



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Golden State Natural Resources to Revise DEIR to Reflect a  
Reduced-Scale Forest Resiliency Project**

**SACRAMENTO, CA** — In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Golden State Natural Resources (GSNR) released a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for its proposed forest resiliency project for a 90-day public review and comment period, which closed on January 20, 2025. Since that time, GSNR staff have been diligently analyzing the more than 5,500 public comments received.

Based on this input, and current biomass market conditions, on June 25, 2025, the GSNR Board directed staff to develop and analyze a reduced-scale project that focuses on domestic rather than international usage of the sourced wood material and produces wood chips instead of wood pellets. Rather than targeting overseas energy producers, the project would explore emerging domestic demand for wood chips in California and adjacent areas that are forecasted to arise for sustainable energy applications and alternative wood products.

“By supplying biomass domestically to emerging green industries in sustainable fuel production and innovative wood products, GSNR’s reduced-scale project not only increases forest resiliency, but directly supports sustainable biomass use innovation in accordance with state and federal goals,” said GSNR President Patrick Blacklock. “With these revisions, GSNR maintains its ongoing commitment to build wildfire and forest resilience in California and spur economic opportunities in rural communities.”

GSNR is currently revising the previously released DEIR to reflect these project changes and anticipates recirculating the revised report, with an updated evaluation of potential environmental impacts in early 2026. Once completed, the final EIR will then be presented to the Golden State Finance Authority (GSFA) Board, the lead agency for the project, for final certification.

The full analysis of alternatives considered by the GSNR Board is available in the [June Board meeting agenda packet](#).

## **GSNR'S FOREST RESILIENCY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT**

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. GSNR's overarching objective is to increase the pace and scale of forest treatments across California to improve forest resilience, reduce wildfire risk, and support long-term ecosystem health.

GSNR's revised project proposal would improve the resiliency of California's forestlands from catastrophic wildfire by sustainably gathering and processing excess biomass into wood chips for use in sustainable energy applications and alternative wood products. The proposed project would include the development of two wood chip 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 chips will then be transported domestically by rail to downstream users and emerging market hubs in California and adjacent areas

This project is supported through a 20-year Master Stewardship Agreement with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) as well as a blanket purchase agreement with USFS.

For additional information and future updates regarding the recirculation of the DEIR, visit <https://goldenstatenaturalresources.com/deir/>.

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