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Susanville, CA 96130
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November 19, 2019

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
Attention: Grants Management Unit Fire Prevention Grants
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

RE: Thompson Peak WUI Fuel Treatments Project

To Whom It May Concern:

The Lassen County Board of Supervisors supports the Lassen County Fire Safe Council, Inc. (LCFSC) application for Thompson Peak Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Fuel Treatments Project Grant Funds for LCFSC's Thompson Peak Initiative (TPI). The Lassen County Community Wildfire Protection Plan Working Group gave the TPI project its highest priority for implementation. LCFSC is the lead in developing this public/private partnership to address watershed restoration and wildfire issues in the Thompson Peak area of the Diamond Mountains.

The Thompson Peak Initiative covers approximately 20,000 acres of mixed private ownership and public lands (federal lands are managed by the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management). The Project is situated between the unincorporated communities of Milford and Janesville, Lassen County, California, and the 2019 - 54,608-acre Walker Fire. The Project spans across the North Slope and top of the Diamond Mountains and lies entirely within the Wildland Urban Interface of the Milford and Janesville area.

The vegetative condition of the Project area is a dense overstocked forest condition with an abundance of understory and hazardous fuel conditions; too many trees and high basal area exceeding the long-term carrying capacity of the site. The purpose and benefits of the Project are many, including: to implement forest restoration treatments to reduce hazardous fuel loads; improve public safety; restore native forest; improve forest health by removing insect and disease affected trees; reduce stand density making forests more resistant to drought; improve forest adaptability to climate change; reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire and the associated adverse effects on air and water quality; reduce the probability of excessive greenhouse gas emissions associated with catastrophic wildfire; stabilize carbon storage by improving forest health; improve and enhance watershed services and functions; maintain, improve, and protect habitat on the landscape; improve local socioeconomic conditions by employing local contractors and sustaining local biomass generation facilities; and protect working forest and agricultural landscapes.

Please accept this letter of support as one of highest regard for the Thompson Peak WUI Fuel Treatments Project Grant Application.

Sincerely,

JEFF HEMPHILL, Chairman
Lassen County Board of Supervisors

CC: Megan Dahle, State Assemblymember, District 1
Brian Dahle, State Senator, District 1