

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

P.O. Box 944246  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
Website: [www.bof.fire.ca.gov](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov)  
(916) 653-8007



# NEWS RELEASE

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**Contact: Matt Dias, Executive Officer  
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection  
(916) 653-8007**

## **THE BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION AND CAL FIRE ANNOUNCE A PLAN THAT WILL INCREASE VEGETATION TREATMENT PROJECTS TO REDUCE WILDFIRE RISK**

SACRAMENTO—The State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) Chair Dr. Keith Gilles and CAL FIRE Director Thom Porter have announced plans to initiate preparation of the new California Vegetation Treatment Program Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP). The CalVTP represents more than a decade of Board work analyzing potential environmental effects associated with vegetation management aimed at reducing wildland fire risk across the state. The program plays a critical role in assisting CAL FIRE in increasing the pace and scale of vegetation management while also maintaining California’s diverse vegetation and habitats.

“While the impacts of wildland fires have always been a concern for California, the associated impacts to public health, welfare, and natural resources over the last several years demand that the Board play an increasingly active role in supporting wildland fire prevention activities,” said Dr. Gilles.

Upon certification, the CalVTP will facilitate timely implementation of wildland urban interface vegetation reduction projects, fuel breaks to assist in wildland fire suppression efforts, and support ecological restoration projects. “The CalVTP will provide CAL FIRE with an essential opportunity to support timely implementation of wildland fire prevention activities, such as prescribed burning and mechanical treatment of hazardous vegetative fuels. CAL FIRE is in full support of the Board’s effort on this project,” said Director Porter.

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