

## Hannigan, Edith@BOF

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**From:** A Spolskly <pangborndowney@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 27, 2016 10:51 AM  
**To:** Vegetation Treatment Program@BOF  
**Subject:** Public Comment: Proposed Vegetation Treatment Program

Hello

First, I really appreciate our firefighters and always fully support increases to the fire budget.

I live in the middle of beautiful California Chaparral covered hillsides. We have delightful birds that fill the air with song and three types of frogs and toads that call in the evening - one of them is the rare spade foot toad that breeds on our land. We also have the California Legless Lizard and Horned Lizard.

The Vegetation Treatment Program as proposed is a mistake. It will not prevent fire damage, in fact, it will make the fire issues worse.

Let me describe the situation near me.

- Home owners who have cleared their land on the slopes over the years cause flooding to homes below me during torrential rains that we get here. That will increase if your proposed clearances are used.
- Home owners who have removed native vegetation have then planted very flammable non-natives such as eucalyptus and pines around their homes which will increase the chances of their homes burning during a wildfire but they are not cited or fined or in any way asked to remove those trees even though they threaten my land would a fire come this way. I was told by the fire inspector that it is because non-natives are fine to plant. They just want to get rid of the native plants.
- We're very good about fire prevention. We have the requisite 50 and 100 foot limitations and we irrigate near the house. Plus we have 10,000 gals of water tanked on our property.
- When land is cleared out here woody weedy species move in so the fire problem actually increases.

Please do the right thing and find a better way. There are many people who could assist you with this. Listen to them.

Also, I am sending this email anonymously because the last time I sent in a public comment the fire inspectors descended on me and harassed me even though they could find nothing wrong on my land. The harassment continued for a full year until they finally gave up. That was a pretty bad experience.

Thank you for reading my comments.

I am a: San Diego County resident of 40 years.