



# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • (209) 966-3222



## **RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2013-139**

MEETING: April 16, 2013

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: Janet Bibby, District III Supervisor

RE: Board Letter Supporting AB 350

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### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Approve a Letter Supporting AB 350 (Bigelow & Wickowski) - Forest Fire Prevention Act, and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter.

Assembly Members Bigelow and Wickowski have introduced legislation to allow property owners to engage in fire thinning projects by raising the diameter of trees exempted from the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption (FFPE) under the Timber Harvest Plan to 28 inches in most instances, and 34 inches where it is necessary to achieve the State's fuel reduction goals. Current law allows for trees less than 18 inches in stump diameter to be cleared and in special circumstances trees less than 24 inches in stump diameter to be cleared, without forcing the landowner to spend upwards of \$40,000 to file a Timber Harvest Plan. The current regulations are thought to be overly restrictive in that they do not enable a private landowner to engage in fire thinning projects that are economically feasible.

### **BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

The Board has supported legislation in the past that will benefit the well-being of the citizens of Mariposa County.

### **ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Do not authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to sign the letter. Individual Board members may write their own letters of support, which may not carry the weight of a letter endorsed by the entire Board.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

**AB 350 Support Letter (DOC)**

### **CAO RECOMMENDATION**

Requested Action Recommended

  
Rick Benson, County Administrative Office

**RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]**

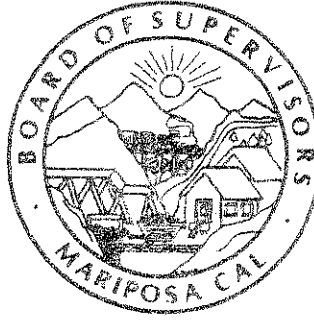
**MOVER:** Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

**SECONDER:** Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

**AYES:** Stetson, Bibby, Cann, Carrier, Jones

# Mariposa County Board of Supervisors

District 1 ..... LEE STETSON  
District 2 ..... MERLIN JONES  
District 3 ..... JANET BIBBY  
District 4 ..... KEVIN CANN  
District 5 ..... JOHN CARRIER



RICHARD J. BENSON  
County Administrative Officer

RENÉ LAROCHE  
Clerk of the Board

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April 16, 2013

The Honorable Frank Bigelow  
P.O. Box 942849, Room 4116  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Re: Letter of Support for the Forest Fire Prevention Act, AB 350

Dear Assemblymember Bigelow:

The Board of Supervisors of Mariposa County supports the Forest Fire Prevention Act, AB 350, joint-authored by Assemblymembers Bigelow and Wickowski. This legislation expands the diameter of a tree stump exempted from the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption (FFPE) under the Timber Harvest Plan.

California's forests provide our state with wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration, water supply, forest products and recreation. It is essential to our ecosystems and industry that we supply our private forest-land owners the tools necessary to protect our forests from destructive fires.

AB 350 would simply increase the diameter of the stump size under the FFPE. The current regulations do not enable a private landowner to engage in fire thinning projects that are economically feasible. Under AB 350, trees with a 28 inch stump diameter would qualify under the FFPE in most instances, and 34 inches where it is necessary to achieve the state's fuel reduction goals.

California's privately-owned forest lands offer a vast array of benefits and it is imperative we do everything we can to keep our forest flourishing and safe. That is why Mariposa County supports Assemblymember Bigelow and Assemblymember Wieckowski's AB 350, the Forest Fire Prevention Act.

Sincerely,

Lee Stetson

Chairman

Mariposa County Board of Supervisors