

Tree Mortality Task Force Working Group Notes for May 20, 2016

Tree Mortality Task Force Meeting 5/9 Update

There are 10 counties declared disasters. State has expended over \$500,000 to date to the Counties. The State allocated \$6 Million for equipment; \$1.7 Million in SRA grants; Cal Fire has expended additional funds for hand crews.

They will continue to monitor the map group; they are developing a web based mapping tool for better tracking.

Emergency Guidelines: They are compiling responses to the comments received to date (not overwhelming).

\$81 Million has been designated by the State to counties for tree removal; Caltrans has designated over \$50 Million for tree removal.

Governor Brown revised his budget, adding additional funding for tree mortality. Identified additional funding for personnel, equipment, hazard; \$31.5 Million to Cal OES for assistance through CCDA.

Affected Homeowners Flyer-Update/Intent

Flyer: Rosemarie Smallcombe (Mariposa County) created a draft flyer addressing the tree mortality for affected homeowners. Next step: going to public outreach group with the document. She met with Tara Martinson at CSAC whose question was: what is the flyer tied to? There is a need to define how many people are impacted by trees falling on their home. There is a continued need to advise Sacramento of the magnitude of the problem facing homeowners. The photographs on the flyer depict the magnitude. The purpose of the flyer: state funding. Discussion on who will carry the flyer and its message to the legislature, and ask for money. Who will be responsible for public outreach? It should be an organized effort. Mariposa County should send the flyer to their legislators. If any agency learns of funds being considered for private owners notify the task force. The public outreach group won't lobby agencies/legislature for private homeowners.

Toby finalized contracted tree removal.

A reference for Counties is the Board of Equalization FAQ.

Phil Condon is preparing summary from the Governor's Drought Task Force. Spoke about the update at CSAC yesterday and with the Tribal Consultation group. A summary of notes from these meetings will be circulated and included with the Minutes.

Suggested that Counties have a template (quick summary) they could maintain to update documentation of current conditions in each County.

Budget Bill: Private property owners can use \$6 Million in budgeted item. There is \$11 Million for tree removal; \$6 Million to local entities for tree removal. The budget bill was kept open to consider these items. **Contact your legislators**. This is the first time the State is making money available to private owners for tree removal. Please consider it. Present the flyer, but don't overstate Mariposa is the only County; the Legislature is to be reminded that there are 10 Counties who have declared disaster due to Tree Mortality. Other Counties are signing on with Mariposa County's draft flyer, but we need to develop our own flyer. They (Committee) will work on the language. **We should come up with our own!** This is a tool to use to update legislators and the public.

FAQ: Contracting For Tree Removal

Nothing to add to the drafted document. Only one comment received to date. They are ready to move forward with the draft. Place it into general format. They will be using the FAQ because the law is strange regarding tree removal. If commercial trees are to be removed it involves Cal Fire and a timber license. If removal is \$500 for the work or a tree is 15' or higher, a licensed contractor must be hired. This will be posted to the task force website.

Specific discussion on document: Break first paragraph into two paragraphs separating timber operations and requirements if not commercial timber harvesting. Add "contact local entities" to the last paragraph. There is a contact list we should be using. This is a stand-alone document. Cross reference the Guidance document. Guidance document refers to commercial/non-commercial harvesting. Will link the last paragraph to the Guidance document and

FAQ: Board of Equalization

Timber Tax Comprehensive (???) recently asked questions section on BLE website. He will distill down info already available. He will try to get this out within two weeks (6/3). Website: www.boe.ca.gov/proptaxes/timbertaxfaq. Clear up issues about how it happens.

Storage Site-Utilization Questions

County updates on identifying sites: Madera County North Fork Mill Site. No hurdles they can't overcome. Calculate tipping fees. There is a committee in place. They will create a white paper once they develop it fully. Caltrans is removing trees in Mariposa County. Try to join forces with other entities to make significant progress. Tulare County reported they had no storage sites at this time.

Insurance

There are underwriting options. There are new comments/issues with insurance: Fair Plan FAQ. Initial insurance FAQ developed. Fair Plan FAQ to be created? Finalizing and to be put on website. Currently it doesn't tell a constituent how to get the Fair Plan. The Fair Plan website is fairly complete. There are questions on the costs regarding brokers. Coverage needed: fire hazard. Homeowner insurance typically doesn't cover earthquakes and other items; they must be obtained separately. Prices are similar to regular policies. There is affordable pricing. There is an expectation that companies will cancel homeowner coverage. Homeowners are discussing how much policies are going up. At this time it is hard to quantify how pervasive the problem is. The Fair Plan is the insurer of last resort. Charter provides coverage when homeowner can't provide coverage otherwise. There should be a direct link to contact a broker. Advise homeowners of the differences and conditions of policies available. The Insurance document created to be posted by next week. As to the other insurance ISO Public Protection Program and fire line: It is being used but not consistently. The Dept. of Insurance is working with Counties. Computer based models show what an insurance company uses when determining rates. They do not take into consideration volunteer fire stations or Cal Fire Stations. To follow up.

Dave (Fresno) called a local insurance agent in Fresno during the call. The agent was very helpful. The agent understood the issues. The agent stated that there are other products (coverage options) still available. He may be some help. He was familiar with the insurance issues and other plans that are not generally known on coverage issues.

Air Quality – One Pager for Questions

Kristen: Discussion on air curtain burners and how they are exempt from air quality requirements because they are mobile. More work to be done.

Air curtain burners – guidance to put with letter from EPA didn't address issues based on emergency/disaster provisions. They will cut/paste items. The law currently allows two eight week emergency time periods to be used as an extension. This means there are 16 weeks with a functioning air burner. She will put info together on this process. EPA to address the issue of a properly functioning air curtain burner/Title 5 permits. Questions on wood source for a burner. Is it limited to wood out of facilities? They are looking through it. There may be specific language in regulations that might address. It is difficult to get findings to get around regulations, but with the current political clout, that may help. USEPA staff was present at a conference to talk about the possibility of being successful for 502a finding in this circumstance. Main concern of air districts is air curtain burners need to not worry about ???... Pippin involved. There needs to be a finding that they could require a Title 5 permit; the rule is onerous. Old State regulations were enacted before the Clean Air Act. We should just have to comply with

prior regulations before the Clean Air Act. They will ask about merits of that argument. Want to develop a one pager on the letter and how to apply for exceptions and the two 8 week exceptions then how to apply for Title 5 permit. CAPCOA presentation ??? Coordinate with Whitney. Rose Marie: suggest under 502a there may be a way to not comply with Title 5. There needs to be a special finding made by an administrator to exempt in special situation. Under Clean Air Act an administrator has the ability to make a special finding. They are pursuing this, but there is a slim hope. It may be allowed under the law but is it practical? Air curtain burners are mobile, not a dump. EPA is a difficult agency. Do we know anyone at the USEPA?. Acting administrator (Alexis) is a very good person. We may want to go directly to her.

Other

None.

Next call 5/27/16 from 9:00-11:00.

NANCY WOODS