Date

Chief Matthew Reischman
Deputy Director, Resources Management
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

715 P St

Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Support for US Forest Service (USFS)/Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority’s (UMRWA) CalFire Forest Health Research Program Grant Application**

Dear Chief Reischman,

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is pleased to submit this letter of support for the proposed project “Development and Implementation of a Long-Term Monitoring Effort for a Landscape-Scale Forest Health and Ecosystem Resilience Project in the Central Sierra Nevada.”

The proposed project would substantially fund a comprehensive monitoring program for USFS/UMRWA efforts on a large landscape forest health program called the Forest Projects Plan. This effort is already being implemented in two phases. Phase 1 planning was completed in 2022 and the 26,000-acre forest fuel reduction/forest health effort is being implemented at a rate of approximately 4,000 acres of treatment per year. Phase 2 planning is underway and includes a much larger landscape of nearly 250,000 acres. Planning and environmental documentation is expected to be completed for this Phase by the end of 2025.

If funded, this monitoring effort would provide critical information to address treatment effectiveness, co-benefits and other effects. It would also be used to guide follow-up maintenance actions for the USFS and UMRWA. To our knowledge, no comprehensive monitoring effort at this scale is currently under way and this project would serve as a template for the other large landscape forest health projects currently being developed.

We strongly encourage CalFire to approve the USFS/UMRWA Research Program grant application to address a very important aspect of ongoing forest health and resilience efforts.

Sincerely,