



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5TH STREET, ROOM 111
EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501 PHONE: (707) 476-2390

June 9, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Letter of Support for the Middle Mad River Forest Enhancement Project

We are writing to express strong support for the Middle Mad River Forest Enhancement Project, a comprehensive landscape-scale forest restoration and wildfire resilience initiative proposed across approximately 2,729 acres of privately owned forestlands in the middle Mad River watershed of eastern Humboldt County.

This project addresses several critical challenges facing our region, including elevated wildfire risk, declining forest health, threats to drinking water resources, loss of native oak woodland habitat, and the long-term impacts of historic fire exclusion and past industrial forest management practices. Through a combination of fuels reduction, forest stand improvement, oak woodland restoration, reforestation, and prescribed burning, the project will help create a healthier, more resilient forest landscape while providing lasting benefits to local communities and natural resources.

Of particular importance is the project's focus on reducing hazardous fuels along the Maple Creek–McIntosh Road corridor and strengthening community safety for residents of Maple Creek. The proposed network of shaded fuel breaks will improve emergency access and evacuation routes while supporting firefighter operations along a critical interface between State and Federal Responsibility Areas. These improvements will help protect lives, homes, forest resources, and public infrastructure from future wildfire events.

The project also delivers significant environmental benefits. Restoration treatments will improve forest structure and species diversity, promote the recovery of native oak woodlands threatened by conifer encroachment, and reforest lands severely impacted by the 2023 wildfire season. By protecting upper watershed areas that contribute to downstream drinking water supplies, enhancing wildlife habitat, and increasing carbon sequestration, the project supports multiple long-term conservation and climate resilience objectives.

Equally important, the project builds upon existing stewardship efforts by local landowners and represents a collaborative, proactive approach to forest management. The proposed treatments will help establish conditions that allow for the reintroduction of prescribed fire across this fire-adapted landscape, creating lasting ecological benefits while reducing the likelihood of catastrophic wildfire.

The Middle Mad River Forest Enhancement Project represents a strategic investment in community protection, forest health, watershed resilience, and economic sustainability. The project will support local forestry and restoration jobs while helping ensure that these forestlands continue to provide environmental, economic, and public safety benefits for generations to come.

For these reasons, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors respectfully offers its full support for the Middle Mad River Forest Enhancement Project and encourage favorable consideration of funding for this important effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mike Wilson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mike Wilson, Chair
County of Humboldt