



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Tree Mortality Task Force Regulations Working Group Action/Progress Update

April 1, 2016

Estimate of Affected Homeowners:

The group has been discussing the potential to estimate the number of homeowners being affected by the drought related tree mortality within the counties. Mariposa County has completed an initial preliminary GIS analysis. Mariposa was asked to develop a simple document explaining the analysis so other counties could repeat if desired.

Heather indicated a need to develop a one page FAQ document for homeowners that explains:

- 1) The Government cannot predict when a tree will fall or cause fire;
- 2) That there currently does not seem to be a significant fund source to assist landowners.
- 3) Information on who to trust in removing trees, how to remove them safely, and how to evaluate risk (evacuation options, high winds, size, etc.)
- 4) Insurance Issues (link to other areas)
- 5) Fire Safe Council assessments of tree removal.
- 6) County-wide agreements for private help, CFIP or other land management agreements.

Funding Opportunities and Business Processes

The group discussed recent CAL FIRE cooperation with The American Forest Foundation (AFF). The AFF will be conducting a "4 Touch" direct mail marketing campaign beginning the first week in April. The marketing campaign will consist of informing landowners of the California Forest Improvement Program funds that may be available for fuel reduction and healthy forest projects. This pilot marketing campaign will be in Mariposa and Tuolumne County and only target landowners with 20 to 5,000 acres.

The group discussed options to provide state or federal grant funds to local Counties or cooperators to allow hazard tree removal on smaller parcels. Similar grant opportunities were conducted in the past to provide landowners assistance for hazard tree removal. The California Forest Improvement Program was discussed as an option, although this CAL FIRE program is geared toward forest management to improve forest health and not specifically as a tool to facilitate hazard tree removal on multiple small parcels.

The group discussed the potential to develop a Multi-County Joint Power of Attorney to allow consistency and ease in managing tree mortality issues.

Regulations Guidance Workshops:



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The Regulations Guidance Workshop is being scheduled for April 21, 2016. The intent is to hold the workshop in Fresno due to the central location. CAL FIRE will work with the Southern Region and local Unit to identify a venue. Each Agency can contribute to the presentation and there is interest to have individuals from the contacts list available at the workshop to help answer questions.

Storage Sites:

The RWG decided to make the log storage site sub-group part of the normal RWG call. The storage site group information will now be included into the RWG agenda and minutes. The Counties will be asked to provide regulatory or legal issues involved with any current storage sites being developed or asked to identify a storage site location and begin the establishment process. The RWG will then be able to better support the Counties on any issues they are experiencing. Reischman will reach out to the County contacts providing the storage site list and request any specific issues that the RWG can help resolve.

Insurance and Hazard Tree Removal: Christy Carol (Dept. of Insurance Rep.) is developing an insurance Facts Sheet for Homeowners that will provide Dept. of Insurance contacts for homeowners experiencing cancellations or non-renewals, Fair Plan information and other pertinent homeowner insurance information.