



# ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY

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Board of Forestry & Fire Protection  
[VegetationTreatment@bof.ca.gov](mailto:VegetationTreatment@bof.ca.gov)

To Whom It May Concern:

The proposed Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (VTP PEIR) is supported by the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) for its emphasis on protecting life, property, and natural resources through vegetation management options to modify fire behavior. The ability to use this VTP will allow OCFA and our partners to efficiently plan and implement projects, with hopes of reducing the size and scale of our fires by modifying vegetation composition and structure.

Treatments described in the VTP are consistent with the OCFA Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), which identifies and prioritizes fuel reduction and modification projects that would occur under this VTP PEIR. The VTP would provide the streamlined CEQA analysis for these projects, which would significantly reduce the need for repetitive process of multiple CEQA documents, as well as the cost and time to the department and landowners with limited resources.

The VTP is consistent and in direct alignment with the OCFA's Strategic Unit Fire Plan, which clearly identifies the need to modify fire behavior through vegetation and fuel reduction methods specifically utilizing strategically placed treatments focused to protect Orange County's numerous values at risk.

The ability to allow for ecological restoration within the VTP will also allow OCFA to better create and implement fuel reduction and modification projects within our SRA. Much of Orange County's SRA is owned and managed by conservancies for threatened and endangered species. This VTP will allow OCFA to create and implement win-win projects that both aid in fuel reduction and modification, while also creating and enhancing habitat for endangered species.

The ability to plan and manage fire at a landscape scale is becoming more and more important, as a year-round fire season has become the "new normal," and fires are becoming more frequent, more intense, and threaten increasing numbers of lives and property. The implementation of this VTP PEIR is much needed and much overdue.

Respectfully,

Patrick McIntosh  
Interim Fire Chief

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