



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Tree Mortality Task Force

Meeting Minutes

May 8, 2017

www.treetaskforce.org

I. Opening Comments

- a. Chairperson Helge Eng for Ken Pimlott: This is Wildfire Awareness Week. We are all grateful for rain, but no amount of rain will bring back 102 million dead trees. Winter precipitation has allowed for a large grass crop that will soon dry and present a fire hazard. This summer will be interesting.
- b. Chairperson Saul Gomez – Later this month the Governor will propose his revised budget. If any Task Force Members have any questions on the process, contact Saul.
- c. Task Force Leader Gabe Schultz
 - i. Upcoming Workshops
 - May 10 in Sacramento: TMTF Leadership Team presentation to Board of Forestry
 - May 16-17 in Sacramento: Sierra Institute's Rural Community Development Workshop
 - May 17-18 in Sacramento: Waste to Wisdom
 - May 31 in Sutter Creek: Amador County Reforestation

II. USFS Update

- a. The agency has felled 295,000 trees, 30,000+ acres. Currently working with the CCCs in Sequoia and Sierra National Forests.
- b. An extra end-of-season ADS flight has been added thanks to a grant from CAL FIRE.
- c. The agency is putting together a biomass utilization strategy for all the forests in the region.
- d. Road damage and tree mortality are competing for limited funds. The agency is prioritizing regional projects for those that address both road damage and tree mortality
- e. At June 12 TMTF meeting, USFS will give update on detailed budget

III. Utility Company Update

- a. PG&E: 33,000 line miles listed with 52,000 trees; 27,000 trees removed. The goal is to patrol 113,000 acres this year and re-patrol 73,000 acres. 6,900 properties have signed up for the Debris Management Program. There occurred a "safety stand down" last month due to a contractor fatality but crews are back up and running.
- b. SCE: Due to technical difficulties with the webinar SCE's representative was unable to contribute their update.

IV. CALTRANS Update

- a. Working on master agreement with Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). TRPA's tree removal guidelines and processes are different, so there has been a learning curve.



- b. Verbal agreement with Rio Bravo Rocklin to take material from the Hwy 89 corridor.

V. Update on Forest Carbon Plan – Russ Henly, Assistant Secretary of Forest Resources Management, California Natural Resources Agency

- a. The Forest Carbon Action Team was charged with developing Forest Carbon Plan by the end of 2016
- b. A draft of plan, comments and scientific reviews are posted: <http://www.fire.ca.gov/fcat/>. Final draft is expected by end of June.
- c. Revisions have addressed: science is complete and up-to-date, goals and objectives vary across land ownership, more detail for regional implementation, more justification for goals, outline immediate actions, and role of commercial management in achieving goals

VI. Working Group Updates

- a. Mapping and Monitoring Working Group – Mark Rosenberg
 - i. Local HHZ designation process has been completed for first two watersheds (both in Tuolumne County)
 - ii. Plan is to update Tier 2 data layer on quarterly basis
 - iii. Local HHZ designation process will be posted to TMTF website soon.
- b. Public Outreach Working Group – Staci Heaton
 - i. Continuing to update information on landowner assistance web page
 - ii. Talking points for “beyond the drought” messages is in formal review process and will be distributed soon.
 - iii. Caltrans comment: The agency desires an editable information flier that can be used for all counties and entities with talking points on one side and information specific to projects that can be edited by each entity on the other.
 - iv. Saul Gomez comment: Ensure coordination between federal and state agencies in public messaging.
- c. Regulations Working Group Update – Matthew Reischman
 - i. Actively seeking a co-leader
 - ii. Storage sites – continue to update information with MMWG
 - iii. Insurance sub-group – John McEldowney
 - Next call is scheduled for 5/18 and have invited Personal Insurance Federation, Association of CA Insurance Companies, Pacific Association of Domestic Insurance, and others.
 - Saul Gomez comment: Recommend a pre-call with all insurance groups as intro to issues. Send Saul the list of insurance organizations that want to join call.
- d. Bioenergy Working Group Update – Angie Lottes
 - i. CEC has increased funding by \$10.7 million to fund two new bioenergy projects – Fall River Resource Conservation District’s Burney Hat-Creek Bioenergy project and Sierra Energy’s FastOx Gasification of Biomass to Renewable Electricity in the Central Sierras
 - ii. Saul Gomez comment: Thank you to CEC and those that wrote letters in support



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- iii. Lowering interconnection costs for BioMAT energy projects. First call between technical experts was held April 27.
- e. Resource Allocation Working Group – Tom Lutzenberger
 - i. Looking for additional funding sources, including funds that are not focused specifically on forests. Currently developing a list of funding opportunities, with the goal of doing the same for tax benefits/ tax breaks.
- f. Forest Health and Resilience Working Group – Pete Cafferata & Stewart McMorrow
 - i. Considering revising white paper on comprehensive Sierra Nevada Ecological Restoration based on comments received. Current version is posted on web page.
 - ii. Seed zone map continues to be revised. Developing reforestation story map.
 - iii. Dr. Jodi Axelson's presentation on stand dynamics post-beetle outbreak is posted: http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/downloads/TMTFMaterials/FHRWG_Axelson_presentation_05-03-17_.pdf
 - iv. Dr. Ostoja, of Climate Hub is advising on reforestation plan. A series of workshops addressing strategies for silvicultural adaptation is planned.
 - v. Five county reforestation workshops have been held, with two more planned.
 - vi. Speculative selling orders for seedlings
- g. Market Development Working Group – Kevin Conway for Evan Johnson
 - i. Bob Kingman from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy will be the WG's new co-leader.
 - ii. Claire Jahns reported that the SB 859 wood product markets report is expected to be complete sometime around June 1st.

VII. County Updates

- a. Amador
- b. Calaveras – Road repairs, tree mortality and other have drained the county's reserves. Relying on help from OES/FEMA.
- c. El Dorado
- d. Fresno – Wants Auberry mill site that was shut down to be reopened. Long term contracts with USFS would be needed
- e. Kern – Kern County's representative experienced technical difficulties with webinar and was unable to contribute
- f. Madera – Madera County's representative experienced technical difficulties with webinar and was unable to contribute
- g. Mariposa – Consultant has completed counting 12,000 trees that directly impact county infrastructure; county will drop, limb, and cut to contour these trees. Successful town halls have been held in coordination with other partners. Money issue is exacerbated by storm damage; need CDAA match reductions.
- h. Placer – in process of hiring a tree mortality coordinator. Opted not to take ACI; all biomass with go to Rio Bravo facility.
- i. Tulare – Tulare County's representative experienced technical difficulties with webinar and was unable to contribute



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- j. Tuolumne – The issues continue to be building urban awareness, insurance regulations, need for private land owner assistance, and need for federal funding. Worry about losing momentum and enthusiasm on tree mortality issues.