



February 1, 2022

Director Armando Quintero  
California Department of Parks and Recreation  
715 P Street  
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Dear Director Quintero,

As president of Calaveras Big Trees Association (CBTA), I am writing you today concerning the dire state of Calaveras Big Trees State Park (CBTSP) in regard to fire risk. The Association Board has adopted a resolution (attached) regarding the urgency. The resolution outlines the critical need for work to be done to reduce catastrophic risk. I know that you have recently visited the park and are keenly aware of its condition. We acknowledge the current district funding and plans for prescribed burning the next five years in the park.

While the Association's prime mission is to support the interpretive and educational programs offered at the Park through our cooperative agreement, the Board believes that without immediate restorative measures CBTSP is very likely to become the next Big Basin. This would be devastating to the Park as well as the surrounding communities that principally rely on tourism. Hence, we urge DPR to designate CBTSP as a top priority for immediate restorative and fire reduction actions. These include fuel treatments such as mastication and thinning followed by prescribed fire, as commonly implemented by land managers to modify wildfire behavior and effects.

Treatments should prioritize reducing stand density, increasing crown-based height, reducing crown bulk density, and removing surface fuels to promote desired fire behavior. We recognize that implementing these treatments at a pace and scale sufficient to affect change at the landscape level remains a challenge. Thus, we urge you to prioritize treatment pursuant to the adopted fire resilience plan without hesitation (<https://fmtf.fire.ca.gov/media/cjwfpckz/californiawildfireandforestresilienceactionplan.pdf>). Additionally, we urge the Department to provide for adequate staffing to support the immediate work as well as permanent crews long-term maintenance efforts following the restorative work.

The CBTA Board stands ready to assist in the restoration of the park and is open to discussing various ways to help. We envision options such as using volunteer trail maintenance crews to assist with clearing, providing debris bins, and providing funding for CCC, AmeriCorps, GrizzlyCorps or other contracted groups to do restorative and fire prevention work.

Thank you, and we greatly appreciate your consideration of this matter.  
With best regards,

Vida Kenk PhD Biology  
President  
Calaveras Big Trees Association