

Hannigan, Edith@BOF

From: Dan Silver <dsilverla@me.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2018 11:31 AM
To: Vegetation Treatment Program@BOF
Cc: Dias, Matt@BOF; Hannigan, Edith@BOF
Subject: Comments on Draft Program EIR for the Vegetation Treatment Program

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

January 11, 2018

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

RE: Recirculated Revised Draft Program Environmental Impact Report Regarding the Proposed Statewide Vegetation Treatment Program

Dear Ms. Hannigan:

Endangered Habitats League (EHL) appreciates the opportunity to comment on aesthetic and visual impacts. For your reference, EHL is a Southern California regional conservation group.

Enclosed is a photo of a masticated hillside, taken February 20, 2014 along Main Divide Road, near Long Canyon Road, in southeastern Orange County. (Photo credit, Ron Vanderhoff). The native scrub habitat in this viewshed has been reduced to an unsightly tangle of debris. Similar scenes would ensue from the other proposed treatments regimes. On the scale of dozens and up to hundreds of acres per treatment, the result of the VTP would be severe adverse visual impacts to residents and recreationists alike. However, using an arbitrary threshold of significance of 10% of scenic byway viewshed over a 10-year period, the DEIR concludes that the impacts would not be significant, on the grounds that they do not cover “enough” of the viewshed in each bioregion. No mitigation is offered. However, the picture tells the true story. Aesthetic and visual impacts have not been recognized or disclosed.

Confirmation of receipt of this message and photo is requested and appreciated.

Please let me know of questions, and with best regards,
Dan Silver



Dan Silver, Executive Director
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