



California Forestry Association

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NEWS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 11, 2009

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Day of event: 530-320-6723

Mill Closing Cripples El Dorado County Economy, Jeopardizes Forest Resources

*Stalled forest management cited as major factor in Sierra Pacific Industries' closure of Camino mill,
where hundreds of jobs lost despite investment in green infrastructure*

Camino, CA—Thursday June 11, 2009 marks the final day of operation of the Sierra Pacific Industries sawmill in Camino California, a productive mill serving Northern California since 1890. Roughly 160 direct and an additional 360 indirect jobs are affected by the closing.

- What:** The final day of operation for Sierra Pacific Industries' Camino sawmill. Depressed lumber markets, a decrease in log volume from nearby forestlands and increased costs of doing business have combined to force the closing. Unemployment in El Dorado County topped 11 percent before the closing.
- When:** Thursday, June 11, 2009; 8:30 am – 10:30. (NOTE: due to the termination of mill operations, photo and video opportunities will be available only until 10:00 a.m.). Drive time from downtown Sacramento is approximately one hour.
- Who:** **Speaking at the news conference are:**
James R. (Jack) Sweeney, El Dorado County Supervisor
Ray Nutting, El Dorado County Supervisor
Laurel Brent-Bum, El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce CEO
Kirk Bone, El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce President
Steve Eubanks, retired USDA Forest Service Forest Supervisor
Vicki Barber, El Dorado County Superintendent of Schools
Laid-off employees, members of the Carpenters Industrial Council
Company representatives

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Camino Mill Closure

June 9, 2009

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Why: Although president Obama has pledged to help create jobs and encourage investment in green infrastructure, a family-owned sawmill that has made significant investments in small-log technology, generates clean energy and provides family wage jobs is closing its doors. Market conditions are a contributing factor, but establishing reliable access to wood from national forestlands and addressing the rising cost of doing business in California are critical to efforts to re-open the mill. Due in large part to administrative appeals and ongoing litigation, the U.S. Forest Service delivered only 47 percent of anticipated log volume from the three national forests that provide wood to the Camino mill (the Eldorado, Tahoe and Stanislaus) in 2008. The Forest Service met 54 percent of its volume goals statewide in 2008 and spends an estimated 40 percent of its resources addressing appeals and court challenges. Meanwhile, many publicly owned Sierra Nevada forests are stocked with up to ten times more trees per acre than Gold Rush Era forests and California is experiencing significant increases in wildfire severity. The number of severely burned acres in California in 2007 and 2008 were up 300 and 315 percent, respectively, compared to the previous 5-year average. Today more than 7 million acres of productive national forestland in California stand at high risk of severe wildfire, and more than 3 million California homes are at high risk.

Furthermore, timber harvest planning costs to landowners have increased more than 1200 percent since 1975. While California forestry regulations set some of the highest environmental standards in the world, regulations are often redundant and raise compliance costs unnecessarily.

When forestry infrastructure is lost, the capacity to manage forest resources to reduce the threat of high-intensity wildfire, lower greenhouse gas emissions and protect watershed health is diminished. As infrastructure dwindles, opportunities to produce more clean energy, protect rural communities and bring renewable California-grown wood to market are lost. Today, California imports about 75 percent of the wood consumed in the state, millions of acres stand dangerously overcrowded and the rural lifestyle moves closer to extinction.

Where Sierra Pacific Industries Camino Sawmill
3950 Carson Rd, Camino, CA 95709

For More Details: Statistics relating to mill capacity, harvest volumes and increases in the cost of complying with California's forestry regulations will be available at the event, or in advance by contacting Bob Mion, communications director for the California Forestry Association at bobmion@foresthealth.org or 916-444-6592.

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CFA is committed to keeping the public informed on issues surrounding efforts to keep California forests healthy and well-managed for water, wildlife, wildfire protection and climate change benefit.