

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: April 26, 2010
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 2163
AUTHOR: T. Mendoza

BILL SUMMARY: Forest Practices: Timber Harvesting Plans

Existing law enacts the Z'Berg-Nejedly Forest Practice Act of 1973 which prohibits any person from conducting timber operations unless a Timber Harvest Plan (THP) has been prepared and approved by the Department of Forestry and Fire (CAL FIRE). The THP is generally limited to a three-year period; however, two two-year extensions can be granted if work is not completed and certain conditions are met. This bill would make THPs extended in 2008 and 2009 eligible for a maximum of four one-year extensions if all timber operations comply with the THP. The bill would also remove the extension deadline sunset date of January 1, 2012 for THPs that were executed between January 1, 2010 and January 1, 2011.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would have a minor fiscal impact. CAL FIRE's THP tracking database is designed for a three-year effective period. This bill would make CAL FIRE manually input the extensions and final effective dates in order to trigger due dates for inspections and completion reports. CAL FIRE estimates that it would cost less than \$15,000 to perform the manual work and the cost could be absorbed within existing resources.

COMMENTS

This bill would have a minor fiscal impact and contains a policy matter on which we are neutral.

The bill allows for the extension of an existing THP as long as certain conditions are met, such as:

- No listed species have been discovered in the logging area of the plan since approval of the THP.
- No significant physical changes have occurred in the logging area or adjacent areas since the THP's cumulative impacts were originally assessed.

All of these conditions appear to be reasonable.

Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO LA CO RV	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)						Fund Code
		PROP 98	FC	2009-2010 FC	2010-2011 FC	2011-2012 FC		
3540/Forest&Fire	SO	No		----- No/Minor Fiscal Impact -----				0001

Analyst/Principal (0634) M. Almy	Date	Program Budget Manager Karen Finn	Date
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Department Deputy Director	Date
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Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____
			Position Disapproved _____

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