



# **GSNR: STOCKTON STAKEHOLDER MEETING**

January 22, 2024

# AGENDA & MEETING GOALS

## AGENDA

1	Introductions
2	Presentation (15 mins)
3	Q&A
4	Large Group Discussion
5	Next Steps & Closing

## MEETING GOALS

- Share updates on GSNR's Forest Resiliency Project.
- Enhance GSNR's comprehension of community priorities and concerns related to the project.
- Determine engagement methods and the preferred level of community involvement in this project.
- Answer attendees' questions.

# SETTING THE STAGE



## PROJECT STATUS

### WHAT WE HAVE HEARD SO FAR:

- **Community Engagement**
- **Jobs**
- **Safety**
- **Air Quality**
- **Trains v. Trucks**

# RCRC ORGANIZATION



## Divisions

- Government Affairs
- Economic Development
- Business Development
- Administration and Finance

## Affiliate Entities



Rural Counties<sup>✓</sup>  
Environmental Services  
Joint Powers Authority  
**ESJPA**



Rural  
Alliance,  
Inc.



golden state  
**connect**  
authority

# THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE CRISIS

## FOREST HEALTH

- Our forests are in a very unhealthy state: longer fire seasons, drought, invasive species, tree mortality, warmer temperatures, and the consequences of a century of unnatural fire suppression.
- The result is overgrown and under-managed forests that lead to catastrophic, unnatural fires with significant negative environmental impacts.

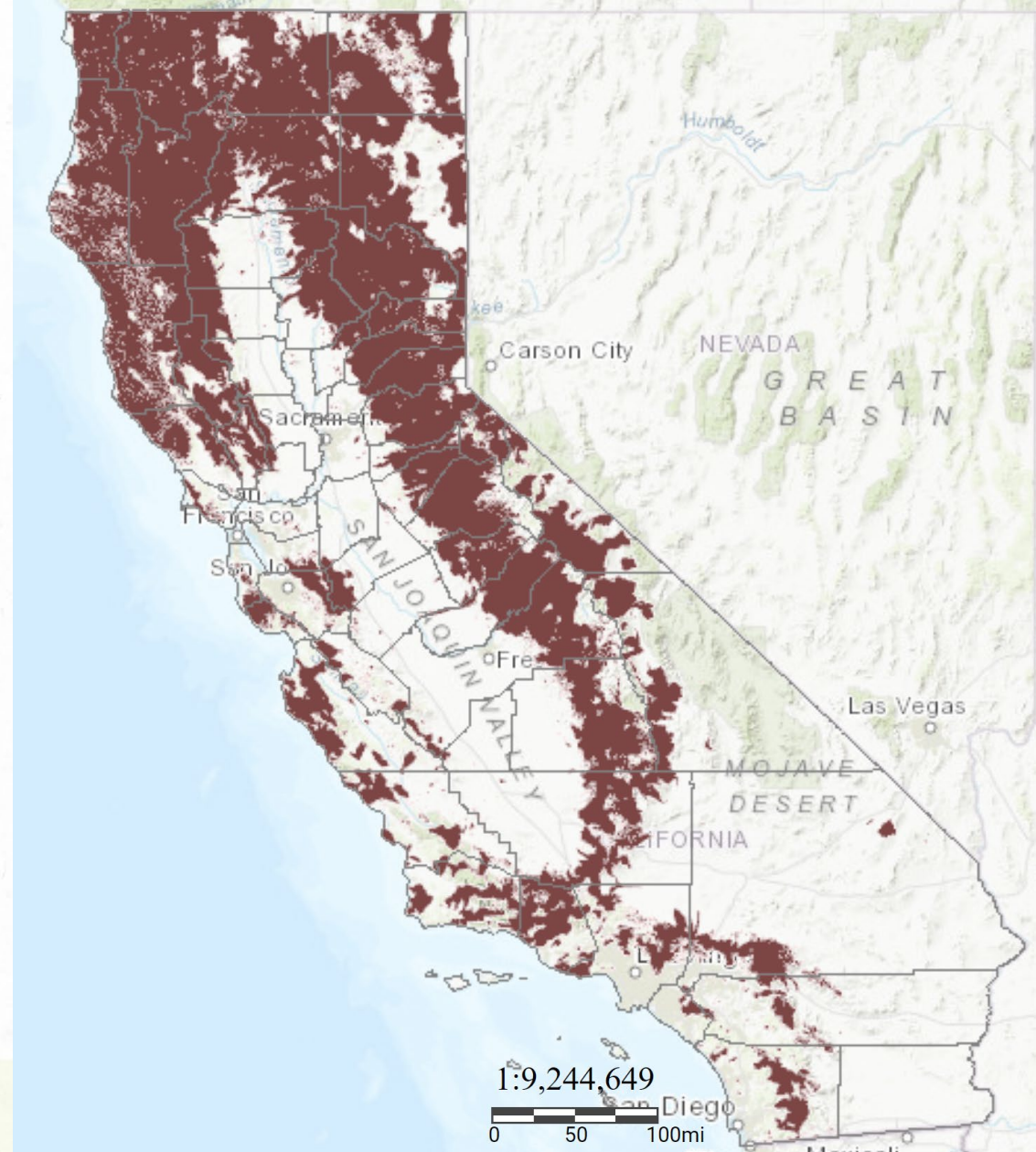
## INTERVENTION:

- Preponderance of science: proactive fuel reduction projects restore forest health and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.
- State and Federal policy emphasizes the need to increase the pace and scale of these projects.

## NEED:

- Landscape scale forest health projects are presently stalled without a marketable outlet for the biomass.

***GSNR directly addresses this critical need by creating a sustainable and economically viable use from this woody biomass.***



Source: CAL FIRE, [Tree Mortality Viewer](#), High Hazard Zones, 2022

# WILDFIRE IMPACTS



## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

- The carbon emitted by California's wildfires has **reversed the state's carbon emissions gains**, with the greenhouse gases from California's 2020 wildfire season totaling nearly double the emissions reductions achieved over the past two decades.

## SMOKE EXPOSURE

- Heavy smoke in the Stockton metro area went from about **1 day every 4 years (2011-2015) to about 15 days each year (2017-2021)**.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT:

- Wildfire smoke is more likely to disrupt and harm frontline workers. The Stockton region, home to 101,000 frontline workers, experienced **more than 2.3 million frontline worker-days of heavy smoke in 2021**.

## STUDENT IMPACT:

- Wildfires have increased heavy smoke exposure for young children and students in poverty. Nationwide, between 2011–2015 and 2017–2021, **heavy smoke student-days increased 300%**.

### Sources:

- Lappe, Brooke, and Jason Vargo. 2022. "Disruptions from Wildfire Smoke: Vulnerabilities in Local Economies and Disadvantaged Communities in the U.S." Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Community Development Research Brief 2022-06.
- Michael Jerrett, Amir S. Jina, Miriam E. Marlier. Up in smoke: California's greenhouse gas reductions could be wiped out by 2020 wildfires. *Environmental Pollution*. Volume 310, 2022.119888. ISSN 0269-7491.

# COMPANY OVERVIEW

Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) is a governmental entity that has led numerous program financing efforts within California since its creation in 1993. GSFA established GSNR, a California public benefit corporation and IRS Section 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, as a forest resiliency and economic development company. GSNR is presently governed by a Board of Directors consisting of five elected County Supervisors who are members of GSFA and Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC).

## Governance & Funding



## Program



## Organizational Support



**Forest Health Initiatives**

**Pellet Operations**

**Port Operations**

# GSNR FOREST RESILIENCY PROJECT

## Pellet Manufacturing and Transport Process

### 1 HARVEST FEEDSTOCK

- Partner with Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects
- Remove Slash Piles
- Fire, Insect, or Disease Salvage Operations
- Capture Forest Residuals and Pre-Commercial Thinning

### 2 PREPARE FEEDSTOCK

- Receive Feedstock
- Sort and Grade Feedstock
- Process Green Material

### 3 CREATE PELLETS

- Conduct Drying and Dry Processing
- Mill and Cool Pellets
- Screen Pellets
- Move Accepted Pellets to Storage
- Reprocess Rejected Pellets or Use for Energy



Wood Pellets

### 4 LOADOUT AND TRANSPORT

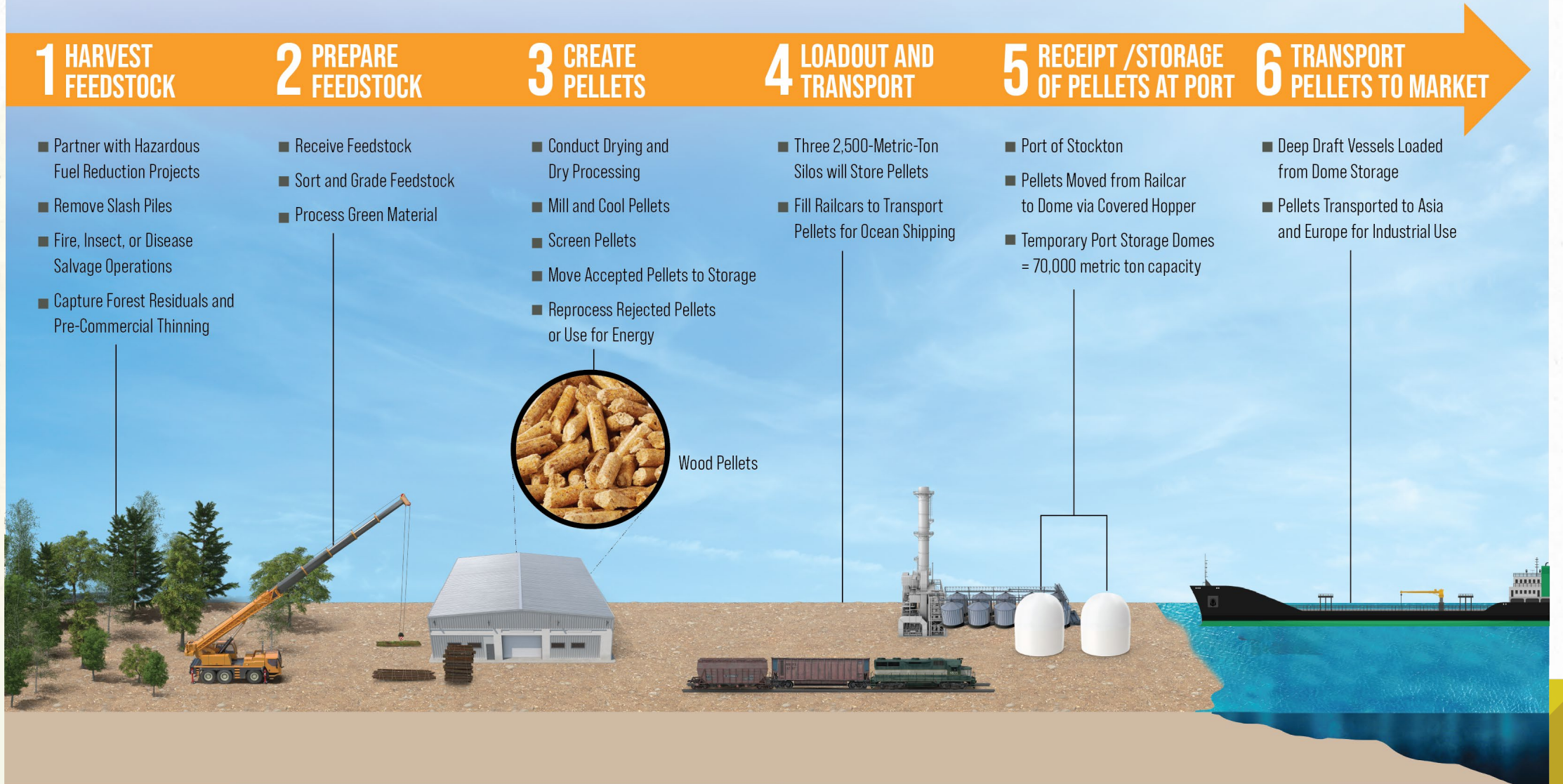
- Three 2,500-Metric-Ton Silos will Store Pellets
- Fill Railcars to Transport Pellets for Ocean Shipping

### 5 RECEIPT /STORAGE OF PELLETS AT PORT

- Port of Stockton
- Pellets Moved from Railcar to Dome via Covered Hopper
- Temporary Port Storage Domes = 70,000 metric ton capacity

### 6 TRANSPORT PELLETS TO MARKET

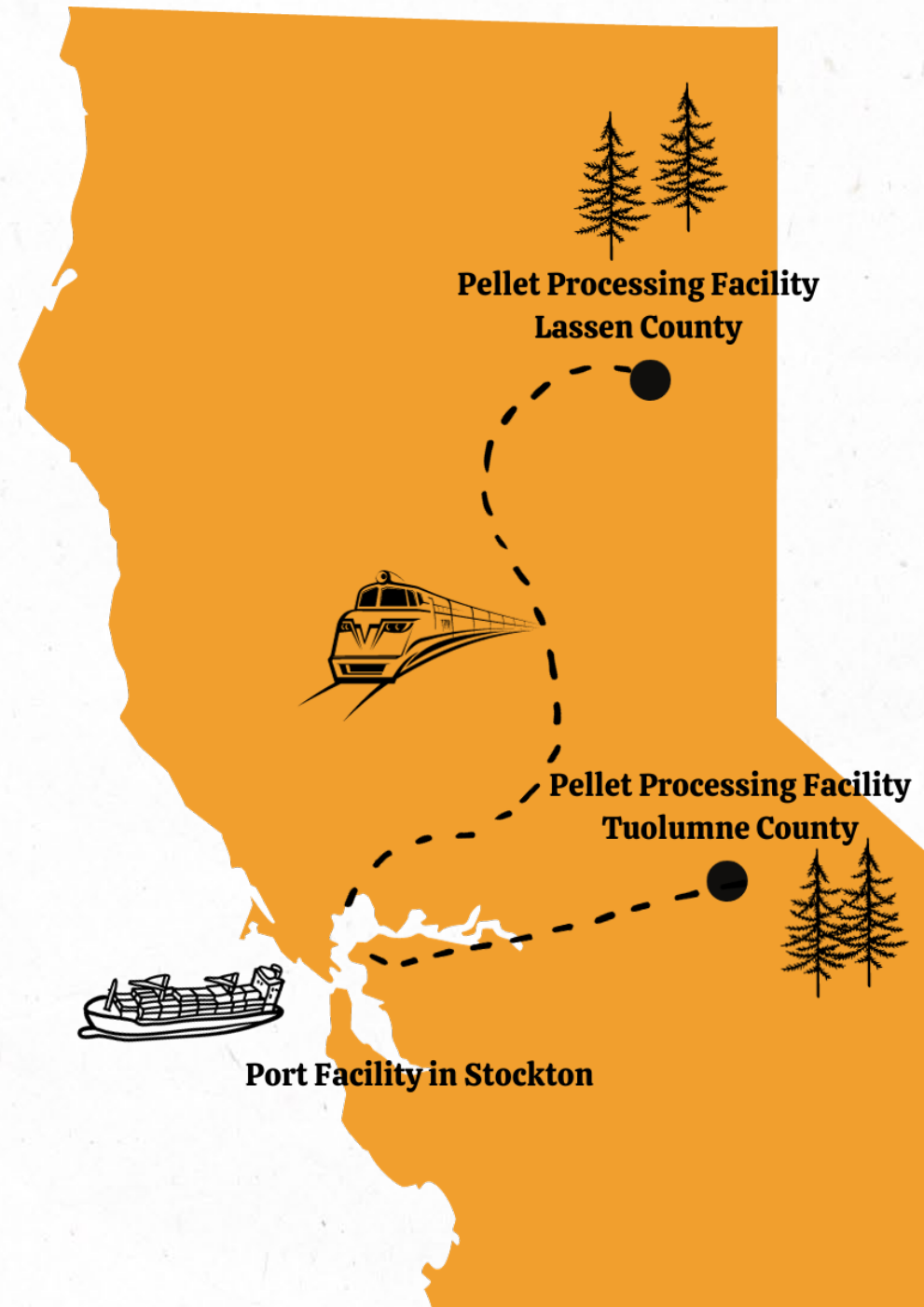
- Deep Draft Vessels Loaded from Dome Storage
- Pellets Transported to Asia and Europe for Industrial Use



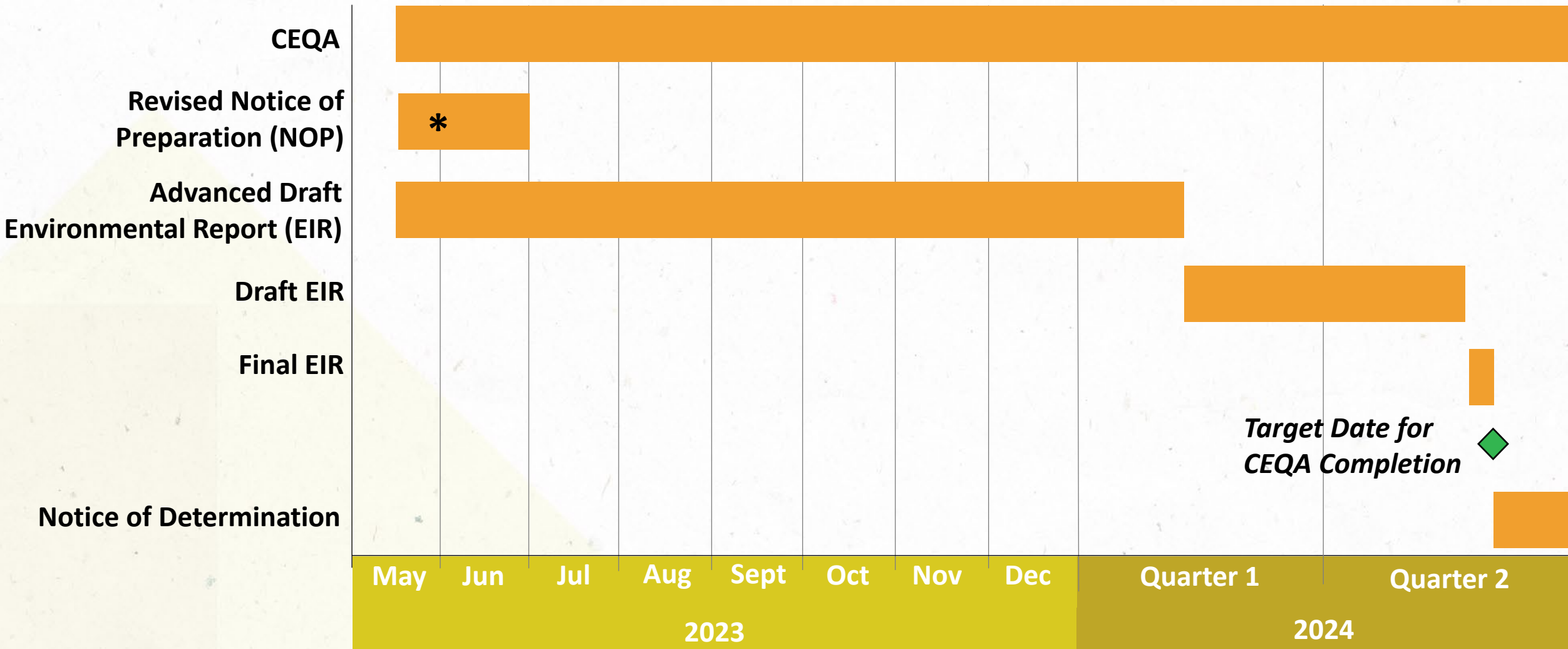


# FOREST RESILIENCY PROJECT

- Sustainably procure and process excess biomass produced as part of forest health initiatives into a pelletized fuel source for use in renewable energy generation overseas.
- **Proposed Project:**
  - Develop two 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 shipped by rail to the **Port of Stockton** for international shipping.
- Project is supported through a 20-year Master Stewardship Agreement signed with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for all of California's 18 national forests in Region 5 as well as a blanket purchase agreement with USFS.



# PROJECT STATUS TIMELINE: CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA)



\* NOP reissued on June 1, 2023

# INPUT OPPORTUNITIES

## Input:

- Additional Meetings
- Stockton Community Meeting (Feb 2024)

## Informational Resources:

- Website: [www.goldenstatenaturalresources.com](http://www.goldenstatenaturalresources.com)
- Email [gsnr@gsnrnet.org](mailto:gsnr@gsnrnet.org)
- GSNR Mailing List



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NATURAL RESOURCES

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