



**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 Weekly Update February 19, 2016

#### 1. Highlights

- Task force leadership met with CAL FIRE Northern Region Unit Chiefs and Unit Foresters to discuss direction of the Tree Mortality Task Force and to gather feedback from the Northern Region Units. Discussion items included addition of new counties to the task force and sharing of resources between the Regions.
- A meeting is being scheduled with Kern County with tentative dates as follows:
  - March 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### 2. Main Task Force Report

- Meetings with Fresno and Tulare Counties  
Separate meetings were held with Fresno and Tulare counties to gather information on their respective activities and needs as well as any issues that are hindering implementation of their tree removal efforts. Both counties are actively removing trees as well as developing and implementing plans for further tree removal efforts. Following are highlights of some items raised by the counties.
  - The desire for a FEMA declaration
  - The need to extend contracts for existing Bioenergy facilities
  - The need for assistance to private landowners for tree removal
  - CDAA funding is helpful, but will deplete county reserves meeting the 25% match
- Tuolumne Utilities District-CDAA Application was approved for funding

#### 3. Working Group Reports

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

- Regulations Guidance Document  
After review by the Working Group, additional changes have been made to the draft Regulations Guidance Document (RGD). The document was circulated earlier in the week and a final version has been provided to the TF leaders.



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- Federal Excess Waiver- Discussion to obtain a waiver from Tier 4 CARB compliance for operation of federal excess equipment.

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

- Meeting with Greg Asner, Carnegie Institute of Science  
Select members of the Mapping and Monitoring Working Group met with Greg Asner to discuss his research on progressive forest canopy water loss during the 2012–2015 California drought.

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

- Resource Fairs  
Planning for Resource Fairs (aka Funding Fairs) is ongoing. The first Fair the TF will assist with is tentatively planned for February 27<sup>th</sup> in Mariposa County.
- The CA Fire Safe Council announced 2/19 they will be making available \$2 million in grant funds to the local fire safe councils

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

- Available Burn Days  
The Prescribed Fire Working Group continues to work with CAPCOA, CARB and the APCDs to gain approvals for the use of fire for the disposal of wood and slash from dead trees. Both CARB and CAPCOA have asserted, and the data supports, that there are ample burn days within the six counties (and beyond). Focus for now will be on maximizing the use of available burn days before seeking regulatory relief.

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

- Draft Resolution Released by CPUC  
Draft Resolution E-4770 was released by the CPUC on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Kim Carr submitted comments associated with the draft resolution.
- Last Friday CPUC issued a staff proposal to fulfill responsibilities in the tree mortality proclamation. The proposal is largely built around the HHZ in that it requires facilities to receive a minimum of 80% of its feedstock from HHZ.



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

- Evan Johnson from Cal Recycle provided a description of the waiver regarding emergency transfer processing operations for solid waste facilities. This information will be passed on to the local enforcement agency contacts within the six affected counties.