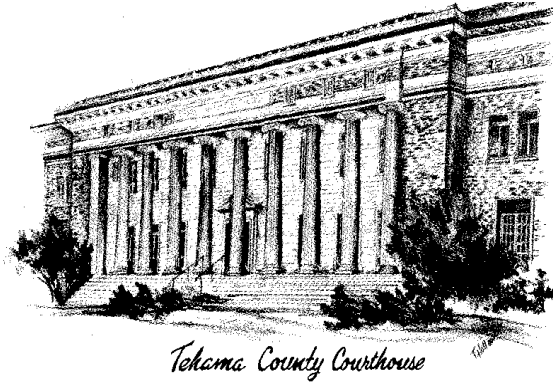


Board of Supervisors
COUNTY OF TEHAMA

District 1 – Rob Burroughs
District 2 – Tom Walker
District 3 – Steve Zane
District 4 – Matt Hansen
District 5 – Greg Jones



Gabriel Hydrick
Chief Administrator

April 21, 2026

ATTN: Chief John McCarthy
Wood Products Program Manager
California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection

RE: Crane Mills Equipment Purchase for the Mitigation of Safety and Wildfire Risks and Improved Active Forest Management

Dear Chief McCarthy,

On behalf of the Tehama County Board of Supervisors, we are writing to express our strong support for Crane Mills' request for funding to procure an excavator equipped with specialized attachments to conduct hazard tree abatement and mechanical cut-and-pile work along forest roads within the Mendocino National Forest (MNF), as well as on State- and privately-owned lands.

The devastating impacts of the 2018 Ranch Fire and the 2020 August Complex Fire—which together burned approximately 80% of the forest—underscore the urgent need for strategic restoration and active forest management. This proposed equipment acquisition represents a critical investment toward improving public safety, reducing wildfire risk, and restoring ecological resilience across these priority landscapes. The procurement of this equipment is a key component to Crane Mills efforts towards a more resilient forest.

The use of this excavator will support a comprehensive, multi-benefit approach to forest management. Hazard tree removal along roadways will not only enhance safety and accessibility but also contribute to fuel reduction efforts and the development of integrated fuel breaks. These improvements are essential for increasing emergency response capabilities and protecting surrounding communities. Additionally, this project will strengthen the local forest sector by creating employment opportunities and supporting sustainable economic activity in the region.

Crane Mills is a private timber landowner and Licensed Timber Operator that has been operating within the Mendocino National Forest since the early 1940's. This long-standing history is bolstered by both a Master Stewardship Agreement and Cost Share Road Agreement with the MNF that allow for flexibility in completing the desired scope of work.

The Tehama County Board of Supervisors fully supports this proposal and believes it represents a practical and impactful investment in California's forest health and wildfire resilience. We respectfully urge your consideration and approval of funding for the Crane Mills Equipment Purchase for the Mitigation of Safety and Wildfire Risks and Improved Active Forest Management.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to advancing forest management and wildfire mitigation efforts.

Sincerely,

Tom Walker
Chair, Tehama County Board of Supervisors