

# Estelle Fennell For Supervisor

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## For Immediate Release

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*Estelle Fennell, candidate for 2nd District Supervisor released the following statement today regarding the pending Palco/Maxxaam Bankruptcy decision:*

The proposed Palco bankruptcy restructuring has opened up a window of opportunity for residents of the second district. Two potential deals, one involving Bank of America and community partnerships and another involving Mendocino Redwood Company provide promising alternatives that would bring a long-term focus to management of PL lands. That means long-term benefits to the community, stabilizing forest jobs and stabilizing the economy.

Under the stewardship of the Maxxam Corporation, unsustainable timber practices have brought this once proud company to the brink of failure. Too many employees have been laid off, lost their pensions, and are out of work. It is vitally important that we stabilize this resource-based sector of our economy, so our families can rely on steady employment in the future.

I disagree strongly with Roger Rodoni's recent comment that when it comes to this issue "all we can do is hope for the best" (Eureka Reporter 2/18). This issue is critical to the future of the 2nd district and is being decided in Texas, far away from the lands and communities most affected. There is still time for county representatives to take a stand on behalf of 2<sup>nd</sup> district residents. After all, even Governor Schwarzenegger has weighed in on the importance of this decision to "forest resources and the people of Humboldt County". And Senator Dianne Feinstein also wrote a letter stating in part "The mismanagement of Pacific Lumber should not be allowed to undermine these far-reaching (Headwaters) agreements that were carefully negotiated and fully accepted by all the parties,"

I urge Roger Rodoni and his colleagues on the Board to take action by authoring a letter that opposes the highly speculative proposal being offered by Maxxam and supports the alternative proposals that demonstrate "it is possible to manage productive forestlands with a high standard of environmental stewardship and also operate a successful business" (MRC Statement of purpose).

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