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First name: Sherri

Last name: Brennan

Organization: County of Tuolumne

Title: Chair, Board of Supervisors

Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Kuiken,

Tuolumne County strongly supports the Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) project that has been developed in cooperation with Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions (YSS). We commend the leadership of our partners which have demonstrated a continued commitment to completing vegetation treatments that benefit the environment, the economy, and the community.

This project is located in an area of Tuolumne County that is known to have some of our most fire prone landscape yet has experienced very little fire history. The County supports the SERAL project's use of prescribed fire, hand thinning, mastication, mechanical thinning, non-native invasive weed control and limited salvage operations to achieve the project's objectives. The strategic fuel reduction projects will shift forest structure and composition towards a range of natural conditions where ecological processes and adaptive capacity can evolve together

The Stanislaus National Forest is a critical resource to the economy and natural ecosystem of Tuolumne County. Whether our residents are processing natural resources or visitors to our county are enjoying its beauty, the National Forest Lands must be managed in a way to benefit all stakeholders. This SERAL project strives to balance these needs with a comprehensive approach to forest management.

The County cannot emphasize enough the importance of projects like these that increase the pace and scale of fuel reduction using a variety of tools that help transition our overgrown natural environment into a healthy landscape that exhibits fire-resistant conditions. In closing, the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors strongly support the SERAL project and look forward to reviewing the Environmental Impact Report when it is released in 2021. Please keep us informed of the progress of this process.

Respectfully,

Sherri Brennan

Chair, Board of Supervisors