



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 16, 2024

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Golden State Finance Authority to Host Public Meetings Regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Report for Proposed Forest Resiliency Demonstration Project

SACRAMENTO, CA —In preparation for the October 22nd release of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for Golden State Natural Resources' (GSNR) proposed forest resiliency demonstration project, the project's lead agency, Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA), will be hosting three public meetings to provide the public with an introduction to the report, detail the comment submission process, and receive initial public comment.

GSNR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit public benefit corporation, established by rural counties in California, to address the urgent issue of catastrophic fires from overgrown and under-managed forests. The proposed forest resiliency demonstration project is currently in the environmental review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (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 draft of the required Environmental Impact Report which provides an opportunity for public review and comment on the adequacy of the report before its completion.

At this time, GSFA anticipates the DEIR release to occur on **October 22, 2024** and, once released, will provide a 60-day review period for public evaluation and comment, closing **December 23, 2024**.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

GSFA will conduct three public meetings following the release of the DEIR. While not required by CEQA, these meetings offer an important opportunity to introduce the public to the report and receive initial public comment. The meetings are intended to occur early in the 60-day review period to provide the public with key information on how to review the document and the various avenues for submitting public comment.

The dates and locations of these meetings are as follows:

Lassen County Area Meeting: October 28, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Bieber Veterans Memorial Building
657-575 Bridge St., Bieber, CA 96009

Stockton Area Meeting: October 30, 2024 at 6:30 pm

Kipp Stockton Elementary School
742 Dallas Ave, Stockton, CA 95206

A virtual participation option is available for this meeting by utilizing the following link: <https://rsrcnet.zoom.us/j/88007664912> (Webinar ID: 880 0766 4912) or calling (833)548-0282. No registration required. Spanish and Tagalog translation will also be available for those attending on-site.

Tuolumne County Area Meeting: November 4, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Chicken Ranch Casino, Event Hall
16929 Chicken Ranch Rd., Jamestown, CA 95327

GSNR'S FOREST RESILIENCY DEMONSTRATION 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.

“Wildfires impact communities throughout the state, threatening lives, property and our natural habitats, while filling the air with toxic smoke. GSNR's proposed project seeks to mitigate these events by creating a sustainable pathway for forest treatment projects in California,” said GSNR Board Chair and Inyo County Supervisor Matt Kingsley. “The release of the DEIR is a significant step in advancing these efforts and we look forward to engaging with and hearing from the public during the CEQA process.”

Additional information on GSNR and the proposed project can be found at www.goldenstatenaturalresources.com. Details on the DEIR and the upcoming meetings are also available at www.goldenstatenaturalresources.com/deir.

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