

For Immediate Release

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Sierra Pacific Industries helps with Community Fire Safe Projects.

QUINCY, Calif. (September 24, 2007) — Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) has agreed to once again purchase and receive biomass chips from Plumas County Fire Safe Council (PCFSC) and Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC) hazardous fuel reduction projects for use at its cogeneration plant in Quincy.

SPI's Quincy mill stopped purchasing wood chips in 2005 when its chip pile caught fire and was almost completely burned. The loss caused SPI to change their operations and no longer accept chips from the forest.

Hazardous fuel reduction projects remove small trees and brush that act as ladder fuels that can contribute to destructive crown fires. Small trees and brush that are harvested and chipped were trucked to SPI's Quincy facility, where they were then burned to create steam and produce electricity. Following the fire, SPI decided to stop purchasing chips from the forest, as they created enough material in their own milling processes.

When SPI stopped purchasing chips from the forest the logging companies had to haul them to biomass cogeneration facilities in Loyalton, Westwood, or Chester. In many cases the cost of harvesting and hauling exceeded the biomass value. PCFSC projects, which are funded with grants and property owner contributions, rely on chip revenues to help offset treatment costs. The long haul was economically hurting PCFSC's efforts to reduce hazardous fuel in the Quincy area.

Now that SPI's Quincy facility is once again accepting chips from PCFSC and PSREC, it will be much more cost effective to implement hazardous fuel reduction projects. Brian West, Council Treasurer, who worked with SPI to reach this agreement says, "This will not only help make our projects more cost effective, it will help make communities safer and forests more fire resilient." Council Chair, Ed Harrison, said. "We appreciate that SPI recognizes our Council's contributions towards reducing hazardous fuels and are thankful that they have committed to helping us implement our projects."

About Plumas County Fire Safe Council

Plumas County Fire Safe Council was organized in 1998 and incorporated as a non-profit organization in 2002, to reduce the loss of natural and manmade resources caused by wildfire throughout Plumas County.

About Sierra Pacific Industries

Sierra Pacific Industries was founded in 1920 by R.H. “Curly” Emerson, with sawmills in California and Oregon, and has grown to be the largest private forestland holder in North America. Sierra Pacific Industries is in the business of maintaining healthy forests and providing wood products for consumers. We believe that healthy trees, good water quality and enduring wildlife habitat are the natural result of sound forest management practices.

About Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative

Founded in 1937, Plumas-Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative (PSREC) is a member-owned electric distribution utility providing electrical power and related services to over 7,500 member/owners in Plumas, Lassen, and Sierra counties in California, and parts of Washoe County Nevada. The cooperative is controlled by the membership through an elected seven-person board of directors.

PSREC’s wholly-owned telecommunication subsidiaries, Plumas-Sierra Telecommunications and Got SKY Unlimited, offer Dial-up Internet Service, Wireless Internet Service and High-Speed Internet powered by WildBlue Satellite Service.

Office headquarters are in Portola, CA, with a branch office in Susanville, CA.

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