

From: [Alice Kowalsky](#)
To: Henly.Russ@CNRA
Subject: RE: A.B. 1492 forest pilot projects, next steps
Date: Saturday, April 23, 2016 1:17:39 PM

Dear

Assembly Bill 1492 became law in 2012. Among its provisions, it removed from the timber companies all permit fees they had previously been charged, instead funding environmental oversight and regulation through a tax on retail sales of lumber products.

With the industry completely relieved of the cost of its own regulation, the California consumer and the public are now paying for the reforms and programs that come under the scope of A.B. 1492—most importantly, more efficient and more effective environmental protections for air, water, soils, and wildlife.

With pilot projects slated to begin soon, it is crucial that the public be fully involved in these projects top to bottom, and that full transparency and accountability to the public is guaranteed. After all, we're paying for it!

What is now being fine-tuned after three public workshops is a series of at least four of these pilot projects, each slated to take place in a CalWater 2.2 Planning Watershed. These projects will collect, organize, and provide a basis for evaluating environmental data resulting from past logging operations in each respective watershed. The end result will be findings and recommendations that will inform the long-overdue, fundamental aim of responding to cumulative impacts caused by timber extraction, as well as locating places where forest and watershed restoration steps need to be taken.

Please get back to me with answers to the following urgent questions as soon as possible:

** When will the initial pilot project stakeholder team (Pilot Project Working Group or PPWG) be selected? How will the stakeholder team be selected?

** What will be the process to determine that the PPWG team member selection process is broadly representative of the public and that it is transparent?

** How will all the stakeholders be able to maintain equity in a pilot project process lasting some two years? How will public stakeholder participants in the PPWGs be reimbursed sufficiently to ensure their adequate representation and quality participation?

** Can qualified consultants be retained to help represent the public and public trust organizations? If so, how would those consultants be identified and retained?

The public pays for the A.B. 1492 program from assessments on lumber products. These funds should be sufficient to ensure long-overdue equity for the public in the formulation of improved forest and watershed management policies.

Thanks very much. I look forward to your reply.

Alice Kowalsky

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