



## YCE CEO Thomas Hobby's Response to the LA Wildfires

In light of the devastating LA Fires, our thoughts and prayers are with the brave firefighters on the frontlines and the families impacted by this unprecedented disaster. This wildfire has become the largest economic natural disaster of its kind in California and U.S. history, underscoring the urgent need for effective, large-scale solutions to prevent such catastrophes in the future.

As someone who has dedicated over 20 years to forest fuels hazard reduction—dating back to my graduate studies in British Columbia—I feel compelled to address this moment and offer strategic insights. These fires are a stark reminder of the “TIME BOMB” I warned about during my [2009 interview](#) with CBC News after the destructive wildfires in British Columbia. At that time, I urged the government to take action to mitigate wildfire risks, emphasizing the need for improved forest inventory collection and the use of advanced fuels hazard models to prioritize treatments for hazardous fuels (see my attached Research Executive Summary from 2009).

My research highlighted the importance of collecting robust forest and fuels inventories, developing an accurate fuel hazard analysis methodology, and integrating economic analysis into fuel treatment strategies, including combining traditional logging with forest thinning and stewardship contracts to reduce costs. These recommendations remain as relevant today in California as they were in British Columbia. In 2009, BC identified 1.7 million hectares of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) lands needing treatment. Here in California, millions of acres of WUI remain at risk, threatening countless communities across the state, from urban centers like Los Angeles to rural areas like Butte and Tuolumne Counties, where our company is developing biomass to biofuels projects.

At Yosemite Clean Energy, we believe that there is no longer a divide between urban and rural concerns when it comes to wildfire prevention. The tragic stories unfolding in Los Angeles mirror the vulnerabilities faced by smaller communities throughout California's 58 counties. It is time to reframe the narrative around biofuels projects, forest stewardship, and chaparral management. We must scale up efforts and drive *real change now*.

Our team is committed to offering California viable economic solutions to the forest and hazardous fuels crisis. We aim to launch transformative biofuel projects that not only mitigate wildfire risks but also contribute to the state's clean energy goals. Working alongside PR and social media experts like PREM, we will expand this conversation on platforms like LinkedIn and X, engaging communities and policymakers alike to garner the support necessary to move forward.

California stands at a critical crossroads. Together, we can implement sustainable solutions that protect our communities and preserve our natural resources for generations to come. Yosemite Clean Energy is ready to collaborate and be “action leaders” with our government, local NGOs and private partners. Let's begin Real Change Now!

With hope, faith, and a lot of sweat,

Thomas Hobby - MBA, MA, MSc. P. Ag

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Hobby". The signature is written in a dark grey or black ink on a white background.

Chief Executive Officer

Email: [tom.hobby@yosemiteclean.com](mailto:tom.hobby@yosemiteclean.com)

Ph: (209) 308-9677