



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Tree Mortality Task Force

Tree Mortality Task Force Meeting Minutes May 9, 2016

1. Opening Comments

a. Chairpersons

- i. Ken Pimlott
- ii. Mark Ghilarducci

b. Task Force Leader: Glenn Barley

Met with all 10 counties this morning to discuss issues

2. County Specific Topics of Concern

a. Federal Declaration Update (Cal OES)

Mark Ghilarducci: I met with the FEMA director on Friday to discuss the federal declaration. FEMA is watching this closely, and want us to understand that we need to continue to build a case. We need to focus on public right of way, public safety, evacuation routes, and costs. Once we have enough eligible costs identified, we need to make a strong enough ask with a strong enough justification to move forward.

Ken Pimlott: The federal declaration is a reimbursement, not new money received. We still need to commit resources.

(Question): Does FEMA consider endangered species or water quality acts?

Mark Ghilarducci: Yes, but they will not consider anything on federal land.

Rosemarie Smallcombe: It was previously mentioned that there may be some weakness in the data collection efforts on behalf of the counties. Has that been resolved? Do we need to improve our methodology?

Mark Ghilarducci: We want everyone to work together to acquire strong numbers. We're going to have to sell the case to OMB.

Mark Rosenberg: We've made significant improvements in data collection strategies.

b. Equipment Allocation Update (Resource Allocation)

Thom Porter: 32 of the 41 pieces of equipment have been received and are being delivered. We are still looking for several items in the excess fleet (bulldozers, trailers/transport). We are also updating the resource allocation matrix weekly.

c. Update on Caltrans Activities (Caltrans)

Caltrans has specific emergency contracts in affected counties for tree removal, and expects to spend approximately \$50 million. Caltrans is both removing material 100



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to 200 feet along roads, as well as removing any trees tall enough that may impact roadways, even if they are outside of the public right-of-way.

- d. Update on PG&E and Southern California Edison Activities (PG&E/ So Cal Edison)
Eric Back (PG&E): We have been emphasizing a contractor's safety program in the last few months, plus encouraging contractor oversight. We are working to make sure all contractors have and are following a safety program. Last year we felled over 35,000 trees, and anticipate falling approximately 100,000 next year. We will officially report out numbers in the next month or so. We are also working on a pilot program for debris removal, but are struggling with establishing a public outreach program. Disposal sites are also still needed.

Debris removal includes any tree felled (based on the emergency declaration, only in affected counties). We are working on implementation/safety/operations/outreach.

Julia Levin: Can we sit down and strategize how to coordinate with biomat facilities to receive this debris?

Eric: Once we have an accurate tree count and location, we can work on that strategy.

Glenn Barley: SoCal Edison is pursuing a very similar program PG&E is working on.

- e. Update on CPUC actions (Utilization-Bioenergy)

Kim Carr: In the next few months, several facilities fixed-price contracts will be expired, and may have to go offline. We are working on estimates for volume totals and coordinating with key wood managers. We hope to provide estimates in the next couple weeks. A proposal has been put forward for new Biomat facilities (3 megawatts or less) by CPUC; CPUC requested supplemental comments regarding interconnection issues. Comments are due May 25. We are also holding a call this week to address questions/issues about RAM and what it takes for a facility to be included in the program.

Maria (CPUC): We have no timing estimate on the decision, as it is up to the Administrative Law Judges to make a decision.

(Question): Can the emergency proclamation speed up the process at all?

Maria: We can shorten the public comment period.

3. County reports on additional items for TMTF to address

Tuolumne County (Randy Hanvelt): We are worried about the CPUC process because we need the nearest facility to remain open. It's also been difficult to track down absentee landowners.

Mariposa County (Kevin Cann): The County still doesn't have a place to take logs. There are also staffing issues. We were waiting for the federal declaration, but have



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decided to hire now. Also, 81% of Mariposa County homes are in high risk areas based on Fireline underwriting guidelines.

Madera County (Brittany Dyer): We still need help for private landowners to remove dead trees.

Fresno County: Private landowners are having trouble removing trees

Ken Pimlott: We should consider tourism loss in the federal declaration, as well as other economic impacts (loss of tourism, homes not selling, etc.).

Mark Ghilarducci: Economic impacts can be included if it can be quantifiable.

Tulare County: We have a lot of Forest Service property in the county, and would like the USFS to be more aggressive on their lands, specifically to protect the Sequoias.

USFS: We are struggling to find contractors to do work, but a lot of work is being done by our resources. Over 60,000 trees have been removed.

Rosemarie Smallcombe: What about more innovative funding possibilities?

Tom Lutzenberger: We need to have control agencies in a discussion because there are regulations restrictions, statute restrictions, and rules restrictions. We can broker that discussion.

Kern County: We are concerned about the reduction in our county budget, but we are moving forward for CDAA and hazardous removal.

4. Working Group Highlights

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

- i. Export Markets: There is strong demand from China to use logs for form boards, coffins and chopsticks. The Group visited two export yards here in Sacramento, and significant volume is being moved. One company is moving material from private landowners, felling and transporting trees for free, and still turning a profit.

Julia Levin: What is the GHG ramifications of shipping logs to China for concrete production? Has there been a comparison to GHG for pile and burn?

Evan: The Group is keeping it in mind, but given the volume of product, we are trying to support lowest environmental impact while keeping in mind safety issues to the State.

Kim Carr: The Group is also looking into bio-char possibilities.

Chris Anthony: Given the costs of tree removal, it is hard to ignore a market that is paying its way out of the forest.

b. Mapping and Monitoring (Mark Rosenberg/Chris Fischer)

- i. Aerial Survey Flight: Postponed this week due to illness, hoping to conduct survey next week.



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- c. Regulations (Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg)
 - i. Regulations Guidance Document Public Meeting: A public meeting was held on April 25 regarding tree removal guidelines. A county counsel group has also been established within the working group to address any legal issues the counties may be experiencing. The Workgroup is also developing informational bulletins and FAQs for 1) landowners interested in contracting for tree removal, and 2) FAQs regarding timber yield tax. We hope to complete both documents before the next TMTF meeting.
- d. Prescribed Fire (Nick Goulette/Craig Thomas)
 - i. Prescribed Fire MOU and Collaborative Work
- e. Public Outreach (Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)

The Workgroup will reach out to the PG&E representative about helping with public outreach for their tree removal program. We are also creating a webinar to talk about what the TMTF has accomplished so far. We are hoping to have it completed before the next TMTF meeting. We are also working on a self-guided tour, which will be on the TMTF website.
- f. Forest Health and Resilience (Chris Keithley/Tom Smith)

The Workgroup is compiling a guidance document describing methods that can inform landowners about how to promote healthy forests.
- g. Resource Allocation (Thom Porter/Tom Lutzenberger)

The Workgroup is continuing to provide technical assistance to counties. We also worked to access the federal excess property program, which we recommend should be utilized as much as possible.

4. Closing Comments

- a. Task Force Leader (Glenn Barley)

Three things to mention: 1) Please maintain compressed time frames, 2) Think outside the box, and 3) Please be safe – the work being done is one of the most dangerous professions in the United States.
- b. Chairpersons
 - i. Mark Ghilarducci: This is a marathon, not a sprint. Keep working.
 - ii. Ken Pimlott: One of the working groups should discuss contract workers' safety.