



March 1, 2019

The Honorable Thom Porter
Director, California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention
PO Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244

RE: Addressing California's Forest Health, Wildfires, and Public Safety

Dear Director Porter,

On behalf of the California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA), we are writing to express our congratulations on your appointment as Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention.

Founded in 2014, the California Forest Watershed Alliance (CAFWA) was formed to advocate for increasing the pace and scale of ecologically sound forest restoration practices that can help reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and promote healthier, more resilient forests across California. CAFWA is a nonpartisan, urban-rural coalition representing water interests, local governments, the conservation community, agriculture, and the forestry sector. CAFWA's diverse interests and active work on landscape scale forest resilience projects provide a path for improving the health of California's forests.

CAFWA's unique partnership joins diverse constituencies to seek new solutions to promote proactive, science-based, and ecologically sound forest management practices that will reduce the risk of uncharacteristic, destructive megafires. CAFWA's policy recommendations emphasize the importance of healthy forests by highlighting the multiple values that they provide. CAFWA's state-level recommendations include:

- A comprehensive, "all lands" approach to improving forest health covering large landscapes and all ownerships within California, including local, state, private and federal lands.
- Increasing the pace and scale of ecologically-based active forest management and prescribed fire.
- Supporting policies that increase the economic feasibility of forest restoration through biomass and new innovative wood products.
- Encouraging the use of watershed scale planning and project implementation.
- Encouraging the use of state funding and personnel to accelerate forest restoration on all lands in California, including federal lands.
- Increasing funding and identifying new funding sources for forest restoration from federal, state, local, and private sources.

We look forward to meeting with to introduce CAFWA, and to work with you on policy and funding solutions that will protect our forests and communities from high-severity wildfire and promote healthier, more resilient forests throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Justin Caporusso, Vice President of External Affairs
Rural County Representatives of California

Robert Spiegel, Governmental Affairs Advocate
California Farm Bureau Federation

Rich Gordon, President
California Forestry Association

Dave Eggerton, Executive Director
Association of California Water Agencies

David Edelson, Forest Program Director
The Nature Conservancy