January 2, 2024

Joe Tyler

Director, CAL FIRE

1416 9th Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Weed Community Forest Restoration & Enhancement Project**

Dear Director Tyler,

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors is writing this letter in support for a cooperative reforestation grant by Jefferson Resource Company (JRC), a forest management and environmental consulting firm, on behalf of the Family Water Alliance (FWA), a non-profit organization that focuses on private properties rights and water rights in Northern California.

The community of Weed has been annually stricken with the burden of catastrophic wildfires and severe drought which has led to a multitude of issues with regards to establishing healthy and vibrant forests. This project plans to put forth a substantial reforestation effort across the heavily impacted landscape. The target conditions for the treated areas are to have healthy and resilient forests that are resistant to natural disturbances such as wildfire, pests, drought, and increasing temperatures. The successful establishment of newly planted forests in burned areas requires site preparation which will necessitate mechanical operations and herbicide treatments to combat competing vegetation.

Manual and mechanical treatments across multiple ownerships in and around Weed will occur on private, non-industrial forests including parcels burned in the recent and devastating Mill fire of 2022, and Boles fire of 2014, and on older/prior fires in Siskiyou County. Mastication will occur in a fuels reduction effort to remove heavy brush and prepare burned and non-burned sites for reforestation. Thinning and chipping, along with cleanup such as piling and burning will also occur for forest health. The goals are to reduce surface fuels, promote forest regeneration, help reduce wildfire risks, increase carbon sequestration, improve wildlife habitat, improve surface/subsurface water flows, and enhance forest conditions.

JRC has been a strong community supporter for over 20 years, and we believe they can provide the knowledge and skill to manage the operations necessary for this project, including permitting, post-fire restoration, and fuel reduction. We support this project and view this as an opportunity to assist the community of Weed in its quest to improve forest and watershed health, along with proactive fuels reduction for forest resilience in Siskiyou County. We highly encourage CALFIRE to fund this project.

Sincerely,

Michael N. Kobseff

Chair, Board of Supervisors