Battle Creek Alliance (BCA) Timeline of Cal Fire and Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) attempts to suppress our work/evidence

2009: BCA begins Citizen's Water Monitoring Project, collecting samples from public roads in the Battle Creek watershed.


Oct.: Cal Fire releases an Official Response to the Plateau Flat logging plan (2-09-027SHA) in which it refers to BCA as "plagiarizing" a document that had been given to BCA by hydrologist Jon Rhodes, with his permission to use it. BCA asked Cal Fire to remove this insult and lie from its official, public record for several years. Cal Fire ignored the request every time and never removed it. (BCA 2010 Plateau plagiarist)

2011: SPI employee Cajun James makes baseless trespassing remarks at public meetings on 3/15/11 and 5/17/11

2012: Jan.: Attorney Rene Voss sends SPI employee "Cease and Desist" letter regarding libelous statements at public meetings in 2011. (Voss Jan 24, 2012)

Feb. 6: SPI sends another threatening letter to BCA director with baseless claims of criminal trespassing, copyright infringement; attorney Rene Voss responds in April. (Voss April 5, 2012)

Feb. 25th: SPI sends Shasta Co. Sheriff Deputy to BCA director's house to threaten her with arrest for criminal trespass. He says they have evidence; she asks what it is, he says he doesn't have to tell her. He tells her she can't get out of her vehicle to take samples on the public county road. She asks what law that is; he responds that he doesn't have to tell her.

April-June: Hydrologist Tom Myers, who is analyzing BCA data to write a report, and Justin Augustine from Center for Biological Diversity, visit Battle Creek sites in April. In June, they and BCA receive another threatening letter from SPI trying to stop BCA water data collection. (Myers and Augustine 2012)

In August, Ponderosa Fire burns on 27,000 acres of land, 2/3rds SPI ownership. It is logged under emergency exemptions with no environmental review required.

2013: Dec.: BCA director files complaint against CalFire Timber Harvest Review Team Chair and practices. (Battle Creek Alliance 2013)

2014: June: Brief, form letter from CalFire which offered no substantive response to BCA complaints, received by BCA. BCA asks for a list of who was interviewed; request is ignored, none is provided. BCA director was not spoken to by investigator.

2015: April: BCA director and other women enviros begin to receive CalFire whistleblower emails, detailing the hidden practices at CalFire e.g. the Review Team Chair calling the women "fucking bitches". (CalFire whistleblower emails)
Nov: Statistical hydrologist Jack Lewis started reviewing our data and producing reports in 2014. Cajun James/SPI contacted him a number of times to try to influence him against BCA work. In Nov. 2015, as he was working to publish his analysis he wrote in an email to CalFire employee Pete Cafferata that James had called him to threaten "she would make sure that it did not get published". (Lewis Cafferata emails 2015)

2017 June: We discovered through emails we received from a Public Records Act request that CalFire employees had reviewed Jack Lewis' manuscript (submitted to a scientific journal) regarding significant effects occurring from logging in Battle Creek watershed. In these 2016 emails the CalFire employees wrote of their intent to get the paper rejected. Consequently, we filed a complaint with CalFire and the Natural Resources Department. (CalFire Complaint 6-2017)

On Aug. 18th we received a response from Russ Henly, Natural Resources, that dismissed all of our concerns. On Aug. 22nd, we wrote to Monte Manson, CDF Chief, Professional Standards Program (CalFire complaint 8-2017). We received a dismissive reply. On Sept. 20th we asked for a list of who he interviewed regarding our complaint and any other evidence he considered. There was no reply. On Nov. 3rd, we wrote again to say we received no list of interviewees or other evidence. Again, there was no reply. (BCA to Monte Manson 2017). The refusal to provide any evidence to us that was used in decisions or investigations has been the pattern throughout the years and has occurred many other times than are detailed here.

2018 At the public Board of Forestry March 2018 meeting SPI employee Cedric Twit presented disinformation and veiled slurs about our research paper and hydrologist Jack Lewis during the comment section of the meeting. BCA wrote a letter to the BOF but received no reply. (BCA to BOF 3-19-18.) An audio recording of the meeting is here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMplVnioANA&feature=youtu.be Our research paper was published in the scientific journal Environmental Management online in April 2018, and in the print version in 2019.

2019 From January to April BCA worked with Erick Burres, State Waterboard Monitoring Coordinator, to update our Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and to upload our data to the State CEDEN site (California Environmental Data Exchange Network). On April 29th, we received an email from Mr. Burres that SPI had contacted him to say BCA was trespassing to obtain water samples. (Burres 2019.) BCA director and Mr. Burres spoke on the phone afterwards. He informed her that SPI was demanding that BCA data not be allowed to be uploaded to the CEDEN site. BCA sent a letter to again answer the baseless accusations by SPI. (BCA to Burres 2019.)

2020 On October 18th BCA found that SPI had inserted an erroneous paragraph into resubmitted plan 2-20-00159 SHA "Powerhouse" in an attempt to invalidate our research paper. We sent emails and evidence to Cal Fire between October 18th and 30th, asking for the paragraph to be removed. Cal Fire refused. (CalFire Ramaley 2020 erroneous paragraph emails and BCA Erroneous paragraph in THP letter)