



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

Tree Mortality Task Force

Resource Allocation Working Group Minutes

Meeting Notes

1/5/16 1:00 pm – 4:00pm

On the Phone

Tracy - PGE
Becky Johnson
Robert Ullrey – DGS
Others....

In the Room

Bill Condon – Fish and Wildlife
Charles Rabamad – CAL OES
Brian Rueger – Tule River Tribe
Debbie Franco - OPR
Chris Anthony - CALFIRE
Bruce Saito - CCC
Karen Baker – CA Volunteers
Casey Walsh Cady- CDFA

Karen Buhr – CA Assoc RCD's
Sherry Elliot - USFS
Luana Kiger - NRCS
Matthew Reischman – CAL FIRE
Sarah Peterson - National Fish and
Wildlife Foundation
Jenny Moffitt - CDFA
Monte Manson – CAL FIRE
Tom Lutzenberger – CAL FIRE
Thom Porter – CAL FIRE
Steve Kelley – Independent Energy
Producers Association
Matt Henigan – GovOps

Meeting Notes

- Thom Porter discussed the charge for the taskforce, based on the Governor's Exec Order. The Exec Order has identified the main objectives for this taskforce.
- There can be additional objectives identified and proposed, but must be vetted first by the oversight taskforce.
- Tom Lutzenberger reviewed housekeeping items with the group in order to conduct the meeting.
- A Question was asked regarding what to do with the trees and brush, once it is removed.
Thom Porter responded this is bio energy related and disposal options will be discussed within the bioenergy workgroup.
- Question – What are the different groups that are involved in this taskforce?
Chris Anthony provided that information later in the meeting.
- Question – The group would like to review objectives and asked additional questions about the taskforce's and workgroup's overall goals. Thom Porter responded later in the meeting going through each goal.
- Question – DIR exemption issue status - where are we with it?



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Tom Lutzenberger stated the answer was forthcoming. Since that time DIR has been contact by CAL FIRE and has assigned a representative to the task force to discuss the matter and related reviews.

- Thom Porter asked for volunteers to take notes during the meetings? No one volunteered, so Monte Manson and staff were assigned to the task.
- Thom Porter discussed his background and history related environmental issues and how it ties to the workgroup.
- The progress of this Working Group will be tracked using the Suggestion Form and the Work Group Matrix sheet as the main product.

Review of Objectives

- Portable Equipment – objective #2 and 3 – There was a request to clarify exactly what it means:
Chris Anthony responded – CAL FIRE allocated funding to secure equipment for tree removal, which includes portable and non- portable equipment. CAL FIRE is in the process of acquiring that equipment. Once CAL FIRE has received the equipment, the Department will reach out to other agencies to work in tandem with utilization.
- Question – will CAL FIRE be able to loan this equipment to other agencies?
Answer – The initial purchases will be specific to ownership of CAL FIRE. Utilization of the equipment will be coordinated at the region and unit level with local partners.
- Question – Are you only purchasing, or also leasing and renting?
Answer – All options are currently on the table. CAL FIRE is willing to discuss how to assist other agencies in the effort. One of the limitations is private side available. Purchases have to wait for production, and leases are limited to physical inventory present.
- Question – Who is tracking the total body of work in each of the counties and is there a timeframe to know when this information will be available?
Answer – There is a group who is tracking the overall process. Also each county will be tracking in their individual areas. Some information is already available in terms of mapping, but other information will need to be developed.
- Question – Is there an understood protocol or order of which agency is responsible at what time for certain projects?
Answer – Locals should be considered first, then help from CAL FIRE, along with input from other affected agencies.
- Question – Will CALFIRE Unit Foresters be involved in assessing project needs?
Answer – Yes, they will provide a leadership role for any project.
- Question - Need clarification on Objective #7: Develop and hold “funding fairs” in order to provide a one-stop shop for locals to secure funding or support for their projects. The idea is to ensure that people have a centralized place to find the agencies and associated funding without the complexity of having to reach out to many different entities.



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Working Group Meeting Times/Dates - Chris Anthony summarized the meeting schedule of the various working group meetings:

- Today 1/5/16
Mapping/Monitoring
Resource Allocations Working Groups
- Tomorrow 1/6/16
Forest Health and Resilience
- Thursday 1/7/16
Regulations Working Group Meeting
- Friday 1/8/16
9 am - Utilization Marketing
11am - Utilization Bio-energy
- Prescribed Fire and Communications Working groups not yet scheduled
- Requests for members to be added to workgroups should be submitted to the WG Leaders of the particular working group

Review of Taskforce Matrix – Tom L and Thom P

- Question to folks on phone – Is the matrix useful?
Answer – Tracy PGE – Need contact information on the matrix.
- Question – Can we make sure that all affected agencies for a project have an opportunity to review a plan?
Proposal by Charles Rabamad, OES – Suggested meeting with counties and agencies to discuss which agencies have funding available, what the process will be and which types of projects can be funded.
Thom Porter responded – We need a clearing house where all of this information is available or if it should be developed by the task force.
- Question by Bill Condon – Shouldn't the Regulations Working Group be the body who creates the clearing house?
Answer – The group will move forward with communicating with the Task Force for a decision on who will manage the clearing house.
- Question – Is there a more efficient way to develop a singular process for vetting a plan, instead of having to work it through multiple agencies, which could take an extensive amount of time?
Answer – Concerns have been noted and this is a crossover item that will have to involve more than this group.

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- Question - Is the only funding that is available to local jurisdictions from Cal OES, CAL FIRE and CAL TRANS? If so, then should we just meet with those three agencies to identify exactly what funding is available now, so that it is clear to the locals?
Answer – At this time a premature elimination of other agencies would remove the other resources they can provide in the form of staffing, existing asset support, and program redirection. These are resources that can help but don't fall into the "funding" category per se.
- Additional question – There should be input from the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), as they have the ability to provide funding directly to homeowners.
Answer - We will work to develop these into working objectives.
- Question – Assuming we could get the primary agencies together, would counties be funded based on priority or some other criteria?
Answer – It will be an ongoing effort that our group will constantly be involved with. Six counties have already been prioritized. We need to open the avenues and allow the funding to flow to the appropriate county and local entities. Tom Lutzenberger also responded that the group still needs to remain cautious about ensuring our processes will stand up to an audit.
- Question – Do the SRA Grants include CFIP?
Answer – Some of it could go through CFIP, but has not yet been fully identified.
- Question – How about the RCD's? Sometimes they have funding available?
Answer – Yes, that is a possibility.
- Question – Can we identify which State agencies may have land available where some of the material can be stored or otherwise utilized?
Answer – There will be a push for all agencies to identify what resources they have available to either assist with removal or store removed material

Closing Comments:

Comment: There needs to be industry representation on the working group to assist in identifying the types of locations that are available for disposal.

Comment and Suggestion: The group should create a GAP analysis to identify the different components required in order to provide adequate resource allocation.

Comment – Consider creative resources like Munirent.co – An equipment renting and qualified operator website for public agencies. They can supply various types of equipment for tree removal. They can also share equipment we own with other agencies and companies. This is similar to Air BnB, but for construction equipment. – Matt Henigan.

Comment – This group should focus on resources for equipment, qualified people to operate equipment, funding, crews, locations for staging, and similar.

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Logistics

Next Meeting – The working group decided on January 28th, then each 4th Thursday of the month thereafter – 1pm – 4pm.

ACTION ITEM (Chris Anthony) – Send description of process for being added to specific working groups to all of the members. – Generally a request is made through a contact of a working group and then the request is then forwarded to the Task Force leadership for approval. If approved, the request is then contacted and added.

ACTION ITEM (Working Group Leadership) – Add link to Task Force webpage on each agenda moving forward. Need clarification on what was desired with this action – on hold.

ACTION ITEM (All Members) - Request for each agency representative to review their individual section of the matrix and request and changes or additions. Send requests to both Tom Lutzenberger and Thom Porter.

ACTION ITEM (Tom Lutzenberger) -Information from NRCS is missing from the matrix. Need to locate the information and get it back on the matrix sheet. – The row was simply hidden and present all along. The edit has been made in the latest version.

ACTION ITEM (Working Group Leadership) – Request to include a list of all other agencies/entities that have potential to assist in providing resources towards tree cutting/removal. Ex. Churches, national conservation corps, etc. – The latest version of the matrix has begun this process.

END