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MEMORANDUM

Date: May 30, 2007

To: The Honorable Mark Leno, Chair
Members, Assembly Appropriations Committee

From: Rex D. Frazier, President
Michael A. Gunning, Vice President
Ermelinda Ruiz, Legislative Advocate

Re: AB 350 (Blakeslee): Vegetation mapping
As Amended April 10, 2007
Assembly Appropriations Committee: May 31, 2007
PIFC Position: Support

The Personal Insurance Federation of California (PIFC), representing insurers who write over 50% of all personal lines insurance sold in California, including State Farm, Farmers, Safeco, 21st Century, Progressive, and NAMIC, **supports Assembly Bill 350** authored by Assemblyman Blakeslee.

Existing law establishes the Significant Natural Areas Program which requires the Department of Fish and Game to maintain the California Natural Diversity Data Base to document information on natural resources and identify significant natural areas.

AB 350 would require the Department of Fish and Game to develop a fine-scale statewide vegetation layer map to identify critical habitat and wildland corridors. Several agencies and organizations currently collect and maintain data regarding vegetation resources. The detailed maps would enhance a range of analyses for conservation and planning purposes including the development of land management plans, assessing wildfire fuel loads and risks, identification of priorities for habitat protection and natural resource conservation, and assessment of risk of invasive species.

AB 350 builds upon existing statewide vegetation and habitat mapping data collection activities of state agencies and would provide invaluable data for the purposes of habitat and wildland corridor identification.

For the above reasons, **PIFC supports AB 350 by Assemblyman Blakeslee**. If you have any questions, please contact Ermelinda Ruiz at (916) 442-6646.

cc: Assembly Member Sam Blakeslee (Author)
Mike Proso, Chief Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary, Office of the Governor
Steve Archibald, Consultant, Assembly Appropriations Committee
Chris Holtz, Consultant, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office
Kathleen Webb, Office of the Insurance Advisor

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