



GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
WADE CROWFOOT, Secretary for Natural Resources

December 20, 2021

Sent via electronic mail: IBank@IBank.ca.gov

To the Infrastructure Bank Board:

This letter affirms the support of the California Natural Resources Agency for the "Climate Catalyst Fund Financing Plan Dated January 26, 2022: Wildfire and Forest Resilience", the final version of which is attached as an Appendix to this document. California's wildfire crisis is growing more extreme by the year. The State recently invested \$1.5 billion to increase the pace and scale of wildfire resilience projects from forest thinning to post-fire watershed recovery. One of the major hurdles to achieving wildfire resilience is the abundance of woody material that these thinning projects create. Between post-fire salvage of woody biomass to pre-fire clearing and thinning projects, woody material is piling up on the landscape, potentially exacerbating an already dire wildfire crisis.

The Climate Catalyst Fund can play a critical role in building businesses that can pull this woody material from landscape and put it to use, avoiding emissions from open pile burning and mitigating catastrophic wildfires. The Climate Catalyst Fund will open opportunities for a wide array of needed businesses which will help address California's wildfire crisis.

Sincerely,

Jessica Morse

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Forest and Wildland Resilience
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