



TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093-1613
PHONE (530) 623-1217 FAX (530) 623-8365

July 17, 2019

Chief Vicki Christiansen, Chief
Office of the Chief (4 NW Yates)
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1111

Dear Chief Christiansen:

The Board of Supervisors of Trinity County California strongly urges you to advocate for the retention of the Title II Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act (ACT) when you make your recommendations pursuant to the "Executive Order on Evaluating and Improving the Utility of Federal Advisory Committees (June 14, 2019)". These RACs were established by the ACT in 2000 and have continued to provide valuable support to the USFS wherever they have been active.

We can only speak to the efficacy of the Trinity County Title II RAC, but are confident that it is representative of RACs all over the west. The Executive Order provides guidance to the agencies for making a determination of keeping or terminating an advisory committee. The Executive Order has four reasons that an advisory committee should be terminated. Our assessment is as follows:

- **The stated objectives of the committee have been accomplished:** The Title II RACs still have an essential function under P.L. 115-141. RACs now have the authority to initiate Title II projects through September 30, 2020 using any Title II funds that were allocated under the previous authorization, or that will be allocated under P.L. 115-141. Title II project funds must be obligated by September 30, 2021. In the case of Trinity County, our RAC has helped the local USFS units to prioritize projects around three locally important themes on federal land: wildfire prevention and mitigation; watershed restoration and recreation. Our RAC has allocated millions of dollars for forest health projects alone, with a special emphasis on the wildland urban interface.

KEITH GROVES
DISTRICT 1

JUDY MORRIS
DISTRICT 2

BOBBI CHADWICK
DISTRICT 3

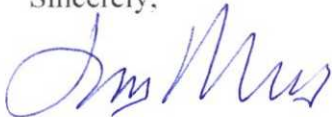
JEREMY BROWN
DISTRICT 4

JOHN FENLEY
DISTRICT 5

- **The subject matter or work of the committee has become obsolete:** The work of the Title II RACs is just as relevant today – to provide local voices and priorities to the USFS on management of public lands.
- **The primary functions have been assumed by another entity:** P.L. 115-141 specifically requires Title II RAC's to provide local, community input on the allocation of funds authorized under the ACT. There is no alternative entity to provide this service.
- **The agency determines that the cost of operation is excessive in relation to the benefits to the Federal Government:** The Trinity County RAC, through its focused efforts and strong partnerships with local community organizations used the Title II funding as leverage always bringing in funding from outside the USFS to augment and expand the scope of projects – increasing the pace and scale of critical community wildfire protection projects.

The Title II RAC in Trinity County has been a valuable asset to the community, giving it a voice in federal land management and the USFS, providing additional funding to implement high priority projects and increasing the agency's social license for active management of the resources under its purview. The Board of Supervisors request that you request a waiver of the Executive Order from the Director of the Office of management Budget as provided in section [c] of the Executive Order to preserve the ability of Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act advisory committees to continue to provide their services to the USFS.

Sincerely,



Judy Morris, Chair
Board of Supervisors

CC: Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris
Congressman Jared Huffman
Pacific Southwest Ranger Randy Moore – USFS
Forest Supervisor Scott Russell – USFS
District Ranger Joe Smailes – USFS
Trinity County Collaborative Group