



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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January 07, 2025

Forest Health Grant Review Team
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
1416 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Re: Letter of Support from the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Dear Forest Health Grant Review Team,

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I would like to express our strong support for the Butte Creek/Buck Mountain Forest Health Project in the Little Van Duzen River watershed in eastern Humboldt County. The proposed project, located mostly on private forestlands and along public rights of ways in a very high fire hazard zone, aims to increase fire resiliency on over 1,500 acres of forestlands by reducing forest understory fuels (including ladder fuels); removing dead, dying, and diseased trees to improve forest health; enhancing overstory canopy complexity in selected stands; and restoring native oak woodlands that are at risk of forest type conversion due to conifer encroachment. Additionally, the project aims to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire by creating ~201 acres of shaded fuel breaks along public roads and utilities, including ~0.75 miles along the State HWY 36 corridor; ~0.7 miles along PG&E powerlines; ~1.25 miles along BLM's Butte Creek Road; and ~2.3 miles along the privately owned Burr Valley Road. These treatments would create safer routes for fire fighters during ground suppression efforts, establish safer escape routes for local residents in and around the project area, and reduce the potential for human-caused ignitions. Based (in part) on local CAL FIRE unit input, a shaded fuel break will also be created along a ridgeline in the project area to support future fire suppression and management efforts in the broader landscape.

The Butte Creek/Buck Mountain Forest Health Project is consistent with many elements of the Humboldt County General Plan, including the project's contributions to the protection of agriculture and forest resources; safety; conservation and open space; water resources; air quality; and economic development such as the creation and retention of resource-based jobs in a low-income community.

For these reasons and more, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, support this important project and urge you to provide funding. Please feel free to contact me if needed.

Sincerely,


Michelle Bushnell, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors