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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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## **Tree Mortality Task Force Regulations Working Group Minutes Meeting: April 15, 2016**

- The Regulations Working Group continues to work on insurance issues surrounding dead tree removal prior to obtaining coverage, cancelation due to dead trees and variation in underwriting policy.
- The Regulations Guidance Workshop is scheduled for April 25, 2016 in Mariposa County. A one page notification document was developed for public notification. Each Agency will contribute as necessary to the workshop presentations. Meeting Location: Mariposa County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 5100 Bullion Street, Mariposa, CA 95338. Time: 10:30 to 12:30.
- The Regulations workgroup continues to coordinate with the Counties on storage site development. The Counties were asked to provide the working group regulatory or legal issues they are having with any current storage sites being developed. For those Counties without storage sites, they were asked to identify a storage site location and begin the development process. The workgroup will then be able to better support the Counties on any issues they are experiencing.
- Storage Site Case Study: Mariposa County in cooperation with Caltrans has initiated a storage site case study to identify site locations and begin the development process. The workgroup will support this development effort. The group will act as a clearinghouse for storage site development issues/resolutions and will circulate the information to other Counties and the task force.
- The RWG is working on CEQA issues surrounding state agencies involved in the tree removal efforts and tribal consultations for cultural resources. Caltrans was recently asked by USFS to mark the cultural areas where tree removal will occur. The RWG is researching other state agency cultural resource protection efforts and engaging the USFS.
- The RWG is evaluating CEQA waiver under the EP and procedural efforts (documentation) need by agencies to demonstrate compliance with resource protection statutes for archeological resources, nesting birds, endangered species, etc. CEQA documentation should specify that the project is exempt from CEQA because it carries



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out the EP. Each agency should seek internal legal advice regarding the need to file a Notice of Exemption with the Clearinghouse.

- The RWG is working with the Yosemite/Sequoia RC&D Council and North Fork CDC to gain information on their recent storage site development efforts and has requested the current Fire Marshal requirements and the CDC security requirements for the project. The RWG wants to compare the requirements to other counties efforts.
- The RWG is in the process of developing a FAQ for storage sites, Forest Practice Rules and log utilization.