



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 Minutes

Conference Call: May 27, 2016

- **Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF) Update:** Glenn/Chris provided an update on actions of the TMTF. The USFS recently completed an aerial survey update for the southern sierra priority areas. Results of the survey should be available in 2-4 weeks and will indicate the increase or expansion in tree mortality. There is interest to survey the transition counties in the near future. Recently, CAL FIRE Director, Chief Pimlott was in Washington DC discussing California's Tree Mortality issues at the federal level. Last week, a federal tree mortality tour was held in the Fresno area. Tree mortality issues are now gaining higher recognition at the federal level. Matthew provided TMTF update at the Governor's Drought Task Force, monthly Tribal Consultation Webinar. The tribes were provided information on how they could engage and participate in the TMTF efforts.

USFS Region 5 hosted a Tribal Forest Protection Act Workshop May 24-26 at McClellan to share and discuss how to work together to implement the Act. Examples of existing successful projects were provided. The closing panel was focused on access to funding to implement forest health treatments across landscapes with collaborative cross-boundary coordination, planning, and treatment helpful in obtaining funding. The panelists from NRCS, State and Private Forestry, and Sierra Nevada Conservancy described current cooperative efforts such as Tree Mortality Task Force, Sage Grouse Initiative, SNC Watershed Improvement Program; how to work together at the local level with emphasis on landscape planning; and how to access a variety of funding sources. Workshop participants were provided a spreadsheet listing funding sources available to Tribes. Follow-up to workshop provides web links to various funding programs mentioned by NRCS, State and Private Forestry, and Sierra Nevada Conservancy.

- **FAQs-Contracting for Tree Removal:** The FAQs for contracting were finalized and provided to the TF 5/25/16 for review, approval and posting to the TF website.
- **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/timbertaxfaq.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.



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- **Storage Sites:** Mariposa is still in discussion with PG&E and Caltrans on potential site location and development. Madera County provided a brief update on the success they have had with the North Fork site. They continue to work through tipping fees and storage site processing issues. Madera is working on a white paper that will explain and describe what to address and include when developing a storage site. Once complete, other counties may use the white paper to assist them in storage site development. The group had general discussion on preferred log lengths and storage site log receipt prioritization. Storage sites will fill up fast and there will need to be prioritization toward accepting logs from areas that pose a health and safety risk.
- **Air Quality:** Christa provided an update on the US EPA letter regarding Title V permitting for Air Curtin Burners. The letter is legally complex and will likely not be posted on the website but shared with the various county councils for review and discussion. Alan provided an update on recent meetings with US EPA Region 9 representatives. The recommendation from US EPA was for CARB to develop a statewide general permit for the air curtain burners. This may pose an issue for some local air districts that have prohibitions on the use of statewide general permits. The group will continue to work through this issue.

The group discussed out-of-state equipment use and air quality compliance. Often the out-of-state equipment is not compliant with state air quality standards. There is an interest to seek an exemption for the use of out-of-state equipment, similar to how the federal surplus equipment was exempt by CARB as identified in their March 3, 2016, letter to CAL FIRE (posted on TMTF website). There is concern the use of out-of-state equipment may undercut or displace local contractors that have paid higher operation costs for compliance. CARB may request Information that demonstrates local contractor use has been exhausted or conditions well exceed local/state contractor capacity prior to issuing an exemption. PG&E indicated they have a need for the out-of-state contractor exemption and support the effort.

- **Other:** Christa requested CDAA right-of-entry language to help address Cal OES application needs. Example right-of entry templates are posted on the TF website. The group will discuss the issue further during the next call. Darold requested contact information for the transition counties. Chris will provide the contact information and the contact list currently posted to the website will be updated with transitional county contact information.
- **Next working group call:** Friday 6/3, 9:00-11:00.