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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 March 25, 2016

1. Highlights

- Market Developments - Several market opportunities are being investigated by the Market Development group, including:
 - Exports of logs – Logs from private property are being exported by operators to overseas markets. This is a very specialized market and the Working Group (WG) is exploring if there are opportunities to expand these markets. Export of logs off Federal lands has been investigated by the USFS. The process that would allow this is quite onerous and opportunities are currently limited though the USFS is continuing to look for options.
 - Biochar – The Office of Planning & Research (OPR) provided information of potential markets in this arena. While nothing is on the immediate horizon, this potential market warrants continued investigation.
 - Salton Sea – Officials from the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) provided an overview of several options that could develop into outlets for beetle-killed material. This is a complex opportunity and further discussions with DWR are being scheduled to explore these potential outlets.

2. Main Task Force Report

- California State Association of Counties (CSAC) – Taskforce leadership attended a CSAC regional conference in Redding to provide membership information on tree mortality, State Taskforce activity, funding sources, and expected beetle activity. Interest from counties north of Tuolumne was significant due to the increasing mortality in those counties. There were a number of inquiries about the addition of new counties to the 6 priority counties.
- An overflight was conducted to view the level of mortality in heavily impacted areas as well as counties that may be added to the priority counties. Areas north of Tuolumne County are in roughly the same state that areas in the southern Sierra were in at this time last year. It is anticipated that mortality will expand in these northern counties.



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3. Working Group Reports

Mapping and Monitoring (Mark Rosenberg/Chris Fischer)

- High Hazard Zones (HHZ)
The second iteration of HHZs was added to the Tree Mortality Viewer available on the treetaskforce.org and prepareforbarkbeetle.org websites.

Public Outreach (Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)

- Legislative Tour
Providing elected officials and their staffs the opportunity to see the unprecedented mortality firsthand is key to developing a good understanding of the extent of this disaster. As a result, work to solicit participation from elected officials and their staffs in the April 15th tour has been ongoing in order to gather as many members as possible.

Regulations (Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg)

- Homeowner's Insurance
The Regulations Working Group in partnership with the Department of Insurance is in the process of finalizing a Residential Insurance and Wildfire FAQ sheet. The purpose of the FAQ document is to provide answers to homeowners related to residential insurance cancellations, non-renewals, and denials, as well as California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (FAIR) Plan coverage.
- High Hazard Zone Tree Removal Guide
The Regulations Working Group has posted the Draft Guidelines for High Hazard Zone Tree Removal to the TMTF website. They will be working with the Public Outreach Working Group to host a public meeting prior to adopting the guidelines pursuant to the Emergency Proclamation in mid-to-late April.

Resource Allocation (Thom Porter/Tom Lutzenberger)

- Equipment Training
Training on air curtain burners and tracked chippers is scheduled for next week for those who will be operating and maintaining the equipment so it can be deployed to the field for safe and efficient operation.



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Utilization – Bioenergy (Kim Carr/Angie Lottes)

- Bio MAT
The CPUC ALJ decision is still pending. Discussions continue in order to determine if additions are available to overcome interconnection barriers that may prevent bioenergy facilities from remaining in the auction queue.

Utilization – Market Development (Evan Johnson/Kim Carr)

- See Highlights above