



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Tree Mortality Task Force

Tree Mortality Task Force Weekly Update January 29, 2016

1. Highlights

- Tuolumne County was advised by Cal OES that they have been approved for CDAA funding.

2. Main Task Force Report

- CSR Meeting
On January 27, CAL FIRE held a meeting with CAL FIRE personnel along with members of Kern County Fire to provide a briefing on TMTF activities. Specific personnel and equipment needs were also discussed and captured to develop a plan to provide all resources available to assist in local tree mortality efforts.
- Meetings with Madera and Mariposa Counties
Separate meetings have been scheduled with both Madera and Mariposa counties for February 4 to review their local plans and gather specific needs to implement their plan, as well as any issues they are running into that would prevent them from implementing their plan.

3. Working Group Reports

Regulations (Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg)

- DIR Prevailing Wage Applicability
DIR evaluates projects on a case by case basis when determining prevailing wage applicability. To address the tree mortality issues in the high hazard counties, CAL FIRE provided DIR with specific activities on Monday, January 25, for evaluation and determination. DIR has responded that they expect to render a determination on February 1.
- Guidelines for High Hazard Zone Tree Removal
A draft Regulations Guidance Document (RGD) has been completed and is being reviewed by working group members and Taskforce leaders. The RGD includes tree removal guidance, CEQA guidance, log storage yard guidance and a template for urgency ordinances.



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Resource Allocation (Thom Porter/Tom Lutzenberger)

- Status of Equipment Acquisition
 - a. The order for six Morbark wheeled chippers was completed on 1/29/16.
 - b. The order of five sawmills is expected to be completed not later than 2/1/16.
 - c. Development of a group to coordinate and implement training for maintenance and operation has begun. This component is critical to putting the equipment into service in a safe and efficient manner.

- SRA Grants

A press release is being prepared to announce the award of 19 grants totaling \$1,752,373 dollars for projects addressing tree mortality mitigation within the six priority counties. The press release will go out on Monday (2/1) and a list of the award recipients will be posted on the CAL FIRE website on Monday as well.

- SRA Projects

CAL FIRE has allocated additional SRA fire prevention funding to its Units that cover the six priority counties for projects focusing on mitigating impacts from tree mortality. A list of the 35 projects totaling \$ 507,595 dollars is attached.

Mapping and Monitoring (Mark Rosenberg)

- Monitoring

After field testing a ground-based validation app, it has been determined that an alternative method must be used to accomplish the update within a reasonable time frame. Options to fly the six heavily impacted counties are being developed to update the current mortality data layer which is known to be well behind current mortality.

Prescribed Fire (Nick Goulette/Craig Thomas)

- Exceptional Events Rule (EER) Comment Letter

A draft letter in response to the EER open comment period has been drafted and is under review for submittal prior to the February 3 comment period deadline.

Public Outreach (Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)

- A toolkit of public outreach materials has been developed.
- Public FAQs and talking points for working group members and PIOs have been developed.



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Utilization – Bioenergy (Kim Carr/Angie Lottes)

- CPUC will issue rulings for the Renewable Auction Mechanism (RAM) and the BioMAT Program in the next couple of weeks to support expedited action for power contracts.
- Preliminary tree mortality biomass volume estimates in the six county area is unprecedented. In the six Southern Sierra Counties, just in the draft High Hazard Zone areas (less than 20 percent of the total acres of tree mortality), enough biomass to generate several hundred Megawatts of energy is present. The majority of the tree mortality in this area is on USDA Forest Service lands.