



Sierra Pacific Industries

P.O Box 247 Standard, CA 95373 (209) 532-7141

August 18th, 2023

Jason Kuiken
Forest Supervisor
Stanislaus National Forest
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370

Re: Stanislaus National Forest Hazard Tree Management Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Mr. Kuiken,

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) is a third-generation, family-owned Forest Products Company, based in Anderson, California with 14 sawmill locations and actively managed timberlands throughout California, Oregon, and Washington. The Sonora Division is the southernmost part of the Company's operations, and includes the Standard and Chinese Camp facilities, directly employing 300 local workers and numerous contractors. In addition to investments to our community, SPI has made significant investments into our facilities over recent years, including rebuilding the Chinese Camp sawmill in 2007 and the Sonora sawmill in 2011.

SPI appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Stanislaus National Forest Hazard Tree Management Project and is in agreement that there is indeed a need and purpose for this project. We support the proposed action with consideration of the comments below.

As is well-documented within the EA and Finding of No Significant Impact, the need to reduce fuel-loading in and around roads, motorized trails, and facilities is significant. SPI encourages the project team to utilize all available possibilities for removal of subsequent materials from this project. Not only will this removal bolster said reduction of fuel-loading, but it has the capability of contributing to both local industry, county, and Forest Service income. We encourage the timely removal of products from this project to ensure the best utilization possible of said products.

Within the description of the need for economic and operational efficiency, the need for efficiency in project design and implementation is described as critical. SPI agrees and encourages the project team to prioritize treatment of road systems that provide comprehensive access and uses (such as fire/emergency response) to the public, FS staff, emergency personnel, contractors, and all others utilizing the forest road system.



Additionally, we agree with and support the treatment of 1,507 miles of ML-2 roads throughout the Forest, for the same reason explained above. While ML-2 roads may not be maintained or traveled as heavily as ML-3/4/5 roads, they are still utilized by the public, contractors, FS personnel, etc., and the hazard trees should be mitigated for safety and accessibility of all users.

In conclusion, Sierra Pacific Industries supports the Stanislaus National Forest's Hazard Tree Management Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact and supports an efficient and timely implementation of the project.

Sincerely,

Hannah Grabowski
Procurement Forester
Sierra Pacific Industries – Sonora Division