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May 13, 2005

Susan Frankel
Sudden Oak Death Research Program
USDA Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Research Station
800 Buchanan Street, West Annex Building
Albany, CA 94710

Re: Support for field trials proposal

Dear Ms. Frankel:

As you know, I have long been a supporter of US Forest Service and State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection sponsored research efforts on Sudden Oak Death. At the recent Sudden Oak Death conference in Monterey I was greatly impressed by the breadth and depth of the research that is being conducted on this disease. I also found it very disturbing that SOD is spreading rapidly and that it is no longer confined to California's coastal counties.

I understand that there is a great deal of research on the genetics, transmission and epidemiology of the pathogen Phytophthora– all of which should eventually help us successfully combat SOD.

There has been some success with treatments for SOD infected trees used in small-scale applications, but there has been little research on what could be done to efficiently and cost-effectively use treatment applications on larger landscapes. One proposal to study treatment methodology has been advanced by Dr. Lee Klinger and Dr. Michael Coffey, two very experienced and qualified scientists, who believe that SOD may be related to tree decline caused by soil acidity. Drs. Klinger and Coffey have proposed studying lime-rich mineral treatments on a 200- acre tan oak mixed forest tract in Monterey, California. There is evidence that lime rich applications has helped diseased trees around

the world and that similar treatments can help SOD infected trees. The Klinger-Coffey proposal to methodically field test the treatment on a tract of SOD-infested coupled with laboratory analysis could provide the scientific community with verification of treatment methods that can be widely used without negative environmental impacts.

There is an urgent need to halt the spread of SOD before it consumes ever greater valuable timber and commercial resources, creates unmanageable fuel loads and devastates the biological diversity of our watersheds. I support the Klinger-Coffey proposal for **Field Trials Investigating the Efficacy of Traditional Liming Practices in the Treatment of Sudden Oak Death** because it could bring us closer to achieving the SOD National Strategic Plan's goals of management and control and rehabilitation and restoration of our threatened resources.

Sincerely yours,

Lynn Woolsey

Lynn Woolsey
Member of Congress