

# San Jose Mercury News

October 13, 2003

## Davis signs bill putting more curbs on timber cutting

By Paul Rogers

*Mercury News*

Landowners in the Santa Cruz Mountains and other forested areas of California who want to cut timber on their property will have to submit new information to the state showing the impacts of other nearby logging projects under a bill signed Sunday by Gov. Gray Davis.

The bill, by Assemblyman Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, was championed by environmental groups and opposed by some in the timber industry.

Under it, the State Board of Forestry will require by Jan. 1, 2005, anyone submitting a timber harvest plan to the state to include maps showing "the location and boundaries of past,

See **BILL**, Page 5B

---

---

## **BILL** | More restraints on timber cutting

*Continued from Page 1B*

present, and reasonably foreseeable" logging projects on land they own in the same watershed. The information must go back 10 years.

Supporters said it will protect streams and wildlife on millions of acres of public and private timberland statewide.

"I'm very pleased," said Karen Maki, of Redwood City, who is chairwoman of the Sierra Club Loma Prieta Chapter's Forest Protection Committee. "The state OKs timber harvest plans 20 acres at a

time, and they don't look at the rest of the forest. This bill will start documenting the big picture."

Some timber industry groups dropped opposition to the bill after they worked out compromises with Simitian. Others said the bill meant more paperwork, regulation and expense.

Bill Keye, a lobbyist for the California Licensed Foresters Association, said in a letter to Simitian earlier this year that logging levels statewide are down by more than 60 percent since 1990, and many mills

have closed. The bill, he said, would accelerate "the ongoing decline of a once-vital primary industry."

The bill, AB 47, was part of a package of about nine "forestry reform bills" introduced by Sacramento Democrats. One high-profile bill, SB 810, remained on the governor's desk. It would give the state's regional water quality control boards oversight on logging in areas near sensitive streams.

---

Contact Paul Rogers at [progers@mercurynews.com](mailto:progers@mercurynews.com) or (408) 920-5045.

# PALO ALTO DAILY NEWS

Also serving Menlo Park, Mountain View, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, East Palo Alto, Atherton, Portola Valley, Woodside and Stanford

October 14, 2003

## Davis signs Simitian's forest bill

Assembly member Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto, yesterday announced that Gov. Gray Davis has signed his bill that gives additional protection to the state's forests and watersheds.



**SIMITIAN**

Assembly Bill 47 requires that any timber harvest plan submitted to the state include maps showing where in the watershed of the proposed logging area logging has occurred in the past 10 years and where it is likely to occur in the future.

"The problem is that timber interests have been playing hide-and-go seek with environmental degradation," Simitian said.

---

**'The new law simply requires logging interests to show us where they are, where they've been and where they're headed. In this way we can better understand and manage the cumulative adverse impacts of logging in our forests.'**

Assembly member Joe Simitian

---

"The new law simply requires logging interests to show us where they are, where they've been and where they're headed. In this way we can better understand and manage the cumulative adverse impacts of logging in our forests," he continued.

Davis also recently signed Simitian's Assembly Bill 1545, which allows comments on environmental

reports and documents to be e-mailed to state agencies rather than requiring a conventional letter.

"As a Silicon Valley legislator, I was particularly taken aback that a person sitting behind a desk in Sacramento would tell one of my constituents that the state would accept a type-written, hard-copy comment but not that same comment by e-mail," Simitian said.