



**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 Weekly Update**

### **April 22, 2016**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Regulations Guidance Workshop is scheduled for April 25, 2016 in Mariposa County. A one-page notification document was developed for public notification. Each agency will contribute as necessary to the workshop presentations. Meeting location is the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 5100 Bullion Street, Mariposa, CA 95338 from 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. The announcement can be found under "What's New" on the Tree Mortality Task Force website.
- Caltrans has developed several damage assessment forms estimating the cost of removal of trees that have been identified as dead, or having major structural deficiencies that are predisposed to failure. These trees are adjacent to traffic, highway appurtenances, and adjacent property.

#### **MAIN TASK FORCE REPORT**

- The next Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 P.M.

#### **WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

##### **Forest Health & Resilience (Chris Keithley/Tom Smith)**

- Pursuing possible collaboration with UC Extension to update sections of an existing Forest Stewardship Series for wildfire (FSS #15) and pests (#16). The updated stewardship documents address forest health and could be widely distributed.
- Continued discussion with United States Forest Service (USFS) and Stanford (Greg Asner) to have his research team conduct a flight late summer or early fall over the South Sierra. The estimated cost is \$250,000. USFS has proposed a 50/50 cost share with CAL FIRE.

##### **Mapping and Monitoring (Mark Rosenberg/Chris Fischer)**

- The United States Forest Service (USFS) is scheduled to fly the low elevation forestland along the west slope of the Sierra Nevada range (below snow line) next week, weather permitting. We anticipate having results to share with the Task Force in two to four weeks post-flight.



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

- The mapping and monitoring working group is assisting in the development of metrics for possible use by Cal OES to request FEMA for a Presidential declaration.
- FRAP is developing a web based mapping tool for agencies to capture and report tree removal projects from the various entities removing dead trees related to the Emergency Proclamation. The tool will be secured and provided to authorized users as a platform to develop project information and view the tree removal work being done by other entities. FRAP will work with entities that have their own mapping or project tracking systems to translate their data into a standard format for entry into the application. A draft version of this application is expected by the next Task Force meeting.

### **Regulations (Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg)**

- The Regulations Working Group has been working with the California State Licensing Board (CSLB) regarding tree removal licensing requirements. Commercial timber operations under the Forest Practice Rules require individual to be licensed timber operators (LTO). The CSLB confirmed that, outside the realm of timber operations subject to the Forest Practice Act, a contractor's license would be required for tree removal or pruning if the value of the work equals or exceeds \$500 or if trees 15' or taller are removed, and it would be a misdemeanor for someone to perform tree removal work in an amount of \$500 or more or to remove trees 15' or taller without a proper license. (B&P § 7026.1(a)(4), 7028.). The license that would allow for tree removal is the C-61/D-49 Tree Service specialty license. The Regulations Working Group is researching insurance requirements for non-commercial tree removal and working to determine the number of LTO's and licensed tree removal contractors within the affected counties.
- Alan Abbs, Executive Director for the California Air pollution Control Officers Association received a letter from USEPA regarding Temporary Air Curtain Incinerators. The letter specified the requirements of federal permitting with respect to air curtain incinerators under the Clean Air Act and timing for operations to obtain a title V permit. The Regulations Working Group and Prescribed Fire Working Group reviewed the letter and provided questions to Alan.

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

- The Resource Allocation Group is in the process of updating the resource matrix with a version that displays allocations and expenditures by those entities that have so far put funding and assets into play with Tree Mortality.



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

- The Resource Allocation Group continues to provide and coordinate support calls with OES and affected counties to answer questions about potential federal assistance applications and related accounting information.
- The Resource Allocation Group is developing a general letter from the Director that can be used to solicit help and partnership support from the California business community through California Volunteers, potentially generating additional assistance for affected counties and regions.
- The Federal Excess Property Program has full clearance for state access to federal surplus vehicles and equipment that can be used to support Tree Mortality efforts on the ground. All CAL FIRE Units have access to this system through their designated Forestry Logistics Officer. This program will also soon be expanded to include the Federal Firefighter Program (FFP) which will provide access to Department of Defense military surplus equipment as well.

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

- The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Administrative Law Judge is drafting a decision for the BioMAT program changes for purposes of accelerating contracts for facilities that can receive feedstock from High Hazard Zones and to address interconnection issues.
- The Investor-Owned Utilities have filed advice letters to the CPUC. These letters outline the terms of the power solicitation and are one of the first steps for CPUC to approve initiation of the RAM auction. CPUC is accepting comments on advice letters until April 27th. CAL FIRE and some facility operators are drafting comments. The next step is for Investor-Owned Utilities to host webinars to outline the mechanics of the auction program (more details are in the advice letters).
- CPUC has requested an estimate of the volume of trees that will be cut over the next 5 - 10 years. The working group is outlining processes to compile biomass volume estimates (in bone dry ton) for Tier 1 and 2 High Hazard Zones. Initial estimates are expected to be available for all of the High Hazard Zones by the end of this month.

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

- Resources Agency is funding and CAL FIRE is executing a contract for BECK Group to refine their wood product business opportunities study. The revised study will serve two purposes: 1) analysis on opportunities to expand existing wood product businesses or develop new businesses using the feedstock from the tree mortality event in an expedited manner and 2) BECK will utilize its network of



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

forestry and forest products industry contacts to assist in identifying entrepreneurs/developers that are interested in pursuing the opportunities identified in the research phase.

- Continued work on developing an intake pathway with GOBIZ and other agencies/departments for businesses interested in pursuing opportunities related to the tree mortality event.
- The working group continues to work with Department of Water Resources to identify opportunities for high-volume use of wood chips for dust control at Salton Sea.

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

- The Fire MOU Partnership has scheduled their next in-person meeting for June 1-2 at the Hume Lake Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest. RSVP's for the meeting can be sent to either Nick Goulette or Craig Thomas.

## **CURRENT TREE MORTALITY CONDITIONS**

- **29,000,000 dead trees**

## **APPROVED CALIFORNIA DISASTER ACT FUNDING APPLICATIONS**

- **Approved CDAA Applications:** Tuolumne County, Mariposa County, Tuolumne Utilities District
- **Submitted CDAA Applications:** Placer County, Columbia Public Cemetery District, Madera County, Twain Harte Community Services District

## **TREE MORTALITY RESPONSE FUNDING**

- PG&E is awarding \$2 million to local California Fire Safe Councils (FSC) to reduce the increased risk of wildfires due to massive tree mortality in Northern and Central California. The money will be used to protect communities from wildfires in at least 18 high fire-risk counties by clearing brush and dead, dying or diseased trees for the current fire season. The funding will be used for shovel-ready projects in PG&E's service area. This is the third consecutive year PG&E has partnered with local FSCs and provided the grants.
- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the availability of grant funds through the Pacific Southwest Fuels Management Strategic Investments Partnership. This program is a collaborative partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and NFWF, and will award approximately \$1.9 million dollars over the next



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

year to fuels management projects that will improve forest health and resilience. Project types are described in the Request for Proposals (RFP) posted at [www.nfwf.org/pswfuels](http://www.nfwf.org/pswfuels). Proposal submissions are due **Tuesday, May 17, 2016**.

- California Fire Safe Council (FSC) will begin accepting applications for its competitive application process for 2016 wildfire prevention grants on March 10, 2016. The application deadline is April 22, 2016 at 5 p.m. PST. FSC has approximately \$2 million available for 2016 wildfire prevention projects.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Placer, Tulare, Tuolumne.
- **County Tree Mortality Task Forces:** Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Placer, Tulare, Tuolumne.

### EQUIPMENT ALLOCATION AND TRAINING

CAL FIRE Tree Mortality Equipment Allocation:											
County Name (CAL FIRE Unit): >>>----->	Delivered	Kern (KRN)	Tulare (TUU)	Fresno (FKU)	Madera (MMU)	Mariposa (MMU)	Tuolumne (TCU)	Calaveras (TCU)	Amador (AEU)	Eldorado (AEU)	Placer (NEU)
<b>Burner Module A (2):</b>											
3 Fire Box (burners)	6			3	3						
1 Track Loader				1	1						
1 Wheel Loader				1	1						
<b>Burner Module B (2):</b>											
2 Fire Box (burners)			2				2				
1 Track Loader			1				1				
1 Wheel Loader			1				1				
<b>Single Resources:</b>											
Masticator (2)				1	1						
Track Chipper (10)	6	1	2	2	1	1	2		1		
Tow Chipper (6)			1	1		1	2		1		
Sawmill (5)	1		1	1	1		1		1		
<b>Total # of New Equipment Units</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>0</b>

- Equipment Delivery/Deployment  
Equipment is beginning to be deployed and utilized in affected counties. The first sawmill will be deployed to Tulare County.
- All 10 Fire Boxes have been delivered.



**Cal OES**  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE  
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

- **Equipment Training**

Training on the operation and maintenance of the track chippers will take place on April 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Each of these trainings features hands on operation of the equipment.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Regulations Guidance Workshop is scheduled for April 25, 2016 from 10:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M at the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors Chambers.
- The next full Tree Mortality Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 P.M.
- Fire MOU Partnership next in-person meeting is scheduled for June 1-2 at the Hume Lake Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest.

### **TREE MORTALITY RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**California's Tree Mortality Information Clearinghouse for Stakeholders**

[www.treetaskforce.org](http://www.treetaskforce.org)

**California's Tree Mortality Information Clearinghouse for the Public**

[www.prepareforbarkbeetle.org](http://www.prepareforbarkbeetle.org)

**California's Tree Mortality Viewer**

[egis.fire.ca.gov/TreeMortalityViewer/](http://egis.fire.ca.gov/TreeMortalityViewer/)