

Hannigan, Edith@BOF

From: Don Chartrand <don@donchartrand.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 4:55 PM
To: Vegetation Treatment Program@BOF
Subject: Draft DPEIR

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Attn: Edith Hannigan, Board Analyst
Email: VegetationTreatment@bof.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Hannigan and Members of the Board,

I am writing to support the position of the California Chaparral Institute in challenging the current Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR) for the state's proposed Vegetation Treatment Program. As an active member of several California watershed conservancies and a certified Chaparral Naturalist, I am persuaded that a Vegetation Treatment Program can emerge in a collaborative manner that reflects the well-informed feedback, prior legal battles, and negative precedent set by failures to meet requirements of environmental compliance. However, achieving this outcome will require a mental shift from a mindset of "How do we manage fuel?" to a process that focuses on "How do we protect lives and property from wildfire?" These are different questions with very different solutions.

I encourage the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to recognize the unique habitat that is characteristic of so much of the land this program aims to protect, and to consider the productive suggestions already provided to the Board of Forestry on how they could improve the draft DPEIR, including those from the California Legislature's required review by the California Fire Science Consortium, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, fire scientists, and environmental groups.

Please do not approve this draft. It would do a disservice to the people and natural resources of California and needs to be substantially revised.

Sincerely,

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