



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Tree Mortality Task Force

Tree Mortality Task Force Meeting Minutes December 12, 2016

1. Opening Comments

a. Chairpersons (Saul Gomez/Ken Pimlott/Jill Talley)

- Ken Pimlott-Getting grants out has been a huge undertaking, this year it's important to have feedback as the projects are implemented and bring back feedback through various working groups on effectiveness of contractors, work back through county coordination call with feedback, will watch closely on effectiveness of the funds, continuing meetings each month is critical and exchange face to face is too important to reduce meeting momentum but open to looking at efficiencies. Little Hoover Commission reached out and the Task Force is engaging and collecting info. The hearing is scheduled for Jan 26th and we're working closely to look at a coordinated approach to the hearing. If you're with the State, please coordinate response back through the Task Force.
- Saul Gomez- Agree to continue meetings. Had interaction since last meeting with a lot of State and local agencies. A lot of challenges ahead and want to maintain momentum and communicate changes and work on the ground up through Task Force. Will continue to schedule tours with counties on the ground, and has attended Placer so far, and will outreach with Madera and Mariposa this week. Has spoken with Little Hoover Commission and they stated it is one of the most well organized Task Forces in the State.
- Jill Talley- Gathering a lot of information as far as cost and money being spent for purposes of eventually seeking federal declaration, but still a challenge. Any questions contact OES.

b. Task Force Leader (Gabe Schultz)

- 1) Working group leaders will be asked for any missing meeting minutes and agendas to get posted to website.
- 2) Have been working on a calendar with all meetings and conference call numbers and should go out within the next week.

2. 19 Directives Update (Gabe Schultz/Rick Carr)

- a. Reviewed all 19 directives handout and gave update as to the accomplishments on each update. See handout for progress completion on each update.



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3. Public Communication Update (Janet Upton/Ken Pimlott)- Per ken, Janet is out ill.

Public Outreach working group worked on an outreach document. Saul- "what avenues has this been distributed?" Daniel Berlant- "we circulated it out to the public outreach group, it's meant for folks within this room, and the document is available as was asked for a couple meetings ago so we can pass it onto other stakeholders to talk about accomplishments of the Task Force. Saul- "make sure we get it to the communications folks" Rick- "we'll make sure to send it out to full Task Force" Saul- "make sure we're working with public outreach group for distribution" In regards to looking at the document -Matt Plummer- "Directive 8 needs updates" Rick- "send updates to Rick and Gabe."

4. Grants Update (Rick Carr)

129 grant applications received for a total of 23mil requested. 11mil allocated for tree mortality, does not include SRA. Another 5mil in grants. Grants total 11.7 approved, which is 107 grants total. 62 of those directed towards tree mortality. Ken- "we're working with Daniel's program to understand what funding is available, and blending the two programs, for a total of 16mil available for work both in tree mortality and statewide fuels reduction. It's a blended set of funding. 10mil from SRA fee fund, 5mil of that 10mil directed statewide for all fire prevention work. 5mil towards tree mortality. 6mil from general fund for tree mortality, for a total of 16mil. 264 projects submitted for 16mil available, and only 107 met the cut based on criteria applied for and availability of funds. There was overlapping between SRA and tree mortality, and highest impacted areas got a large portion of funding for projects. The press release has a great breakdown." Rick- "If dates aren't working out please let CAL FIRE know and we can make adjustments as needed." Thom Porter- "For grants that did not make the cut, most were in units in the southern region. Went as far as we could with the funding, but a lot of the grants that were not funded were for things that were not fundable. They're appropriate grants for another funding source, training for fire personnel etc. Can answer further questions about grants if needed."

5. Caltrans Emergency Designation (Darold Heikens)

Executive management has been in conversation, but no update yet. Believes strategy is not looking at going back to FHWA with the same emergency request, but want to bill them for what they have done up to this point for reimbursement. Will use programs that have a Federal reimbursement already to get standard highway reimbursement rate, 87.5% to 12.5% State match. Pushing to go back for emergency funds, but management is reluctant to do that based on FHWA relationship. Saul- "I will reach out and follow-up on the request." Caltrans is 53% complete with tree removal projects, approx. 33,000 trees removed, continuing to work in areas where they can weather permitting. Almost 50mil planned for next year in projects. 11mil to Placer, Nevada, Yuba, and Sierra counties. David Pomaville- "where are you at this fiscal year?" Darold- "still have money to spend on contracts as the funds have been allocated. As more mortality discovered projects have been supplemented. Trying to supplement anything that has additional mortality."



6. CPUC and Bio-mat Update (Angie Lottes)

Matt Plummer- "facilities received 23% of fuel from HHZs, roughly 11,300 trees, facilities are burning fuel would not have burned if they did not get extension. To meet the 15-16% they need to ramp up trees to facilities, they will need help getting that material for next year." Julee Malinowski-Ball- "It's important to note that IOUs will know if they will complete the obligation." Ken- "what can we do as a group to make sure facilities get their supply?" Matt- "disposal sites and transports for logs, at the local level can help put pieces of supply chain together, storage sites, shipment, flow of material etc., that will be biggest help." Julee- "task is complete from initial direction, but now it needs new set of tasks to be worked on, facilities need to meet fuel requirements or we close, we need to do everything we can to ensure they get all the material they need to be getting, funding for transports of material out of forest into facilities." Saul- "Julee can you speak to needs of operator? what are supply chain challenges depending on location, operator, etc.?" Julee- "need to ask individual operator, regional specific, do not have that answer for you." Brittany Dyer- "transportation is issue" Traci Riggs- "transportation issue as well in our county." Julee- "put on list of things to monitor is how the requirement is working to get material out, but are hitting hurdles, can we make adjustments to fuel requirements, Traci- "are requirements realistic?" Evan Johnson- "transportation cost and logistical challenge is ongoing issue." Maria Sotero- "commission felt it was helpful to require a report to address issues." Darold- "who is in need of what material? To what level? Year after needs? Etc. Caltrans can put into contracts to transport material, 90% is being shipped and put in place, but if need is there, can start redirecting material if known where material is needed, location, status, etc." Ken- "action item: identifying which facilities are coming online, capacities, etc; where are breaks in capacity" Thom Porter- "on the county basis, have a sense of where the shortage is? Transportation and lack of equip? what is it?" Brittany- "financial, have not explored the possibilities without the funding." Thom- "if money available, are operators available?" Traci- "carb emissions issue, where is the trade off to transport long distance? regulations upcoming will cause a bottleneck, emissions related issues regarding equipment." Tom L- "is it lack of trucks or lack of operators to be able to pay them?" Saul- "action item: Let's create a side convo of groups to follow-up on this issue, bring correct working groups together to work on this in the next few weeks, resource allocation, utilization, mapping, bio-energy groups a for sure."

7. Working Group Updates

- a. **Mapping and Monitoring** (Mark Rosenberg/Chris Fischer): Chris Fischer- new numbers are 102mil trees, includes conifers and oaks, big increase in oak species, still crunching numbers for facts and figures. 75% of 102mil is in 10 county area. 2 possibly 3 forests are experiencing 50% mortality, and 50% of landscape is supporting some sort of mortality, including private lands. Plumas, Lassen, Modoc counties have increase in mortality, and increase in El Dorado and Placer that is concerning. 102mil represents 7.7mil acres across the State. Showing signs of mortality not complete mortality, haven't completed by county yet. USFS accomplishments- up to 241,000 trees dropped over the last year, a lot of that material on the ground. Treated approx. 18,000 acres, and are re-entering campgrounds and many areas. Evan- "can you project what we might be looking at for mortality in north?" Chris- "precipitation has been average in the north but low in the south, we're concerned and have many uncertainties. There's a two-year lag in many trees, Meeting with research



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station and will get updates to be able to share on what conditions look like in the north.” Mark Rosenberg- currently updating HHZs based on new data available, Tier 1 will be done by the end of the year, working on Tier 2. Will update facts and figures document based on new numbers available, but won't push out document before update of HHZs Tier 1. Darold- “are we doing Tier 1 outside of 10 counties?” Mark- “yes, no matter where they are we will know Tier 1 numbers.”

b. Public Outreach (Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton):

Staci- continuing to work on urban outreach strategy. Had in-person meeting and gathered materials from each organization to formulate messaging related to urban folks on tree mortality. Focusing on recreation, watershed health, etc., If urban areas care, then urban legislators may care. Working with counties on idea of revisiting new legislative tour. Counties themselves would like to facilitate the tour this time, and would facilitate all outreach. Brittany Dyer and Staci will be working together to get subgroup of county and public outreach folks to work on messaging and facilitation of tours and invitations etc., coming from county perspective.

c. Regulations (Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg):

Matthew- storage sites, insurance, and air quality issues are three primary areas being worked on, recently insurance had meeting on 28th with DOI and Verisk (Fireline model developers) was good meeting. Sat down with our scientists and their model, and want to share information on how our data may affect the model. Share planning data to help explain fire planning process, look at community planning efforts and evaluate where fuel breaks are to see how fuel breaks affect fire risk within the communities, discussed possible pilot project to look at fuel break and fire behavior modeling, still need to explore further. Planning a workshop in late January-early February to discuss responsibilities of DOI and their involvement and hoping for their perspective on their regulations in regards to insurance, including fair plan. Discuss fire risk and models being used, public workshop to include counties as well.

d. Bioenergy (Angie Lottes/Sandy Goldberg):

Sandy- undertaking new endeavor to work on feedstock tracking on what method will be used to track new bio ram contracts, origin of fuel etc. based on contract requirements, separate sub group created. Will recommend to CPUC once uniformed way of tracking is established, use existing systems possible. Matt- “would like a broad framework and good consensus, but each facility will have own contract, some flexibility to tailor to each IOU” Sandy- “each IOU would have same tracking requirements is the hope.”

e. Resource Allocation (Thom Porter/Tom Lutzenbeger):

Tom L- working on procurement of 800k in new equipment used by CAL FIRE including chippers, trucks, cranes, etc., Working on authorities process for purchase. Sierra Nevada Conservancy working on survey of resource gaps working with local govts- not just equipment



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for tree cutting, but chain of moving material. Updated cost tracking document.” Thom P- air curtain burners are now being used in Madera county at north fork, other one should be running in Mariposa by end of the week. Fresno is working on site and for agreement lined out, also looking for resources. Calaveras is looking for site to burn. Mike- “should have update soon.” Tulare- two sites running, one at fire station in bear creek, second at Mountain Home State Forest, sawmill is also there. Used inmate labor to run burner for 24hrs on a test, and consumed approx. 100 20inch+ logs. Used logging sheet to determine how much material can be consumed, looking forward towards looking at a second exemption period, within the first 8 weeks’ time, then looking at second exemption, looking at diesel motor as well. Sandy- prepared letter asking Governor to send to US EPA, before sending letter, need date that air curtain burners started and location and serial numbers, need it for each time, for all 10. Want to submit based on first ones starting to operate to receive exemption. Thom and Sandy will coordinate on letter. Patrick Nevis from GO Biz- what’s end product? Contracts are with whom? Thom- no private vendors, working through MOU with different counties, Caltrans is possibility, State agencies and county workers first. Julee- protocol to send wood to the burners? Not a biomass facility within the region? Any diligence if there is any way material could have gone to a facility? Thom- working group will coordinate with bioenergy and Evan, and groups above to have call to discuss material protocol. Don’t feel we’re competing for material. Sandy- Air curtain burners can operate for 16 weeks, if US EPA doesn’t answer, if want to keep operating must submit application for title 8 permit to local air districts, how do you go about for application for the burners? Alan Abs from CAPCOA- long-term title 5 permit, after 16 weeks, have one year before permit applications are due, hoping for statewide permit for a one-stop permit for Federal portion of requirements, have from every air district and will allow piece of equipment to move throughout the State. Evan- scope of material for burners? Thom- slash and smaller logs, possibly 120 logs 20in and smaller.

f. Forest Health and Resilience (Pete Cafferata/Stewart McMorro):

Pete: completed long-term forest health document worked on for 6 months, easily understood and good for general distribution, discusses characteristics of a healthy resistant forest, lists short and long-term management actions, recommendations for sierra: stresses need for forest restoration in sierras, seeking feedback and comments due back by the end of this week. Bark beetle bibliography in progress, second flight for conifer moisture stress on three focal areas, final report on that by the end of June 2017. Stewart-seed zone map completed and numerics on what percentages of mortality that exists within each seed zone and each county, can identify how to proceed with seedling orders and allocations across zones effectively, will discuss map next month but would like to extend more north, digestible to public but still in draft form, will help educate private landowners on help with reforestation. Working on forestland steward newsletter- message to landowners where they’ve taken down dead trees, want to focus on reforestation, give them tools and resources. Forestry help line staffed by Society of American Foresters gathering info about trees on the ground and what’s under the mortality on the ground, helping to disseminate info on reforestation, ordered Ponderosa Pine seedling and Sugar Pine seedlings to get ahead of the game for re-planting.



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Ken- Struggling in area to leverage reaching out to landowners, if we can get them engaged to support that assistance in replanting, focus on discussions on how to leverage private landowners and reforestation efforts, methodical in approach, time to start thinking about engaging in reforestation efforts.

g. Market Development (Evan Johnson):

Evan- working with Beck Group on report for business and market opportunities for dead tree material, have draft form of report and being reviewed by working group, will share report once review completed. Beck Group will follow-up with businesses in interest of pursuing business opportunities within the report, SB 859 group is doing similar work on market development, goal is to send ideas from Beck report directly to legislators, should be completed by end of year/early January, then follow-up with business interests and counties send to market development group, GO Biz- 2 dozen projects that are being worked on within various markets, significant contact is being made.

8. County Updates (if time permits)

- Tuolumne: State Parks participation, doing work within local State Parks in county, Columbia etc.
- Mariposa: not present.
- Madera: seeing movement on ground with air curtain burners, 60mph mono wind event, hazards and public safety concerns.
- Calaveras: activity with Caltrans and USFS appreciated, working with RA folks, change in board of directors and will have second chair soon.
- Amador: not as far as along as some, still need to hire contractors, hired program coordinator and RPF to manage projects, GIS program being developed, USFS and Caltrans has been active in county, PG&E done great work, coordinate local work within local task force .
- Fresno: starting first CDAA project within Big Creek, joint project with USFS, CAL FIRE, and private prop owners. First of its kind project. Good Neighbor Authority work being done- CAL FIRE on Federal property.
- Placer: Saul came out for a tour
- El Dorado: not present.
- Tulare: not present.
- Kern: not present.

9. Closing Comments

Ken- Channel 10 news website detailing Calaveras county tree mortality project, long-term challenges and have commitment for the long haul.

Saul- Action Items:

- 1) Create inner working group effort to work on supply chain issues relating to bioenergy
- 2) Air curtain burner info for extension letter and title 8 permit
- 3) Public Outreach work with counties on facts sheet and process to utilize
- 4) Saul will follow up with Caltrans