



*Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo  
Eighteenth District  
California*

April 30, 2021

The Honorable Chellie Pingree,  
Chair  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment, and Related  
Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
2007 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Joyce,  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Interior, Environment, and Related  
Agencies  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20

Dear Chair Pingree and Ranking Member Joyce,

As you begin your critical work on the Fiscal Year 2022 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, I strongly urge your inclusion of \$500,000 for a Regional Fire Break at Swanton Pacific Ranch, a Community Project Funding request of California Polytechnic State University Cal Poly Corporation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. This request is a Forest Stewardship project under the State and Private Forestry Account and would consist of post-wildfire fuel reduction along a strategic area for firefighting on the Swanton Pacific Ranch, which is a 3,200-acre working ranch in the Santa Cruz Mountains with rangeland, crops, and redwood forests.

The 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire burned in the Santa Cruz Mountains for 38 days, destroying 86,000 acres and 7,500 structures, including almost all of the Swanton Pacific Ranch and most neighboring properties and homes. The area still has an abundance of dead fuels from the 2020 CZU Lightning Complex Fire and this project will mitigate remaining fuels to allow for forest recovery and future fire protection.

This area tactically serves as the last bulwark of protection before wildfire sweeps into developed areas, including the rural homes in Bonny Doon and the urban areas of Davenport and Santa Cruz. Without fuel reduction measures, future wildfires endanger homes in all these areas and much more, such as critical drinking water infrastructure, timber resources, and public parks with significant historical and recreational value, including the Cotoni Coast Dairies unit of the California Coastal Monument.

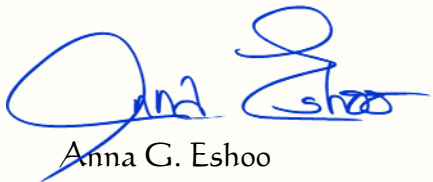
Through its affiliation with the world-renowned California State University system, this project is uniquely positioned to meet the goals outlined in the California State Forest Action Plan of expanding fire prevention through effective natural resource management program and education. The proposed project area has received a high level of priority by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to provide regional fire protection and this specific project has also been identified by the San Mateo - Santa Cruz CAL FIRE Unit as a priority in their 2020 Strategic Fire Plan.

As an indication of local support, I've enclosed 10 letters of support from local agencies, elected officials and nonprofit organizations, including the following:

- The Honorable John Laird, Senator, California State Senate
- The Honorable Mark Stone, Assemblymember, California State Assembly
- The Honorable Ryan Coonerty, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
- Mr. Richard Sampson, Division Chief, CAL FIRE
- Mr. Chris Berry, Watershed Compliance Manager, City of Santa Cruz Water Department
- Mr. Noel Garin Bock, Chairperson, along with eight board members of the Davenport/North Coast Association
- Mr. Arnett Young, President, Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau
- Mr. Walter T. Moore, President, Peninsula Open Space Trust
- Ms. Kendra Turk-Kubo, on behalf of the Executive Board of the Rural Bonny Doon Association
- Ms. Lisa Lurie, Executive Director, Resource Conservation District of Santa Cruz County

If enacted, this request would support a critical piece of fire protection for the Swanton community, the Santa Cruz Mountains, and Santa Cruz. I wholeheartedly support this Community Project Funding request and ask that you do so as well.

Most gratefully,



Anna G. Eshoo

Enclosures