



**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 Regulations Working Group Minutes**

Conference Call: May 20, 2016

- Regulations Working Group Update/Agenda Additions: Reischman provided a TMTF update highlighting achievements to date and pending State budget requests.

### **Achievements to Date:**

- 10 counties have disaster declarations, have established local task forces, and expended over \$500 thousand dollars.
- The State purchased \$6 million dollars of equipment that is in the process of deployment and utilization in the impacted communities.
- The State awarded \$1.77 million dollars of SRA Fire Prevention Grants to assist communities most heavily impacted by tree mortality.
- The TMTF developed a statewide High Hazard Zone Map and web-based viewer showing areas where tree mortality intersects with critical infrastructure and poses a threat due to wildfire and falling trees.
- Provided additional funding for CAL FIRE hand crews to work in close coordination with local and county tree removal efforts.
- Developed outreach programs to utilize the CAL FIRE California Forest Improvement Program to assist small, non-industrial timberland owners with cost-share assistance in long term forest management.
- Issued emergency guidelines that establish criteria for the removal of dead and dying trees while protecting other cultural and environmental resources.
- Cal OES has allocated \$81 million dollars for California Disaster Assistance Act funding to Counties for removing dead trees threatening critical infrastructure.
- Caltrans expects to encumber over \$50 million this fiscal year for hazard tree removal work throughout the state.

### **Pending State Budget Request**

A one-time increase of \$11 million General Fund is being requested for CAL FIRE to assist in the removal and disposal of trees in high hazard areas. This includes:

- \$6 million for the California Conservation Corps and grants to local entities, including local government, fire districts, local conservation corps, tribal entities, and fire safe councils, to provide support to local efforts to remove hazardous trees that pose a threat to public health and safety.
- \$5 million to support additional miscellaneous equipment, hand crews, engine companies, and heavy equipment operators, for hazardous tree removal and fuels reduction efforts.



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- \$31.5 million for the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide assistance to counties through the California Disaster Assistance Act.
- **Affected Homeowners Flyer-Update/Intent:** The RWG discussed the intent behind the flyer and the potential for its use to describe county impacts necessary to request state funding. The document can be used presently to provide timely information to the various Senate and Assembly Budget Committees that are discussing TMTF funding. The Counties may decide to combine information and efforts to address the budget committees. Any developed County Flyer documentation will be circulated through the RWG to keep all informed.
- **FAQs-Contracting for Tree Removal:** Toby completed the draft FAQs. The group commented on 1) minor revision to paragraph 1, distinguishing between commercial/non-commercial timber harvest operations, 2) need to provide linkage to the Regulations Guidance Document and 3) providing a reference to the Agency Contacts List regarding timber harvest permitting.
- **FAQs-Board of Equalization (BOE)-Timber Tax:** Rich Wade provided the group an update on the FAQs indicating the BOE has a well-developed FAQs document on their website located at: <http://www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/timbertextfaq.htm> Rich will scale down the BOE FAQs to more specifically address TF tree removal issues. The link will be added to the TF website.
- **Storage Sites:** Madera County provided a brief update on the success they've had with the North Fork site. They continue to work through issues and are currently working on tipping fees. Mariposa is still in discussion with PG&E and Caltrans on potential site location and development.
- **Insurance:** The group discussed past Fair Plan issues and concerns. The Insurance FAQs document developed and provided to the TF a few months back went through revision at the TF level. The final document should be posted to the TF website soon.
- **Air Quality:** Christa provided an update on the US EPA letter regarding Title V permitting for Air Curtin Burners. The group is actively working on the permitting issues including negotiations with EAP on their ability to make certain finding of unattainability. Concerns surround the need to move the equipment between counties and air districts and the current definition used by EPA for air curtain burners.
- **Next working group call:** Friday 5/27, 9:00-11:00.