



CALIFORNIA  
LICENSED  
FORESTERS  
ASSOCIATION

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August 5, 2013

President of the San Mateo Board of Supervisors, Don Horsley  
400 County Center  
Redwood City, CA 94063

Re: New Timber Harvest Review Fees

Dear Supervisor Horsley,

We would like to first start off by thanking you for pulling your opposition to AB 904, which the California Licensed Foresters Association has been working to develop with Forest Landowners, numerous environmental groups and Assemblymen Chesbro for the last two years. This letter is being sent to you regarding the Timber Harvest Plan (THP) fee that San Mateo County Board of Supervisors is currently considering. The California Licensed Foresters Association would like to submit the following comments for the Board's consideration.

According to Cal Fire records, since 2005, there have been 19 timber harvest projects submitted for review in San Mateo County. Your staff has participated in the review of seven of those plans. Of those seven plans, staff has made recommendations to the Cal Fire Review Team on five of those plans. Staff has only made one visit to a project site since 2005.

Every timber harvest that removes logs from lands within your county generates revenue for the county in the form of a Yield Tax. According to the State Board of Equalization, since 2005, the County of San Mateo has received \$619,547 in yield taxes, at an average of \$77,443 per year (\$32,600 per plan) from timber harvesting.

It would appear that San Mateo County is being more than compensated for Staff's time to review these harvest plans and that the proposed \$400/per plan is not necessary and of little significance to the Counties budget considering the limited amount of plans submitted within the County and the limited involvement by Staff in the THP review process since 2005.

As mentioned above you recently removed your letter of opposition to AB 904, which will help ease some of the excessive costs associated with timber harvesting. Please don't add to the economic hardship that forest landowners, your constituents, are currently facing. It seems unnecessary to charge \$400 for a submitted plan, when the

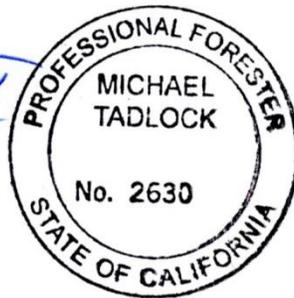
same plan, on the average, has generated the County \$32,600 when operated. The County should be looking to itself to promote sound timber harvesting practices which will benefit both the County and the timber landowners that the Board represents.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Michael Tadlock  
RPF #2630  
CLFA President



*The California Licensed Foresters Association, with a membership responsible for the sustained management of millions of acres of California forestland, represents the common interests of California Registered Professional Foresters. The Association provides opportunities for continuing education and public outreach to its membership, which includes professionals affiliated with government agencies, private timber companies, consultants, the public, and the academic community. Governed by an elected Board of Directors, CLFA was established in 1980 after the passage of the landmark California Professional Foresters Law.*