



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

## Tree Mortality Task Force

### Tree Mortality Task Force Meeting Minutes April 11, 2016

#### 1. Opening Comments

##### a. Chairpersons

- i. Ken Pimlott
- ii. Charles Rabamad

##### b. Task Force Leader: Glenn Barley

#### 2. Fresno County Presentation (Jim McDougald/David Pomaville)

Southern CA Edison has been working with Shaver Lake community helping landowners chip and remove downed trees. The USFS is now running tree mortality as an incident-based management structure and ordering resources accordingly.

CAL FIRE Fresno-Kings Unit is working with the County, USFS, local Fire Safe Councils, Utility Companies to mitigate dead and dying trees in fuel breaks and along critical infrastructure. A series of fuel breaks are in the process of being improved and implemented to protect communities impacted by tree mortality.

#### 3. County Specific Topics of Concern

##### a. Presidential Declaration Overview (Cal OES)

Cal OES has received enough local agency requests to meet the local threshold, but they would like the counties to refine their local estimates. Number of dead trees based on acreage calculation is not going to be sufficient. FEMA is going to question the estimate methodology, so Cal OES will work closely with locals to refine estimates.

Ken Pimlott: What can we do now to help? Can any information be extrapolated from our maps?

Mark Rosenberg: There are two mapping possibilities.

1. Forest inventory data – estimating the amount of biomass in high hazard zones (tier 1 – critical infrastructure). It's a rough estimate, but we could get a broad range from existing maps for planning purposes.
2. Currently collecting information on specific projects where trees have been marked, and gathering data through hazard zoning.



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Charles Rabamad: Please start identifying impacts (critical infrastructure destroyed or impacted, trees that have caused injuries or death, etc) with the estimates. Also include any special damage that has occurred.

Glenn Barley: We should sit down and determine the methodology needed.

Brittany Dyer: What is estimated time of completion?

Charles Rabamad: ASAP, but no more than one month would be best.

Glenn Barley: We will coordinate from a leadership level and work with the mapping and monitoring group to establish methodology.

Charles Rabamad: Do not include Caltrans roads or fire hazards; focus on falling trees causing injury. Trees falling on a private residence do not count, only trees that fall onto county roads or infrastructure.

Ken Pimlott: Can we quickly create a methodology to help counties put together a more refined estimate, this many miles of county roads plus this many trees, etc.?

Helge Eng: We shouldn't use too many data sets.

FHWA: What is the estimating process and dollar amount?

Charles Rabamad: It is separate from FEMA and does not count highway costs.

## b. Funding

### i. CDAA and Hazard Mitigation Funds (Cal OES)

CDAA: About 12 CDAA applications have been received. Please let Cal OES know if you have costs so they can begin to be tracked.

Donated resources (ex: volunteers being used to remove timber and donate firewood) can be credited to reduce the local costs, but the counties must track costs to be deducted. The counties may use prison labor if it is free. Private land clearing efforts wouldn't count unless trees would fall onto public roads or infrastructure.

Hazard Mitigation: Currently 6 months are locked in at \$50 million. We have received interest from every county but Fresno. The total project is \$9.5 million at a 75/25 match. Counties must include project scope and their environmental process, and NEPA applies. Each notice of interest is project-specific.

### ii. SRA Funds/Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (CAL FIRE)

SRA Grants: 19 grants went to affected counties for a total of 1.7 million dollars.

GGRF: \$130 million in forest health for 2016-17 Fiscal Year.

## c. Equipment Allocation (Resource Allocation)



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A prioritization schedule has been created to help prioritize resources. 41 pieces of equipment will be delivered throughout counties by the end of this month.

Will there be training for local county employees?

Thom Porter: Yes, for certain pieces of equipment.

d. Update on CPUC actions (Utilization-Bioenergy)

CPUC has a staff proposal; the resolution was adopted shortly after the last TMTF meeting. The resolution authorizes utilities to procure a certain minimum, which will lower capacity to accept fuel, but likely not able to service all high hazard zone areas. 7 facilities are in need of updated contracts. The CPUC wants more information (how much material is available, what is the timeline, etc.).

Ken Pimlott: We met with President Picker and Commissioner Peterson, and we have a follow-up meeting on May 2.

Julia Levin: It would be helpful if the GGRF could be specified to tree mortality in the May revise, which could help address CPUC's and utilities' concerns.

#### 4. County reports on additional items for TMTF to address

Tuolumne: Private land funding is still an issue.

Madera: Match flexibility, private landowner resources, federal support.

Mariposa: Trees near school buildings and looking for funding for the 200 foot clearance.

Fresno: Provided report during initial presentation.

Tulare: Submitted grants to help with project work in the county.

#### 5. Consideration and process of including additional counties

We anticipate the mortality will continue to expand north from Tuolumne County. Transitional counties include Calaveras, Amador, Placer, and El Dorado.

#### 6. Working Group Highlights

a. Utilization – Market Development (Evan Johnson/Kim Carr)

a. Export Markets

The National Forest Foundation is conducting an analysis for tree mortality markets; should be completed in the next few months. We are also working on a basic intake process for businesses (connecting them with grants and loan opportunities, working with the Resource Allocation group, etc.). We are also looking into auction services for trees and will talk to counties to see if that would be beneficial.



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- b. Prescribed Fire (Nick Goulette/Craig Thomas)
  - a. Prescribed Fire MOU and Collaborative Work

The second meeting is tentatively scheduled for 6/1 and 6/2 (6/2 will be in field looking at Rough Fire). There are three new documents related to prescribed fire available on the TMTF website specific to prescribed fire MOUs.
- c. Public Outreach (Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)
  - a. April 15 State Legislator Tour

Tour postponed due to low RSVPs. Looking at other ideas for legislative outreach.
- d. Regulations (Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg)
  - a. Regulations Guidance Document Public Meeting

The Regulations working group will be a clearinghouse for issues that come up if legal assistance is needed. There is also a guidelines document available for tree removal in high hazard zones. A public meeting will be held on April 25<sup>th</sup> in Mariposa County from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. More details will be posted on TMTF website and a conference call line will be made available for people who are not available to make it to the meeting in person. Sandy will reach out to transitional counties.
- e. Forest Health and Resilience (Chris Keithley/Tom Smith)

A flight over the impacted areas is scheduled for late September/early October, and we will bring back the results to the TMTF. We are also looking into developing a subset of program indicators that the TMTF could endorse for the long-term monitoring of forest health as a low cost option. We are also discussing potential field surveys in the summer through USFS. A guidance document regarding characteristics and maintenance of healthy forests focusing on recovery efforts is in draft form.
- f. Mapping and Monitoring (Mark Rosenberg/Chris Fischer)

This week flight was postponed due to weather. We are planning aerial surveys of the 6 counties, plus El Dorado and Placer, in about two weeks. We are working on reporting mechanisms plus timeframes. We don't cover entire counties all at once. Our goal is to submit information within a week post flight. These will be preliminary numbers; at the end of the year we will refine estimates, confirm there are no processing errors, etc. We are also working on tracking projects.



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- g. Resource Allocation (Thom Porter/Tom Lutzenberger)
- h. Utilization – Bioenergy (Kim Carr/Angie Lottes)

#### **4. Closing Comments**

- a. Task Force Leader (Glenn Barley)

The Mapping & Monitoring group will be the keepers of all numbers and data (numbers of dead trees, acres, etc.). All data must originate from this group, and they will include the methodology with their numbers. This is important for maintaining consistency.

- b. Chairpersons

- i. Ken Pimlott

We are anticipating staffing issues for equipment at the beginning of fire season, and are working on a Plan B. Thank you for your involvement in this process and your patience. We appreciate your willingness to engage.