CARCD 72ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE "DYNAMIC PARTNERSHIPS, RELEVANT RESULTS"

The Tree Mortality Emergency: An Impetus for an Integrated Approach to Forest Management

Kristen Merrill, CAL FIRE

Thursday, November 16th, 2017 Sacramento, CA



RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

STATE OF EMERGENCY OCTOBER 30, 2015



Executive Department State of California

PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

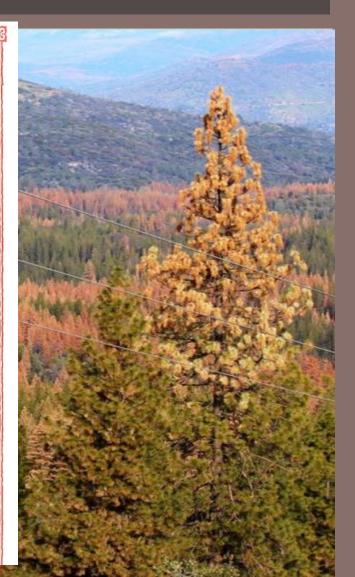
WHEREAS the State of California is experiencing record drought conditions, which have persisted for the last four years; and

WHEREAS on January 17, 2014, I proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist throughout the State of California due to severe drought conditions; and

WHEREAS a lack of precipitation over the last four years has made trees in many regions of California susceptible to epidemic infestations of native bark beetles, which are constrained under normal circumstances by the defense mechanisms of healthy trees; and

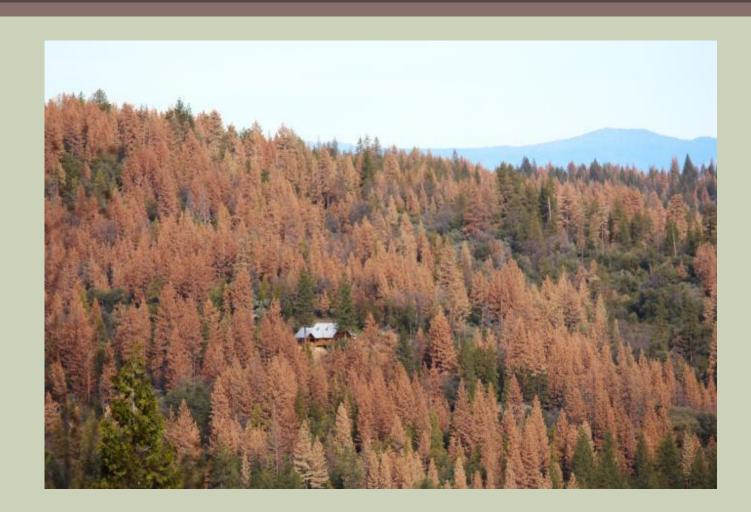
WHEREAS these drought conditions and resulting bark beetle infestations across broad areas have caused vast tree mortality in several regions of the state, with the United States Forest Service estimating that over 22 million trees are dead and that tens of millions more are likely to die by the end of this year; and

WHEREAS recent scientific measurements suggest that the scale of this tree die-off is unprecedented in modern history; and

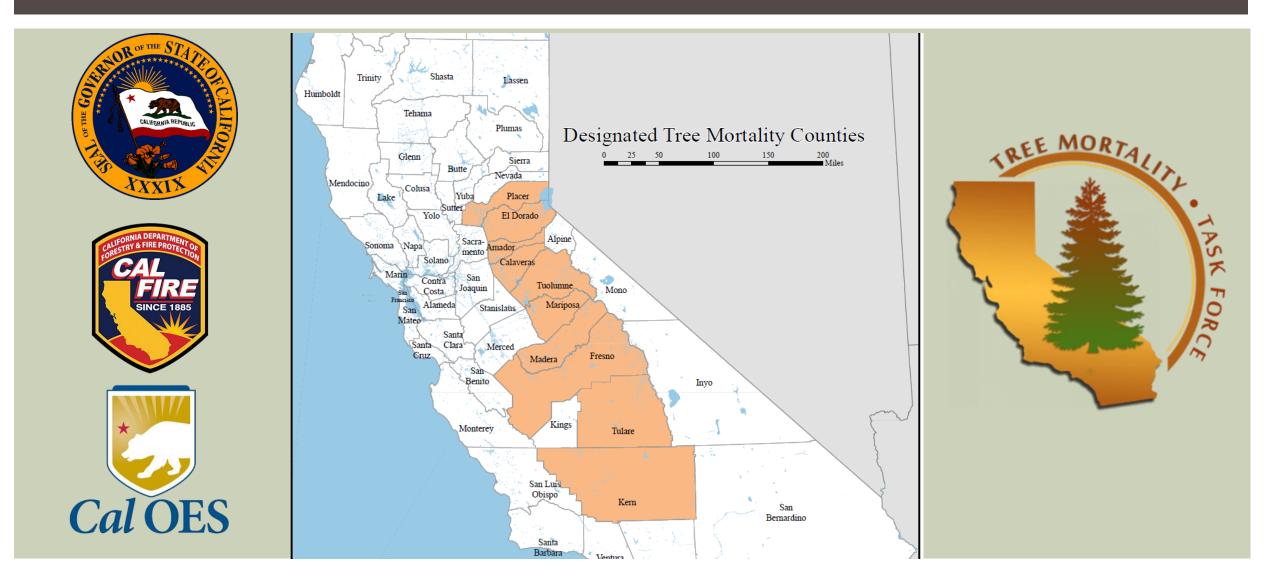


THE TREE MORTALITY EMERGENCY AN IMPETUS FOR INTEGRATED FOREST MANAGEMENT





TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE







TREE MORTALITY TASK FORCE



In Response to the State of Emergency Proclamation

Incident Action Plan

2017

<u>www.treetaskforce.org</u> Updated April 24, 2017

TMTF WORKING GROUPS

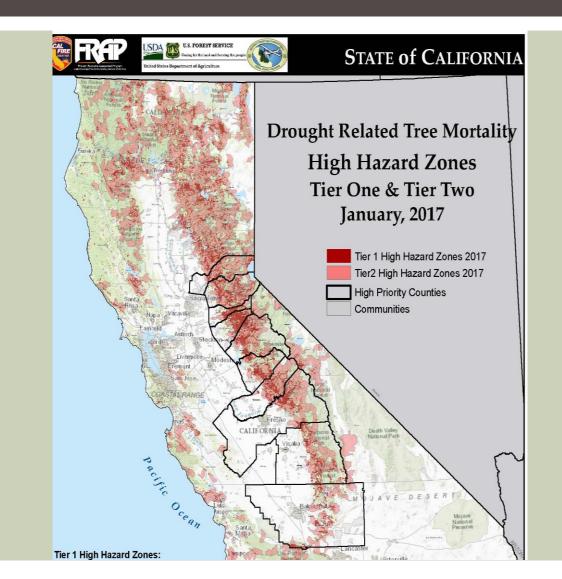
- Mapping & Monitoring
- Public Outreach
- Regulations
- Resource Allocation
- Utilization- Bioenergy
- Utilization Market Development
- Forest Health & Resilience



MAPPING & MONITORING



- Identified Tier 1 and Tier 2 High Hazard Zones
- Developed a web-based tool for agencies to track tree removal projects
- Mapped active wood storage and processing facilities



PUBLIC OUTREACH



 Designed TMTF Website <u>www.treetaskforce.org</u>
Created a "Prepare for Bark Beetle" campaign <u>www.prepareforbarkbeetle.org</u>



Tree Mortality Task Force

The Tree Mortality Task Force is comprised of state and federal agencies, local governments, utilities, and various stakeholders that will coordinate emergency protective actions, and monitor ongoing conditions to address the vast tree mortality resulting from four years of unprecedented drought and the resulting bark bedie infestistions across large regions of the State.

Management Objectives:

 Provide for public health and safety of persons and property in identified high hazard zones.

 Ensure efforts associated with implementation of the directives contained in the Governor's State of Emergency Proclamation remain coordinated.

 Ensure continuous communication among state, federal, and local governments, as well as with other non-governmental organizations





REGULATIONS



Provided guidance on the siting of temporary log storage and processing facilities

Published Guidelines for High Hazard Zone Tree Removal

FAQ: Contracting for Tree Removal



RESOURCE ALLOCATION

- Purchased and distributed to the affected counties and CAL FIRE Units heavy equipment necessary to dispose of
- CAL FIRE Units heavy equipment necessary to dispose of material from hazard tree removal projects
- Developed list of grants with giving interests relating to the tree mortality issue (TreeTaskForce.org)







UTILIZATION – BIOENERGY



- CPUC extended contracts on existing bioenergy facilities receiving feedstock from HHZs
- CEC has contracted \$15M for community-scale forest bioenergy power plants in Mariposa, Lassen, Yuba counties
- Performed analysis to estimate biomass feedstock availability for use at bioenergy facilities.



UTILIZATION – MARKET DEVELOPMENT



Funded a feasibility study on options for woody biomass utilization

Coordinated with CA Resources Agency's SB 859 Working Group focused expanding wood product markets in California

Examined export markets and possible barriers including federal restrictions





FOREST HEALTH & RESILIENCE

- Published Recommendations for Comprehensive Sierra Nevada Ecological Restoration
- Published Achieving Long-Term Forest Health and Resilience in CA
- Completing an ESRI story map regarding the need for reforestation
- Placed a seedling sowing order to make seedlings available to private landowners in the HHZs



COLLABORATION & COMMON GOALS

"The Tree Mortality Task force has provided an essential venue for coordination of response efforts, exchange of ideas, reporting, and accountability for the ongoing statewide response to this incident."

> "This has been the most successful group effort that I have been involved in."



WORKING TOGETHER: WORKING GROUPS





- Regulations WG gathered guidance from ARB, Cal EPA, and US EPA on permitting
- Developed an Equipment Use Agreement for counties to use the equipment
- Resource Allocation WG provided training on use of equipment
- Transferred an ACI from CAL FIRE to Calaveras County

WORKING TOGETHER: WORKING GROUPS & ACADEMIA



- Coordinated with UC Cooperative Extension on a series of reforestation workshops
- Created the Sierra Nevada Forest Science Coordination Group to perform a gap analysis of science and management information



WORKING TOGETHER: FEDERAL & STATE AGENCIES

CAL FIRE-FRAP & U.S. Forest Service continue to map tree mortality in CA <u>http://egis.fire.ca.gov/TreeMortalityViewer</u>

Continue to coordinate on summaries of mortality by county









Tree Mortality: Facts <u>and</u> <u>Figures</u>

ree Mortality Task Force



WORKING TOGETHER: STATE & COUNTY AGENCIES

CAL FIRE and Caltrans collaborated on door hangers to

notify landowners of hazardous tree identification efforts. Template is being adopted by Placer County.

 Caltrans and Tuolumne County are coordinating to use
e-signatures to obtain right-ofentry agreements for hazardous tree removal projects





Calitonis contractors are identifying and marking dead and dying hazardous treat that could impact the safety of the traveling public along the state highway. Some of these trees could fail toward the could along your property, blocking traffic or causing injurvand damage.

After dead and dying bressere marked with orange point, the next phase diffe project will begin — the cutting and varioui. Marked trees <u>altant histowas</u> may be artifedered, state, county or proved strogert. Wither permission mastle provided by all affected properts owners before Calitrains can perform it's work.

Kery an est out in your mail box for a "hornauson to them" for n. monited within 5, is months after traces are serviced. The hornacosonic Enter form must be signed and instrumed, or submitted electronically, for the devaline antible form. There is no cast to you, toower, of a provide property arent data instrument, or demons permission, the hazardoous the will not be remeated and the property cover a liable for charar domaining that my owner the high asso

dot.ca.gov/TreeMortality

QUESTIONS? CONTACT CALTRANS:

Northern CA Counties: Cassandra Pilfs (510) 741-4425 cassandra pitts@dot.ca.gov

Southern CA Counties Paula Paden (559) 445-6008 paula.paden.dot.ca.gov

Date of Notic

fire.ca.gov/TreeTaskForce

WORKING TOGETHER: REGULATORY AGENCIES & INDUSTRY

- Bioenergy WG hosted technical- & policy-focused interconnection meetings between BioMAT projects, utilities, & regulatory agencies
- Result: \$5 million in reduced costs for BioMAT facilities
- The Governor appointed a CPUC Interconnection Ombudsman to mediate disputes in the interconnection agreement process.



WORKING TOGETHER: GRASSROOTS EFFORTS

Fire safe councils,

homeowners associations, resource conservation districts & other non-profits played an important role in funding tree removal projects on private land

Small grants helped the elderly and low-income households



WORKING TOGETHER: BETWEEN COUNTIES

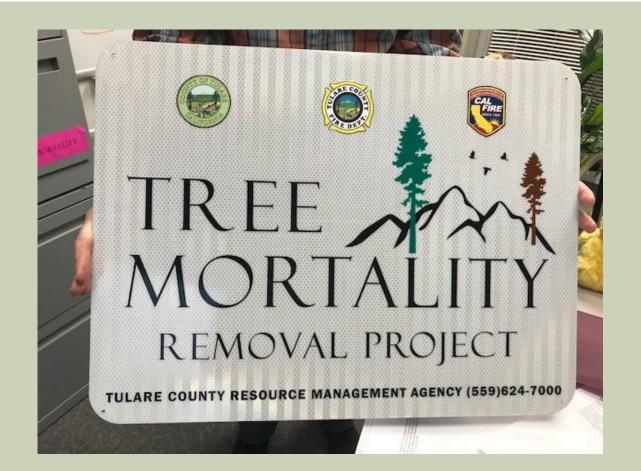




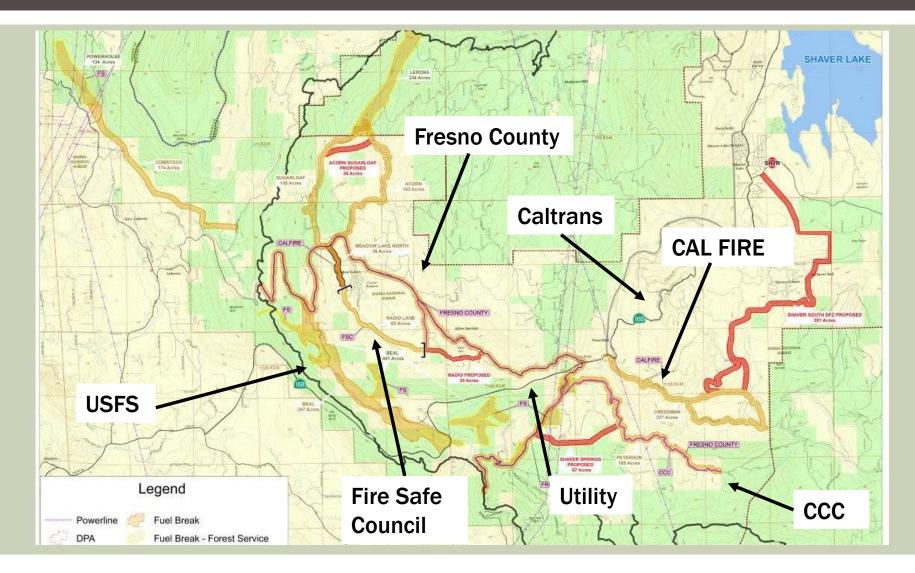
- Met monthly to exchange ideas & share successes
- Learned from each other how to develop/implement hazard tree removal projects & utilized CDAA funding
- Coordinated support for related legislation

WORKING TOGETHER: WITHIN THE COUNTIES

- Local task forces are an essential venue for the coordination of response efforts
 - County Supervisors
 - County OES
 - PG&E
 - Caltrans
 - Local water & Utility districts
 - Fire Safe Councils
 - Homeowners Associations
 - Resource Conservation Districts
 - U.S. Forest Service



WORKING TOGETHER: ON THE GROUND



WORKING TOGETHER: ON THE GROUND



THE COLOR OF MONEY



Entity	Department	'15-16 Expended	'16-17 Expended	'17-18 Budgeted
State	CAL FIRE	\$13,868,814	\$24,875,347	\$15,166,000
State	OES	\$231,988	\$2,601,938	\$2,000,000
State	Caltrans	\$40,927,000	\$115,800,000	\$70,000,000
State	CCC	\$133,232	\$157,000	\$93,000
State	CA Volunteers	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Local	Priority Counties	\$475,592	\$4,988,062	\$7,404,969
Federal	USDA	\$1,559,316	\$1,468,257	Pending budget
Federal	USFS	\$43,220,000	\$41,432,000	Pending budget
Federal	NRCS	\$4,100,000	\$4,944,000	Pending budget
Non-profit	Fire Safe Councils	\$2,000,000	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000



Through October 2017

<u>Agency</u>	Trees Removed	
CAL FIRE	42,054	
Caltrans	107,608	
USFS	291,736	
Priority Counties	13,714	
PG&E	351,908	
SCE	34,981	
TOTAL	842,001	



TREE MORTALITY Northern Fresno County













WORKING INTO THE FUTURE

- Crafting a reforestation and vegetation management strategy
- Increasing the pace and scale of prescribed fire
- Raising awareness of urban audiences about forest health
- Addressing expanded wood product markets in California
- Improving fire risk assessment related to homeowners insurance underwritings
- Working with the RCDs??



Kristen Merrill **CAL FIRE** Tree Mortality Task Force Kristen.Merrill@fire.ca.gov (916) 651-2022