

CAPITOL OFFICE  
STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 651-4004

CHICO DISTRICT OFFICE  
2635 FOREST AVE., STE. 110  
CHICO, CA 95928  
(530) 879-7424

ROSEVILLE DISTRICT OFFICE  
2200A DOUGLAS BLVD., STE. 100  
ROSEVILLE, CA 95765  
(916) 772-0571

YUBA CITY DISTRICT OFFICE  
1100 CIVIC CENTER BLVD., STE. 202-A  
YUBA CITY, CA 95993  
(530) 751-8657

# California State Senate



**SENATOR  
JIM NIELSEN**

FOURTH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEES  
APPROPRIATIONS  
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
VICE CHAIR  
HEALTH  
VETERANS AFFAIRS  
VICE CHAIR

January 9, 2018

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

Dear Ms. Hannigan,

As someone who has represented much of Northern California during my time in the State Capitol, and who has seen firsthand the crippling impacts of wildfires to communities both large and small, I strongly encourage the Board to accept the Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (VTP PEIR) and move forward with this critical program.

Communities that face catastrophic fires are often those which already have difficulty bearing the costs of state mandates and regulations. VTP PEIR will create a streamlined process that allows communities to work on prevention projects while also benefitting local ecosystems. Importantly, the ability to tier the environmental analysis for these projects off of a statewide PEIR would substantially reduce costs to communities to comply.

In 2017, the state was faced with the clear evidence that wildfire suppression must become a statewide policy priority – not merely left to a handful of rural communities. The massive fires that we as a state faced did not limit themselves to jurisdictional boundaries; we should not limit our policy response to the same. A statewide PEIR will allow numerous governments and agencies to work across boundaries and create the impetus for a comprehensive, statewide vegetation reduction effort.

By opening a new path to CEQA compliance, the VTP PEIR provides a framework for communities to plan and implement fuel reduction and ecosystem resiliency projects to protect their landscapes from wildfire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim Nielsen". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

JIM NIELSEN