



March 27, 2024

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

RE: Support for the California Department of Conservation's CPRG Application for California's Bioenergy Program

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CA NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY
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RURAL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES OF CA
Doug Teeter

INDIGENOUS STEWARDSHIP NETWORK
Don Hankins

DIRECTOR
Patrick Wright

Dear Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Review Team:

Thank you for your consideration of the Department of Conservation's (DOC) application to EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program for its Bioenergy Program. The Program in its pilot form has already created more sustainable feedstock supply and is supporting eight new facilities to turn woody biomass into carbon-negative bioenergy. We strongly support DOC's application to expand the Program statewide.

DOC's Bioenergy Program is an essential component of the new Wood Utilization Strategy developed by the Governor's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force. The Task Force was created by Governor Gavin Newsom to align the activities of federal, state, local, public, private, and tribal organizations to improve landscape and community resilience in California.

The Wood Utilization Strategy identifies priority investments and policies to restore landscape resilience, support community sustainability and rural economic development, and avoid catastrophic wildfire and the significant pollutants and emissions coming from these events. It was created by a multi-disciplinary team involving ten state agencies, the USDA Forest Service, and many others including researchers, advocates, community groups, and environmental non-profit organizations.

DOC's Bioenergy Program is a core element of the Strategy. It will accelerate our efforts to make supplies of woody biomass more accessible and reliable, and jumpstart the development of new facilities to turn those supplies into carbon-negative bioenergy. These efforts are vital to meet growing state and federal mandates to reduce carbon emissions, improve forest health, and sustain rural economies.



We appreciate this unparalleled opportunity to bolster California's significant investments in bioenergy with aligned federal investments and encourage you to award funding for the Program.

Sincerely,



Patrick Wright
Director, California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force

