



**Forest Landowners
OF CALIFORNIA**

www.forestlandowners.org
950 Glenn Drive
Suite 150
Folsom, CA 95630

February 28, 2016

Dr. Keith Gillless, Board Chair
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Dr. Gillless,

Forest Landowners of California (FLC) is a non-profit organization that represents family forest landowners throughout the state. Our goal is to promote and protect the ability of nonindustrial forest landowners to actively manage and retain ownership of their forestlands – both working landscapes and those held for simple enjoyment and other non-economic reasons.

Forest Landowners of California supports creation of regulation favoring oak woodland restoration and improved management options. It is important to stem the trend in which Oregon white and California black oak woodlands have been threatened by existing restocking rules of the Forest Practice Rules (FPR). Please help save and strengthen oak woodlands, by approving the draft changes to the Forest Practice Rules that have been proposed by the Board of Forestry's Forest Practice Committee.

As you know, oak woodlands provide cultural benefits, including material for traditional tribal ceremonial use, as well as economic benefits and ecological benefits. They deserve protection and restoration. We urge the Board to balance oak woodland restoration needs with those of conifer protection and restoration, and support the proposed FPR changes.

We appreciate the direction that the Board appears to be taking, to align the FPRs with complex on-the-ground realities of mixed oak/conifer woodlands. The proposed FPR changes would benefit our members as they strive to be the best possible stewards of their oak woodlands.

Thank you for your work to bring us a better California.

Sincerely,

Charll Stoneman
President

cc: Mike Miles, Chair, Forest Practice Committee, California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Matt Dias, Interim Executive Officer, California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection