

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE
VICE-CHAIR

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TACTICAL AIR
AND LAND FORCES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON BIOTECHNOLOGY,
HORTICULTURE, AND RESEARCH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIVESTOCK
AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GENERAL FARM
COMMODITIES AND RISK MANAGEMENT

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

SALUD O. CARBAJAL
24TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
WEBSITE: CARBAJAL.HOUSE.GOV

1431 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3601

360 SOUTH HOPE AVENUE, C-301
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93105
(805) 730-1710

1411 MARSH STREET, SUITE 205
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401
(805) 546-8348

1619 S. THORNBURG STREET
SANTA MARIA, CA 93458
(805) 730-1710

June 17, 2020

Kevin Elliott, Supervisor
Los Padres National Forest
6750 Navigator Way, Suite 150
Goleta, CA 93117

Dear Mr. Elliott:

I am writing today to respectfully request that you extend the comment period for the Reyes Peak Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project by an additional 30 days and that you consider doing a full Environmental Assessment of the project.

The Reyes Peak is a unique, rare habitat to the southern part of the Los Padres National Forest (LPNF). LPNF has an abundance of ecologically sensitive areas and significant agricultural areas interwoven with vital watershed resources, and Reyes Peak sitting at a 7500-foot elevation is a distinctly beneficial habitat. Therefore, I think it is important to consider a full Environmental Assessment is completed.

Additionally, I have heard several concerns from a number of constituents about how the U.S. Forest comment period has been inaccessible to them. First, many were not notified when the comment period opened. Then, on June 11th, LPNF held an online public hearing using Adobe Connect. Unfortunately, numerous users had difficulty accessing the platform. As such, a portion of the public was not able to submit questions. My understanding is that LPNF is coordinating another public hearing, shortly before comments are due on June 30, 2020. While this is a step in the right direction, I do not believe it gives the public adequate time to have questions responded to prior to the comment period deadline.

I appreciate your consideration of my request to extend the comment period by an additional 30 days and to conducting a full Environmental Assessment of the project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. Carbal", written over a light blue horizontal line.

SALUD CARBAJAL
Member of Congress