



July 18, 2019

Board of Forestry and Fire Protection,

The California Licensed Foresters Association would like to provide comment on the current status of the CALFIRE Archaeology program, and our continued support of archaeological training of Registered Professional Foresters in California. The memorandum of understanding between CALFIRE Archaeology and CLFA continues to foster and develop training for RPF's performing the task of archaeological surveys and reporting. The partnership between CALFIRE and CLFA has made strides in streamlining and focusing topics for the initial and refresher archaeological courses, and the outgoing surveys of student participants have demonstrated that the hard work CLFA and CALFIRE have put in to update and revise the course is making an impact. Unfortunately, the CALFIRE Archaeology program has lost some key professionals, further straining a small staff, and we have had to postpone the initial archaeological training course for the Fall of 2019. This vital program, and the foresters that perform surveys and record the discovery of sites, have recorded more archaeological sites than can be kept up with. As a membership, we are actively giving as much support for this program as is possible, as they revise and update their MOU with the Office of Historic Preservation, as well as transition to new staff members. This program is critical to forest practice throughout the state and will be essential to meeting the Governor's Executive Order B-52-18.

CALFIRE Archaeology and CLFA have met each January for the past 3 years to foster the development of training that is complementary to forest practice and to facilitate opportunities for CALFIRE archaeologists to see demonstrations of live logging operations around archaeological sites put on by CLFA members. As this partnership develops and grows, we remain supportive of the CALFIRE Archaeology program and are steadfast in demonstrating our willingness to support their endeavors, just as they have supported ours. Without this program, we will not be able to meet the Governor's order to "increase pace and scale" in protection of our communities and natural resources, nor carry out the necessary tasks to meet the provisions of the Forest Practice Act and CEQA as it relates to timber harvest and vegetative treatments on SRA land. CLFA believes that this program is integral to all forest management activities, and that continued support of this program by all agencies that are involved in natural resource management is critical to providing the necessary tools to protect the unique historical nature of California, as well as move forward in landscape scale protection of resources. We urge the Board to continue to actively support the program as well in whatever way that is appropriate. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on our continued support of this program.

Sincerely,

Christopher Dow

CLFA President