



Tree Mortality Task Force Monthly Update

October 28, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Forest Health and Resilience Working Group (FHRWG) continue to work on building a reforestation strategy for tree mortality areas in the high hazard counties. A scoping effort has begun for placing a seedling sowing order to make seedlings available for sale to private landowners in 2018. Several additional actions that will serve to increase tree planting in the high hazard counties are being planned.
- The Mapping and Monitoring Working Group (MMWG) responded to a request from the CAL FIRE's Madera-Mariposa Unit to analyze potential locations for log storage and processing facilities in Mariposa County. The model is based on parcel size, slope, distance to roads and other factors and resulted in over 90 potential properties that may be suitable. These locations are being evaluated by Unit and County personnel. The process is being documented in case other Units or Counties have similar needs.

CURRENT TREE MORTALITY CONDITIONS

- 66,000,000 dead trees since 2010

MAIN TASK FORCE REPORT

- The next Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, November 14 from 1:00-3:00 P.M.
- Saul Gomez has replaced Wade Crowfoot, as the Governor's Representative on the TMTF.
- The Tree Mortality Task Force was formed for implementing and/or achieving the 19 directives identified in the October 30, 2015 State of Emergency Proclamation by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. The TMTF accomplishment status of the 19 directives will be discussed at the upcoming meeting.



WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Forest Health and Resilience

(Pete Cafferata/ Stewart McMorrow)

- The FHRWG met on October 5th. Progress is being made on several different projects. These include:
 - The FHRWG document titled “Achieving Long-Term Forest Health and Resilience in California” has been reviewed by Helge Eng, CAL FIRE Deputy Director, with suggested edits. After the document is reviewed by CAL FIRE’s Director and Chief Deputy Director for their approval, it will be released to the TMTF and the public.
 - A draft white paper titled “Sierra Forest Health Report” authored by John Amodio and Larry Camp has been completed and sent to the FHRWG for their review prior to our November meeting. This document stresses the critical need for creating a comprehensive forest restoration program in the Sierra Nevada to improve forest health conditions (i.e., a Sierra Ecological Restoration Program that integrates existing programs). The Sierra Nevada Conservancy enthusiastically supports the recommendations put forth in the white paper.
 - The FHRWG continues to work on building a reforestation strategy for tree mortality areas in the high hazard counties. A scoping effort has begun for placing a seedling sowing order to make seedlings available for sale to private landowners in 2018. Several additional actions that will serve to increase tree planting in the high hazard counties are being planned.
 - The Mapping and Monitoring Working Group is working with the FHRWG to develop a mapping product that overlays high mortality areas with seed zones that will inform cone collection and speculative sowing of reforestation seedlings.
 - UC Cooperative Extension staff members are assisting the FHRWG with public outreach regarding forest health and resilience. Also, the TMTF Public Outreach Working Group has requested assistance from the FHRWG with their forest health outreach campaign.



Mapping and Monitoring

(Mark Rosenberg/Chris Fischer)

- The MMWG has received a list of active wood storage and processing facilities and has created a map of these locations. A number of these were located based on written descriptions so an editable web application is being developed to assist users in validating the mapped locations. We anticipate this process being available in mid-November
- The MMWG responded to a request from the CAL FIRE's Madera-Mariposa Unit to analyze potential locations for log storage and processing facilities in Mariposa County. The model is based on parcel size, slope, distance to roads and other factors and resulted in over 90 potential properties that may be suitable. These locations are being evaluated by Unit and County personnel. The process is being documented in case other Units or Counties have similar needs.
- The MMWG presented the mortality project tracker in Kern on October 12, 2016. County personnel expressed interest in using the tools to help keep projects coordinated with other agencies.

Regulations

(Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg)

- The Regulations Working Group (RWG) is coordinating a meeting between CAL FIRE and ISO/Verisk (makers of the FireLine™ model) to discuss the potential exchange of data for inclusion in FireLine. The RWG will coordinate an insurance workshop with the TMTF Counties, ISO/Verisk and CDI to be held in early 2017. CDI would like to complete their validation of FireLine before holding the workshop and expects the validation to be completed by the end of 2016. Some of the comments/questions provided to ISO/Verisk include:
 - Does FireLine consider local and landscape fuel reduction efforts to evaluate fuel conditions i.e. satellite imagery vs actual ground conditions-is there a failure to recognize surface and ladder fuel reduction, Defensible space clearing or shaded fuel breaks, roadside clearing? Would FireLine benefit from publicly available GIS data that CAL FIRE has available-vegetation layers, fuel reduction work, defensible space inspection data, fire perimeters etc.? Is FireLine intended to be a standalone tool or was it intended for use in conjunction with PPC to establish risk in the WUI? Can FireLine be developed to factor in existing emergency response agreements that commonly are used in the fire service-Auto/Mutual Aid, Local Agreements, Closest Resource Concept? Would it be helpful to compare FireLine modeling to modeling against actual fires stopped at fuel breaks?



- Storage Site Matrix - The RWG have identified a total of 80 potential storage sites within the Counties. Currently, 13 of these sites are active. Site location information was provided to the Mapping and Monitoring group. The site list will continue to be updated as sites are created or closed.
- CAL FIRE has developed a draft document titled "Issues with the Movement of Wood Material from the Drought Induces Bark Beetle Epidemic". The document was developed in response to concerns surrounding debris removal and the potential to spread or increase bark beetle impacts. The draft was circulated to the RWG and a brief summary included into the Tree Removal Guidelines with a link to the document.

Utilization – Bioenergy

(Angie Lottes/Sandy Goldberg)

- As directed by the Governor's Tree Mortality Proclamation, the three investor-owned utilities are to purchase a minimum of 50 MWs of power from facilities using feedstock primarily from the high hazard zones. To stay in compliance with the CPUC process and deadlines, PG&E, SCE and SDG&E issued Bioenergy Renewable Auction Mechanism (BioRAM) Request for Offers for forest biomass plants consuming significant high hazard zone material. PG&E and SCE are to purchase a minimum of 20 MWs of power each. SDG&E is required to purchase a minimum of 10 MWs of power. Bidders submitted offers to the utilities last month and utilities are now reviewing those bids. Facilities will be notified of their application status in October, and contracts will be submitted to the CPUC for approval in November. The public will be made aware of the contract awarded facilities when the IOU's submit an advice letter to the CPUC this next month.
- In addition to the BioRAM requirements passed by the CPUC early this year, a SB 859 requires 125 MW of additional power procurement from existing power plants. The CPUC adopted Resolution E-4805 to address the requirements of SB 859. IOUs must procure power in the amount allocated to them by executing contracts by December 1, 2016. Contracts can be offered through the current BioRAM (BioRam 1), a second BioRAM (BioRam 2) with specific changes made to the program, or through bi-lateral contracting. SCE has announced a BioRAM 2 auction; offers are due on November 7.
- CPUC adopted a Proposed Decision to make changes to the existing BioMAT program rules implementing SB 840, which changes the requirements for maintaining a place in the BioMAT queue. Projects will no longer be required to maintain an active position in the utility's Interconnection queue to also hold a place in the BioMAT queue. This will enable a number of



projects to enter the BioMAT queue and trigger the price mechanism. The proposed decision also shortens BioMAT "program periods", which will allow the price to rise and lower more quickly than before. IOUs must issue Tier 2 Advice Letter adopting these changes within 20 days of October 27.

- As directed by the Governor's Emergency Proclamation, the California Energy Commission has prioritized Electric Program Investment Charge funding for woody biomass-to-energy technology development and deployment. Grant Funding Opportunity 15-325 was released on Monday, June 27, 2016. It includes \$5 million for research and development projects using woody biomass and \$10 million for technology demonstration and deployment to projects using high hazard zone material. Concept papers for this solicitation have been submitted and full proposals are due in December. The California Energy Commission will alert projects to their status for phase 1 applications next month. Additionally, the California Energy Commission has released Grant Funding Opportunity 16-306, part of which makes \$1 million available for reporting on environmental impacts of forest biomass and field residue fueled bioenergy.

Utilization – Market Development

(Evan Johnson)

- SB 859, signed by the Governor, directs the Resources agency to establish a working group on expanding wood product markets that can utilize woody biomass, especially biomass that is removed from high hazard zones. The new working group is to include members from this existing Market Development Working Group (MDWG). By June 1, 2017, the working group must submit recommendations to the Legislature on actions that may be taken to encourage the development of the wood product markets, including the identification of potential pilot projects.
- The MDWG continues to catalog specific and general market opportunities considered and or supported by the members of the group. This catalog will help to inform the work of both groups moving ahead.
- The MDWG met with the Beck Group to inform and help refine the scope of their report on wood product business opportunities from tree mortality woody biomass. That work will be completed by the end of the year.



Public Outreach

(Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)

- Working group members have been working to create a fact sheet recognizing the successes of the Task Force within the first year since the Governor signed the Tree Mortality Executive Order.

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.
- **Submitted CDAA Applications:** Calaveras Public Utility District, El Dorado Irrigation District.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Placer, Tulare, Tuolumne, Nevada County, City of Grass Valley.
- **County Tree Mortality Task Forces:** Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Placer, Tulare, Tuolumne, Nevada, Butte, Modoc, Yuba.

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.

CAL FIRE Grants update:

CAL FIRE’s State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund and Tree Mortality Grant Program received 264 grant applications with a request of approximately \$39 million. The grant applications review process is under way, with awarded grant recipients being notified in December.

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)	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		
Total # of New Equipment Units	41	1	8	10	8	2	9	0	3	0	0

**Red numbers denotes that a piece of equipment is released to or active in the Unit



UPCOMING EVENTS

- The next Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, November 14 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/

United States Forest Service-California Tree Mortality Information

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