



June 30, 2010

Subject: Revised Timeline - Center for Urban Forest Research (CUFR) – Important Call to Action

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing today to inform you of the reorganization underway at the Pacific Southwest Research Station (PSW), the home of the Center for Urban Forest Research, headed by Dr. Greg McPherson. Because of this reorganization we are requesting letters of support highlighting the many contributions supplied by CUFR and demonstrating the vital opportunities to expand and build stronger urban and community forestry research programs.

The PSW's reorganization plan, Urban Connections and Social Dynamics Program Charter, has been released for public comment (please see attached*). The Station is proposing to reorganize its 11 research work units into 4 program areas and eliminating the Center for Urban Forest Research. CUFR's work will become part of The Urban Connections and Social Dynamics program area consisting of 5 social-economic scientists that concentrate on the human impacts to national forest lands; and 2 bio-physical scientists (Greg McPherson and Jim Simpson).

We want to shine a light on the relevancy of CUFR's work in urbanized America and help assure that a long-term commitment is made continuing research to quantify the values of urban forest services – energy, carbon, air, water, climate, and public health; essential elements in sustainability plans and activities across the nation.

The review period for the PSW reorganization plan should run through September 2010. CUFR has made a positive difference for many of us in so many ways. Please write your letter of support with your personal experiences and impacts. We need each letter to be unique and not boiler-plate. Together, we can share the significant value of CUFR's research to our respective missions. We also can share how CUFR's science and evidence-based research is the basis for urban greening success stories and for building sustainable cities and communities.

We cannot overstate the importance of your positive letter of support for CUFR to go out immediately. The undersigned are working with our Congressional Representatives to forge a meeting with station director Deanna Stouder. We are attempting to meet with Dr. Stouder this summer, and with your letters in hand, we can show the depth of stakeholders' support and the unequalled impact that CUFR has made on our work and our lives.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Hughes
CA Urban Forests Council

Joe Liszewski
CA ReLeaf

Alice Ewen
Alliance for Community Trees

Ray Tretheway
Sacramento Tree Foundation

Andy Lipkis
TreePeople

Contact Information:

Dr. Deanna Stouder
Station Chief
Pacific Southwest Research Station
800 Buchanan St.
West Annex Building
Albany, CA 94710-0011
dstouder@fs.fed.us

Please send a copy of your letter to:

USDA Forest Service
Research and Development
Ann Bartuska
Deputy Chief for Research
201 14th St., SW
Washington, DC 20024
abartuska@fs.fed.us

P.S. - In order to facilitate distribution of these letters, please send copies via email to: Nancy Hughes, California Urban Forests Council, caufc@comcast.net by 5pm, July 30, 2010 (new extended date). If you receive this letter after 7/15 please contact Nancy Hughes directly for instructions

* If you are interested in commenting specifically on The Urban Connections and Social Dynamics Program Charter document, please contact Nancy Hughes at 415-479-8733, or caufc@comcast.net for assistance.