

*A Genuine Leader or Just Acting?*

# It doesn't take a super hero to save California's old growth forests. Just a governor who cares enough to make a few phone calls.

**M**agnificent Giant sequoias, Coast redwoods, Douglas firs and Port Orford cedars. For millions of people here and around the world, these majestic ancient trees are the very spirit of California, evoking a sense of freedom, quiet strength and natural dignity. These monumental trees, here long before California became a state, are among the greatest bounty nature has given us.

But for too long, we took our great trees for granted, squandered their abundance, and looked away while rapacious commercial loggers devastated coast, valley and mountain until only a small fraction—just one percent—of California's great forests remain. Despite the chainsaw massacre that's gone on for decades, it's astonishing—and outrageous—that the few remaining great trees are still unprotected by any comprehensive state law.

Today, we have no excuses. Science has taught us to value old growth forests as essential and complex ecosystems that form a basic web of life, the very foundation of nature itself. The old growth that remains can't be valued in economic terms, expressed in dollars and cents or measured in board feet. These giant trees are California's priceless heritage. And a strong public consensus—over 60% of Californians polled—consistently backs saving our old growth trees.\*

Only those blind to nature and cold to life are still eager to put chainsaw to the last of California's ancient trees. They see no community in nature. No stewardship for the future. Just profit waiting to be made now. They work unseen and unheard, metastasizing their greed through the iron grip they have on wholly owned and paid for politicians in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. Their invisible hand can be detected in the hypocritical "Healthy Forests" policies of President Bush and his minions who believe that logging companies should leave no tree behind.

Right now, as you read this, there is legislation in Sacramento that would grant California's Heritage trees a permanent reprieve from chainsaws. The Heritage Tree Preservation Act (SB 754)—introduced by State Senator Don Perata and cosponsored by Assembly members Goldberg, Hancock, Laird, Levine, Lieber, Nation, Simitian and Wiggins—is before the state legislature. Whether it makes it out or not depends on whether it's politics as usual or if genuine leadership prevails.

SB 754 is a carefully crafted law that extends comprehensive statewide protection to trees 150 years old or older on state-owned land. (Please see box or go to [www.ancienttrees.org](http://www.ancienttrees.org) for more information.)

If this were Hollywood, California's great trees would mimic the Ents in *The Lord of the Rings* and storm Sacramento, threatening to stone and inundate the State Capitol unless SB 754 is enacted. But it isn't Hollywood, and the trees can't get the state legislature to act. Only the Governor can. And it just takes a couple of phone calls. Easier than a movie contract or a distribution deal. If SB 754 doesn't reach his desk, it'll be because the Governor didn't think it was important enough to use his influence. It really is that simple. And profoundly tragic if we fail our old growth forests again.



Photo: Geoff Oliver Bugbee / www.geoffbugbee.com

## *Last stand for California's majestic old growth giants?*

*Will Governor Schwarzenegger pick up the phone to save Giant sequoias, Coast redwoods, Douglas fir, Port Orford cedars and other endangered great trees? Or will he allow pricetag politics to doom some of the oldest, longest and largest trees in the world? It's the Governor's call. Let him know you care. And that you'll remember the next time he asks for your support.*

These majestic trees, among the oldest, tallest and largest living things on earth, will not be there for our children unless the Governor acts now. You can help. Call, email, or use the coupon. Ask the Governor to pick up his phone and make a few calls. He knows who he needs to talk to. With politicians in Washington, D.C., doing everything just short of powering up their chainsaws to destroy our national forests, Californians must act quickly to protect the old growth trees in our state. There will be no sequel for the redwoods, sequoias, Douglas firs, and cedars if SB 754 fails. Just five or ten minutes can save



## **Real Leader or Just Acting?**

Governor Schwarzenegger has raised \$17 million for his political war chest in just six months. In Sacramento, big bucks mean big influence. Ask the Governor to use a dime or two from his millions in political contributions to make a few phone calls on behalf of California's endangered Heritage trees. The Governor said he would sign SB 754 if it reaches him with bipartisan support. That's political doubletalk. A real leader would make sure it happens. Please call, write or email the Governor now. Tell him to call the politicians who need to hear from him. Protecting California's old growth will stand as a monument to his strong leadership. And remind him who the real terminators are: the voters of California who won't forget—or forgive—politicians who calculate the cost of everything but understand the value of nothing. His phone number is (916) 445-2841. His email is [governor@governor.ca.gov](mailto:governor@governor.ca.gov). For more information, go to [www.ancienttrees.org](http://www.ancienttrees.org).

a 200-year-old sequoia from becoming suburban lawn furniture. It's worth your time. And worthy of the Governor's leadership. Please, act now.



## **Campaign for Old Growth**

1904 Franklin Street, Suite 609  
Oakland, CA 94612  
(510) 444-4710

[www.ancienttrees.org](http://www.ancienttrees.org)

*We urgently need your financial support to keep fighting for California's endangered old growth forests. To make a contribution, please go to [www.ancienttrees.org](http://www.ancienttrees.org) or send your check for \$50 or more directly to our office. All contributions will be acknowledged and are not deductible for tax purposes. On behalf of California's great ancient trees, thank you.*

\*A recent poll by David Binder & Associates found 63% are against logging old growth trees.

## **The Heritage Tree Preservation Act**

The Heritage Tree Preservation Act (Senate Bill 754) will protect California's oldest and largest trees by: prohibiting the cutting or causing of harm to any "Heritage tree" (Giant sequoias, Coast redwoods, Douglas firs, etc.); establishing the Heritage Tree Preservation Fund in the State Treasury to monitor and enforce the act; requiring all timber companies to comply with the law with regard to their timber operations.

## **SB 754 is endorsed by:**

*AFSCME - American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Audubon California, Ed Begley, Jr., Keely and Pierce Brosnan, Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, California Federation of Teachers, California League of Conservation Voters, California Oak Foundation, California Teachers Association, Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, National Wildlife Federation, Forests Forever, Jane Goodall, Don Henley, Julia Butterfly Hill, Humane Society of the United States, Mannix Ranch, Dave Matthews, Natalie Merchant, Randy Newman, Planning and Conservation League, Rainforest Action Network, Bonnie Raitt, Republicans for Environmental Protection - California Chapter, Martin Sheen, James Taylor, Thompson Ranch, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners - Local 713, United Steelworkers of America - District 12, Voice of the Environment*

## **Governor Schwarzenegger**

State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814

Yes, I agree that California's remaining 1% of old growth forests must be protected by a comprehensive state law. Use your leadership to get SB 754 enacted now, before more ancient great trees are lost forever. Unless you pick up the phone now, politics-as-usual will prevail and SB 754 will be ripped up by the chainsaw lobby. Getting a state budget and streamlining state government are important, but a hundred years from now, our grandchildren will know that majestic old growth Giant sequoia and Coast redwood trees rising to the sky stand as a monument to your genuine leadership. Please pick up your phone and make the call for SB 754 now. I'll be watching.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY / STATE / ZIP \_\_\_\_\_