



**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 January 11, 2016

Attendees: 80 in room (see Entities spreadsheet)  
Via phone/webinar: 25 people

#### 1. Opening Comments

- a. Chairpersons
  - i. Wade Crowfoot
  - ii. Ken Pimlott

Chris Anthony will facilitate Task Force meetings and planning, Glenn Barley is the Task Force Leader. We are currently looking for a permanent location for the Task Force meetings.

#### 2. Budget (Ken Pimlott)

There is no new funding allocated to the Tree Mortality Task Force proclamation, but \$180 million for efforts to reduce Greenhouse Gas has been proposed in the Governor's Budget. Of the \$180 million, \$140 million has been earmarked for forest health and forestry-related activities. The Task Force should think about how these funds may be utilized for tree mortality.

#### 3. Working Group Reports

##### Forest Health and Resilience (Helge Eng)

###### Action Items:

- 1. Create standards for developing/monitoring – best management practices for tree removal and minimizing environmental impacts.
- 2. Clarify fire risk.
- 3. Define target conditions for healthy forests.
- 4. Develop prioritization system.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 3, 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Wade Crowfoot inquired about timelines, Helge specified that the role of the working group can be a long-term, enduring contribution, but they are working within a timeline of weeks or one



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month to coordinate/help guide on the ground efforts. The Group will utilize the Public Outreach Working Group to send out information.

### **Mapping and Monitoring (Mark Rosenberg)**

#### **Discussion Items:**

1. The 6-county area consisting of Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kern should remain the top priority counties.
2. High Hazard Zones will be updated periodically, with the frequency under discussion and to be determined. The primary suggestion was for quarterly, with a suggestion to attempt a faster update for the first round.

#### **Action Items:**

1. Develop and write up the process for review of High Hazard Zones by the end of January (priority item).
2. Field review of the High Hazard Zones in the priority 6-county area (priority item).
3. Coordinate with USFS within the next month to determine aerial detection survey update specifics.
4. Develop monitoring subgroup for review of additional monitoring opportunities?
5. Develop technical working subgroup for detailed work.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 3, 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **Prescribed Fire (Nick Goulette/Craig Thomas)**

#### **Discussion/Action Items:**

1. Waste disposal issues.
2. Anticipates issues with regulations regarding pile burning.

Next meeting: TBD (Group plans to conference call a couple times a week and meet face to face once a month)

Wade Crowfoot wanted to confirm that the initial priority of the Working Group is pile burning, with a broader conversation relating to prescribed fire. He requested that if there are EPA issues regarding rulemaking to let them know if the Governor's Office needs to be involved. Comments for the rulemaking package are due 2/3/16. The Working Group cannot get comments through State agencies by that time, but other agencies might be able to comment on behalf of the Group. Ken Pimlott recommended providing agencies with the appropriate information so they can comment on the regulations package.



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## **Public Outreach** (Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)

### **Discussion/Action Items:**

1. Dignitary Tour: a tour of the Bass Lake area in early February for invited dignitaries and staffers. The focus will be to educate the Legislature and staff. RCRC/CSAC coordinating tour.
2. Tree Task Force website: the site is geared towards stakeholders and is a repository for documents related to the task force and working groups. There is an existing website CAL FIRE launched last year that is focused on public education ([www.PrepareForBarkBeetle.org](http://www.PrepareForBarkBeetle.org)).
3. Self-Guided Tour: Daniel Berlant reviewed an idea of creating a self-guided tour that would allow anyone to drive through an impacted area and see tree mortality and project work, without having to have a large formal tour. Cara Martinson expressed a minor concern over making sure a local contact has a certain level of input or notice of the tour. A follow up call or discussion will occur at future meeting.
4. Public FAQs/Stats: CAL FIRE is finishing up a media kit with public FAQs and stats and will share with the group as soon as it's finished.

Next meeting: Monday, February 1, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The Public Outreach workgroup will also act as a clearinghouse to make sure any testimony for hearings related to tree mortality includes the same information.

## **Regulations** (Matthew Reischman)

### **Group objectives:**

1. Support local-level identification of community storage locations for removed trees by:
  - a. Providing resources to assist local entities with regulations, agreements, and policies associated with storage facilities.
  - b. Developing guidelines to limit liability related to the use of storage facilities.
  - c. Identifying applicable safety regulations associated with the use of such storage sites.
2. Encourage local entities to consider storage locations that can also act as utilization sites for various wood products and bioenergy production as appropriate.
3. Coordinate with the Resource Allocation Group and Bioenergy Group on distribution and location of portable equipment across high hazard zones.
4. Develop emergency guidelines setting forth the relevant criteria to remove dead and dying trees and incidental vegetation in high hazard zones (CAL FIRE).
5. Conduct public meetings as appropriate on regulations and guidelines developed pursuant to the Directives in the Proclamation.
6. Provide regular updates at Task Force meetings to ensure effective communication and geographic coordination among all task force groups and stakeholders.



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### **Action Items:**

1. Research State Fire Code 2806 that establishes water storage and flow requirements surrounding storage facilities. Evaluate alternatives to water storage for compliance.
2. Analyze the availability and requirements surrounding storage site development on state and federal lands.
3. Identify Pro Bono Assistance to analyze pros and cons of available storage options.
4. Identify the liabilities surrounding storage facilities and where there may be flexibility; are there mechanisms to address the potential hit that homeowners will take on their insurance premiums?
5. Identify water board permitting issues that may apply to storage locations. Provide locals with information on water rights in key high hazard areas through a link to applicable water rights information.
6. Identify the existing regulatory requirements surrounding storage locations for both commercial and non-commercial operations.
7. Identify the differences between temporary versus permanent permitting requirements for storage facilities.
8. Develop a "Facts for Homeowners" documentation. This information would address non-commercial tree removal within high hazard zones. Develop high hazard tree removal guidelines per directive 2 and RWG group objective 4.
9. Develop a "Regulations Checklist" that identifies the federal, state and local regulations that apply to storage facilities and all other operations conducted during this emergency.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 3, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Next conference call: Friday, January 22, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Wade Crowfoot asked how quickly emergency regulations could be put together. Matthew Reischman confirmed that CAL FIRE is already working on guidelines, and they are hoping to distribute them to the Working Group before the next meeting on February 3. There is also an ongoing DIR issue pertaining to prevailing wage. Janet Barentson confirmed that currently prevailing wage is based on projects on a case by case basis, based on specific project scope, but they are working on getting a representative on the Task Force to help address this issue. Action Item Per Wade: Glenn Barley/Chris Anthony to identify critical work products and identify deadlines.

### **Resource Allocation (Thom Porter/Tom Lutzenberger)**

#### **Discussion/Action Items:**

1. Primary product: resource matrix.
2. Gap analysis – what unmet allocation needs exist?



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3. Equipment purchases (\$5 million available for equipment purchases for these projects).  
Next meeting: Thursday, January 28, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Wade Crowfoot inquired about delays purchasing equipment. Tom Lutzenberger stated that authority documents from CAL FIRE and DOF are needed in order to process the paperwork. There is also concern that operators are needed for the equipment, which requires contracts. Action Item from Wade: Wade would like to meet with this group and the counties to portion out resources before late spring.

### **Utilization – Bioenergy (Kim Carr/Angie Lottes)**

#### **Action Items:**

1. Encourage Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas & Power (hold the power contract with Delano facility) to participate in the Working Group.
2. Establish categories for the status of the existing facilities (i.e., pricing agreement extension, contract extension, expired contract, new MWs, BioMAT program) and place facilities in these categories.
3. Establish the potential new MWs within each category and a timeline as to when the MW's could go live.
4. Establish a BioMAT sub-working group focused on supporting new facilities and inter-connection issues; this working group will have call(s) between full working group meetings (as needed) - reach out to relevant utilities to participate on the BioMAT sub-working group by 1/15.
5. Members will review biomass facilities status map and provide edits/corrections by COB 1/15.
6. PG&E will provide hazardous tree amount estimates, by jurisdiction (private by small industrial and large industrial, etc.) and provide to working group by 1/21.
7. PG&E will report on how they are currently managing cut trees (Storing? Final destination?) and plans for managing in the future (as volume grows).
8. Add discussion on funding sources (coordinate these ideas with the Resource Allocation Working Group).
9. CEC/CPUC will provide an update on what authorities exist to increase the amount of funding made available for bioenergy in all 3 categories (market facilitation, technology, and research and development) and provide an estimate (to the extent possible) of when the Program Opportunity Notice for these funds may be released.

Next meeting (proposed): Friday, January 29, 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon



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### **Utilization – Market Development (Evan Johnson/Kim Carr)**

The Market Development Working Group is working in tandem with the Bioenergy Working Group.

1. Identify existing markets and opportunities.
2. Identify new markets, and support infrastructure necessary to support new markets.
3. Determine the utility of damaged wood.
4. Determine location and volume of material.
5. Where do the markets need to be developed?

#### **Action Items:**

1. CA Forester's Association to provide assessment of cost vs. uses (firewood, mulch, etc.)
2. Identify biomass volume with other working groups.
3. Identify storage facilities.
4. Research potential of international markets.
5. Develop collection of existing research.

Next meeting: TBD

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

- a. Task Force Leader (Glenn Barley)

Each working group will have specific tasks to complete.

- b. Ken Pimlott

We need timelines for what needs to happen this week, next week, and next month.

(Passed out plain language interpretation of Proclamation.)

Specific CEQA exemption questions should be forwarded to Glenn Barley.