

Hannigan, Edith@BOF

From: Roxanne Greene <roxanne@greeneassociates.org>
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 4:32 PM
To: Vegetation Treatment Program@BOF
Subject: Vegetation Treatment Program

To: Edith Hannigan, Board Analyst

Dear Ms Hannigan,

I am writing to protest the proposal to burn, masticate and poison thousands of acres of one of the most endangered habitats in the world, California's old growth chaparral.

Removing chaparral from such a wide swath of the state will invite the growth of fast burning, non-native grasses and plants which will have negative effects on air and water quality, wildlife habitat and plain old quality of life in California.

Southern California's chaparral is fire adapted, not dependent on fire. Many chaparral plants have a 30 year minimum seeding cycle where the plant litter must build up so seeds have enough moisture and substrate in which to sprout. Additionally, old growth chaparral is home to hundreds of endemic species found nowhere else in the world. Destroying this habitat will decrease biological diversity in ways that have only begun to be studied.

Denuding California's hillsides during a drought is one thing, but in a normal rain, runoff debris from masticated and burned hillsides will clog streams and drainages downhill. Furthermore, the lack of cover will not permit much needed moisture to sink into the groundwater system. Finally, in areas where herbicides are applied, runoff will contain herbicide residues and byproducts, potentially entering the groundwater system or reaching the ocean.

I object to the fact that many of the environmental protections required by CEQA are exempted under this program.

I would instead like to see a program that educates and assists homeowners and land developers living in chaparral habitat. This program could be paid for with "fire fee" funds and could include fire readiness training; low-cost fire mitigation programs for structures and the immediate areas surrounding a structure, and exterior fire suppression installation programs on affected structures.

There are many alternatives to simply destroying an ecosystem. We Americans are downright hypocritical when it comes to that. We'll protest logging in Brazil, palm oil plantations in Borneo, yet outright destruction of a fragile ecosystem for no scientifically proven benefit is tolerated.

Please do not pass this plan, for the sake of all Californians, now and in the future.

Thank you.

Roxanne L. Greene, CPA

R. Greene & Associates, Inc.
5256 S. Mission Road, Suite 205
Bonsall, CA 92003
760-726-4316 / 760-726-4329 fax



NOTICE: This e-mail (including attachments) is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521, is confidential and may be legally privileged. Information contained in this e-mail message is intended only for the individual to whom it is addressed and is private and confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, please kindly destroy it and notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail. Please take standard precautions to mitigate virus issues. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

Connect to me on Linked In:

<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/roxanne-greene/16/83b/615>