



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Tree Mortality Task Force Weekly Update

June 3, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- On June 2, 2016 Congressman Jim Costa (Fresno) met with members of the Task Force as well as additional federal and state agency leaders and their staff to discuss ways to continue and expand efforts to address the millions of dead and dying trees in California. The meeting had over 50 participants including: Wade Crowfoot, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Office of the Governor, Randy Moore, Pacific Southwest Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, Chief Ken Pimlott, Director, CAL FIRE, and Jeff Lusk, Mitigation Division Director, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX. Congressman Jim Costa applauded the efforts already being made to address tree mortality and stated he will continue to work with his colleagues in Congress and the Administration to increase federal support where possible.
- The U.S. Forest Service was able to complete Aerial Detection Survey Flights on May 17th and 18th and captured footage of tree mortality over the two day span from as far north as Lassen County down to Kern County. The flights covered the 3,000-4,000 foot elevation range. Below is a link to aerial footage from those flights of various counties covered within the flight:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd504113.mp4

MAIN TASK FORCE REPORT

- The next Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, June 13th from 1:00-3:00 P.M.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Mapping and Monitoring (Mark Rosenberg/Chris Fischer)

- The Mapping and Monitoring workgroup is coordinating with CAL FIRE's Northern and Southern Region to implement the tree mortality project tracking process. FRAP has developed a web map application to capture tree removal projects from collaborating entities. CAL FIRE will continue to use Cal MAPPER and the USFS will use their own systems to capture project data. FRAP will compile data from these systems into a common database. It may take several months of sustained effort before adequate reporting data can be collected. The project tracking database can support reporting of accomplishments, however the Mapping and Monitoring workgroup suggests, even with these data collection efforts, requests from Task Force leadership for project accomplishments should be vetted by the individual agency representatives.



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- The Mapping and Monitoring workgroup is preparing to update High Hazard Zones, in anticipation of new Aerial Detection Survey data becoming available in the next several weeks.

Regulations (Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg)

- The Regulations Working Group is working to identify and circulate "right-of-entry" language to help provide consistency for counties when applying for Cal OES California Disaster Assistance Act funds.
- The Regulations Working Group is evaluating the ability to move hazard trees and debris between sites within air districts for treatment in air curtain burners. They are also evaluating issues that may be involved with moving tree material across air district boundaries for treatment.
- The Regulations Working Group has received comment from Cal EPA on the Tree Removal Guidelines and is working on responses to those comments. Overall very few comments were received on the guidelines.

Prescribed Fire (Nick Goulette/Craig Thomas)

- The Fire MOU Partnership was held on June 1-2 at the Hume Lake Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest. An update on the proceedings will be forthcoming.

Utilization – Bioenergy (Kim Carr/Angie Lottes)

- The Investor-Owned Utilities (IOUs) have filed Supplemental Advice Letters, in addition to previously submitted Advice Letters and Riders, to the CPUC for the BioRAM program. 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. IOUs and facility representatives held four meetings to discuss issues identified from the original Advice Letters, but conversation ceased when it was perceived that agency support for the conversations was less than previously understood. Two parties which had submitted official Dispute Letters in response to the original Advice Letters do not think that the Supplemental Advice Letters address their issues. As such, the Disputes may not be withdrawn and the CPUC will need to officially address them and then issue another Resolution for Commissioner review. This will slow the BioRAM launch process for two months or longer.
- Comments in response to the CPUC Administrative Law Judge regarding BioMAT were due May 25th. In comments, several project proponents supported the Bioenergy Association of California's proposal to address interconnection issues, noting that it fixes a critical flaw in program design. Utilities brought up concerns with the proposal



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related to higher overall program cost, ability of non-serious projects to enter the queue, and commercial operation timelines. Reply comments are due today, June 3rd.

- The Working Group continues to compile data to provide an estimate of the volume of trees that will be removed over the next 5 - 10 years and associated costs. This is important in order to ensure an adequate amount of facilities and megawatt capacity is available to help manage the trees.

Utilization – Market Development (Evan Johnson/Kim Carr)

- The group continues to pursue the idea of using large quantities of chipped material for dust control and air quality purposes at the Salton Sea. Members of the group met with NFWF to pursue possible opportunities to support movement of tree mortality material by rail.
- Resources, NFF and GoBiz are discussing options for hosting workshop(s) to support wood product business development, focusing on funding.

Public Outreach (Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)

- The working group has scheduled a public outreach webinar for June 9, 2016. The presentation is in its draft form and the working group is asking for submissions from other members for items they feel the public should be aware of for inclusion in the presentation.

Resource Allocation (Thom Porter/Tom Lutzenberger)

- Completed another technical assistance call with local government, which focused quite a bit on GIS mapping and what resources were available for counties to do their planning work with.

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, Twain Harte Community Services District, Columbia Public Cemetery District, Pine Ridge Elementary School District
- **Submitted CDAA Applications:** Placer County, Madera County, Calaveras County, Curtis Creek School District



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TREE MORTALITY RESPONSE FUNDING

- Legislative action continues on the following items:

The Governor's May Budget Revision was released on May 13, 2016 which included a request for a one-time increase of \$11 million General Fund dollars for CAL FIRE to assist in the removal and disposal of trees in high hazard areas. This includes:

- \$6 million for the California Conservation Corps and grants to local entities, including local government, fire districts, local conservation corps, tribal entities, and fire safe councils, to provide support to local efforts to remove hazardous trees that pose a threat to public health and safety.
- \$5 million to support additional miscellaneous equipment, personnel overtime for foresters, hand crews, engine companies, and heavy equipment operators, for hazardous tree removal and fuels reduction efforts.
- The Budget Revision also included a request for \$31.5 million for the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide assistance to counties through the California Disaster Assistance Act.

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



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EQUIPMENT ALLOCATION AND TRAINING

CAL FIRE Tree Mortality Equipment Allocation:	#Delivered										
County Name (CAL FIRE Unit): >>>----->	V	Kern (KRN)	Tulare (TUU)	Fresno (FKU)	Madera (MMU)	Mariposa (MMU)	Tuolumne (TCU)	Calaveras (TCU)	Amador (AEU)	El Dorado (AEU)	Placer (NEU)
Burner Module A (2):											
3 Fire Box (burners)	6			3	3						
1 Track Loader	2			1	1						
1 Wheel Loader	2			1	1						
Burner Module B (2):											
2 Fire Box (burners)	4		2				2				
1 Track Loader	2		1				1				
1 Wheel Loader	2		1				1				
Single Resources:											
Masticator (2)				1	1						
Track Chipper (10)	9	1	2	2	1	1	2		1		
Tow Chipper (6)	6		1	1		1	2		1		
Sawmill (5)	5		1	1	1		1		1		
Total # of New Equipment Units	38	1	8	10	8	2	9	0	3	0	0

**Red number denotes that a piece of equipment is in the Unit

- Towable and tracked chippers are being licensed and outfitted with fire extinguishers in preparation for deployment to Units.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The next full Tree Mortality Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, June 13th from 1:00-3:00 P.M.

TREE MORTALITY RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

California's Tree Mortality Information Clearinghouse for Stakeholders

www.treetaskforce.org

California's Tree Mortality Information Clearinghouse for the Public

www.prepareforbarkbeetle.org

California's Tree Mortality Viewer

egis.fire.ca.gov/TreeMortalityViewer/