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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Tree Mortality Task Force Public Outreach Working Group Agenda/Minutes

August 1, 2016

1:30 p.m.

- I. Welcome
- II. Roll call of assigned Working Group Members
 - i. CAL FIRE: Janet Upton, Gabe Schultz, Rick Carr
 - ii. RCRC: Staci Heaton
 - iii. SNC: Brittany Covich
 - iv. USFS: Sherry Reckler, Ray Mooney
 - v. CA Fire Safe Council: Jerry Davies
 - vi. PG&E: Lynsey Paulo Slojkowski
 - vii. CSAC: Cara Martinson
 - viii. CDFA: David Pegos
 - ix. Tulare County: Carrie Crane
- III. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Janet Upton gave an update on the Serpa Fire in Madera County, the first fire that has burned in the actual tree mortality area. Most fires in the TM areas have been put out very quickly before they've spread. Fire response has instituted "bug response" protocol to double response resources to keep the fire from spreading. Were seeing spotting into bug kill areas and also experiencing tree falls that were abnormal in the mortality areas beyond what is usually seen during fire response in normal areas. The "bug response" protocol was effective in containing the Serpa Fire before it spread.

Dove Fire just outside of the mortality area was contained before it spread into the mortality area.
- IV. New Business
 - a. USFS Aerial Detection Flight Surveys Schedule—Staci Heaton shared with the group the schedule for the upcoming aerial detection flight surveys planned by the USFS Region 5. The surveys in the 10 HHZ counties should be complete by mid-August, which will provide additional public outreach and media opportunities when new mortality numbers become available.
 - b. Public Interface Discussion—Ms Heaton led a discussion on how to deal with members of the public that contact working group members with tough inquiries and issues they want addressed. Rick Carr and Gabe Schultz advised the group to remain professional in any such conversations, obtain their contact information, and then pass it on to both Mr. Carr and Mr.



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Schultz, as well as the chairs of other pertinent working groups, so that those issues can be addressed.

V. Old Business

- a. Update on Legislative Tours—USFS: Sherry Reckler reported that the tour is scheduled for August 15. Focused on Congressional committee staff, attendance is not yet finalized. SNC: Brittany Covich reported that the California legislative staff tour was rescheduled for Sept. 22-23 in upper American River watershed. Rescheduled due to firefighting concerns, still working on logistics over the next month or so. Ms. Covich also reported that the CalForests tour was last Thursday and Friday, and that it was well attended.
- b. Update on Recent Media Activities—Both Ms Heaton and Cara Martinson discussed some of the recent media activities that counties are undertaking on tree mortality, including RCRC television interviews and new opportunities for action through the National Association of Counties. Jerry Davies reported that he did a short PBS radio interview a few weeks ago, touched on tree mortality. Will pass along when it's available. Has an opening on a radio program with Mike Williams in the Santa Barbara area to be on to discuss the tree mortality issue and asked working group members to email him if they are interested in participating. David Pegos discussed public outreach efforts on CDFA's Buy It Where You Burn It campaign in Camp Smokey at the California State Fair. Ray Mooney discussed two media efforts by USFS Region 5: Regional Forester Randy Moore did an interview with Economist Magazine recently on tree mortality, and will also be doing an interview with the biomass industry either this week or next. Lynsey Paulo Slojkowski discussed PG&E's recent press release in 10 counties on their debris management removal program for land owners impacted by drought mortality. PG&E is also continuing to offer helicopter ride-alongs to the media so they can see the mortality from the air, and will continue to offer throughout the end of the year.
- c. Self Guided Tour Materials Update—Ms. Heaton gave a brief update on the status of the materials, indicating that they are still in process of being converted to useable materials for the public.

VI. Other Business—None.

VII. Scheduling of next working group meeting: **Tuesday, September 6, 2016, 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

VIII. Closing Comments/Adjournment: