of BOF staff has paid off exponentially. YG's commitment to simple, understandable, and logic-based regulations is still evident in today's decision making.

Since 1983, YG has worked closely with the California Licensed Forester Association (CLFA). YG is beloved in this organization and among licensed foresters generally. During his tenure with CLFA, he has intermittently accepted positions on the board, and is the current President. - For the last many years, YG enjoys voluntarily hosting seminars for Registered Professional Forester Exam applicants, where he can teach about specific topics for a day or so and focus on certain learning objectives. He is an exceptional instructor and anyone who has had the privilege of learning from him knows the wealth of knowledge he holds on any subject he addresses due to his diligence in research and commitment to constant learning. He has held many seminars for CLFA members including geology and mass wasting, silviculture, THP Preparation, road location and design, archaeology, long term management, spotted owl management, business practices, ethics, and so much more. YG continues this work today.



In 2015 YG accepted a position with the California Forestry Association (Calforests), as the Vice President of Regulatory Affairs. Under the leadership of the late Dave Bischel, YG began his time at Calforests. It was not long until Dave retired, and Rich Gordon was brought into the Association. Rich's relationship with YG developed over time and a deep mutual respect and understanding developed between these two leaders. Rich and YG come from very different worlds, and it was humbling to see the areas in which they connected and how YG developed a trust in Rich's leadership as a result.

Several important contributions have been made since YG joined Calforests. YG helped obtain a grant to study stocking issues and consequently he helped shift the regulations toward the findings of that research. He has worked closely with industry partners to amend yarding regulations which resulted in

more steep-slope ground-based harvesting while still conserving public trust resources. He has worked closely on issues with the BOF on PEIR, CalVTP, CalTREES and more. In 2017, YG worked on SB 901 through the lens of developing state policy that would increase the pace and scale of fuel hazard reduction work. Through chaptering of SB 901, changes to stocking and harvesting regulations were formalized and significant progress has been made since these changes in reducing fuel stock and fire hazard in the state.

YG again proved himself worthy of promotion and in 2019, he was elevated to Senior Vice President of Calforests. YG remains a key consultant for CALFIRE, the Department of Natural Resources, universities, and BOF where he is well known and highly respected. In addition to a trusted advisor to the former list of organizations, he is also a personal and professional advisor to the Calforests interns and it's member companies, members of CLFA, members of Association of Consulting Foresters and beyond. Each Calforests interns have expressed personal learnings and encouragement from YG and a deep appreciation for the personal connection.. Some interns had YG as an instructor at Cal Poly Swanton Pacific Ranch were enamored by his presence at the Association, which just goes to show his impact across varying professional levels and generations.

Considering YG as merely a paid professional forester is a dire miscalculation. YG has been volunteering his personal time to the profession for over 40 years. Beyond what has been expressed in this nomination, since 2019 YG has being a grader and exam preparation instructor for the Registered Professional Foresters (RPF) exam. Upon realizing that many RPF candidates were underprepared for the exam, YG took it upon himself to create an exam preparation seminar. It is clear because of the influx of new RFPs that this seminar is effective and worthwhile for candidates. In fact, it is so appreciated that he has decided to develop this series, it could be said that the future of RPFs in California is brighter because of YG.





In his personal life, YG is married to Lesley Gentry and together they have two boys, of whom they are extremely proud. YG loves Cal football, the 49ers and Giants baseball. YG is no stranger to highway 16 where he enjoys driving up for a hike in the Capay foothills. He enjoys the simple and quiet pleasures of life (including a grilled cheese sandwiches or a small bag of Cheetos) and he has a dream of buying an airstream and moving to a remote location in retirement. YG is a rare individual who continues to forge ahead in forestry, continually trailblazing new pathways for entry and advancement of the field. YG's grass roots beginnings instilled in him a foresters work ethic that will probably follow him into retirement. It is clear by this narrative and the following letters of support that YG is the optimal candidate for the 2023 FHR award. I am beyond honored to whole heartedly present this nomination for George "YG" Gentry.



Media:

<https://baynature.org/article/logjam-fighting-fire-with-mills-bay-nature/>  
their potential obligations, she told me.

“They have work lined up from now  
until whenever.”

—George Gentry, senior vice president of the California Forestry  
Association, on finding licensed loggers

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/us-world/article/California-s-forests-are-dying-It-is-too-late-16947497.php>

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/environment/story/2021-08-29/california-trees-drought-wildfire>

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/logs-are-littering-california-towns-as-trees-are-cut-to-prevent-wildfires-11560504600>

<https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/news/environment/story/2021-09-05/timberland-california-fire-losses>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/26/us/26fire.html>

“On a good weekend there’s a couple million people in and around the Tahoe area, with ingress and egress along Interstate 80, essentially one way in and out,” said George D. Gentry, the executive officer of California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. “Imagine a conflagration starts and we have to evacuate people.”



May 17, 2023

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: FHR Nomination Review Committee  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Nomination Committee,

Big Creek Lumber Company enthusiastically recommends that the Francis H. Raymond Award for Outstanding Contributions to California Forestry be given to George "YG" Gentry. We have known Mr. Gentry since he pursued a degree in Forest Production Management at Humboldt State in the 1980's. California would be hard pressed to find an individual more dedicated to the advancement of forestry professionalism while working tirelessly promote the health and productivity of the forestlands of our state.

Mr. Gentry has demonstrated his dedication to forestry by first serving as a consulting forester in private industry. He subsequently worked for the state as Executive Officer of Foresters Licensing and then Executive Officer for the Board of Forestry. He currently serves as the Senior Vice-President of the California Forestry Association.

Our company has interacted with Mr. Gentry for decades. He has remarkable knowledge and expertise in the complex regulatory system that governs forestry in California. On many occasions, we saw him use this expertise to help the Board of Forestry navigate through very complex policy and regulatory decisions. He continues this important service in his current capacity with the California Forestry Association.

George YG Gentry's heart is in California's forests. We cannot think of a more worthy recipient for this award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet McCrary Webb  
President



FULL 13 Francis H. Raymond Award

P.O. Box 68  
Korbel, CA 95550  
(707) 668-4400  
greendiamond.com

June 02, 2023

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Attn: FHR Nomination Review Committee  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Re: Nomination of George "YG" Gentry for the 2023 Francis H. Raymond Award

Dear Mr. Stapleton:

On behalf of Green Diamond Resource Company, I am pleased to support the nomination of Mr. George "YG" Gentry for the 2023 Francis H. Raymond award. Mr. Gentry has been an invaluable asset to our industry through his contributions to the forestry profession in California. As a second generation forester, George was born into the great fortune of the forest eventually becoming his office. Much like Francis H. Raymond, Mr. Gentry's career began in the woods then transitioned to the Capitol where he became a legislative advocate and regulatory expert for the forest products industry. Both Mr. Gentry and the award's namesake share a passion for maintaining the integrity of the Registered Professional Forester's (RPF) license, as evidenced in their commitment to the Professional Foresters Examining Committee, the Board of Forestry, and overall support of the mission of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).

Mr. Gentry is a champion for the profession, and his commitment to the development and implementation of sound forest management policies are manifest throughout our regulatory framework. He was instrumental in the development of protections for anadromous salmonids and associated revisions to the road rules. He played a key role in the revision of the standards for minimum stocking by securing grant funds to first study, then subsequently modernize the stocking regulations to reflect contemporary forestry practices. He worked with industry partners to update yarding regulations to allow for less-impactful, steep-slope, ground-based yarding. In his current role as Vice President for the California Forestry Association (CFA), Mr. Gentry leads the Regulatory Affairs Committee and keeps Green Diamond Resource Company and other CFA members informed and engaged on critical issues.

Recently, Mr. Gentry spearheaded an RPF examination preparation program for early-career professionals, which has had a direct benefit to forestry workforce development and increasing the

number of practicing RPFs. As part of the RPF exam prep program, he hosts a weekly online seminar to discuss possible exam topics to help individuals prepare for examination. Exam pass rates have shown that the majority of people who regularly attended Mr. Gentry's seminar passed their exams and earned their licenses.

Francis H. Raymond has undoubtedly left his mark on the legacy of California forestry as a mentor and visionary, and Mr. Gentry embodies those same qualities today. It is our great pleasure to support the nomination of Mr. George "YG" Gentry for this award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elicia Goldsworthy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elicia Goldsworthy, RPF #2818  
Forest Policy and Communications Manager  
Green Diamond Resource Company  
[elicia.goldsworthy@greendiamond.com](mailto:elicia.goldsworthy@greendiamond.com)

May 29, 2023

LENNART LINDSTRAND, Jr.  
Debbie Ln.  
Redding, Ca., 96002

FHR Nomination Committee  
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, Ca., 94244-2460

Re.: Nomination of George D. Gentry (YG)  
2023 Francis H. Raymond Award

Dear Nomination Committee Members:

This letter is submitted in support of the Nomination of George D. Gentry, RPF # 2262, for the 2023 Francis H. Raymond Award.

George Gentry's (YG) professional forestry background includes forest consulting, governmental administration, and forest management regulatory policy. Additionally, YG's dedication to the Forestry Profession is without question. He has served as an instructor for the California Licensed Foresters Association RPF Examination Preparation seminar for over 20 years. More recently, YG has organized a weekly, online workshop to provide instruction for applicants preparing to take the Professional Foresters Examination. Mentoring such as this will help provide licensed professionals for California's forest resources' current and future management.

Your consideration of YG's nomination is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lennart Lindstrand, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Lennart Lindstrand, Jr.  
RPF #624



MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 156 • CLOVERDALE, CA 95425  
31401 McCRAY ROAD • CLOVERDALE, CA 95425  
(707) 894-4242 • FAX (707) 894-4632

May 25, 2023

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

Re: Nomination of George "YG" Gentry for the Francis Raymond Award

Dear Board,

Redwood Empire Sawmills strongly supports the effort to award George "YG" Gentry with the 2023 Francis Raymond Award for excellence in supporting forestry in California. YG's past and present achievements as the Director of Foresters Licensing, the Executive Officer of the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, and currently as the Vice President of the California Forestry Association are vast and well known. YG is highly respected and cherished by RPFs and he has become the go-to person in regard to licensing issues and forestry regulations in the State. YG has also been involved and is very active for many years with the California Licensed Foresters Association and currently serves on the Board, which is a volunteer position.

In particular his recent very successful efforts regarding helping the Board revise the stocking standards and unevenage management rules to meet current science speak to his basic premise, which is to make forestry regulations straight forward, logical, uncomplicated, and current in regard to well respected science. YG has realized the urgency needed to revise those rules with the advent of rapid climate change impacting our forests due to drought, fire, and severe weather events, and has worked hard to incorporate the important new forest science regarding forest resiliency into the rules.

YG has always supported the profession and worked extremely hard to uphold the professionalism of those who hold the license. These efforts not only support the professional forester's license but their independence as known experts in their fields. YG also has a very strong ethic he learned from his dad "OG" Gentry regarding protecting private land ownership and the rights of the landowner. YG has worked tirelessly and oftentimes uphill to uphold those rights against an avalanche of new regulations that can overlay into a spider web of restrictions on a landowners basic rights to sustainably manage their lands.

YG is direct but diplomatic, and he tends to call things what they are rather than beat around the bush. His independence, courteousness, and strong self-confidence are his best traits and have served him well in being an effective advocate for common-sense regulations and supporter of sustainable forestry. He is also extremely practical due to his "dirt forestry" background as a consulting forester, and he is very knowledgeable regarding ways to improve on the ground forest practices. We RPF's and private timberland owners are blessed to have such a tireless worker looking out for us, and I and our company wholeheartedly support this nomination for this prestigious award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nick Kent", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Nick Kent, Resource Manager

(707) 239-0062 cell  
nkent@resawmill.com

**Matt Dias**  
**9334 Letchworth Court**  
**Elk Grove, Ca. 95758**

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June 1, 2023

**RE: Francis H. Raymond Award Nominee: George Gentry**

Francis H. Raymond Award Committee:

I respectfully submit this letter to express my unequivocal support to select George "YG" Gentry for the Francis H. Raymond Award.

While we are all granted with certain abilities, the honing and maturity of personal and professional characteristics are attributable to those that you chose or are fortunate enough to be exposed to.

I can identify several colleagues over the course of my career that have inspired my professional growth, but none more than YG. My initial exposure to YG as a young unlicensed field technician working in Humboldt County was one of a mere passing. A day or two in the pickup, headed out to the woods, with a leader in the field of forestry providing insight and direction to just another face in the crowd of youthful and adventurous understudies of California forestry. Another pupil bewildered by the lore of the Gentry family and their notable influence on the profession of forestry and impact on the County of Humboldt as a whole. The influence of the Gentry legacy is arguably unrivaled and will survive generations.

Years later, I was fortunate to intersect again with YG which has resulted in my professional definition and is simply unmatched by any other. The patience of YG, as he works to instruct those around him on the legacy of forest policy in California, is currently unparalleled. The commitment to tracking the current state of forest policy in California may be achievable by others, but to do so with the detailed knowledge of decades of history that even precede his professional career as a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) is rare and provides benefit to all associated with forestry in California.

The Francis H. Raymond Award is not a lifetime achievement award, but rather focused on the contribution to forestry in California over the last 5 years. In either case, YG is the leading candidate. Due to the wildfire crisis that the state is facing the profession of forestry is in a renaissance era, and professional foresters are in high demand to assist the state in combating the climate crisis and achieving forest resilience across millions of acres. YG, upon his own reconnaissance and desire to continually give back to the profession, has taken what he personally has provided me and expanded his effort by an order of magnitude. Over the course of the last five years, while also serving on the Professional Foresters Examining Committee, and dedicating his time to grading the Registered Professional Foresters Examinations (RPF exam), serving the role as Vice President at Calforests, and serving on

the Joint Institute of Wood Products Innovations, he has also voluntarily provided weekly study group to individuals that wish to qualify and sit for the RPF exam.

It is commonly known across the profession of forestry that the RPF exam is challenging, with each bi-annual exam hosting a limited number of examinees and a historic pass rate of approximately 42%. With the intervention of YG, the pass rate for qualified applicants that are participating the weekly training course has shown marked improvement, with pass rates increasing for first time examinees as well as for those that are returning exam takers. This voluntary effort focused on exam preparation has ballooned, with more than 80 persons currently enrolled. This generous effort is undoubtedly assisting the state in enhancing the professional ranks of RPFs and ultimately working towards aiding the state in meeting the goals of achieving elevated rates of forest health and resiliency and the maintenance of rural economies in northern California.

I cannot recommend George "YG" Gentry highly enough as the 2023 recipient of the Francis H. Raymond Award.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Dias", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matt Dias  
Registered Professional Forester # 2773



**Rich Gordon**  
**570 Menlo Oaks Drive**  
**Menlo Park, CA 94025**

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May 17, 2023

RE: Francis H. Raymond Award  
Nominee: George Gentry

To Whom It May Concern:

I write in strong support of the selection of George Gentry for the Francis H. Raymond Award.

I met George in 2017 when I was chosen to be the President and CEO of the California Forestry Association (CFA) following my term-limited departure from the California State Assembly. George had come to CFA following his successful service at the Executive Officer of the California Board of Forestry. Initially our relationship was awkward since George would have been a more likely successor into the role of CFA CEO given that the Association had always had a forester as a leader. George was naturally skeptical of a politician from the Silicon Valley who had no background in forestry.

Over the next several months we both grew to trust, respect, and value each other. We became a strong team as we learned from each other. I promoted George to a new position of Sr. Vice President of the Association in recognition of our partnership and the value that he brought to our work.

George is worthy of the Francis H. Raymond Award because he is fully dedicated to his chosen profession of forestry. George is probably more comfortable in the woods where his knowledge and talent allow him to understand how to best create environments that support forest health. However, George chose after a successful career in the field to enter public service and later Association work because he saw value in translating field work to those who make decisions and set policy for forestry and the timber industry in California. Recent legislation and policy matters have George's fingerprints on them.

One of the things that I value most about George Gentry is his commitment to the future of professional forestry. For several years he has volunteered his personal time to host a tutorial program for those who are preparing to take the exam to be a Registered Professional Forester. The success rate for passage of the exam for RFP candidates who have participated in George's tutorial is higher than those who have not benefited from his mentorship.

I got to see George's commitment to the future when we established a summer intern program at CFA. The interns took to George like metal to a magnet. His enthusiasm for his profession was contagious. The interns looked forward to opportunities to spend time with George to gain practical knowledge that augmented and supported the book-based learning they were

securing in their academic environments. George has kept in touch with these interns and continues to support their professional development and growth.

When I became the President and CEO of CFA one of the challenges that I accepted was the development of relationships between the timber industry and the environmental community. The "timber wars" were over, but the lingering distrust and even animosity that remained were fundamental to a level of post-traumatic stress syndrome experienced on both sides. I proposed that the CFA staff leadership engage in a series of dinners with the Sacramento leadership of the Environmental Defense Fund. The idea was simply to get to know each other through conversations held while breaking bread.

To say that George was skeptical would be an understatement, but he agreed to join me as we met with Eric Holst and his team from EDF. The conversations were productive and allowed for a growing understanding of areas where there could be collaboration. Perhaps the most amazing outcome of these gatherings occurred when Eric Holst reached out to George to explore what it would take for Eric to secure licensure as a Registered Professional Forester. George worked with Eric and invited him to join his tutorial group. In January of 2022 having passed the required exam, Eric became a Registered Professional Forester in California, something that never would have happened without the investment of George Gentry in an unexpected relationship.

I cannot more highly recommend George Gentry for receipt of the Francis H. Raymond Award. His commitment to his profession and its future is unparalleled. He is truly worthy of this capstone for his career.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Gordon".

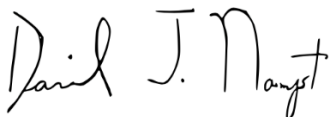
Richard Gordon  
California State Assembly (Retired)  
President, California Forestry Association (Retired)

## Letter of Support for George Gentry for the 2023 Francis H. Raymond Award

George has been a leader, resource and mentor in my professional development through both the fields of Forestry and Land Surveying. I met George when I was an intern for the California Forestry Association. On the first day we sat in his office and talked about my career objectives what/how I could assist the Forestry Association. During this meeting he explained all objectives for the summer, highlighting everyone's role and their current projects. Throughout the course of the internship, he would add insight, highlight important meetings to attend and give advice when I would hit a roadblock for my projects. George's field experience added a unique amount of depth when needed to explain topics outside of the textbook definitions. His experience with Cal Fire and fire breaks was extremely insightful in regard to the Carr fire and the Mendocino fire. His utilization of cutting-edge university tools, helped bring the forestry community a quicker understanding of what was likely going to happen from previous fire patterns.

One of my favorite moments with George was well after my internship. After my undergrad I decided to pursue the field of land surveying. I realized I had major knowledge gaps and one of the ways I could fill in the knowledge gaps was getting a Master's Degree in Land Surveying. I asked George to be one of my references. He was the only reference the University of Maine called, shortly after my letter of acceptance was sent over, from my recollection it was approximately five minutes and one of the best birthday presents ever. This was later confirmed by my department head. I still do not know what George said to this today, however his efforts opened the door for me to pursue my Masters and now a Doctorate in Engineering. This directly later translated into opening the door to become a professor at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. George continuously values knowledge and sharing wisdom which makes him a tremendous asset to the forestry community. If George did not know the answer to a question, he would join you in a journey to find the answer utilizing any and all contacts in his network. His vision for knowledge and finding an answer is a fundamental value in my class at Cal Poly SLO.

George has been a great resource for when I hit other career obstacles and helping me decide when to leave a company. His ability to listen, breakdown and unpack any situation is unparalleled. George is not only is a mentor but a champion of propelling the field of forestry into the next generation. Without George, important lessons in history would be lost, many individuals would have never found their calling nor would the knowledge be written down for the work of future foresters. Without George my career would have never launched in the trajectory it has. He has, without question, changed multiple fields and left an impact for future generations that will spotlight his virtues in regards to being a steward of the profession. George Gentry has my vote for the 2023 Francis H. Raymond Award.



Daniel Namyst, PSM, LSIT  
Director of Central Coast Survey Operations  
Lea and Braze Engineering, Inc.



May 31, 2023

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
Sacramento, CA

Dear Board Members,

I am writing to support nomination of George 'YG' Gentry for the Francis Raymond Award.

To me, YG is among the top tier of forestry ambassadors in the state of California. His resume clearly shows his commitment to the profession and the practice of sustainable forest management through his service as a consulting forester, at the Board of Forestry, and now at the California Forestry Association. He has consistently been acted as a keen analyst, a builder of bridges between disparate parties, and an enthusiastic cheerleader for California forests. No doubt his record of forest policy accomplishments is better known and will be delineated by others.

I want to make sure the Board, in considering this nomination, is aware of YG's commitment to building the forestry profession in California. This is the arena in which I have observed his efforts most directly over the last several years. I began considering seeking my RPF license in the months before the March 2020 lockdown. I reached out to YG for advice, and he strongly encouraged me to give it a shot. I found YG to be passionate and energetic about the importance of the forestry profession and his encouragement was highly influential in me moving forward.

As I confronted the challenge of studying for the exam, I got back in touch with YG to ask for studying advice. He let me know that he was organizing study groups with other candidates, and I ended up enrolling (at no cost) in a two-month, weekly course that he taught. I honestly could not have passed the test without this course. And I was stunned to learn that he was leading at least two other courses at the same time! Moreover, he is an examiner for the test and no doubt spend hundreds of cumulative hours helping to prepare the next generation of California Foresters.

This level of passion for a profession is sometimes matched, rarely exceeded, and very poorly remunerated. YG represents the best of the California forestry profession and I strongly support

his nomination for the Francis Raymond award for contributions to the forestry sector in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Holst". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eric Holst  
Associate Vice President, Natural Climate Solutions



***Flexilis Forestry, LLC***

**Joseph G. Reddan  
CA RPF # 3187**



***ACF  
Consulting Forester***

Dear California Board of Forestry:

I am writing to support the nomination of George Gentry “YG” to be a recipient of the “Francis H Raymond” Award.

“YG” as he is widely known by is deserving of this awards because of his advocacy for professional forest management in California.

I met “YG” in early 2022 when I travelled to Williams, CA to attend the California Licensed Forester Association (CLFA) sponsored Registered Professional Forester (RPF) Exam Prep Class. Over 2022 “YG” became an important mentor, coach, professor and encourager of the cohort scheduled to take the exam in 2022. “YG” sponsored and led an RPF Exam Study Zoom Group exam prep every Wednesday night. He was unfailingly encouraging with his wisdom and insight on how to successfully study and prepare for the exam. “YG” emphasized thinking and rationale as successful components to the exam’s daunting questions. Further, he encouraged his exam study group to divide into 10-person groups for more intense study by zoom meetings.

When I arrived at my exam testing center in Shingle Springs, I was very prepared and confident in taking the September 2022 RPF exam and thanks to “YG’s” leadership I was awarded my RPF by the California Board of Forestry.

Now living and practicing forestry in California, I have observed “YG’s” leadership with the California Forestry Association, CLFA, Society of American Foresters (SAF) and the California Board of Forestry in setting policy and regulation. “YG” truly is the embodiment of a professional forester.

For my stated reasons and along with others that “YG” has touched in the forestry profession “YG” deserves the Recognition of the “Francis H. Raymond” Award.

Respectfully,

*Joseph g. Reddan*

JOSEPH G. REDDAN  
RPF 3187