



**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**

March 4, 2016

**Meetings/Conference Calls:** The Regulations Working Group (RWG) continues to have weekly conference calls on Fridays from 9:00 to 10:00. The group had their regular monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of March (3/2/16) from 9:00 to 11:00.

### **TF Storage Sites:**

RWG Caltrans Rep. Darold Heikens provided a list of potential storage sites on Caltrans property. Scott Tangenberg (USFS Rep.) provided potential log storage sites on the Sequoia National Forest. These new storage site locations were provided to Jeff Isaacs for inclusion into the TF storage site list. The TF storage site list was circulated to the RWG for review and discussion during the meeting 3/2/16. The list is confidential and the group was requested not to distribute. Once regulations are established and cost are identified some of these sites may fall off the list.

### **Landowners Affected by Tree Mortality:**

To quantify the total number of landowners affected that could require assistance, Rosemarie offered to provide an estimate of the number of landowners / homeowners affected by the tree mortality disaster. Rosemarie spoke with CAL FIRE Unit Forester Len Nielson, who suggested the following approach:

- use GIS
- assume a certain tree mortality rate (60-80% in Mariposa County)
- examine the Ponderosa Pines belt
- identify the number of parcels and then the number of parcels with homes

Len indicated that GIS Specialist, Emily Merriam, could develop such an estimate for Mariposa County fairly easily. He also suggested that the question might be appropriate to ask at the Task Force level, in which case it would be answered by FRAP for all six counties using the same methodology. The request was provided to the Data and Monitoring Group. They were not working on the issue but are looking into it.

### **Contacts List:**

The list continues to be developed with several new additions from CDFW, State Water Resources Control Board and the USFS. The list will be provided to the TF for posting on the website and will be updated as necessary. The intent is to develop a list the counties can use to help implement projects and get regulatory answers.

### **Air Quality**

Air Curtain Burners (ACB): Alan and several air district staff had a conference call with USEPA to try to get a path forward on the ACB permitting. It hasn't been as streamlined as hoped. There is an interest to have a conference call with the land management agencies that would be responsible for operating the ACBs, so we can tell them about a request they would have to submit asking for extended waivers of federal permitting, and the steps that ARB/Air Districts would take in parallel. The interest is to have a rep from CAL FIRE, Parks and



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the USFS familiar with their agencies plans to operate. The TF has been contacted regarding this issue and a request for a conference call on Monday March 7 at 10:00AM was made.

**Federal/FEMA Reimbursement:**

Heather has been working on issues surrounding county contracting for tree removal services. Tuolumne, and other counties, want to offer a flat rate for tree removal services as their public works departments are simply inundated, and right now contractors are in off-season for timber harvest operations and therefore, available and credentialed. The interest is to ensure contacting process remain eligible for federal funds if available.

Cal OES legal recommended local governments follow their own procurement rules and if there is federal funding they should also make sure that they comply with the federal procurement rules. Generally, in order to comply with federal procurement regulations, you must ensure that the project is open to competitive bidding. [2 CFR 200.319] Also, there are certain types of contracts that are disfavored by FEMA, such as time and materials contracts. Additionally, FEMA has specific allowable costs for tree removals. [FEMA Disaster Assistance Policy 9580.204; FEMA cost codes].