

March 20, 2016

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Attn: Matt Dias
Acting Executive Officer
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: Notice of Proposed Action: "Drought Mortality Amendments, 2015"

The following comments are **in support of the proposed action titled "Drought Mortality Amendments, 2015"**, under consideration by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. These comments are being submitted via email to the Board of Forestry.

This rulemaking proposal will benefit not only individual landowners affected by the tree mortality situation, but entire communities in the central and southern Sierra Nevada region where entire watersheds have been adversely affected by the numbers of dead and dying trees.

This is obviously a very serious issue and will likely intensify in the next several years. The Board should consider making the Drought Mortality 1038 (k) exemption option permanent, without the December 31, 2018 deadline as noted. Serious tree mortality situations will likely continue at different locales in the future. The extent of mortality may be less than at present, but might still be serious enough for landowners to have this 1038 (k) option at their disposal beyond 2018.

I support making the "Drought Mortality Amendments, 2015" permanent under the Forest Practice Rules.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Brian Rueger
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