



**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 27, 2016**

#### **MAIN TASK FORCE REPORT**

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

#### **WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

##### **Mapping and Monitoring (Mark Rosenberg/Chris Fischer)**

- The Aerial Detection Survey was conducted last week by the USDA Forest Service. The flight covered low elevation forestland along the west slope of the Sierra Nevada Range (below snowline). We anticipate having results to share with the Task Force within the next two to four weeks.
- Two new members will be joining the Mapping & Monitoring work group next week, one from Calaveras County and one from Tulare County. Both of these new participants have experience in GIS mapping and we anticipate they will help the group keep track of tree removal projects in their counties, among other support.

##### **Regulations (Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg)**

- United States Forest Service (USFS) Region 5 hosted a Tribal Forest Protection Act (the Act) Workshop May 24-26 at McClellan to share and discuss how to work together to implement the Act. The panelists from Natural Resources Conservation Service, state and private forestry, and Sierra Nevada Conservancy described current cooperative efforts such as the Tree Mortality Task Force, Sage Grouse Initiative, Sierra Nevada Conservancy Watershed Improvement Program; how to work together at the local level with emphasis on landscape planning; and how to access a variety of funding sources.
- The possible use of heavy equipment from out-of-state, such as logging trucks and boom trucks, to augment resources available within California for tree removal work has raised the question of out-of-state equipment's compliance with California Air Resources Board (CARB) standards. This potential impediment to bringing additional resources to assist in California will be reviewed and solutions sought in conjunction with CARB.
- Alan Abbs provided an update on recent meetings with US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Region 9 representatives. The recommendation from US EPA was for CARB to develop a statewide general permit for the air



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curtain burners. This may pose an issue for some local air districts that have prohibitions on the use of statewide general permits. The group will continue to work through this issue.

- Mariposa is still in discussion with Pacific Gas & Electric and Caltrans on potential site location and development. Madera County provided a brief update on the success they've had with the North Fork site. They continue to work through tipping fees and storage site processing issues. Madera is working on a white paper that will explain and describe what to address and include when developing a storage site. Once complete, other counties may use the white paper to assist them in storage site development. The group had general discussion on preferred log lengths and storage site log receipt prioritization. Storage sites will fill up fast and there will need to be prioritization toward accepting logs from areas that pose a health and safety risk.

#### **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 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. Comments are due May 25th and reply comments are due June 3rd.

#### **Utilization – Market Development (Evan Johnson/Kim Carr)**

- 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. More



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recently a larger group of State agencies and partners has been coordinated to further evaluate the viability of this proposal. More analysis is being explored to transport chips by way of rail.

**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)**

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

**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.



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- 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

## 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)
<b>Burner Module A (2):</b>											
3 Fire Box (burners)	6			3	3						
1 Track Loader	2			1	1						
1 Wheel Loader	2			1	1						
<b>Burner Module B (2):</b>											
2 Fire Box (burners)	4		2				2				
1 Track Loader	2		1				1				
1 Wheel Loader	2		1				1				
<b>Single Resources:</b>											
Masticator (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)	2		1	1	1		1		1		
<b>Total # of New Equipment Units</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

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

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



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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- The next full Tree Mortality Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 P.M.
- Fire MOU Partnership next in-person meeting is scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.treetaskforce.org)

**California's Tree Mortality Information Clearinghouse for the Public**

[www.prepareforbarkbeetle.org](http://www.prepareforbarkbeetle.org)

**California's Tree Mortality Viewer**

[egis.fire.ca.gov/TreeMortalityViewer/](http://egis.fire.ca.gov/TreeMortalityViewer/)