



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Tree Mortality Task Force Weekly Update

May 13, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Governor's May Budget Revision was released on May 13th 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.

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 Aerial Detection Survey flight scheduled for this week was delayed due to survey staff illness. The United States Forest Service (USFS) postpone the aerial survey flight scheduled for the previous week due to poor weather conditions. The flight is now rescheduled for the week of May 16th which will cover the low elevation forestland along the west slope of the Sierra Nevada range (below snow line), weather permitting. We anticipate having results to share with the Task Force in two to four weeks post-flight.
- FRAP is developing a web based mapping tool for agencies to capture and report tree removal projects from the various entities removing dead trees related to the Emergency Proclamation. A draft version of the application is being tested and user documentation is being developed.



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Regulations (Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg)

- The Regulations Working Group is compiling the comments received on the tree removal guidelines and will provide a comment summary.
- On Monday 5/2 the Regulations Working Group County Counsels subgroup held a meeting. County Counsels from 9 of the 10 counties convened a conference call. They were informed of the workshop outcomes, and were encouraged to get any last comments on the regulations guidelines document to Sandy Goldberg by May 6th. The group reviewed the new form that describes the process to store logs at solid waste facilities. No one had any comments or suggestions at that time. They then had brief updates from the counties with their own committees and task force groups. Everyone reported to be up and running, and stated they would contact the Working Group if they needed help. Amador County will be setting up a local task force soon. It was emphasized that if they need attendance by any agency staff, to let the Working Group know. The County Counsels then discussed briefly the latest on applying for FEMA declaration or CDAA funding, and heard from the three counties that have submitted applications. Questions arose about how to calculate dead trees and further discussions are happening offline. Lastly, the group tagged the issues that are really concerning counties such as how to find public works staff who can handle equipment when CAL FIRE staff are busy this summer. Placer County's local task force has expressed concern about this. We agreed to talk again week of June 6th.

Prescribed Fire (Nick Goulette/Craig Thomas)

- The Fire MOU Partnership has scheduled their next in-person meeting for June 1-2 at the Hume Lake Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest. RSVP's for the meeting can be sent to either Nick Goulette or Craig Thomas.

Utilization – Bioenergy (Kim Carr/Angie Lottes)

- The Bioenergy 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 because it potentially impacts the number of facilities and megawatt capacity available to help manage the biomass from removed trees.
- The Investor-Owned Utilities have filed advice letters and riders to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). 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. Several issues need to be resolved and facility operators, utilities, CPUC, CAL FIRE and other stakeholders are talking these through in hopes to resolve the



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issues informally. If this is not successful, the CPUC will need to issue a resolution which will slow the process for 2 months or longer.

- The CPUC Administrative Law Judge released a request for supplemental comments addressing the interconnection issue. Several questions are posed related to the Bioenergy Association of California's proposal which was submitted in prior comments.

Utilization – Market Development (Evan Johnson/Kim Carr)

- Working Group is exploring the potential to export blue stained logs to China for use as concrete form boards, as well as for chopsticks and coffins. Working group members toured two export log yards, where a significant amount is currently debarked and then shipped. One company is currently removing trees from private property *at no cost to landowners*, and then exporting through the port of Richmond. This is a viable option for counties within distances to ports, which is currently north of the Madera/Mariposa county line. The working group will explore ways to increase that radius. The limiting factor is shortages of trucks and drivers, as well as export restrictions.
- CAL FIRE is executing a contract for BECK Group to refine their wood product business opportunities study. The revised study will serve two purposes: 1) analysis on opportunities to expand existing wood product businesses or develop new businesses using the feedstock from the tree mortality event in an expedited manner and 2) BECK will utilize its network of forestry and forest products industry contacts to assist in identifying entrepreneurs/developers that are interested in pursuing the opportunities identified in the research phase.
- Continued work on developing an intake pathway with GOBIZ and other agencies/departments for businesses interested in pursuing opportunities related to the tree mortality event.
- The working group continues to work with Department of Water Resources to identify opportunities for high-volume use of wood chips for dust control at Salton Sea.

Public Outreach (Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)

- The Public Outreach Group continues to provide support to member agencies in coordinating messages and facts. The group is currently developing a self-guided tour that will allow stakeholders to tour an area without significant workload on the agencies busy working on tree removal.
- The Public Outreach Group has also reached out to learn more about PG&E's pilot debris removal program and provide any assistance in getting the word out. PG&E is still in development of the program and will coordinate their outreach efforts with the working group.



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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
- **Submitted CDAA Applications:** Placer County, Madera County

TREE MORTALITY RESPONSE FUNDING

- The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced the availability of grant funds through the Pacific Southwest Fuels Management Strategic Investments Partnership. This program is a collaborative partnership between the U.S. Forest Service and NFWF, and will award approximately \$1.9 million dollars over the next year to fuels management projects that will improve forest health and resilience. Project types are described in the Request for Proposals (RFP) posted at www.nfwf.org/pswfuels. Proposal submissions are due **Tuesday, May 17, 2016**.

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: County Name (CAL FIRE Unit): >>>----->	# Delivered	County Equipment to be Allocated Too									
		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 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			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)	1		1	1	1		1		1		
Total # of New Equipment Units	32	1	8	10	8	2	9	0	3	0	0

- Training for the towed chippers was conducted on Wednesday, May 11th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The next full Tree Mortality Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, June 13th from 1:00-3:00 P.M.
- Fire MOU Partnership next in-person meeting is scheduled for June 1st – 2nd at the Hume Lake Ranger District of the Sierra National Forest.

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/