**CALIFORNIA BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2019-01**

***[PROPOSED]***

**RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE FINAL PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA VEGETATION TREATMENT PROGRAM**

 **WHEREAS,** the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board), in cooperation with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), evaluated the environmental impacts of the California Vegetation Treatment Program (CalVTP); and

 **WHEREAS,** in accordance with section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.), on January 30, 2019, the Board, as lead agency under CEQA (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines, released a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the CalVTP (State Clearinghouse No. 2019012052); and

 **WHEREAS,** the Board duly noticed and held public scoping meetings on February 11 and 19, and March 18, 2019, in Sacramento, Ontario, and Redding, to solicit public and agency comments on the scope of the Draft PEIR; and

 **WHEREAS,** the Board released a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft PEIR on June 24, 2019, by filing the NOA with the State Office of Planning and Research, which commenced a 45-day public review period ending on August 9, 2019; and

 **WHEREAS,** the Board, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines section 15088, considered and evaluated all comments received on the Draft PEIR from members of the public, private organizations, and public agencies; and

 **WHEREAS**, the Board, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines section 15086, consulted with and requested comments from responsible and trustee agencies, other regulatory agencies and others regarding the Draft PEIR; and

 **WHEREAS,** the Board, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines section 15088, subdivision (b), provided proposed written responses to all public agencies that submitted comments on the Draft PEIR at least 10 days prior to certifying the Final PEIR; and

 **WHEREAS,** the Board has prepared a Final PEIR, which contains the comment letters and written responses to substantive comments addressing the environmental issues raised and a Final PEIR which provides modifications to the Draft PEIR made in response to those comments; and

 **WHEREAS**, the Board made the Final PEIR publicly available on its website on November 27, 2019; and

 **WHEREAS**, the Final PEIR includes the Draft PEIR with modifications, timely comments received on the Draft PEIR, written responses to all significant environmental issues raised in the comments, a mitigation monitoring and reporting program, and various appendices, including an updated form for a project-specific analysis for individual vegetation treatment projects; and

 **WHEREAS**, the Final PEIR sufficiently analyzes both the feasible mitigation measures intended to avoid or substantially lessen the CalVTP’s significant environmental impacts and a reasonable range of alternatives intended to avoid or substantially lessen these effects, in accordance with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines; and

**WHEREAS,** during the time period between the public release of the Final PEIR and the hearing scheduled before the Board on December 11, 2019, the Board received correspondence addressing issues raised in the Final PEIR and on the merits of the project, including a letter from ecologist Frank Landis, Ph.D., and letters from environmental organizations such as the Santa Clarita Organization for Planning and the Environment, the San Diego Audubon Society, the Chaparral Institute, the Endangered Habitat League, the California Wildlife Foundation, and the Center for Biological Diversity; and

 **WHEREAS,** on December 11, 2019, the Board held a duly noticed public hearing pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15202, subdivision (b), to consider the Final PEIR and the proposed CalVTP; and

 **WHEREAS,** in light of the volume of correspondence received shortly before the hearing commenced, as well as the substantive oral testimony received that morning, the Board chairman closed the public hearing on December 11, 2019, but continued the Board’s deliberations until the Board’s next meeting in order to give the Board and its staff and consultants adequate time to review the new correspondence and to consider the testimony before the Board took final action on either the Final PEIR or the project; and

 **WHEREAS**, the Board subsequently scheduled a meeting for December 30, 2019, at which the Board’s deliberations would be recommenced; and

 **WHEREAS**, afterreviewing the most recent correspondence and testimony provided during the public hearing on December 11, 2019, the Board’s staff and environmental consultants prepared additional responsive materials for the Board’s information in a document entitled, “California Vegetation Treatment Program Information Supplementary to the Final Program Environmental Impact Report” (“Information Supplement”); and

 **WHEREAS**, the Board recommenced its deliberations on the CalVTP and the Final PEIR (now expanded to include the Information Supplement) on December 30, 2019; and

 **WHEREAS,** prior to and during its continued deliberations on December 30, 2019, the Board weighed the evidence presented at said public hearing, including information provided by Board staff and consultants, the Draft PEIR, public comments on the Draft PEIR and the proposed CalVTP, the November 2019 Final PEIR, the December 2019 Information Supplement, supporting evidence, and public testimony presented at the public hearing; and

 **WHEREAS,** the Board reviewed and considered all such information prior to making a determination; and

 **WHEREAS,** the Final PEIR, defined to include not only the November 2019 proposed Final PEIR but also the December 2019 Information Supplement, is deemed legally and factually adequate for purposes of making decisions on the merits of the CalVTP; and

 **WHEREAS,** all other legal prerequisites to the adoption of this Resolution have occurred.

 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection hereby finds and determines the following:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and are included herein by reference as findings.
2. The Board certifies that the Final PEIR, including the December 2019 Information Supplement, was completed in compliance with CEQA, the CEQA Guidelines, and all other relevant procedures adopted thereto.
3. The Board certifies that the Final PEIR, including the December 2019 Information Supplement, was presented to and independently reviewed and considered by the Board prior to considering approval of the CalVTP.
4. The Board certifies that the Final PEIR, including the December 2019 Information Supplement, reflects the Board’s independent judgment and analysis.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** this 30th day of December, 2019, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a Resolution of the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, that said Resolution was passed and adopted by the affirmative and majority vote of said Board at a meeting held on December 30, 2019, and that said Resolution has not been modified, amended, or rescinded, and is now in full force and effect.

CALIFORNIA BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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