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# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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## **CAL FIRE Chief Deputy Director to Speak at Tree Planting Event**

Oakland Event celebrates Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

SACRAMENTO - CAL FIRE Chief Deputy Director Crawford Tuttle will speak at a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., memorial tree planting event in Oakland Jan. 19. The event, organized by the Oakland nonprofit, Urban Releaf, will bring together an estimated 200 plus volunteers to plant 80 trees as a peace memorial for Dr. King. The event starts at 9:30 a.m. at 5319 Martin Luther King, Jr. Way.

“The planting of trees is not only a long-honored memorial tradition, but also a recognized way of building community and enhancing our urban environments,” said Tuttle. “Urban trees clean the air, improve water quality, provide cooling shade, and provide homes for wildlife. Areas with a healthy urban forest have less crime, greater economic activity, and higher property values. And urban trees have a particularly important role to play in helping us to address the critical issue of climate change.”

CAL FIRE’s Urban Forestry Program has provided Urban Releaf more than \$380,000 in tree planting grant funds over the past 10 years.

In 1987, Dr. King visited Israel and planted a pine tree honoring his father. In planting that tree, the younger King said, “This tree symbolizes the continuity of my father’s mission.”

Tuttle believes that trees planted during the peace memorial “symbolize the continuity of Dr. King’s message, particularly his message of peace, which he so powerfully communicated through his commitment to and teachings on nonviolence.”

This memorial tree planting event is a collaborative effort of Urban Releaf, Service for Peace, AmeriCorps JusticeCorps, and CAL FIRE, as well as other key partner groups. Crawford Tuttle was appointed Chief Deputy Director of CAL FIRE by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006. He serves as a key player on resource management, forest protection and enhancement, and legislative and budgetary matters for the department. Prior to joining CAL FIRE, Tuttle served as Deputy Secretary for External Affairs at the California Natural Resources Agency.

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