

Hannigan, Edith@BOF

From: kyra saegusa <kyra.saegusa@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 3:38 PM
To: Vegetation Treatment Program@BOF
Subject: Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report comment

Kyra Saegusa
2541 Glenrose Avenue
Altadena, CA 91001
512-576-5614

Dear Edith Hannigan,

The current Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report Proposal put forth regarding fire suppression in California through large scale brush removal seems faulty in its planned efforts to safeguard property and lives according to the most scientific research. The removal of brush on the edges of populated areas has been shown by studies by the University of California, Davis to only exacerbate the problem. Invasive European weed and grass seeds colonize the newly opened spaces and provide a more consistent and continuous blanket of fuel. Many of the ubiquitous choices in landscaping of hardy ornamental plants like ivy (*Hedera sp.*), ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*), and Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*) create greater risk of flammability in the landscape than most of the California native plants that the VTPPEIR proposes to remove. The education of the public on fire ecology and tighter restrictions on construction and landscaping near wild areas, coupled with minimum selective thinning and removal seems to be the best solution to preserving the threatened biodiversity which exist only in the California Floristic Province. Please take the above comments into consideration when making such monumental decisions regarding the future of the California wild lands and its inhabitants. Thank you.

Regards,
Kyra Saegusa