The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors does hereby resolve the following:

WHEREAS, SB 2019 (Vuich) would make legislative findings to the effect that vegetation management is an effective and economical means to increase forage and habitat available to livestock and wildlife, improve water, reduce fire hazards, and prepare for reforestation; and

WHEREAS, passage of SB 2019 will properly execute vegetation management programs providing savings to taxpayers and economic development by providing employment, products from harvesting, and an increased availability of natural resources for food and fiber production, recreation and enhancement of the environment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors, Mariposa County, does hereby endorse SB 2019 (Vuich) and urges that SB2019 take effect immediately as an urgency measure.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors this 23rd day of May, 1978, by the following vote:

AYES: Clark, Long, Owings, Weber, Dalton
NOES: None
NOT VOTING: None
ABSENT: None

CARROLL N. CLARK, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

ELLEN BRONSON, County Clerk &
Ex Officio Clerk of the Board
SENATE BILL No. 2019

Introduced by Senator Vuich

March 30, 1978

An act to add Division 22 (commencing with Section 32000) to the Public Resources Code, relating to public resources, and declaring the urgency thereof, to take effect immediately.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 2019, as amended, Vuich. Public resources: vegetation management.

Under existing law, there is no provision for a comprehensive program of vegetation management.

This bill would make legislative findings to the effect that vegetation management is an effective and economical means to increase forage and habitat available to livestock and wildlife, improve water, reduce fire hazards and prepare for reforestation.

The bill would require each specified state agency agencies to submit a report to the Legislature on vegetation management efforts by January 1, 1979.

The bill would take effect immediately as an urgency measure.


The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Division 22 (commencing with Section 32000) is added to the Public Resources Code, to read:
DIVISION 22. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER 1. POLICY

32000. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that it has been demonstrated through research and actual practice that the removal of vegetation, debris and slash from public or privately owned land through the use of various vegetation management techniques of clearing or thinning is effective and economical when used in connection with appropriate followup control and management practices that increase the forage and habitat available to livestock and wildlife, improve water yield and conservation, reduce the fire hazard, fire suppression costs and losses incidental to wildfires, and prepare for reforestation.

32001. The Legislature further finds and declares that properly executed vegetation management programs provide for savings to taxpayers and for economic development by providing employment, products from harvesting and an increased availability of natural resources for food and fiber production, recreation and enhancement of the environment.

32002. The Legislature further finds and declares that it is the policy of the state and its agencies to actively promote the planning for and implementation of vegetation management practices by any interested public agencies or private parties where it is consistent with other state policies.

32003. The Legislature further finds and declares that it is the policy of the state that state governmental agency personnel are available to initiate and assist in the planning and implementation of vegetation management programs.

CHAPTER 2. SHORT TITLE

32025. This division shall be known and may be cited as the California Vegetation Management Act.
CHAPTER 3. DEFINITIONS

32050. "Vegetation Management" means the intentional manipulation of growing or dead vegetation in order to alter the composition of the plant community for beneficial purposes with the approval and cooperation of affected landowners within the watershed in question.

CHAPTER 4. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT REPORTS

32075. Each state agency, including the Department of Food and Agriculture, the Air Resources Board, the California Coastal Commission, the Department of Conservation, the Employment Development Department, the State Board of Equalization, the Department of Fish and Game, the Department of Forestry, the Office of Planning and Research, the Parks and Recreation Department, the State Solid Waste Management Board, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Water Resources, the University of California, and the California Conservation Corps; shall submit a report on vegetation management to the Legislature by January 1, 1979. The report shall include:

(a) A description of present policy on the agency’s support or use of vegetation management.

(b) A description of the agency’s present activity and programs on vegetation management.

(c) An overview of the history of the agency’s interest in vegetation management policy and activity.

(d) A description of which of the agency’s existing programs would be affected by an active vegetation management program in its agency or by another agency.

(e) A description of the agency’s potential role in vegetation management, including new alternative policy directions and the arguments for and against the alternatives.

(f) Any recommendations for action to enhance
vegetation management by the Legislature or by federal, state or local agencies.

SEC. 2. This act is an urgency statute necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety within the meaning of Article IV of the Constitution and shall go into immediate effect. The facts constituting such necessity are:

That a comprehensive vegetation management program would further necessary conservation programs by reducing the fire hazard and increasing wildlife habitat areas and forage for livestock while at the same time providing a labor intensive source of jobs which would aid the economy of the state. The information necessary to the development of such a program will be elicited through a report mandated by this act. Thus, in order that a vegetation management program can be expeditiously developed and implemented, this act must take effect immediately.