

Hannigan, Edith@BOF

From: Elizabeth Wallace <eltwallace@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 4, 2019 11:29 AM
To: Public Comments@BOF; Office of the Secretary CNRA
Subject: Item 9, December 11, 2019, California Vegetation Treatment Program
Attachments: DF1CBEF0-529C-4280-B5BD-8013239E70C2.jpeg

Warning: this message is from an external user and should be treated with caution.

Dr. Keith Gilles, Chair
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

cc: Secretary of Natural Resources

Dear Chairperson Gilles and Members of the Board:

CalFire's Vegetation Treatment Program would remove native vegetation across 250,000-acre footprint each year, at massive financial and ecological cost.

CalFire now admits that the program would be ineffective for wind-driven fires that cause the majority of loss of life and property damage. Non-wind-driven fires are controllable and are not fires of concern.

Vegetation clearance promotes invasive and highly flammable weeds, causing residents to be less safe during fire. Native vegetation is more fire-resistant than the weeds that grow after native vegetation is cleared.

The VTP needs a scientific cost-benefit assessment. Please direct the Natural Resources Agency and CalFire to pause the VTF and confer with fire ecologists, fire managers and stakeholders about how and where vegetation treatments can actually achieve benefit.

Effective fire prevention measures include: Keeping new development out of harm's way, hardening existing structures, enforcing defensible space, strategic fuel breaks, and improving early warning and evacuation systems. The VTP - by CalFire's own admission - does not even address the problem of catastrophic wind-driven fires.

Please don't destroy California's remaining natural environmental resources. And please protect our tax dollars--don't waste them on efforts that will cause harm, and not help with the problem of wind-driven fires.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Wallace
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The attached recent photo shows healthy evergreen and fire-resistant native California vegetation along old El Toro Road in Lake Forest, CA. In the upper background, you see invasive black mustard (the brown vegetation), a non-native invasive plant that grows after healthy native vegetation is disturbed. VTP clearance will cause invasive black mustard (*Brassica nigra*) to flourish and actually INCREASE fire danger. Please stop this terrible idea and listen to scientists.

