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The Celebrated News of Calaveras County and Beyond

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Posted by: Kim_Hamilton on 02/22/2011 01:16 PM Updated by: Kim_Hamilton on 02/22/2011 05:48 PM

Expires: 01/01/2016 12:00 AM

Court Affirms Forestry's Positive Role in Addressing Climate Change Decision Verifies Carbon Benefits of Active Forest Management -Press Release by SPI Industries....Court Documents To Follow

Sacramento, Calif., February 22, 2011 – In a strongly-worded opinion validating California's forest practice laws, a Superior Court judge has ruled that timber harvesting under the state's comprehensive forestry standards is not only appropriate under the law, but also advances the fight against climate change. The ruling declares that the methodology used by state to approve timber harvesting by private landowners is valid under California's environmental laws, and that the state's forest practices can help improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. ...

Judge Patrick Riley in El Dorado County presided over a consolidated case in which environmental activists challenged 19 Timber Harvesting Plans (THPs) submitted to the state by Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) in eight counties. Plaintiffs argued that the plans did not comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because they did not properly or adequately address greenhouse gas emissions from timber harvesting. In his 25-page opinion Judge Riley disagreed, saying:

"The THP applications and approved THPs did address CEQA concerns and included an analysis of the GHG emissions and sequestrations involved in each THP." He added: "In conclusion, the court finds all of the issues raised by CBD in its opening and reply briefs, whether directly addressed herein or not, are without merit in so far as they contend the THPs involved failed to fully advise the public concerning the GHG issue as well as the entire environmental impact picture and provide a complete and penetrating overview of the environmental and GHG impacts in particular. [The THPs] comply with all statutes and regulations governing emissions and sequestrations and comply with all CEQA rules and requirements."

This ruling means SPI and other forestland owners can proceed with forest management activities that provide family wage jobs in rural California communities, supply lumber for consumers and conserve forest resources.

"This is a clear victory for the state's sustainable forest management standards and clear affirmation that active forest management provides a significant carbon sequestration benefit," said California Forestry Association president David Bischoff. "Efforts by activists to stop timber harvesting and force jobs out of rural California by arguing that forestry harms the environment were soundly rejected by the court. Forestry is the only economic sector in the state that provides a net carbon sequestration benefit, yet taxpayers unwittingly subsidize an endless stream of litigation designed to block it."

"The decision highlights SPI's thorough environmental analysis and commitment to sustainable practices," said SPI spokesman Mark Pawlicki. "Regulations require we perform a thorough environmental analysis including the impact of harvest and replanting on greenhouse gas emissions. We have complied with those laws and demonstrated that sustainable forest management can have a positive effect on reducing carbon emissions and counteract the negative impacts of climate change."

The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) filed a series of eight lawsuits against the state for approving the Timber Harvesting Plans alleging that the methodology used by SPI to analyze the effect of timber harvesting on greenhouse gases was inadequate. The state's permitting process requires all forestland owners to include a comprehensive GHG analysis and estimate the potential emissions from timber harvesting and related activities such as equipment operation and transportation. By planting trees after harvest and always growing more wood than is being harvested on its lands, SPI demonstrated that its forestry practices provide a greater carbon sequestration benefit over what would occur naturally or by utilizing less intensive forest management practices.

Judge Riley also noted that without timber harvesting and milling in California, the state would need to rely on imported lumber for 100 percent of its needs and that such reliance could result in more, not less, harmful emissions. "The court concluded that California-grown wood products provide a wide array of environmental benefits and upheld the validity of the state's strict forest management laws and regulations.

Additional research regarding the carbon sequestration benefits of active forest management can be viewed at www.rethinkforests.com/research-library.html.

The California Forestry Association represents professionals committed to sustainable forestry and the protection of the state's natural resources. CFA is committed to keeping the public informed on issues surrounding efforts to keep California forests healthy and well-managed for water, wildlife, wildfire protection and climate change benefit.

Sierra Pacific Industries is a third-generation family-owned forest products company based in Anderson, California. The firm owns and manages nearly 1.9 million acres of timberland in California and Washington, and is the second largest lumber producer in the United States. Sierra Pacific Industries is committed to managing its lands in a responsible and sustainable manner to protect the environment while providing quality wood products and renewable power for consumers.

 Comments - [Make a comment](#)

Coming Soon...

Wednesday, Feb 23

 09:00 AM [CCWD Board Of Directors Meeting](#)

 09:00 AM [Yoga Class - Mountain Ranch](#)

 10:00 AM [Cooking Demo. Murphy](#)

 10:00 AM [As You See Fit](#)

 All Day [BINGO](#)

 05:30 PM [Calaveras County Chamber of Commerce Installation Dinner](#)

 06:00 PM [February Wine Social at Chatom Vineyards](#)

 06:00 PM [Yoga Class - Angels Camp Mercantile](#)

 06:30 PM [The Emmaus Project](#)

Thursday, Feb 24

 All Day [BINGO](#)

 02:30 PM [Play Day for Pre-Schoolers & Parents -Mountain Ranch](#)

 03:30 PM [Strider Gliders at Bear Valley](#)

 04:00 PM [Calaveras Track Meet](#)

 04:00 PM [Grief Support Group - Murphys](#)

 05:00 PM [Calaveras County Historical Society Diner](#)

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Calaveras County
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06:00 PM [Sierra Foothill
Beekeepers
Association
Meeting](#)

The comments are owned by the poster. We are not responsible for its content. We value free speech but remember this is a public forum and we hope that people would use common sense and decency. If you see an offensive comment please email us at news@thepinetree.net

Nested ☐ Oldest First ☐ Refresh

07:00 PM [HAIRSPRAY –
The Broadway
Musical](#)

No Subject

Posted on: **2011-02-22 13:55:54** By: **Anonymous**

Judge Riley should be applauded. Chalk one up for the good guys!

[\[Reply\]](#)

07:00 PM [The Crucible at
Stage 3 in Sonora](#)

08:00 PM [Comedy Showcase
- Jerome and Sean
Peabody at Black
Oak Casino](#)

Re:

Posted on: **2011-02-22 14:37:04** By: **Anonymous**

So it's about good guys and bad guys is it? Can you clarify: who are the bad guys again?

[\[Reply\]](#)

Friday, Feb 25

07:00 AM [City of Angels
Camp
Infrastructure
Facilities
Committee
Meeting](#)

Re:

Posted on: **2011-02-22 14:48:13** By: **Anonymous**

The bad guys are the ones that impede law abiding tax payers that create jobs with frivolous lawsuits.

[\[Reply\]](#)

10:00 AM [Watercolor
Whimsy Class -
Galerie Copper](#)

10:30 AM [Children's
Preschool Hour at
Moke Hill Library](#)

Re:

Posted on: **2011-02-22 14:52:12** By: **Anonymous**

Bad guys = the environmental activists that cost taxpayers millions in an endless stream of litigation!

[\[Reply\]](#)

All Day [BINGO](#)

04:00 PM [Cioppino Feed,
Murphys Historic
Hotel](#)

Re:

Posted on: **2011-02-22 17:38:17** By: **Anonymous**

Yes, common sense prevailed. Those folks at CBD have lost all my respect with actions like this and their previous and ongoing campaign to prohibit trout plants in local lakes and streams. CBD - GET A REAL JOB!

[\[Reply\]](#)

06:00 PM ["The Undertaker
Wore Black"
Melodrama,
Valley Springs](#)

No Subject

Posted on: **2011-02-22 15:58:59** By: **Anonymous**

oh, snap. We have a judge ruling on old, out-dated science. That's right. A big study just concluded in November, and the policy is about to catch up with the science.

The result is that clear cut timber harvesting practices emit way more carbon than other practices. And that's against California's new climate change laws.

Hope you are ready for some changes, and I mean big changes!

A field test was done recently in Shasta County on a large forested parcel. The team wanted to know if the new carbon accounting protocols make sense and they wanted to know if current forest practices (laws) make sense.

The pilot harvested a smaller amount than what is allowed by law and they waited longer to harvest. The forest they chose to study is managed for commercial timber production, similar other nearby commercial properties.

They measured initial existing carbon stocks and calculated anticipated emissions reductions by comparing what timber companies do today to activity defined in their pilot over 100 years. Baseline activity includes existing timber production efforts under regulatory standards like the California Forest Practice Rules, Endangered Species Act. You know, the stuff the judge used for his ruling.

WESTCARB (the well-respected carbon measurement organization) anticipates approximately 1 million tonnes of CO2-equivalent to be stored in the forest feedstocks under the their pilot scenario over the long-term (approximately 100 years).

What about the potential to store carbon under our current laws and practices, the same ones this judge just ruled on? They found that carbon storage is far less and varies with timber production stage. And the "far less" includes carbon stored under the clear-cut method used by SPI today.

So time to do the new math. So says our U.S. Department of Energy which knows much, much, more.

See more at www.netl.doe.gov

[\[Reply\]](#)

Saturday, Feb 26

07:00 AM [Spring Health Fair,
Ironstone
Vineyards](#)

08:30 AM [Guns and Hoses
Basketball
Tournament](#)

09:00 AM [Older Adult
Outreach &
Volunteer Training](#)

10:00 AM [Master Gardener's
Open Garden Day
-San Andreas](#)

Re:

Posted on: **2011-02-22 16:42:50** By: **Anonymous**



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Middleton's



- 10:00 AM [Line Dancing Workshop](#)
- 10:00 AM [Line Dancing in San Andreas](#)
- 10:00 AM [Skier/Boarder Cross Race at Bear Valley](#)
- 10:00 AM [As You See Fit](#)
- 10:00 AM [Walking Tour of Historic Murphys](#)
- 01:00 PM [Cooking with Chefs of the Sierra Foothill](#)
- All Day [BINGO](#)
- 02:00 PM [HAIRSPRAY – The Broadway Musical](#)
- 03:00 PM [Bret Harte Girls Soccer](#)
- 06:00 PM ["The Undertaker Wore Black" Melodrama, Valley Springs](#)
- 08:00 PM [HAIRSPRAY – The Broadway Musical](#)
- 09:00 PM [Mountain Metal Apocalypse with One Less Enemy Sat Feb 26th 9pm](#)

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I am not concerned with what SPI does or does not do. The issue here is the current law in California allows Clearcutting within well defined parameters. That is the law period. So do not waste anymore of my tax money on these San Francisco based lawyers and their frivolous litigation. Deal with it the good guys won.

[\[Reply \]](#)

Re:

Posted on: **2011-02-22 19:52:03** By: **Anonymous**

the new math and research shows a conflict with the judge's decision. This judge's decision will be overturned.

[\[Reply \]](#)





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