



Tree Mortality Task Force Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2017

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1. Call to order: 1:05
2. Opening Comments
 - a. Chairpersons (Saul Gomez/Ken Pimlott/Mark Ghilarducci)
 - i. Chief Barentson - Chief Pimlott is touring the Oroville Dam, looking at the structure and offering assistance and support.
 - ii. John Moore – standing in for Mark Ghilarducci.
 - b. Task Force Leader (Gabe Schultz)
 - i. Introduced Kevin Conway. Kevin will be part of leadership, day to day activities, and will be participating in TMTF county and working group meetings.
3. Little Hoover Commission Update
 - a. Chief Barentson - Chief Pimlott testified in January. Looked at task force and how much good is coming out of it. They are looking at forest health, what are we going to do, how are we going to recover, how are we going to get ahead of it. They are interested in future participation of the counties. The Commission expressed special interest in forest health and prescribed fire. Good hearing, presenters represented science, conservancies, OES and other stakeholder groups.
4. USFS Update
 - a. Chris Fischer - last report out. Stephanie Gomes and Joe Sherlock will be replacing Chris. 270,000 trees have been felled and 90,000 NEPA ready acres are available for treatment. Now are retreating areas as increasing dead trees come on line. Received \$12 million in additional funding, on top of \$4 million to the Sierra to treat mortality areas and habitat restorations. Really slowed down on mitigation efforts, due to snow, weather and inaccessibility.
5. PG&E Update
 - a. Matt- focus is still 220,000 trees, weather has slowed down progress. Once soil conditions are right they will continue. Right now 6,100 people are signed up for their tree removal program.
6. CALTRANS Update
 - a. Darold Heikens - Presentation: January 25 gave a presentation for lesson learned. Handout included.
 - b. 2016 lessons learned:
 - i. Tree counts not reliable
 - ii. need of arborists/RPF
 - iii. mortality of non-pine species
 - iv. rights of entry



- v. not tons of complaints
 - vi. environmental process was a little inconsistent with Directive 15
 - vii. Forest service inconsistencies
 - 1. Sale of timber
 - 2. Response times/forms
 - 3. Animal habitat
 - 4. Flagging vs. paint
 - viii. Tree disposal
 - 1. Decision delegated to contractor
 - 2. Difficult to direct to specific end use
 - 3. Track chain of custody on individual tree
 - c. FRAP mortality map also looking at new areas up to Plumas, Siskiyou, Modoc
 - d. 2017
 - i. projects planned both Sierra and Valley areas
 - ii. added more counties than current 10
 - iii. 2 assessments for projects
 - iv. Rights of entry will be coordinated with counties, planned beforehand with assessments
 - v. Environmental process
 - 1. trying to standardize
 - 2. use of biologists
 - vi. we will directly deal with Forest service not the contractors
 - vii. working directly with Forest service for marking requirements
 - viii. Tree disposal
 - ix. Public funds
 - x. Participation on tours
7. Working Group Updates
- a. Mapping and Monitoring Working Group (Mark Rosenberg & Carly Gibson)
 - i. Last period we updated the HHZ on the website, local designation for HHZ
 - ii. Project tracking- active and planned projects to be seen by others
 - iii. Temporary storage and wood processing facilities- could use help verifying data that we are using to make a map
 - iv. Facts and figures document will have an update within a few weeks
 - b. Public Out Reach Working Group (Daniel Berlant & Staci Heaton)
 - i. Media Campaign update: Continues to meet and coordinate land owner assistance / urban outreach
 - ii. Urban outreach- met last week, bark beetle and mortality
 - c. Regulations Working Group Update (Matthew Reischman & Sandy Goldberg)
 - i. Insurance Update: Last Thursday the Insurance workshop was held
 - 1. Focused on rules and regulations, fire risk models, ways for counties to work with homeowners
 - 2. Opportunity for Insurance reps to provide their perspective



3. Many reps were present, great opportunity to hear the entire spectrum of the industry
 4. Others areas of discussion were: Fuels work, rate increases, fair plan, legislative changes
 - ii. ACI regulations status: We sent draft letter to Governor's office, exemption request was done. Fact finding and becoming familiar with timelines and requirements.
 1. Work before 2nd 8 weeks come to an end, up to a year to apply for a general permit, main concern is to have uninterrupted service to run ACI
 2. Multiple locations, rain has hampered the ability to put them on the ground, burner not the issue... compaction around the burner is the concern
 - d. Bioenergy Working Group Update (Angie Lottes, Sandy Goldberg)
 - i. Changes to biomap procurement, SB840, went into affect Feb. 1st, looking for more projects in the queue, upgrades to the grid and cost to upgrades
 - ii. Lisa-Thank you for the updates to the mapping and tables of the fuel buyers and info
 - e. Resource Allocation Working Group (Thom Porter & Tom Lutzenberger)
 - i. ACI's operational locations and operational status
 - f. Forest Health and Resilience Working Group (Pete Cafferata & Stewart McMorrow)
 - i. Current white paper update: met on Feb 1st and continue to make progress
 1. 2nd white paper- making progress
 - a. Main goal is to have robust implementation
 - b. Need more funding for Sierra Nevada
 - c. 7 main sections
 - d. Prescribed and managed wildfire, wildlife habitat, many more topics
 - ii. Map that spatially shows the counties overlaid with the seed zone
 1. Speculative seedling order
 2. When released has interesting metrics
 3. Should be done pretty soon
 4. Next meeting March 1st
 5. Continue to work on reforestation strategy
 6. Some reforestation workshops will be helpful, just had one and 3 more planned
 - g. Market Development Working Group (Evan Johnson)
 - i. Update on market trends or developing news:
 1. Encouraging representatives of counties and reps to send businesses our way.
 2. Collaboration SB 859 working group
8. County Updates- Weather impacts & activities
- a. Tuolumne (but speaking in general for all the counties from earlier meeting)
 - i. Attention of the effected counties, other counties never even heard of TM issue
 - ii. Caltrans
 - iii. Funding- many reserves committed to TM and now with flooding are having major issues, happy with grants but still going to have issues
 - iv. LTO vs D49...looking for a waiver
 - b. Many county reps are headed to DC planning sharing



- c. Mariposa is finally off and running and have a contract with a firm to deal with the TM
 - d. Wanted to thank PG&E and Caltrans for doing a good job.
 - i. Still having issues with getting logs out because of weather and soil compaction
 - ii. Storms taxing counties that are low on funds and still trying to pay for storm damage.
Flooding, trees falling and road issues
9. Closing Comments: Want to thank counties for coming, We know you all have storm damage and really appreciate your participation.
10. Adjournment: 2:39