Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/9/2024 4:30:45 PM
First name: Jon
Last name: Couch
Organization: Las Huertas Community Ditch
Title: Commissioner
Comments: The proposed plan relies too much on prescribed fire. The Highway 165 corridor is too steep and crowded with vegetation for control burns to be safely performed. The 20 families that comprise Las Huertas Community Ditch unanimously and adamantly oppose fire as a management tool in this portion of the project area. Our homes and farms are within the hazardous Wildland Urban Interface, our acequia and its structures (diversions, culverts, etc.) are at risk, and Las Huertas watershed is too fragile for such a brutal treatment. Mastication merely changes the nature of the fuels without reducing its combustibility. The only treatments that are acceptable in Las Huertas Canyon are hand thinning, removal of large fuels, and chipping of fine fuels. Prescribed fire may be more suitable in the southern portion of the project area. This is not a one-prescription-fits-all project, contrary to the proposed action.