



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION IX**  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

October 31, 2005

Mr. Bernard Weingardt  
Regional Forester  
Pacific Southwest Region  
US Forest Service  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

Subject: Final Environmental Impact Statement for Southern California  
Forest Plan Revisions: Angeles, San Bernardino, Cleveland, and  
Los Padres National Forests (CEQ # 20050393)

Dear Mr. Weingardt:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the above-referenced document pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and rated the document Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information (EC-2). Our primary concerns were avoidable impacts to sensitive resources, water quality and quantity, and air quality; integration of fire use as a management tool; and the feasibility and sources of adequate management and monitoring funding.

The Forest Service has selected Alternative 4a which accommodates moderate growth in recreation while minimizing effects on existing facilities and environmental resources. This alternative is based on expansion of existing facilities and maintenance of healthy forests, protection of communities, managed and sustainable recreational uses, and conservation of threatened and endangered species habitat. Many of our concerns have been addressed with the selection of this modified alternative, the designation of additional Research Natural Areas, more restricted motorized use on back country roads, and the decommissioning of unclassified roads. The Forest Service has also been responsive to our concerns in their detailed response to comments.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this FEIS. When the Record of Decision is signed, please send one copy to the address above (mail code: CED-2). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Laura Fujii, the lead reviewer for this project. Laura can be reached at 415-972-3852 or [fujii.laura@epa.gov](mailto:fujii.laura@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

/s/

Duane James, Manager  
Environmental Review Office  
Communities and Ecosystems Division

cc: Forest Supervisor, Los Padres National Forest  
Forest Supervisor, Angeles National Forest  
Forest Supervisor, San Bernardino National Forest  
Ron Pugh, Program Leader, Cleveland National Forest