

**Exhibit G – Long-Term Commitment**

**State Of California**

**ExhibitGLongTermCommittment.pdf**

## **EXHIBIT G: LONG-TERM COMMITMENT**

California has demonstrated a strong commitment to increasing the resilience of the state's natural resources, infrastructure, people, and communities. The State developed its adaptation plan, [\*Safeguarding California\*](#), which is now being translated into action and investment on the ground. California is committed to maintaining these investments and programs as part of its comprehensive approach to addressing climate change.

### **Long-Term Commitments for Watershed and Community Resilience**

Federal, state, and local agencies are already making significant investments to boost the resilience of our target area. The following is a list of significant or major steps that have already been taken or are in the planning stages to increase the resilience in our target area:

1. The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service is continuing a program of reforestation, erosion control, rehabilitation, and timber salvage in the area of the Rim Fire (Fire).

2. CAL FIRE is implementing a fire prevention and fuel reduction project in the target area.

The project consists of fuel breaks intended to slow the advance of an approaching wildfire and allow firefighters to control the fire before it impacts nearby residential communities.

The project consists of cutting, piling, and burning or chipping vegetation that is encroaching and re-growing in the Rim Fire Contingency Line. The planned start date is July 1, 2015, and initial work will take 24 months, with five years for maintenance.

3. Two FireSafe Councils work in Tuolumne County, along with a multi-county collaborative that maintains a series of strategic fire breaks. All are taking steps to reduce the vulnerability of key commercial areas, housing, and infrastructure to future wildfire. This includes investment in strategic firebreaks, creation of defensible space, and community education and outreach.

4. The Climate Action Team Forest Carbon Plan will outline a concrete strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing carbon storage in California forests. It will be completed in May 2016.
5. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy [Watershed Improvement Program](#) is a coordinated, integrated, collaborative program of projects to restore the health of California's primary watershed. It will identify and quantify the level of restoration needed in order to restore the Sierra, increase investment in restoration activities, and identify and address State, federal, and local policy barriers to proactively managing our watersheds. The Program will achieve these goals through science-based strategies that are collaboratively developed at the watershed scale to create resiliency at the regional and State scales.

### **Baseline and Goal Metrics**

CAL FIRE has established a baseline and goal for the work that they are doing in the region. The baseline is the current conditions of the fuel breaks, consisting of piled vegetation from suppression of the Fire, and significant encroachment and re-vegetation of the fuel break. This baseline condition will significantly diminish the breaks' effectiveness in helping control future wildfires in this area.

The goal metrics for CAL FIRE's ongoing work is to develop a fuel break that hits the following goals:

1. Substantially free of piled vegetation,
2. Understory vegetation up to six feet removed, and
3. Achieves widely-spaced trees at least 24 feet apart.