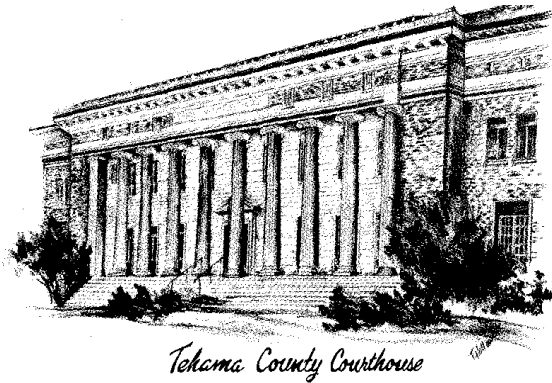


Board of Supervisors
COUNTY OF TEHAMA

District 1 – Robert Burroughs
District 2 – Tom Walker
District 3 – Patti Nolan
District 4 – Matt Hansen
District 5 – Greg Jones



Gabriel Hydrick
Chief Administrator

4/22/2025

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

RE: Letter of Support for Crane Mills' Sawmill Procurement for the Expanded Utilization of Forest Products - CAL FIRE Business & Workforce Development Grant Application

Chief McCarthy,

This letter confirms the Tehama County Board of Supervisor's support for Crane Mills' for CAL FIRE's 2025 Business and Workforce Development Grant program to purchase a portable small log diameter sawmill.

Crane Mills, located in Corning, CA and being a small timber company, is looking to expand its business model in the wake of numerous large wildfires that have impacted their timber ground.

California faces a challenge of limited capacity of timber mills. In the Northern Sacramento Valley, the only viable mill is owned by Sierra Pacific Industries. Like most smaller timber companies in California, Crane Mills relies on the capacity, species types, and minimum log diameters that are imposed by Sierra Pacific Industries.

Funding the purchase of the portable sawmill is critical in affecting wildfire behavior. The portable sawmill will diversify Crane Mills' harvest operations to allow commercializing of timber that in the past have been left standing dead, masticated, bio-massed, or piled and burned.

Decreasing the fuel load, particularly ladder fuels, reduces fire danger and catastrophic loss of life, property, and our economic and ecologic foundation. Additional benefits of operating the portable sawmill locally include but are not limited to the following gains:

- Economic - will create new jobs, diversify the local wood products industry and develop viable economic markets for biochar and reduce Crane Mills' reliance on heavily subsidized and unstable biomass markets and broadening viable wood products.
- Ecologic - the portable sawmill will increase the pace and scale in addressing forest health by reducing fuel available to wildfires. Expanding viable commercialization of wood species and log diameter will reduce fuel loading left in the forest comparable to traditional methods of burn piles, mastication, or transportation of woody debris.
- Social well-being - Tehama County citizens, natural resource managers, and emergency personnel will gain protection from the threat of wildfires through hazardous fuel reduction.

We urge you to fund the Crane Mills' Sawmill Procurement for the Expanded Utilization of Forest Products proposal. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chair, Tehama Board of Supervisors

Date