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OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Tree Mortality Task Force Utilization—Market Development Working Group Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2017
11:00-12:30 pm

I. Roll call of Working Group members

Bob Kingman—SNC
Larry Camp—Forest Landowners of CA
Mary Simmerer—DWR
Gabe Schultz—CAL FIRE
Larry Swan—USFS
Cedric Twight—SPI
Brian Stalker—CalRecycle
Claire Jahns—CNRA
Kristen Merrill—CAL FIRE
Steve Brink—CFA
Patrick Nevis—GO Biz

II. Approval of agenda

III. Updates

a. Beck report update and next steps (Evan Johnson)

Beck group has completed a new draft of their report on options for woody biomass utilization, and conversation followed on two questions:

- 1) Is the report currently in a form that is most useful for counties, and if not, what can be done to get it there.
- 2) Once the report is released, what is the appropriate outreach strategy?

Consensus amongst the group that the report requires further work to be in a form useful to Counties. Some expressed disappointment that key information was missed, that some information could be misleading out of context, and that additional interviews could have better informed the product. Others expressed that the report was appropriately circumscribed to just the tree mortality event, and that limited the extent of the recommendations. Additional research was recommended on nanotechnology and export markets.

Agreement that this report does not represent the totality of recommendations from the WG, but is a Beck Group product that the WG can use to help inform its work and recommendations. Also agreement that any public rollout should be in the form of a dialogue with Counties, so these aren't seen as "recommendations", rather an opportunity for information sharing and dialog. Much of what



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is in the report will not be new to stakeholders. The real value is in using the information in the report to connect with new business interests, and to facilitate dialogue between Beck group, Counties, and WG members.

Action: WG leadership and a subgroup of members will meet to identify next steps on the product, and report back to the group

IV. New business

a. Strategic planning

i. Review of Emergency Proclamation action items

- Work with affected counties and existing wood product markets to determine the feasibility for expanded wood product markets in California.
- Provide for highest and best use of wood products.
- Identify and develop new technologies for biomass products (laminated wood products, etc.)
- Identify rules or regulations which may block the development of a utilization market.
- Provide regular updates at Task Force meetings to ensure effective communication and geographic coordination among all task force groups and stakeholders.

ii. Review of actions to-date

The group had a brief discussion of areas of activity:

- Worked collaboratively with entities in the WG to identify new opportunities for state procurement (e.g. Caltrans post specs, DGS mulch procurement)
- Helped to launch efforts on utilization of chips for dust abatement at Salton Sea
- Looked at export markets and possible barriers, went on tours. Explored possibilities, pros/cons of federal waiver
- Explored new business opportunities in California associated with a variety of processes/technologies including cross-laminated timber, biochar production, pelletizing/energy bricks, mulch, etc.
- Supported research on specific new technologies, including biochar.
- Connected new/expanding wood product businesses to state resources and support
- Fostered small, innovative new uses
- Interagency and stakeholder network development
- Recycling grant/loan opportunities
- Reviewed and clarified SWF regulations around storage sites
- Explored federal restrictions around log exports, NEPA issues
- Worked with BSC, building code and fire code to include opportunities for mass timber products (CLT/CNT)
- Initiated discussion with Caltrans about updating standards on guardrail posts to include pine sp.



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iii. Key remaining actions/functions

Consensus to focus on three key areas moving ahead:

- Direct work with counties
 - Host individual or group meetings to identify additional needs, provide support to economic development offices
- Identify additional regulatory barriers
 - Identify barriers
 - Work collaboratively with Regulations Working Group
- Continued market development
 - Continue to work directly with existing and new businesses
 - Develop support tools

V. Closing comments/adjournment