



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Tree Mortality Task Force Weekly Update

July 1, 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Tree Mortality Task Force is currently working with CAPCOA, CA Air Resources Board and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on possible options to the Title V permitting process.
- As directed by the Governor's Emergency Proclamation, the California Energy Commission has prioritized Electric Program Investment Charge funding for woody biomass-to-energy technology development and deployment. Grant Funding Opportunity 15-325 was released on Monday, June 27. It includes \$5 million for research and development projects using woody biomass and \$10 million for technology demonstration and deployment to projects using high hazard zone material. Three solicitation workshops will be held, on 7/20/2016, 7/21/2016, and 7/22/2016. Concept papers for this solicitation are due on August 29.

CURRENT TREE MORTALITY CONDITIONS

- 66,000,000 dead trees since 2010

MAIN TASK FORCE REPORT

- **Task Force Leadership Transition:** It was announced at the last Task Force meeting on June 13th that Task Force Leader Glenn Barley and Deputy Task Force Leader Chris Anthony will begin to transition leadership with CAL FIRE's Northern Region Staff Chief Resource Manager Gabe Schultz and Southern Region Staff Chief Resource Manager Rick Carr. While Glenn Barley and Chris Anthony will be available to the Task Force for specific efforts and consultations, they will be returning to their normal duties within CAL FIRE. For any communication to Task Force leadership it is requested that you include both Gabe and Rick on all correspondence. Whitney Bray will remain as the Logistics Chief for the Task Force and her role will continue in all efforts as previously involved.

WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Mapping and Monitoring (Mark Rosenberg/Chris Fischer)

- The Mapping and Monitoring Workgroup is working on getting updated critical infrastructure data from partners to facilitate an update of the High Hazard Zones (HHZs). The group is currently finalizing Non-Disclosure Agreements with some partners that will allow access to their information. The group expects the update of the HHZ's to be done toward the end of July.



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- The Project Tracker mapping application developed by FRAP is being finalized and will be ready for deployment soon. Staff has developed the application, user guide, and login request process. They are preparing to hand that process off to the Northern and Southern CAL FIRE Region leadership to help manage the process. The Task Force is reaching out to additional counties to identify appropriate GIS managers to participate in the Mapping and Monitoring work group to facilitate rolling out the project tracking application.

Regulations

(Matthew Reischman/Sandy Goldberg)

- The draft for the Frequently Asked Question's – Board of Equalization – Timber Yield Tax is being vetted through the group and a final draft will be completed shortly for publication to the website and distribution to the Task Force.
- Storage Site Efforts – Mariposa County and PG&E are working on a contract with Phillips and Jordan for the sorting, storing, and selling of merchantable wood. Phillips and Jordan also have interest in replicating this kind of contract in other counties.
- The Regulations Workgroup is evaluating the ability to move hazard trees and debris between sites within Air Districts for treatment in air curtain burners. They are also evaluating issues that may be involved with moving the material across Air District boundaries for treatment. A meeting with the Air Districts, CA Air Resources Board, and Cal EPA was held in early June to discuss hopes of a general permit allowing statewide use which would allow air curtain burners to be moved from county to county, regardless of air district jurisdiction. Another meeting was held this week and the group is awaiting the outcome of that meeting's discussions.

Utilization – Bioenergy

(Kim Carr/Angie Lottes)

- As directed by the Governor's Tree Mortality Proclamation, the three investor-owned utilities are to purchase a minimum of 50 MWs of power from facilities using feedstock primarily from the high hazard zones. To stay in compliance with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) process and deadlines, this week PG&E, SCE and SDG&E issued Bioenergy Renewable Auction Mechanism (BioRAM) Request for Offers for forest biomass projects. Bidders are to have all offers submitted to the utilities by July 28th. PG&E and SCE are to purchase a minimum of 20 MWs of power each. SDG&E is required to purchase a minimum of 10 MWs of power. In order to provide additional guidance to bidders, SCE held a webinar this week. PG&E will host a webinar on July 7 from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. SDG&E will host a webinar on July 6. There are several important steps to follow the bid submittals. It is estimated power



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purchase agreements will be signed and facilities will begin power generation this winter.

- There are two efforts under way to address the interconnection challenges with projects in the BioMAT program. Trailer bill language, which clarifies project's eligibility, related to interconnection, to participate in auctions, is moving through the legislative process this week. The group will know later this week whether this language is passed or if the vote is delayed until after summer recess. The second effort is through a public comment process initiated by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) assigned to the BioMAT proceeding. She issued a request for comments on specific aspects of the interconnection issues a couple of months ago to further evaluate the issue. It's assumed if the trailer bill language does not pass, the ALJ may more directly address interconnection in the BioMAT decision. This decision, expected out soon, will also address ways to streamline the program so that projects using high hazard zone fuel can sign power purchase agreements more quickly, as directed by the Tree Mortality Proclamation.
- As directed by the Governor's Emergency Proclamation, the California Energy Commission has prioritized Electric Program Investment Charge funding for woody biomass-to-energy technology development and deployment. Grant Funding Opportunity 15-325 was released on Monday, June 27. It includes \$5 million for research and development projects using woody biomass and \$10 million for technology demonstration and deployment to projects using high hazard zone material. Three solicitation workshops will be held, on 7/20/2016, 7/21/2016, and 7/22/2016. Concept papers for this solicitation are due on August 29.

Utilization – Market Development (Evan Johnson/Kim Carr)

- CAL FIRE is executing a contract for BECK Group to refine their wood product business opportunities study. The revised study will serve two purposes, 1) analysis on opportunities to expand existing wood product businesses or develop new businesses using the feedstock from the tree mortality event in an expedited manner and 2) BECK will utilize its network of forestry and forest products industry contacts to assist in identifying entrepreneurs/developers that are interested in pursuing the opportunities identified in the research phase. This work will begin in July.
- The working group continues to work with the Resources Agency and the Department of Water Resources to identify opportunities for high-volume use of wood chips for dust control at Salton Sea. More analysis is being explored to transport chips by way of rail, to evaluate performance at a pilot project scale, and to estimate costs in comparison to other dust abatement options.



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- GovOps, through the working group, is encouraging agencies and departments with mulch use requirements on State property to estimate their mulch needs and communicate them to DGS to facilitate a possible series of bulk purchases of mulch sourced from felled trees in high hazard zones.
- Some work group members met with University of California (UC) Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources to coordinate efforts for more long term solutions for woody biomass management. UC is evaluating a potential purchase of SPI's Loylton bioenergy facility to use as a research center and also to co-locate tenants using biomass on this 215 acre site. The research focus would be developing, demonstrating and commercializing higher uses of woody biomass such as cellulosic nanotechnologies and structural timber. Another focus is restarting the existing bioenergy facility to use biomass in the near term, as well as evaluate it to make efficiency upgrades.
- Work group members also met with staff from USDA Secretary Vilsack's Office to discuss opportunities to foster the use of woody biomass for structural timber. The group will look to have a convening of architects, engineers, and policymakers related to structural timber following the completion of the BECK report mentioned above.

Public Outreach

(Daniel Berlant/Staci Heaton)

- Following the release of the new aerial surveys the USFS, CAL FIRE, PG&E and several other task force members received significant media coverage on what the new numbers mean and what agencies are doing in response. The USFS and CAL FIRE news releases were shared among the stakeholders to ensure consistency in the numbers being used.

Resource Allocation

(Thom Porter/Tom Lutzenberger)

- A subgroup looking specifically at possible assistance for private landowners is being developed. This group will look at both funding opportunities as well as operational actions that might provide help to landowners impacted by dead trees. WE are hoping to have members identified before the July full task force meeting.

APPROVED CALIFORNIA DISASTER ACT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

- **Approved CDAA Applications:** Tuolumne County, Mariposa County, Tuolumne Utilities District, Twain Harte Community Services District, Columbia Public Cemetery District, Pine Ridge Elementary School District, Tulare County



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- **Submitted CDA A Applications:** Placer County, Madera County, Calaveras County, Curtis Creek School District, Calaveras Public Utility District, Tehachapi Valley Recreation and Park District

TREE MORTALITY RESPONSE FUNDING

On Monday, June 27th, Governor Brown signed the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year (FY) Budget. The 16-17 FY Budget includes a one-time increase of \$11 million General Fund dollars 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, personnel overtime for foresters, hand crews, engine companies, and heavy equipment operators, for hazardous tree removal and fuels reduction efforts.

The 16-17 FY Budget also includes:

- \$10 million one-time funding in grants from the State Responsibility Area fund, with \$5 million of that being dedicated for tree mortality related work.
- The Budget also includes \$31.6 million for the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) to provide assistance to counties through the California Disaster Assistance Act.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Placer, Tulare, Tuolumne
- **County Tree Mortality Task Forces:** Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Placer, Tulare, Tuolumne



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EQUIPMENT ALLOCATION AND TRAINING

CAL FIRE Tree Mortality Equipment Allocation:	#Delivered										
County Name (CAL FIRE Unit): >>>.....>	V	Kern (KRN)	Tulare (TUU)	Fresno (FKU)	Madera (MMU)	Mariposa (MMU)	Tuolumne (TCU)	Calaveras (TCU)	Amador (AEU)	El Dorado (AEU)	Placer (NEU)
Burner Module A (2):											
3 Fire Box (burners)	6			3	3						
1 Track Loader	2			1	1						
1 Wheel Loader	2			1	1						
Burner Module B (2):											
2 Fire Box (burners)	4		2				2				
1 Track Loader	2		1				1				
1 Wheel Loader	2		1				1				
Single Resources:											
Masticator (2)	2			1	1						
Track Chipper (10)	10	1	2	2	1	1	2		1		
Tow Chipper (6)	6		1	1		1	2		1		
Sawmill (5)	5		1	1	1		1		1		
Total # of New Equipment Units	41	1	8	10	8	2	9	0	3	0	0

**Red numbers denotes that a piece of equipment is released to or active in the Unit

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The next full Tree Mortality Task Force meeting will be held on Monday, July 11th from 1:00-3:00 P.M.



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TREE MORTALITY RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

California's Tree Mortality Information Clearinghouse for Stakeholders

www.treetaskforce.org

California's Tree Mortality Information Clearinghouse for the Public

www.prepareforbarkbeetle.org

California's Tree Mortality Viewer

egis.fire.ca.gov/TreeMortalityViewer/

United States Forest Service-California Tree Mortality Information

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/CATreeMortality>