

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection acknowledges the importance of County participation in land use decision making by giving the County the opportunity to determine that proposed timberland conversion is in conformance with all County regulatory requirements by requesting a signed and dated statement from an authorized designee of the County Board of Supervisors. Should a County choose not to have an authorized designee, the County relinquishes the opportunity for review and it falls to a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) to prepare a "less than 3-acre exemption" to certify that a County has been contacted and the conversion is in conformance with that County's regulatory requirements. These RPF's have stated that this determination is somewhat challenging since each County has different regulatory requirements. The less than three (3) acre exemption review by a county authorized designee would provide clarity to the review process.

Though Solano County does not have lands designated in a specific Timberland Protection Zone (TPZ), Solano County does have commercial Christmas tree farms which is a land use included in the Public Resources Code's definition of timberland. Providing the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection an authorized designee from Solano County will ensure the Director of Resource Manager is informed of any conversions of timber of less than three (3) acres.

ALTERNATIVES:

The Board could decide not to appoint the Director of Resource Management as the authorized designee to review timberland conversions of less than three (3) acres. This is not recommended as the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has requested that all California counties appoint an authorized designee to review timberland conversions of less than three (3) acres.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None.

CAO RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION