



Sierra County Fire Safe And Watershed Council, Inc.

P.O. Box 210 Calpine CA 96124



To: Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
Attn: Gretchen Bennitt

April 29, 2010

From: Sierra County Fire Safe And Watershed Council (SCFSWC)

Re: Loyalton Particulate Matter Reduction Plan

Dear Gretchen,

The Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council is very supportive of Sierra Pacific Industries Loyalton Biomass Plant.

Last fall our first bin filled with green waste was scheduled to go to Loyalton from the Sattley transfer site and before the bin could be moved the plant closed for several months. At the same time the SCFSWC was working with the USFS to remove hundreds of burn piles from the summer home tracts up on Hwy 49. As a result of the plant closure the material had to be burned in place and all of our hazardous fuel reduction activities in Sierra County became doubtful.

The reopening of the plant changed everything. The council is proud to announce a fuels reduction project beginning this summer adjacent to the town of Sierraville. There are over two hundred acres to be treated and chipping is a large component of the total project. The chips, which would only be scattered on the ground, can now go to Loyalton to generate electricity. This circumstance makes the work of the Fire Safe council beneficial in two ways 1) we remove fuels from our projects that would otherwise be left on the ground and 2) we send this material to the SPI plant that produces clean energy.

The SPI Loyalton Biomass Plant is vital to the successful reduction of hazardous fuels in and around the communities of Sierra County and other nearby areas. The Sierra County Fire Safe Council is fortunate to have the SPI Biomass plant in this region and we look forward to providing fuels for generating clean energy now and in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Freschi".

Mike Freschi
Operations Director
Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council, Inc.