



AGENDA ITEM NO.
C-2

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: July 1, 2014

Date: June 23, 2014

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Supervisor Rex Bohn

Subject: Letter of Support for AB 2142 (Chesbro) Extending AB 744 Pilot Project to Additional Areas of the State with High Fire Hazard Severity by adding, Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties.

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors ratify authorize for the Chair to sign the letter of support.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: In 2013, the State Legislature passed AB 744 to evaluate the expansion of the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption (FFPE). This 3-year pilot project is designed to encourage landowners to conduct forest-thinning projects to reduce the occurrence of wildfires, mitigate the damage and improve overall forest health in the Sierra Nevada region in high and very high fire hazard severity zones. AB 2142 would extend AB 744 pilot project to additional areas of the state with high fire hazard severity by adding Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support.

Prepared by Kathy Hayes Signature _____

REVIEW: Auditor _____ County Counsel _____ Personnel _____ Risk Manager _____ Other _____

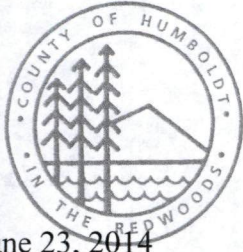
TYPE OF ITEM:
 Consent
 Departmental
 Public Hearing
 Other _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT
 Upon motion of Supervisor Lovelace Seconded by Supervisor Bass
 Ayes Lovelace, Sundberg, Bohn, Bass, Fennell
 Nays _____
 Abstain _____
 Absent _____

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:
 Board Order No. _____
 Meeting of: _____

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: July 1, 2014
 By: Kathy Hayes
 Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board



June 23, 2014

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

Honorable Wesley Chesbro
Chair of Natural Resources Committee
State Capitol, Room 2141
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: AB 2142 (Chesbro) - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Chesbro:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in full support of **AB 2142**, which would extend the AB 744 (Gordon & Dahle) pilot project to additional areas of the state with high fire hazard severity by adding Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties.

Last year in response to the Rim Fire, which burned over 250,000 acres in and around Yosemite National Park, the legislature passed AB 744 to evaluate the expansion of the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption (FFPE). This 3-year pilot project is designed to encourage landowners to conduct forest-thinning projects to reduce the occurrence of wildfires, mitigate the damage and improve overall forest health in the Sierra Nevada region in high and very high fire hazard severity zones. While this bill represented an improvement in California's fire-prevention efforts, it did not apply to several areas of the state with significant fire hazard severity.

The addition of Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties to the AB 744 pilot will create a more robust pilot project and will help policymakers evaluate an important means of addressing the drought and safeguarding our forests from the devastating impacts of wildfire on public health, water and wildlife in additional areas of the state that have been determined to be at significant risk of catastrophic wildfire.

California leaders must come together to advance economically feasible ways to reduce the growing threat of catastrophic wildfires from devastating our state's forestlands and waterways.

We urge your support for AB 2142, and thank you in advance for your consideration of this very important project.

Sincerely,

Rex Bohn, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

cc: Members, Senate Committee on Natural Resources
Senate Republican Policy Office
Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC)