

**Tree Mortality Task Force
Resource Allocation Working Group
Meeting Notes
1/28/16 1:00 pm – 4:00pm**

On the Phone

Robert Ullrey – DGS
Bill Condon – Fish and Wildlife
Chuck Henderson -
Alisa Brown – Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Evan Johnson – CAL Recycle
Dory

Luana Kiger – NRCS
Darrold Hikens – CAL-Trans
Jose Luis Marquez – Labor and Workforce
Agency

In the Room

Charles Rabamad – CAL OES
Brian Rueger – Tule River Tribe
Debbie Franco - OPR
Chris Anthony - CALFIRE
Karen Baker – CA Volunteers
Monte Manson – CAL FIRE

Tom Lutzenberger – CAL FIRE
Thom Porter – CAL FIRE
Dana Braselton - CCC
Karen Buhr – CA Assoc Recource Consv
Dist
Don Florence – Mariposa County

Meeting Notes

Review of 1/5/16 Meeting Notes

No proposed changes to notes. Meeting notes approved and will be moved to task force website.

Review of Matrix Progress

- What is the process for requesting either resources or funding? This 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 Lutzenberger and Thom Porter.

- 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.

- OES
 - Disaster Assistance Program
 - FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program - Grant
 - Applications due by tomorrow 1/29.

- 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.

- CAL-Trans
 - 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-CAL-Trans 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?

- 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 AmeriCore Crews. Manual crew assistance for ground work.
- Department of Finance.
 - No information at this time.
- 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
 - 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 - Janis Liddel.
- 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 Assoc of Resource Conservation Dist
 - 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.
- Am 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 Prog
 - 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
 - 10million 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.

Status of CAL FIRE Equipment Resources

Discussion on Funding Fairs

Need a lead person to develop what the funding fairs will look like, who participants will be, and begin calendaring events. Alisa Brown from Sierra Nevada Conservancy and Karen Buhr from CA Association Resources Conservation District can assist, but still need to identify a lead. Debbie Franco from OPR Karen Baker from CAL Volunteers were mentioned as potentials.

- Resources group will work with Public Information group
- CA Finance Coordination Council – Potential source for assistance
- Direction has been given to CAL FIRE Units in the South to provide logistical support for setup, teardown, etc.
- Concept would be similar to a job fair.
- Identify agency by type of resources available. Color-coded booths to identify the type of funding available.
- Event Marketing should be included in the concept

Other

- Need to ensure that the State recommends contractors who have ALL appropriate licensing, permits, etc. Work with each county to develop a list of potential contractors
- Need to reach out to Dept of Interior.

Next Meeting

- Next meeting tentatively scheduled for 4th Thursday of each month (February 25th). Recommend a conference call sooner in order to keep things moving.
- Proposed 19th (3rd Friday) for call 9:30-noon