



## **Tree Mortality Task Force Resource Allocation Working Group Meeting 2/25/16 1:00 pm – 4:00pm**

### On the Phone

Chris Anthony – CAL FIRE  
Elissa Brown – Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
Darold Heikens – Caltrans  
Brian Ruger – Tule River Tribe  
Sheri Elliot Forest Service  
Bill Condon – Fish and Wildlife  
Matt Plummer - PG&E  
Chuck Henderson - American Forest Foundation  
Karen Buhr – California Association of Resource Conservation Districts  
Luana Kiger - NRCS

### In the Room

Tom Lutzenberger – CAL FIRE  
Riza Khan – CAL FIRE  
Thom Porter – CAL FIRE  
Whitney Bray – CAL FIRE  
Dana Braselton – CCC  
Glenn Barley – CAL FIRE  
Peter Crase – CAL OES  
Don Florence – Mariposa County

### Meeting Notes

#### Review of 1/28/16 Meeting Notes

No questions on 1/28 meeting notes.

#### Review of Timeline & Current Status

No questions on the delivery timelines.  
Current Status: On time.

#### Allocation Discussion

Each county was asked a series of questions. Not all counties were involved in meetings or discussions. Most responses were from CAL FIRE locations. (See email from Thom Porter)

These questions and answers will be converted to a matrix to easily identify the needs so they can be prioritized and resources can be allocated to areas of greatest need.



- “Has the county identified disposal sites?” This will be added as a criteria. (Luana Kiger)
- “CEQA clearance *and or warranted permits...*” Bill will assist in the wording of this question. (Bill Condon)

### General discussion:

**Q: If granted, do counties have the capacity and manpower to mobilize the requested resources?**

A: The needs are prioritized by the ability to mobilize resources.

**Q: In the interest of efficient use of equipment, can resources be shared across different regions depending on the needs?**

A: Some resources can be easily shared while others cannot. “Mobile equipment” isn’t always necessarily “mobile”. Transportation of heavy duty industrial equipment is costly and time intensive.

**Q: Is participation limited to counties?**

A: We have not made that distinction at this time. We have received requests outside of the six prioritized counties.

- A strategy needs to be developed that ensures that resources can be shared between areas.
- There should be a system to monitor the usage and implementation. There should be a way for communication to take place between counties. This project shouldn’t end with the delivery of the equipment.
- Identify where the state can help, how we can prioritize the needs of counties and alternate.
- High ticket items such as burners will not be designated to particular projects. Requests for utilization will go through a process.

### Air Curtain Burners:

- The Federal EPA says that the ACB’s require a major source permit, a process which could take several months. The prescribed fire group will follow up with this to explore our options. (Don Florence)
- Training - Scheduled for training March 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at site with felled trees as part of a field break within a community. (Glenn Barley)

**Action Item:** Thom Porter will develop a display of the needs and allocations of resources.

### Addition of CAL FIRE existing equipment (26x items)

No questions.



### **FEPP equipment status**

ARB will be providing an exemption letter with regards to the use of equipment (primarily for vehicles). We are waiting for this letter from ARB (Tom Lutzenberger)

### **(New) Crew resources from CCC and California Volunteers are available.**

(See funding fairs)

### **Resource Fairs**

Resource fairs have started. Mariposa, Tuolumne and Fresno will be having resource fairs in the coming weeks. Each jurisdiction will be setting up their own fair. Don Florence will be present at an upcoming resource fair. Elissa will follow up with Don after completion. A large number of people from both region 4 and 5 are expected. The intention is for resource fairs to be multi-faceted not solely for land-owners. We will consider the possibility of CCC and California Volunteers assisting with these fairs.

**Funding Information:** We need to assess each funding option, the requirements for participation and the availability of funds. It seems that some businesses misrepresent the amount of available funding to homeowners.

- Luana Kiger will assist in redeveloping a factsheet or infographic to represent this data.

**CFIP Funding:** CFIP funding is available. We are working on informing landowners. There are plans for additional funds in the next fiscal year, pending the budget cycle.

### **Review of Matrix Progress**

- What is the process for requesting either resources or funding. Needs to be identified on the matrix
- CCC
  - Most centers are 30-90 days out in terms of crew availability. Some availability for crews that are Fee for Service. Potential for SRA funds use.
  - ACTION – Dana B to survey the centers to see exactly how far out from availability.
- CEC
  - No information at this time. Need a contact person. Charles Rabamand to send a potential contact
- Cal EPA
  - No information at this time. Need a contact person. Charles Rabamand to send a potential contact to Tom L and Thom P
- CAL FIRE
  - \$1.75 mil available in SRA Grants made to fire councils, fire districts



- Awards and funding currently in process
- \$250k Masticator – originally targeted towards a lease, but will be a purchase. Remove from CAL FIRE matrix.
- Inmate crews – Need to query the South for availability. Crews currently working on other projects, based on pre-existing calendaring. Working with Counties to identify additional needs and projects that are environmentally cleared. More info in the next few weeks.
- Equipment orders made for various equipment. Orders processed and approved. They are built to order, so some will be arriving in various stages.
- Plan to be developed to lease equipment as well. One issue is that some equipment is not available for lease and would have to be manufactured.
- GHG pending budget deliberations. No further details at this time.
- Air burner generators determined to not be an option at this time
- CAL Labor and Workforce Agency
  - Federal funding to employ displaced workers for drought relief. Can be made available for this effort. Manual labor in the form of hand crews. Biggest limitation to only public land, no private land. Can partner at the local level.
  - Need to develop capacity information and match up the availability to the geographic need
- Cal OES
  - Disaster Assistance Program
  - FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program - Grant
    - Applications were due by 1/29
  - Pre-disaster mitigation plan option – Julie Norris from OES – Application is done through open competitive scoring and review process on a federal level. OES consults with FEMA to determine the prioritization.
    - Wildfire hazard mitigation is one of the three priorities from PDM grants.
    - Could we consider assisting the counties with their applications?
    - Counties have to have already utilized 50% of available HUDs.
- CAL Recycle
  - Technical assistance related to permitting process for chipping and provide transfer station capability
  - Solid Waste facilities can take additional waste that they wouldn't normally take, under the appropriate Exec Order
  - Information can be made available via direct outreach or local assistance groups to get to county leaders who can reach out to solid waste facilities
  - Recycling Market Development Zone Loan – Purchase equipment for chipping – up to \$2 million.
  - Chipping efforts must meet certain criteria in order to apply



- Caltrans
  - Will facilities be able to handle mulch storage or utilization? Yes, we have identified some areas. We know how much we can store, however, some facilities have restrictions during the winter for storage and some biomass will need to be shuffled around.
  - Equipment availability – still assessing viability for borrowing equipment from us. Need to assess which non Caltrans operators are skilled, who pays for maintenance.
  - Is there potential to also provide operators along with equipment?
  - Are the federal highway funds a potential source for funding?
  - Potential FEMA funding?
- CNG
  - CAL FIRE yet to reach out to CNG. They are a source for equipment, yet there are costs associated and yet to be determined.
- CA Volunteers
  - Access to \$750k to support Ameri-Core Crews. Manual crew assistance for ground work.
- DOF
  - No information at this time. Need a contact person.
- Gov Ops
  - EF-7/DGS mapping out what facilities are available to perform mulching and accept mulch for landscaping. Early in assessment of capability. Will attempt to reach out to leased facilities and other local programs.
- DGS
  - Any available State surplus equipment that can be redirected? DGS needs to know exactly what the request is, so that they can perform a detailed search. CAL FIRE to develop detailed criteria and work with DGS to survey existing State inventory.
- NRCS
  - Can sign up for Catastrophic Fire Recovery Fed funding within 18 months after fire occurs.
  - \$1.7 mil specific to San Bernardino. 2016 is last year for funding
  - Equip Tree Mortality - \$500k for private forest land in select counties. Eligible landowners and projects. Non-Industrial Private Forest Land.
  - Need to add specificity to the criteria and requirements for securing funding.
  - FSA – Farm Service Agency – Separate Fed agency
- OPR
  - PACE Program – loss reserve program to provide funding to mortgage consumers. Potential for waived mortgage payment in exchange for paying for tree removal.



- Rural Development
  - No information at this time. Need more information from designated contact person.
- Parks and Rec
  - Firewood sales program – Opportunity to consume biomass through firewood sales. Potential spread of wood pests as biomass is distributed. Tie in with “Burn it Where You Buy It” campaign.
  - They have equipment needs as well as available equipment. Need to connect with them to discuss further.
- USFS
  - Current matrix information stands for now. USFS representatives not available today.
- FEPP
  - Can quickly transfer equipment to CA upon defining need. Issue with CARB emission standards for any earmarked equipment. USFS Region 5, CAL FIRE Legal and associated licensing agencies.
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
  - Watershed and Wetlands Program – This program cannot be tied to the efforts in tree mortality. Proposed to remove this from matrix
- CA Association of Resource Conservation Districts
  - Tech and manual assistance – education, partnerships, outreach, ground crews, potential funding source. Works directly with landowners. Ability to contract with other agencies to provide groundwork. Forthcoming list of existing contracts with agencies.
- American Forest Foundation
  - Develop field research for real-time ground-level information reporting from a private landowner perspective
- NFPA
  - Grant opportunity. Need to assess for viability for use for tree mortality purposes. May not be an option for emergency response to tree mortality. Use for long-term project.
- Bella Vista Foundation
  - Grant opportunity. Need to assess for viability for use for tree mortality purposes. May not be an option for emergency response to tree mortality. Use for long-term project
- National Forest Foundation Matching Awards Program
  - Grant opportunity. Need to assess for viability for use for tree mortality purposes. May not be an option for emergency response to tree mortality. Use for long-term project.



- Fire Safe Council
  - Potential funding availability, but depends on initial funding to them from USFS. Website does not currently show funding availability.
- Wildlife Conservation Board
  - Potential related to streams. Stream flow enhancement. Assess to see if this may fit needs for tree mortality. May only be a source for long-term forest health restoration project.
- CA Natural Resources Agency
  - Up to 1 million in grants available.
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy
  - 10 million available – use for larger restoration project. Potential tree removal connection in order to secure funding.
- Fish and Wildlife – outreach to see if they have anything available.

### **Private Side Assistance Discussion (47)**

Consider the assistance of a non-profit that can assess needs and is geared towards working with similar projects. A lot of organizations have a financial element, which would bar them from assisting.

- Tom, Elissa and Karen will work together to build a list of potential foundations and non-profits that can assist in the acceptance of private assistance.
- Tom will be working with the administrative side to ensure the proper steps are taken.
- Private business could potentially offer other types of assistance (other than monetary) such as use of land. We would need to discuss the possibility of these situations as well as possible liabilities involved.

### **Other**

- State Licensing Contracting Board has a list of properly licensed vendors for landowners to utilize. CAL FIRE has an internal list. We will not officially endorse any of these. (Whitney and Glenn will follow up on this)

### **Next Meeting (1:00)**

March 14th – Task force meeting  
March 24<sup>th</sup> -  
Reminder will go out