[[ letterhead ]] ACCG

[[ date ]] February 12, 2025

To the NASA “A.60 Earth Action: Ecological Conservation” proposal review panel:

I am writing to support the application of Dr. Benjamin Wong Blonder entitled, “Mapping quaking aspen populations and temporal trends”.

The Amador Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG) is an informal, community-based group of diverse stakeholders that works across the Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests to create fire-safe communities, healthy forests and watersheds, and sustainable local economies. Many of these projects include an aspen stand improvement component which often helps to meet several aspen goals. There are ongoing efforts to map future treatment areas for aspen, but these efforts have covered only a small portion of aspen distribution across the ACCG landscape. Partnering with Dr. Blonder in this large-scale aspen mapping effort would benefit all future projects by improving the data availability and accuracy.

The ACCG is comprised of standing working groups that provide the routine organizational functions of the ACCG. The ACCG Monitoring and Planning Workgroups would be best poised to directly interact with Dr. Blonder’s team. They would provide access to existing aspen vegetation data that was collected under the Cornerstone Collaborative Landscape Project and support any additional field validation. The ACCG would also participate in review of the consolidated spatial database products.

The ACCG encourages the NASA “A.60 Earth Action: Ecological Conservation” proposal review panel to fund this project due to the positive impact it will have on aspen research and restoration throughout the state.