



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Tree Mortality Task Force Utilization—Market Development Working Group Agenda/Minutes

April 29, 2016, 9:00 -10:30

Natural Resources building, 1416 9th St., Sacramento,
CAL FIRE Large Conference Room, 15th floor (east end of hallway)

Conference Call Line: 916-324-6897 (no passcode required)

I. Roll call of Working Group Members and confirm new members

In attendance:

Kim Carr, Chris Anthony CAL FIRE

Evan Johnson CAL Recycle

Mary Simmerer DWR

Patrick Nevis GO BIZ

Matt Henigan Gov Ops

Larry Swan Forest Service

Michael McGuire OPR

Bob Kingman SNC

Larry Camp Forest Landowners of CA

Robert Ullrey DGS

Jenny Moffitt CDFA

Julee Malinowski-Ball CBEA

Darold Heikens Caltrans

Claire Jahns Resource Agency

Steve Brink CFA

Karen Buhr CA Association of RCDs

Dr. Parikh UCD

Nathan Bamford

Export markets

II. Approval of Agenda

III. Updates

a. Beck Group report and timeline (Kim Carr)

- There is an open question as to whether the contract can be no-bid, or be put out to bid.
- If it must be put out to bid, this will significantly slow down the process.
- The state of emergency provides an extension to the public contract code, and this has been used recently.
- Larry: In addition, forest consulting is a unique and specialized service. There are very few groups that can do this kind of work well, and it is difficult to get them to bid on work, since they are usually busy. This may help in building the case for no-bid contract.



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- Work will be completed in 8-10 weeks once awarded
 - **Kim and Claire will clarify contract process and update group once moving ahead.**
- b. DGS auction process (Matt Henigan)**
- Robert Ullrey with DGS—conducted lots of research, and talked to officials in British Columbia to understand auction process and possible state role.
 - DGS would help to facilitate auctioning at sort yards by auctioning minimum of 20 truckloads per auction
 - Would need to track and sort private vs state/federal logs
 - There is a strong market for dry logs, and they are more desirable than kiln-dried logs.
 - Possibly \$80/\$90 per ccf (cubic feet)
 - Larry—We've reached out to major domestic processors several times, without much interest.
 - Chris—Export ban also applies for state trees
 - Larry—The contract is important, if it is a service contract, where an entity is paid to remove the tree, then it could make a difference on export.
 - Robert—Recommend a set of uniform rules for grading at log decks.
 - **Connect with the Regulations Workgroup to confirm rules around export of both state and federal logs**
 - **Kim to confirm that Beck group will include export markets in scope.**
 - **DGS will complete drafting memo on auction, then circulate to group the week of 5/2-5/6**
 - **After, work with Regs group to create a guidance document for counties on specific log deck management requirements for DGS auction.**
- c. State procurement of mulch (Matt Henigan)**
- Management memo requires that state facilities apply 3" of mulch on exposed areas
 - Facilities are ready to buy mulch, but DGS needs estimate of how much is needed to put out bid for statewide contract
 - Is there a way for the state to just provide the material for the mulch, perhaps linking with DGS auction process and leftover wood?
 - **GovOPS (Matt) to convene a meeting with all departments with facilities near the mortality area to discuss how to estimate mulch needs, and draw connection between mulch needs and tree mortality event.**
- d. Salton Sea project and mulch use (Mary Simmerer)**
- DWR is seeking ways to cost-effectively prevent/mitigate dust at Salton Sea. Existing strategies used at Owens Lake, largely based on dust control through water, are expensive and short-term. DWR is looking into mulch as a form of dust control, and the costs/impacts of using beetle kill biomass as a source of mulch.
 - Need estimated 826K BDT/yr
 - This may have a secondary impact on the forest biomass over-supply supply as it will first attract ag and urban wood waste. This is more likely a long-term option on phase 2 of the project (2020 onward)
 - Three scenarios for getting material:



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- Scenario 1: Rail transportation from HHZs.
- Scenario 2: Material contracted from Desert View Power biomass facility. Facility is willing to discuss providing material, volume is not an issue.
- Scenario 3: Procure from City of San Diego Miramar Greenery Operation. No extra material available at this time. If there was, very expensive.
- **Next steps: Mary to meet with Salton Sea management team**
- e. Biochar working group update (Michael McGuire)**
 - Karen Buhr (Executive Director CARCD) and Dr. Sanjai Parikh (Associate Professor soil chemistry, UC Davis) are working on proposals for RCPP and FREP. The RCPP grant proposes to establish partnerships with landowners in high hazard zones to remove trees and develop agreements with farmers in the areas to designate research plots to test impacts of using biochar derived from tree mortality biomass. Dr. Parikh will conduct research at these sites through a FREP Proposal.
 - Looking for additional funding mechanisms and partners.

IV. New Business

a. Export markets—visiting the West Sacramento wood yard (Nathan Bamford)

- Nathan Bamford—Currently exporting 6,000 trees a month out of Mariposa from plots of 10, 20, up to 150 acres.
- Removing, transporting and debarking trees for free, making up cost on export sale. Round stock, not canted.
- Telling landowner in advance that there is no \$ to do site cleanup. Suggest NRCS grants or other to help with that. Or FireSafe funds?
- Primarily used as form boards for concrete
- Between the two major exporters, anticipate capacity to export up to 150MBF/yr
- Critical-logs must be long. Ideally 26' or longer. Could take down to 13'.
- South of Mariposa/Madera County line, not currently cost effective; too great of distance from ports.
- Export can handle as much material as available. Biggest current barrier is availability of log trucks.
- Beetle killed trees are still in very good shape, seeing only 2-3% defect.
- **Evan and Chris to set up site visit to West Sacramento Log Yard**

b. New business intake process

- *Tabled until next meeting.*
- **Patrick/Evan to have followup conversation before next meeting.**

V. Closing Comments/Adjournment

Note: Working Group Leaders to present current workgroup priorities and accomplishments at full Task Force Meetings.



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Note: Our next meeting may be rescheduled for Monday, May 23^d