

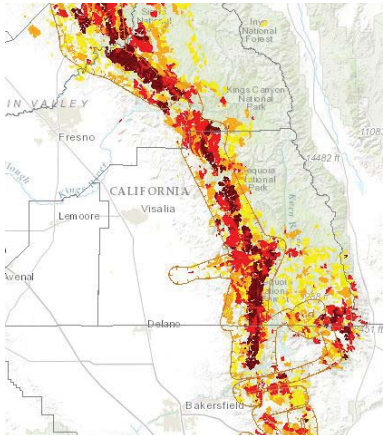
Tree Mortality Task Force

One Year Review and Status of Executive Order Directives



In October 2015, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order addressing tree mortality and established the Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF). The TMTF is comprised of more than 80 State and federal agencies, local governments, utilities, and other stakeholders working together to address epidemic levels of tree mortality driven by California's fifth year of drought. Since its inception, the TMTF has made significant progress on the 19 directives set forth in the Governor's Executive Order.

Tracking & Monitoring Mortality Spread



Using data from the U.S. Forest Service annual aerial flights, CAL FIRE developed an interactive map that enables the public to easily see how tree mortality impacts their area and shows tree mortality development since 2012.

High-Hazard Counties Identified



10 counties starting in Placer County and extending along the Central Sierra into Kern County have been identified as high-hazard zones for tree mortality. Each county has a disaster declaration and a task force to help address the risks from tree mortality.

Triage



423,134 dead trees removed from high-hazard zones.

51,607 miles of roads and powerlines inspected and cleared of dead trees.

26,062 acres treated and 1,375 acres of fuel breaks created and maintained.

Tree Removal Equipment

\$6 million of state funds spent on equipment to remove dead and dying trees in high-hazard zones.



Grants Awarded

Over \$15 million awarded in grants for local projects to help combat tree mortality.



Public Education & Outreach

Development of educational campaigns including brochures, factsheets, radio PSAs and websites to inform the public about tree mortality, bark beetles and steps the public can take on their lands.



Tree Mortality Task Force

Governor's Executive Order Directives for Tree Mortality - October, 2015



1 CAL FIRE, the California Natural Resources Agency, Caltrans and the California Energy Commission will identify areas of the State that represent high-hazard zones for wildfire and falling trees.

Completed - Updated as Mortality Expands

2 State agencies, utilities, and local governments will undertake efforts to remove dead or dying trees in these high-hazard zones that threaten power lines, roads, other evacuation corridors and critical infrastructure.

In Progress

3 CAL FIRE shall identify potential storage locations for removed trees across impacted areas in partnership with federal agencies and local jurisdictions.

Completed - Updated as Mortality Expands

4 Caltrans will seek emergency federal funding to clear hazard trees that threaten state highways and roads.

Completed

5 Department of General Services will identify State facilities and Caltrans shall identify highway and road corridors, where woodchips produced from dead trees can be used as mulch.

In Progress

6 State agencies will make available portable equipment such as large volume masticators, chippers and portable saw mills in high-hazard zones to aid local entities in tree removal efforts.

Completed - Updated as Mortality Expands

7 The California Air Resources Board and CAL FIRE shall work together with federal land managers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to expand the practice of prescribed burns and increase the number of allowable days on a temporary basis to burn tree waste that has been removed in high-hazard zones.

Completed - Updated as Mortality Expands

8 The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will utilize its authority to extend contracts on existing forest bioenergy facilities receiving feedstock from high-hazard zones.

Partially Completed

9 The CPUC will increase capacity for forest biomass generation by expediting actions for qualifying facilities in two of its biomass-oriented programs, BioMat and ReMAT.

In Progress

10 The CPUC will work to reduce delays between utilities and facilities in reaching agreement on interconnection terms for new and expanded biomass energy facilities.

In Progress

11 The California Energy Commission will prioritize grant funding from the Electric Program Investment Charge for woody biomass-to-energy technology development and deployment, consistent with direction from the CPUC.

Partially Completed

12 CAL FIRE, the California Energy Commission and other appropriate agencies will work with land managers to estimate biomass feedstock availability, storage locations, and volumes that may be available for use as bioenergy feedstock at existing and new facilities.

Partially Completed

13 CAL FIRE and the California Energy Commission will work with bioenergy facilities that accept forest biomass from high-hazard zones to identify potential funds to help offset higher feedstock costs.

Partially Completed

14 Cal Recycle and CAL FIRE will work with affected counties and existing wood products markets to determine feasibility of expanded wood products markets in California.

In Progress

15 For purposes of carrying out directives 1, 2, and 5 through 8, Division 13 (commencing with section 21000) of the Public Resources Code and regulations adopted pursuant to that Division are hereby suspended.

Completed - Updated as Mortality Expands

16 In order to ensure that equipment and services necessary for emergency response can be procured quickly, state contracts, including, but not limited to, advertising and competitive bidding requirements, are hereby suspended as necessary.

Partially Completed

17 For purposes of this Proclamation, Chapter 3.5 (commencing with section 11340) of Part 1 of Division 3 of the Government Code is suspended for the development and adoption of regulations or guidelines needed to carry out the provisions in this Order.

Completed - Updated as Mortality expands

18 The Office of Emergency Services shall provide local government assistance as appropriate under the authority of the California Disaster Assistance Act, and California Code of Regulations.

Completed - Updated as Mortality Expands

19 State agencies shall actively monitor tree removal efforts directed by this Proclamation to assess their effectiveness in protecting forest health and strengthening forest resilience.

Completed - Updated as Mortality Expands



Tree Mortality Task Force



The Emergency Continues...

While significant progress has been made to address the tree mortality issue in California, the bark beetle epidemic and the drought continue to kill millions of trees. With the framework the Task Force has developed, agencies will continue to address life and safety risks and support local communities.



Regional Forester, Randy Moore U.S Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region



"I appreciate Governor Brown's leadership in establishing the Task Force just over one year ago, and the commitment and hard work by the Task Force members and communities affected by tree mortality. The massive scale of tree mortality in California is something we have not seen in our lifetimes – it is something our parents and grandparents did not see in their lifetimes. This is going to change the face of our forests in California. We have all accomplished so much by working together this past year. The Forest Service is committed to continuing this work and keeping the productive, collaborative spirit of the Task Force alive as we face the many challenges ahead."

Deputy County Administrator, Tracie Riggs Tuolumne County



"The County of Tuolumne is thankful to have been included in the Tree Mortality Task Force over the course of the last year. The monthly meetings have created an effective forum to address and deal with key issues at the local level. We also appreciate CAL FIRE, as they have led the Task Force from the beginning stages of a "think tank" to a dynamic, collaborative work group. Their consistent, proactive leadership has been

critical to pushing through bureaucracy and red tape, empowering local government to protect public infrastructure, life and property. Due to the collaborative work of the Task Force and funding administered by Cal OES, our county has initiated multiple tree removal projects improving upon the safety of residents and first responders."

Real Life Impacts

On February 17, 2016 a bark beetle infested pine tree snapped about 20 feet from the ground, falling onto a home and taking down powerlines on the property. It is evident that dead trees are a real threat to the public and can damage property, roadways, powerlines and other critical infrastructure.

Utilities participate in the Tree Mortality Task Force, including Pacific Gas & Electric Co. "At PG&E, nothing is more important than safety," said Pat Hogan, Senior Vice President of Electric Transmission and Distribution. "While we inspect 134,000 miles of power line each year, we're going above and beyond to address the tree mortality crisis. We are conducting additional air and ground patrols of our power lines and exploring new ways to use advanced technology to inspect and identify hazardous trees. This year alone, our specialized tree crews are working to remove an additional 200,000 dead and dying trees, helping to reduce the risk of injury, property damage and wildfires."



It is imperative that the Tree Mortality Task Force continue to provide tree removal equipment, award grants and educate the public about the dangers posed by dead trees. Through coordinated efforts, we can begin to regrow healthier forests for all Californians to enjoy.