



Tree Mortality Task Force Monthly Update

March 30, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS

- The TMTF is co-sponsoring a workshop with California Office of Emergency Services (OES) on County Tree Mortality Mitigation Efforts. The workshop will be held April 14, 2017 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at OES Headquarters, 3650 Schriever Avenue, MPR-1, Mather, CA. Topics will include, State TMTF 2017 priorities; innovative approaches to inventory and implementation; best practices in public outreach; commercialization, including saw mills, exports, and biomass; project coordination; monitoring, and private property assistance. The agenda can be found on the TMTF website at:
http://www.fire.ca.gov/treetaskforce/downloads/TMTFMaterials/OES_Workshop_Agenda_4-14-17.pdf

CURRENT TREE MORTALITY CONDITIONS

- 102,000,000 dead trees since 2010

MAIN TASK FORCE REPORT

- The next Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, April 10th from 1:00-3:00 P.M.
- Sandy Goldberg, co-chair for the Regulations and Utilization-Bioenergy Working Groups will no longer serve on the TMTF. She accepted a position as Advisor to Commissioner Rechtschaffen at the PUC.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Forest Health and Resilience (Pete Cafferata/ Stewart McMorrow)

- The FHRWG white paper titled "Recommendations for Comprehensive Sierra Nevada Ecological Restoration" remains in review by TMTF Leadership. When the review has been completed, the document will be released to the TMTF and posted on the TMTF website. This document outlines the actions needed for comprehensive forest restoration across the Sierra Nevada. The main goal is to achieve robust implementation of programs such as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Watershed Improvement Program, supported by enhanced efforts from relevant state and federal agencies.
- TMTF Leadership determined that the Tree Mortality Impacts on California Seed Zones map requires revision prior to public release. The map and accompanying table are intended to be used as a tool for identification of target areas for conifer cone collection and subsequent



reforestation planning. Discussion on needed revisions will be occur at the April FHRWG meeting.

- Work has begun to form a sub-working group to review and update research needs and goals, funding opportunities, and short term and long term needs to reach the goal of a healthy Sierra Nevada region. Specifically, this group would (1) identify existing interests/needs for science and management information related to tree mortality, (2) identify ongoing research and monitoring projects that address these interests, and (3) determine where gaps exist, funneling existing funding to appropriate projects. Currently there is no forum to bring all the interests and projects together in a coordinated manner for Sierra Nevada tree mortality. This group, tentatively called the Sierra Forest Science Coordination Group, would work to reduce redundancy and prioritize available funding. An email was sent on March 15th to 18 potential participants, with a limited response to date.
- The FHRWG has been tasked by the TMTF Leadership to explore the long-term outlook for Sierra Nevada forests. Specifically, the FHRWG is to document lessons we can learn from similar beetle outbreaks in other states, such as Colorado, Montana, and Alaska, as well as in British Columbia, and earlier in California in southern California. A summarized synthesis of relevant studies is to be produced, addressing: (1) how do these events end? and (2) what are the long-term changes in forest composition that occur? Dr. Jodi Axelson, UC Berkeley, has considerable knowledge about this topic and has provided some materials that give the group an initial starting point. A subcommittee will be formed at the April FHRWG meeting.
- Also at the April FHRWG meeting, we will discuss FHRWG priorities for the remainder of 2017. One of our highest priorities, based on past work and our ICS 204 working group objectives, will be to develop a comprehensive reforestation strategy for non-federal forestlands in California. Joe Sherlock, USFS Regional Silviculturalist (R5), will discuss the Forest Service reforestation strategy he has developed at the April meeting to assist with this effort. Reforestation workshops continue to be scheduled at multiple locations in the Sierra Nevada; the next one is scheduled for April 7th in Sonora. This will be followed by a April 27th workshop in Oakhurst.

Mapping and Monitoring

(Mark Rosenberg/Carly Gibson)

- A local designation process for Tier 2 High Hazard Zones (HHZ) was approved by TMTF leadership and is being used by stakeholders in the Community and Watershed Resilience Program to improve delineation of Tier 2 HHZ in the area of the Rim fire that burned in 2013.
- MMWG staffers are working to support the FRWG in developing new communications tools around acquiring seedlings from appropriate seed zones before replanting on their property.



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- MMWG needs help from CAL FIRE Unit foresters, USFS line officers and County representatives to validate temporary wood storage and processing facilities for drought and bark beetle killed trees pursuant to the Governors Executive Order issued in October 2015.

Regulations

(Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg)

- The RWG continues to review and discuss the Wildfire Insurance Pool concept provided by Nevada County Fire Safe Council. The concept is to create an insurance pool insuring against the singular peril of wildfire to help restore and retain a healthy homeowner's insurance market for areas affected by the threat of wildfire while protecting lives, property and natural resources. The pool would follow a similar format to the California Earthquake Authority in regard to financing, administration and distribution. The basic principle of insurance allows the transfer of a financial risk from an individual to a pooled group of similar risks. The risk of wildfire however varies greatly between homes and it's important that each insured pay their fair share into the pool. Creating defensible space, building with fire resistant materials, funding local fire departments, providing adequate water storage are all proactive steps the homeowner can do to reduce their risk and pool premium. Those who choose to do more will pay less, those that choose not to will pay more. The premium will need to be affordable for this pool to work and the incentive to reduce the premium should help reduce the overall community risk.
- Kristin B. Peer, Assistant General Counsel, California Environmental Protection Agency, met with CalRecycle regarding their requirements for operation of air curtain burners. Because there is an emergency proclamation, there is no need for the ACI's to be fully permitted. There are minimal reporting and record keeping requirements, however, if an ACI is co-located at a landfill or other permitted waste facility. In that case, an "Enforcement Agency (EA) Notification" must be sent to the Local Enforcement Agency (LEA). Here's a link to some information on CalRecycle's website that has more specifics:
<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/LEA/EmergencyWvr.pdf>

Utilization – Bioenergy

(Angie Lottes/Sandy Goldberg)

- BioRAM2 (Order 8): The California Public Utilities Commission issued draft Resolution E4834 approving the Power Purchase Agreement and price extension between PG&E and Wheelabrator Shasta Energy Company. The PPA satisfies 34 MW of the total 63 MW PG&E is required to procure through BioRAM1 and/or BioRAM2. The draft Resolution will be considered by the CPUC as part of the regular agenda of the Voting Meeting on April 6.
- BioMAT Program Changes (Order 9): The BioMAT Program queue achieved market depth on March 15. This triggers the pricing mechanism which will allow project to accept a Power Purchase Agreement offering within a year. Changes to the BioMAT to enable market depth became effective on February 1.
- EPIC funding (Order 11): The California Energy Commission announced proposed awards totaling \$10 million to two community scale forest bioenergy power plant demonstration projects,



in Yuba and Mariposa Counties. Three additional projects similarly passed the scoring criteria but were not funded. The TMTF Bioenergy and Utilization Working Group is advocating for additional funds to be made available.

Utilization – Market Development

(Evan Johnson)

- The Utilization-Market Development Working Group continues to work with individual businesses and entrepreneurs who express interest in utilizing beetle-killed trees, connecting them with available resources.
- At its most recent meeting, the Working Group reviewed progress towards the directives in the Incident Action Plan, and established a set of priorities for the rest of the year.

Public Outreach

(Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)

- The Public Outreach Working Group (POWG) has been busy gathering information to complete the Landowners Assistance webpage, which is being designed as a one-stop site for the public to find resources to assist them with tree mortality mitigation on private land, in conjunction with the ongoing efforts with the FHRWG to identify current landowner assistance programs and strategize efforts to educate the public on the programs and services available.
- The POWG also continues to make progress on the urban outreach and education effort, and is continuing to aggregate information from working group members on upcoming outreach opportunities.

Resource Allocation

(Thom Porter/Tom Lutzenberger)

- The Resource Allocation Meeting Group did not meet this month.

APPROVED CALIFORNIA DISASTER ACT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

- **Approved CDAA Applications:** El Dorado County, Fresno County, Madera County, Mariposa County, Tulare County, Tuolumne County, Big Creek School District, Chawanakee Unified School District, Curtis Creek School District, Tuolumne Utilities District, Twain Harte Community Services District, Columbia Public Cemetery District, Pine Ridge Elementary School District, Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District, Amador County, Placer County, Calaveras County, Halcumb Cemetery District, Amador County Water Agency
- **Submitted CDAA Applications:** Calaveras Public Utility District, El Dorado Irrigation District, & Belleview Elementary School District.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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

TREE MORTALITY RESPONSE FUNDING

On Monday, June 27th, Governor Brown signed the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year (FY) Budget. The 16-17 FY Budget includes 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 16-17 FY Budget also includes:

- \$10 million one-time funding in grants from the State Responsibility Area fund, with \$5 million of that being dedicated for tree mortality related work.
- The Budget also includes \$31.6 million for the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide assistance to counties through the California Disaster Assistance Act.



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)
Burner Module A (2):											
3 Fire Box (burners)	6			3	3						
1 Track Loader	2			1	1						
1 Weel 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)	2			1	1						
Track Chipper (10)	10	1	2	2	1	1	2		1		
Tow Chipper (6)	6		1	1		1	2		1		
Sawmill (5)	5		1	1	1		1		1		

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/

United States Forest Service-California Tree Mortality Information

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/CATreeMortality>