



**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 December 14, 2015

Attendees: 80 in room (see Entities spreadsheet)

Via phone/webinar: 39 people

#### 1. Opening Comments

- i. Wade Crowfoot
  - a. How to structure task force
  - b. How to identify high hazard zones
  - c. How can counties engage with state
  - d. What can local government and impacted counties do
- ii. Ken Pimlott

#### 2. Review of the Incident Action Plan- IAP (Glenn Barley)

- 6 counties most heavily impacted based on high hazard zones: Kern, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Tulare, Tuolumne. The Task Force will start with these 6 counties, but are not limiting work to these areas.
- First focusing on areas of highest hazard, but will continue to evaluate needs throughout the State.
- Strongly encourage anybody in the 6 identified counties to see tree mortality in person to get an idea of what's happening; there are a number of tours that are being put together, including a self-guided tour.
- The working group assignments provided at the 12/14 meeting are preliminary. All Task Force members are encouraged to review their assignments. To be added or removed from a working group, contact the group leader listed.
- Each listed group leader will be responsible for (1) coordinating with other working groups, and (2) providing monthly progress reports to the Task Force.
- Working groups are expected to show timely and continuous progress to meeting the goals of the Proclamation. Any working group member should be either (1) able to make decisions or resource commitments on behalf of their agency, or (2) have quick access to those that can.

#### 3. Working Group Reports

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

**Discussion Items:** This will be the group that will discuss how long-term forest health objectives tie with the work of the task force. This group is a place to discuss whether tree



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removal may have negative impacts and for those who have concerns with the impacts of the proclamation.

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

#### **Discussion Items:**

This group will be responsible for any issues and/or questions regarding methodology for high hazards. Focusing on local government assistance to identify/provide feedback for high hazard zones. Statewide working group will help coordinate information, and provide input into which layers are needed.

#### **Action Items:**

1. Complete statewide high hazard zones map.

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

#### **Discussion Items:**

This issue was a specific line item in the Governor's Proclamation with the goal of increasing the pace and scale of prescribed fire on the landscape. There is an opportunity to use prescribed fire as a mitigation tool. In the short-term, the work will have associated releases of pollutants, but with the benefit of reducing emissions in the long-term. The current comment period for the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) rulemaking on exceptional events is open until 1/19/2015 and there is an opportunity to advocate for allowances for prescribed fire within Federal regulations. A short-term goal of the group will be to try to get more burn days for the affected counties. The group should also make sure that the decision process for when to use prescribed fire (compared with, for example, wood removal for bioenergy) is clear.

#### **Action Items:**

1. Provide comment to the US EPA rulemaking process to support the goals of the Proclamation.
2. Include a representative of the Air Resources Board in this working group.

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

#### **Discussion Items:**

This group will coordinate all public education, information as well as legislative briefings.

#### **Action Items:**

1. Include statewide high hazard zones map link on website.



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## **Regulations (TBD)**

### **Action Items:**

1. Group needs leader.
2. Air Resources Board should participate.
3. Regulatory changes specifically related to bioenergy (SB 1122) objective should be included.

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

### **Discussion Items:**

This is the biggest working group but has greatest need for expediency. Will focus on how to coordinate physical resources and funding with activities going on the ground, how to move resources, and how to effectively implement projects. Is responsible for updating resource matrix. Counties will work with group to develop plan to utilize our resources. Plans are already underway to purchase equipment using limited State funds (for example, masticators, air curtain burners, and chippers) that will be available for use in affected counties.

### **Action Items:**

1. County contact to work with CAL FIRE on implementing plans.
2. Counties will bring forward immediate needs for skills (such as consulting foresters, etc.).
3. Air Resources Board should be involved, as they have funding programs.
4. Add tribal liaisons/Bureau of Indian Affairs to working group.
5. Add working group objective to find a mechanism for competing resources.
6. Consider including legal expertise in working group.

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

### **Discussion Items:**

This group will address the specific action items in the Proclamation relating to bioenergy. At this point there needs to be further discussions with the CPUC to avoid any potential conflicts with the regulatory process. The group should also consider the implications of the tree mortality on the siting and sizing of new facilities given that the State is going to be dealing with the large number of dead trees for a number of years. This group will have to coordinate closely with the market development group to create a plan to ensure the highest and best use of the wood waste at any given point in time.

### **Action Items:**

1. Add CPUC to working group, potentially in leadership role.
2. Provide quantification of the volume of fuel on the landscape.

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

This working group can focus on management infrastructure and look for other uses of materials outside of bioenergy and the markets that are associated with it.



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### **Action Items:**

1. Add Kim Carr to be co-leader of group.

### **4. Review of the Tree Mortality Website (Daniel Berlant)**

[www.treetaskforce.org](http://www.treetaskforce.org), Any website updates should be sent to Daniel Berlant

### **5. Review of action items (Ken Pimlott)**

- Send out proclamation intent document
- Work on scheduling tours for legislative staff (RCRC/CSAC)

### **6. Closing Comments (Wade Crowfoot, Ken Pimlott)**

All working group attendees must be able to speak for their agency & make decisions on the spot, or have quick access to leadership to make commitments expediently. There is an urgency. The Task Force will meet monthly, working groups meeting in between. If working groups need to morph or go away, communicate to the Task Force. Be prepared to report back at the January meeting, specifically what are the highest priorities and what's on its way to being completed.

### **7. Scheduling of Recurring Meetings/Points of Contact Designations**

Next meeting January 11th from 1:00pm – 3:00pm

Location TBD