



PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY
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June 10, 2015

The Honorable Tom McClintock
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
House Natural Resources

The Honorable Glenn Thompson
Chairman
Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry
House Agriculture Committee

The Honorable Niki Tsongas
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
House Natural Resources

The Honorable Michelle Lujan-Grisham
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry
House Agriculture Committee

SUBJECT: Support of H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015

Dear Chairmen McClintock and Thompson, and Ranking Members Tsongas and Lujan-Grisham:

Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) owns and operates the Middle Fork American River Project, providing water supplies, hydroelectric power, public recreational opportunities and environmental stewardship for the people of Placer County, California and the region. PCWA, using local revenues, built the Middle Fork Project in the 1960s for the long-term public benefit to be derived from beneficial uses of watershed resources. PCWA was created to ensure, and remains committed to supporting, diligent management of our watershed resources.

As an entity responsible for delivering sustainable water supply for several hundred thousand residents and renewable hydropower to meet the sustainable energy needs of all Californians, we are writing in support of H.R. 2647, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015. National Forest lands are the largest single source of water in the U.S. In California these lands contribute nearly 65% of the overall water supply that supports our farms and cities. The unhealthy state of these headwater forests has led to catastrophic wildfires that threaten the reliability, volume and quality of water for tens of millions of Americans, along with the wildlife, recreational, and multi-purpose value of these forests.

Some of the most destructive wildfire seasons on record, intensified by the persistent drought, have illustrated the critical need to accelerate implementation of pre-fire forest health projects and post-fire remediation actions in our National Forests. This need includes protecting critical headwaters and making forest lands more resilient against prolonged dry conditions, insect infestations and disease. Failure to take quick action will result in a continued increase in the frequency, size, and intensity of damaging wildfires that exacerbate impacts to water resources for years or decades.

PCWA believes that The Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2015 would provide important responses to these threats and will allow federal lands to be managed better for all of their multiple uses. The bill addresses several important policy factors that today limit the ability of federal agencies to use their expertise to actively manage our forest lands. Among the issues that we endorse are the bill's provisions to accelerate management activities protecting water resources that are undertaken through collaborative processes.

As you and your colleagues consider this important legislation, PCWA looks forward to providing any assistance or information you may require. We appreciate your efforts and attention to this important issue.

PLACER COUNTY WATER AGENCY

Sincerely,



Andrew Fecko
Director of Resource Development

AF:vf

c: U.S. Congressman Doug LaMalfa
PCWA Board of Directors
Einar Maisch, PCWA General Manager