



**SAN BENITO COUNTY
AGENDA ITEM
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Dom Zanger
District No. 1
Vice-Chair

Kollin Kosmicki
District No. 2
Chair

Mindy Sotelo
District No. 3

Angela Curro
District No. 4

Ignacio Velazquez
District No. 5

Item Number: 1.21

MEETING DATE: 06/24/2025

DEPARTMENT: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

AGENDA ITEM PREPARER: Gracie Rodriguez

DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR: Esperanza Colio Warren

SUBJECT:

COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - E. COLIO WARREN

Approve a letter of support for the Fix Our Forests Act—which seeks to restore forest health, reduce wildfire risks, and protect communities by streamlining environmental reviews, limiting frivolous litigation, and accelerating restoration efforts, authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, and direct staff to forward the letter to the appropriate agencies.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 119

AGENDA SECTION:

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:

H.R. 471, commonly referred to as the Fix Our Forests Act, was introduced in the 119th Congress (1st Session) to address a growing concern about frequent and severe wildfires on federal forests, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, and Tribal lands. The Fix Our Forest Act bill establishes requirements for managing forests on federal land, including requirements concerning reducing wildfire threats, expediting the review of certain forest management projects, and implementing forest management projects and other activities.

Specifically, the bill (1) designates certain fire sheds at high risk for wildfires as fire shed management areas; (2) directs the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Geological Survey to jointly establish an interagency Fire shed Center that is responsible for duties related to assessing and predicting fire, including maintaining a fire shed registry on a publicly accessible website that provides interactive geospatial data

on individual fire sheds; and (3) makes other requirements related to reducing wildfire.

Next, the bill expedites the review of certain forest management projects under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and exempts certain activities from NEPA review. It also establishes intra-agency strike teams to accelerate the review and any interagency consultation processes under NEPA, the Endangered Species Act of 1973, and the National Historic Preservation Act. It also limits consultation requirements concerning threatened and endangered species under the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Management and Policy Act of 1976.

Finally, it limits litigation involving fire shed management projects and limits remedies that courts may provide. Additionally, the bill supports reducing community wildfire risks, carrying out forest restoration and stewardship activities (including watershed protection and restoration), conducting biochar demonstration projects, advancing technologies to address forest wildfires, and assisting wildland firefighters and their families.

Enclosed for the Board's consideration is a support letter for FOFA and a PDF document with further information.

RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

No

CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:

No

RFP AND BID HISTORY:

N/A

LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:

N/A

CONTRACT HISTORY (Describe all amendments and previous contracts):

N/A

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement

No

STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community

Yes

BUDGETED:

N/A

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:

N/A

SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

UNFUNDED MANDATE:

N/A

SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:

N/A

CURRENT FY COST:

N/A

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve a letter of support for the Fix Our Forests Act—which seeks to restore forest health, reduce wildfire risks, and protect communities by streamlining environmental reviews, limiting frivolous litigation, and accelerating restoration efforts.
2. Authorize the Chair to sign on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, and
3. Direct staff to forward the letter to the appropriate agencies.

ATTACHMENTS:

[Letter of Support - Fix Our Forests Act \(FoFA\)](#)
[Fix Our Forest Act Sheet](#)