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**Golden State Natural Resources Announces Extended Public Review Period  
for Draft Environmental Impact Report**

**SACRAMENTO, CA** — On Wednesday, Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) approved extension of the public review period for the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Golden State Natural Resources' (GSNR) proposed forest resiliency demonstration project to 90 days.

GSFA, as the lead agency for the project, released the DEIR on October 22, 2024. At the time of release, GSFA prescribed a 60-day public review period (ending December 23, 2024), the maximum period generally provided under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), unless unusual circumstances are identified.

In response to public input, the GSFA Executive Committee has since approved an additional extension of the review period beyond the usual CEQA maximum to 90 days, citing the general length and complexity of the DEIR as a justifying circumstance. The 90-day review period for the DEIR began October 22, 2024 and will now end on January 20, 2025.

"GSNR's proposed project is crucial for advancing forest treatment efforts in California which will strengthen forest resiliency to catastrophic wildfire and safeguard communities," said GSNR Board Chair and Inyo County Supervisor Matt Kingsley. "We hope this extension will provide the public with even greater opportunity to participate in the DEIR review process and look forward to hearing from the community regarding this important project."

GSNR is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, established by rural counties in California through GSFA, to address the urgent issue of catastrophic fires resulting from overgrown and under-managed forests. To tackle the wildfire crisis, researchers along with state and federal policy call for an increase in proactive fuel reduction projects to improve forest health and resiliency. Yet, limited outlets for this overgrown biomass create a significant hurdle to implementation.

## **GSNR's Forest Resiliency Project**

GSNR's proposed project would improve the resiliency of California's forestlands from catastrophic wildfire by sustainably gathering and processing excess biomass into wood pellets for use in renewable energy generation, often as a replacement for fossil fuels such as coal. The proposed project would include the development of two wood pellet processing facilities, one in the foothills of the Central Sierra Nevada Mountain range, in Tuolumne County, and one in the Modoc Plateau of Northern California, in Lassen County. The finished pellets would then be transported by rail to the Port of Stockton for international shipping.

The project is currently in the environmental review process under CEQA to ensure any and all potential impacts are identified, comprehensively evaluated, and mitigated to the fullest extent feasible. A significant step in this process is the release of a publicly shared DEIR which provides an opportunity for public review and comment on the adequacy of the report before its completion.

### **DEIR Public Review and Comment Period**

GSFA recently held three introductory meetings regarding the DEIR to provide an overview of the project, key details on how to review the document, and an opportunity for initial public comment. Members of the public interested in submitting a comment on the project, may do so via mail or email throughout the entire public review period, which ends January 20, 2025.

Following the DEIR review period, further opportunities for public input will include the ability to address the GSFA Board directly when the EIR is presented for final certification in early-mid 2025. In addition to the many opportunities to comment on the environmental documents, the public will have further chances to provide input on the project when the associated permits are considered by responsible and resources agencies.

The DEIR is available for public review on the websites of both GSFA and GSNR. Find the DEIR and details on how to provide public comment on GSNR's website here: [www.goldenstatenaturalresources.com/DEIR/](http://www.goldenstatenaturalresources.com/DEIR/).

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