9/1/26

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
Range Management Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Members of the Board:

I am writing to express my interest in serving on the Range Management Advisory Committee following my nomination by Richard McCrow. I would be honored to contribute my experience in range management education, forestry and natural resources, soil science, regenerative agriculture, and working-land stewardship to the Committee.

I am a Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources at Bakersfield College, where I teach Range Management, Forestry, Ecology, Soils, and other agricultural and natural resource courses. I also founded and lead the Bakersfield College Regenerative Farm at the Delano Campus. Through this work, I provide students with applied learning opportunities in soil health, water conservation, plant production, grazing and land-management principles, and regenerative agricultural practices.

My academic background includes bachelor's and master's degrees in Agricultural Science from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, and a doctorate in leadership. Before entering higher education, I worked as a California State Parks interpreter and taught secondary agricultural education. These experiences have given me a broad understanding of the ecological, educational, economic, and community interests connected to California's rangelands and working landscapes.

My family operates a cattle ranch in rural Monterey County, and I am a longtime member of Tulare County CattleWomen. These connections give me a personal understanding of the realities facing California's ranching families and rangeland owners, including grazing management, water availability, soil and watershed protection, wildfire risk, changing environmental conditions, and the need to balance ecological stewardship with the economic sustainability of livestock operations.

My professional work regularly requires collaboration among educational institutions, public agencies, agricultural organizations, industry partners, and community stakeholders. Current initiatives include developing forestry and urban forestry education and workforce pathways, supporting agrivoltaics research and training through the California Renewable Energy Laboratory, and working with partners such as CAL FIRE to expand natural resource education and career opportunities in the southern San Joaquin Valley. I am particularly interested in strengthening the connections among sound

rangeland science, workforce development, fire resilience, soil and watershed protection, and the long-term viability of California's working lands.

I would bring to RMAC subject-matter expertise, direct ties to California's ranching community, and the ability to translate scientific and policy information into practical educational resources and collaborative work products. I work well across disciplines, respond reliably to communications, and am accustomed to completing complex projects within established timelines. I am prepared to participate fully in the Committee's meetings and activities throughout the four-year term.

I appreciate Richard McCrow's nomination and the Board's consideration of my interest. It would be a privilege to support RMAC's efforts to maintain healthy California rangelands and advance their ecological, environmental, economic, and social benefits.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jalisca Thomason
Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources
Bakersfield College
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