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# Assembly California Legislature



**CECILIA M. AGUIAR-CURRY**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES**  
CHAIR: LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
AGRICULTURE  
GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION  
TRANSPORTATION  
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

January 12, 2018

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
ATTN: Edith Hannigan, Board Analyst  
VTP Draft PEIR Comments  
PO Box 944246  
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

**RE: VTP Draft PEIR Comments**

Dear Ms. Edith Hannigan,

In October 2017, Northern California experienced the most devastating wildfires in state history. Four of my counties – Lake, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma – were on fire. For many in my district, it wasn't the first time. 44 Californian lives were claimed. More than 14,700 homes and 728 businesses were damaged or destroyed totaling over 9 billion dollars worth of insurable damage. This disaster struck while many of my constituents were still in the process of rebuilding from the Valley and Butte Fires of 2015, which destroyed more than 3,000 structures and 1,700 homes.

The frequency of these high intensity fires is increasing, thus increasing the magnitude of loss the communities I represent are experiencing. The Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (VTP PEIR) would create a streamlined process for communities to engage in essential fire prevention projects that would reduce hazardous vegetative fuel conditions and restore ecosystem resiliency, which is especially important in forested areas.

The ability to tier the environmental analysis for these projects off a statewide programmatic environmental impact report (PEIR) would substantially reduce costs to communities and allow them to address hazardous vegetative fuel more quickly and potentially reduce catastrophic losses. This is critical for the communities I represent, particularly those in rural Northern California that have small population bases, little tax revenue and resources to manage large forested areas.

I would like to lend my full support to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in the development of the VTP EIR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cecilia Aguiar-Curry".

CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY  
Chair, Committee on Local Government  
Assemblymember, Fourth Assembly District

