



## Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

Red Lion Hotel  
1929 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Eureka, California 95501



September 2016 Board of Forestry Report

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### Resource Management

#### Forest Practice Program (through 8/31/2016)

##### Plan Submissions

- **THP Submissions:** THP submissions through July continue to be lower than last year (i.e. 140 compared to 176).
- **NTMP Submissions:** NTMP submissions are more than double last year's at this time (i.e., 13 compared to 6). NTO submissions are up 11% from last year (i.e., 111 compared to 100).
- **Exemption Notice Submissions:** Exemption submissions remain notably higher compared to last year (i.e., 2,009 compared to 1,450, or up nearly 40%). There have been 855 Drought Mortality exemptions submitted under the new regulations, covering a total of 88,880 acres since July 1, 2015.
- **Emergency Notice Submissions:** Emergency Notice submissions were up compared to last year (i.e., 150 compared to 145).
- **Plan Approval:** 163 THPs have been approved in 2016, in addition to 10 NTMPs.

##### General Review Team

###### Santa Rosa

- Glenn Flamik has accepted the Forester II Review Team Chair position. His start date is October 1, 2016. With the hiring of Glenn Flamik, all Forester II positions in Santa Rosa will be filled.
- Jeremiah Steuterman's last day was August 31, 2016. Topher Henderson's last day was September 16, 2016, and Meghan Reeves' last day will be September 30, 2016.
- On October 1, 2016, Santa Rosa will have three Forester I Review Team vacancies. These vacancies are being advertised.
- Marisol Cuadra has accepted the Program Technician II Mail Desk position. She started on August 15, 2016.

- Redding Review Team staff and Anthony Lukacic are continuing to assist Santa Rosa with plan approvals. Dan Stapleton from Sacramento HQ is assisting with First Review.

### **Redding**

- Forester II Review Team Chair Forester Jon Woessner participated in the Soberanes WERT.
- Forester II TRFRF Forester Dan Craig is now routinely involved in the CalTrees on-line THP submission project, along with TRFRF Office Technician Asia Coleman.
- Forester II TRFRF Forester Dan Craig and Forest Practice Manager John Ramaley have been conducting field review/monitoring for areas treated with the Aspen-Wet Meadow-Meadow Restoration silvicultural prescription. The expected draft report for the 5-year review will be sent to Assistant Deputy Director Dennis Hall in October.
- Forester II's Jon Woessner, Adam Deem and Dan Craig are assisting Sacramento staff Forester I Chris Maranto in review of Option A's.
- Forester II Review Team Chair Adam Deem has been collecting and sorting memo's for the ongoing Forest Practice Handbook revision.
- Forester II Jon Woessner is continuing to provide support to the Santa Rosa Review Team for plan review and signing.

### **Fresno**

- Acting Review Team Chair Kevin Kiniery participated in the Chimney Fire for suppression repair, has been assisting FKU and MMU in CEQA project development.

## **Watershed Protection Program Update**

- Watershed staff have been heavily committed to wildfire incidents and post-fire assessment work during the past several weeks. Stacy Stanish worked for 28 days on the Soberanes Fire as a GIS specialist, then in this capacity for approximately a week on the Tully incident in Humboldt County, and finally as a GIS specialist for the Soberanes Fire Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT). Drew Coe is serving as the team leader for the Soberanes Fire WERT, and Pete Cafferata is serving as the Sacramento project manager for the WERT. A revised draft WERT guidance document was produced and widely distributed to all cooperating agencies, including Cal OES and Monterey County OES.
- The Coast Redwood Science Symposium occurred September 13-15 in Eureka. Pete Cafferata presented a paper he co-wrote with Dr. Leslie Reid titled "Using Caspar Creek Flow Records to Test Peak Flow Estimation Methods Applicable to Crossing Design." Drew Coe served as a co-session chair for "watersheds/aquatic

ecology” concurrent session. Staff also helped prepare the PowerPoint presentation for Director Pimlott titled “Working Forests, Forest Health and Management Challenges in the Redwood Region.”

- Pete Cafferata continues to serve as a co-leader for the Tree Mortality Task Force— Forest Health and Resilience Working Group; the next meeting is scheduled for October 5 in Sacramento.
- Drew Coe continues to work on the Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest post-fire runoff and erosion study with Dr. Joe Wagenbrenner (USFS PSW) and Don Lindsay (CGS). Logging of treatment plots is likely to occur next week, allowing time for the installation of plot-scale sediment fences prior to fall storm events. Also, Drew and Joe were able to finalize the State Water Resources Control Board’s 319(h) non-point source grant (\$250,000) contract language for the study.
- Drew Coe participated in a focused PHI for THP 01-16-056 HUM on August 17 and has written a detailed hydrologic review for this plan, reviewing the necessity of expanded Class II and III WLPZs (beyond those used by HRC as mandated by updated Elk River watershed analysis prescriptions and HCP standards) recommended by NCRWQCB staff.
- Watershed staff continue to participate in the BOF’s Effectiveness Monitoring Committee, AB 1492 Leadership Team, Ecological Performance Measures and Data and Monitoring Working Groups, Pilot Projects Team, Interagency Training Team, and Wood for Salmon Working Group meetings.

### **Forest Practice Enforcement Update**

- The Administrative Civil Penalty Program has not received any new cases in the last two months. There are 44 active civil cases. Two cases tentatively settled this month. Only one case is in the review stage of the process. The remaining cases have been served and are in different stages of the process.

### **Timber Operators Licensing Program Update**

- The demand for LTO classes continues to be high. There are 3 classes left in the calendar year. The LTO program intends to mail out a renewal reminder postcard in October to timber operators whose license will expire in December. Ruby Idmilao, Timber Licensing Coordinator, participated in a field session in AEU this month to see some active logging operations and to meet some of the timber operators.

**Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF)  
Updated from the TRFRF Database (01/01/2016 through 08/31/2016)**

- **Specific TRFRF Forest Practice Effort:** The Forest Practice Program has utilized 104,997 hours in conducting forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (20.1%); conducting forest practice inspections (21.6%); participating in mandated training (11.9%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (7.5%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (7.3%); forest practice law enforcement (2.0%); program/project monitoring (0.8%); and responding to letters of concern (1.4%). Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of the time include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities, ecological performance, and litigation. (This represents TRFRF funded forest practice effort only.)
- **Total Departmental Forest Practice Efforts:** The Forest Practice Program has utilized a total of 112,380 hours in conducting forest practice activities and non-forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (19.6%); conducting forest practice inspections (22.1%); emergency incident support (10.2%); participating in mandated training (11.4%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (8.0%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (7.3%); other duties in support of unit programs (7.6%); other forestry related activities (8.4%); forest practice law enforcement (1.9%); project/program monitoring (1.1%); and responding to letters of concern (1.3%). Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of time include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities, ecological performance, and litigation. (This represents all forest practice efforts both TRFRF and Non-TRFRF funded.)

**Resource Protection and Improvement Program**

**Urban and Community Forestry**

- Work continues on all Urban and Community Forestry GGRF grant projects. Projects are continuing work and are actively billing and reporting regularly.
- The program is still working to fill a Program Manager Forester II.
- Federal funded (USDA Forest Service) sub-grants are active. Six projects were funded for FY 2015, 2 have been completed already.
- The program is engaged in the selection process for sub-granting of 2016 USDA Forest Service funding. These funds are used for projects that State GGRF funds cannot be used to fund. These include priority educational, applied research, and outreach projects.

## Demonstration State Forests

- Operations have begun on a 1,264-acre vegetation control project on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest. This is the first of two site prep treatments to occur prior to planting these acres in March of 2017. These acres will also be prioritized as we begin pile-burning operations in the fall. Planning efforts are underway to treat the remaining 2,000 acres of the forest in the same manner prior to planting in 2018.
- The Boggs Mountain Forest Manager is working cooperatively with the Unit's Pre-Fire Division to prepare a burn plan for pile burning. Consultations are ongoing with County AQMD as well. Due to the size of the burning project the County AQMD is also consulting with CA Air Resources Board. Early indications are that the project is supported by the County and State as well, however the State is requesting that the Unit develop a Burn Plan in the Prescribed Fire Incident Reporting System (PFIRS).
- Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest staff, Unit staff, and the Napa County Fire Chief met with Pacific Union College (PUC) at Las Posadas Demonstration State Forest to discuss management of the PUC property in relation to management at Las Posadas, and plans for a fuelbreak treatment on a trending ridge on PUC property.
- Negotiations are currently underway with LTO's to facilitate logging activity and other necessary treatments on the Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest erosion study sites and FRAP carbon study sites prior to the fall rains.
- In the wake of the Valley Fire on Boggs Mountain, State Forest staff applied for and has received approval for FEMA grant funding for additional hazard tree removal along forest roads and trails as well as infrastructure repairs and replacement. The funding could amount to approximately \$700,000.
- Latour Demonstration State Forest is beginning to exhibit some drought related mortality in both true fir and pine species. A salvage operation is scheduled to begin in mid-September.
- Cone samples were collected on Latour State Forest to test the fecundity of the seed for possible seed collection this year. Results look promising for both red and white fir and potentially for Western White Pine as well.
- Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest staff and Sacramento staff are evaluating the potential acquisition of 182 acres of timberland adjacent to the forest. Significant mortality has occurred on this parcel which has substantially reduced the current market value and asking price.
- Mountain Home Conservation Camp crews began hand cutting and piling brush and small trees on lands adjacent to Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest. The intent of the project is to better utilize topography when planning prescribed burns on

the State Forest rather than trying to hold fire along property boundaries. Tulare County is sponsoring the project, with \$30,000 being spent on County lands and \$10,000 being spent on state Forest lands.

- Mountain Home Conservation Camp crews have also began work on the roadside hazard tree removal within the Tulare County ROW on Sequoia National Forest. The hazard trees were identified through the Tree Mortality Task Force work that was done by Cal Fire earlier this year. All trees being felled are located within 15 feet of the road-running surface and are being either chipped or processed into firewood rounds. The Sequoia National Forest is requiring a wood cutting permit but has waived the \$20.00 fee to help facilitate the removal of the dead material.
- Sacramento Tech Services Surveyors returned to Soquel Demonstration State Forest to determine boundary markers and lines near a ten-acre private parcel that the landowner has offered for donation to the State. Soquel Demonstration State Forest staff is also in communication with another landowner who has expressed an interest in donating approximately 150 acres to the State Forest.
- A species never-before found on Soquel Demonstration State Forest was documented in a herpetology report from the July 30 survey of Soquel Creek. Similar in appearance to the San Francisco Alligator Lizard, which has been encountered countless times on the forest and bears live young, the newly encountered California Alligator Lizard lays eggs.
- Jackson Demonstration State Forest staff participated in the State Parks unveiling of a new sign at the Jug Handle State Park that includes a description/recognition that the State Park and JDSF are part of a NPS National Natural Landmark (NNL). JDSF's Pygmy Forest Reserve was designated as such in 1969. Also in attendance were Laurie Jenkins - NPS Western Region NNL Program Manager, Loren Rex - Mendocino State Parks Superintendent and a representative from Congressman Jared Huffman's office.
- Jackson Demonstration State Forest staff made poster and oral presentations and served as moderators for conference sessions at the Coast Redwood Science Symposium in Eureka on September 13-15. JDSF poster presentations included examples of monitoring data, an overview of research and demonstrations at JSDF, practical application of the MASAM from modeling to marking prescription, and managing rare plant and invasive weeds. Staff also made an oral presentation on the long-term results of the Lindquist Caspar pre-commercial thin research, with the assistance of Dr. Pascal Berrill's analysis. Liz Keppeler from the Pacific Southwest Research Station presented a poster and both she and CAL FIRE Forest Hydrologist Pete Cafferata made presentations on the results of the Caspar watershed research.

- The Reforestation Center has received a total of 1,087 bushels of cones this season. Species collected include giant sequoia, sugar pine, incense cedar, red fir, white fir, and ponderosa pine. As reported previously, LAMRC is still anticipating an estimated 800 bushels of ponderosa pine from the North Sierra Tree Improvement Association (NSTIA) seed orchard in Malin, Oregon.
- Since our last report, LAMRC's staff have assisted with collection and delivery of cones in collaboration with our industry and agency cooperators, racked and turned bushels for drying, evaluated seed viability through lab testing of samples and begun seed processing of incense cedar. Staff continues to make headway with germination retesting of seed lots in the State Seed Bank.
- We continue to be impressed with the enthusiastic commitment of our private industry and public agency cooperators in reforestation. Several noteworthy cone collections have been made in coordination with California State Parks, United States Forest Service, and private industry in locations such as Cuyamaca State Park and the Blue Cut Fire in Southern California, and the Willard Fire in Northern California.
- Master agreements with both the USFS Region 5 and the California Tahoe Conservancy are in development to ensure long-term coordinated cone collections on public lands.
- Infrastructure upgrades to the Reforestation Center remain in progress and we are awaiting the contractor's completion of a custom-built cone de-winger machine with tumbler assembly. In addition, we are continuing to work toward contracting for reconstruction of the cone drying shed.
- Unfortunately, LAMRC staff experienced a minor distraction recently when the Reforestation Center and associated Putah Creek Council facilities were burglarized. A State-owned combination generator-welder was stolen, but later recovered with the help of the California Highway Patrol and our Mobile Equipment Division. In response, additional infrastructure projects to improve security at the Reforestation Center are being evaluated with the assistance of CAL FIRE Technical Services.

### **Fire and Resource Assessment Program**

- **Forests and Rangelands Assessment Indicator Development:** Fire and Resource Assessment staff developed candidate draft indicators to report on in the Forests and Rangelands Assessment, 2016. FRAP has a number of draft chapters developed, but due to workload issues the report has been delayed. Expect completion in 2017.
- **Wildfire Issues:** FRAP staff is participating on assisting ARB in responding to public comments and concerns in ARB's Short Lived Climate Pollutant plan. Dave Sapsis coordinated CAL FIRE response.
- **GGRF Quantification Methodology:** Tadashi Moody (FRAP) continues to work with ARB on quantification methodology for estimating GHG emissions and carbon

balance from fuel reduction projects. This work will support CAL FIRE GGRF funded projects at both the project and landscape level.

- **Fire Effects, Carbon, and Forest Recovery** – Ongoing research and stand inventory monitoring following the Valley Fire at Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest. FRAP staff recently visited LaTour forests to discuss recommendations for additional research and experimental design.
- **Fire Map 1 for PUC** - FRAP (D. Sapsis) lead a technical committee that developed a map that depicts areas of California where there is an elevated hazard for the ignition and spread of fire from utility lines under conditions with strong winds and dry vegetation. Due to workload limitations FRAP will have minimal involvement in future revisions (Map 2) undertaken by PUC
- **Climate Change:** FRAP staff are assisting FCAT in developing the Forest Carbon Plan and other supporting documents. Mark Rosenberg coordinated with USFS PNW to produce a set of regional inventory tables that were recently received. Ongoing inventory information will occur through BOF 1504 report. FRAP is currently hiring a technical position to support 1504 reporting requirements.
- **FIA Committee Assignment:** Mark Rosenberg (FRAP) is in the process of developing a contract with USFS-PNW to develop custom FIA tables and take a primary role in preparing an inventory report that meets AB 1504 reporting requirements. PNW has recently provided regional FIA tables that will be incorporated into the Forest Carbon Plan and support AB 1504 reporting.

### California Forest Improvement Program

- The CFIP encumbered all of the FY 2015-16 TRFRF funds allocated to the Program and is now encumbering well into the FY 2016-17 funds. (See table below).
- A new Forestry Assistance Specialist (FAS) started in the Santa Clara Unit on September 19, 2016. An additional Forestry Assistance Specialist will start on October 1, 2016, in Santa Rosa.
- The Riverside Forestry Assistance Specialist vacancy remains unfilled and the announcement will remain open until filled. We have applications under review.

CFIP FY2016-17

County	# County Contracts	Sum of Acres	Sum of Amount Encumbered
Plumas	2	240	\$ 138,838.00
Sierra	1	211	\$ 178,112.00
Yuba	1	63	\$ 36,428.00
Sonoma	4	717	\$ 88,240.00
Mendocino	1	328	\$ 23,977.00
Fresno	1	160	\$ 96,732.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1,719</b>	<b>\$ 562,327.00</b>

- The CFIP Coordinator will be requesting the BOF to approve new “hourly” rates for landowners wishing to accomplish CFIP activities on their property. Rates will be based on existing NRCS EQIP contractor rates but reduced to adjust for profit and risk.

**CFIP FY2015-16**

<b>County</b>	<b># County Contracts</b>	<b>Sum of Acres</b>	<b>Sum of Amount Encumbered</b>
Amador	3	158	\$ 211,625.00
Calaveras	2	1,027	\$ 207,532.00
El Dorado	2	1,005	\$ 138,732.00
Fresno	26	3,207.95	\$ 996,857.00
Humboldt	9	6,764.50	\$ 139,971.00
Lake	2	1,478	\$ 12,194.00
Mariposa	3	1,172	\$ 206,550.00
Mendocino	5	1,535	\$ 30,811.00
Modoc	1	280	\$ 5,202.00
Napa	1	851	\$ 6,487.00
Nevada	3	5,094.35	\$ 104,403.00
Placer	2	3,243	\$ 122,757.00
Shasta	2	498	\$ 99,732.00
Sierra	1	266	\$ 43,875.00
Siskiyou	4	508	\$ 163,783.00
Sonoma	24	6,898.96	\$ 217,200.00
Trinity	1	43	\$ 4,617.00
Tulare	1	70	\$ 77,768.00
Tuolumne	2	105	\$ 98,551.00
Monterey	1	525	\$ 5,754.00
Kern	1	30	\$ 53,564.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>34,759</b>	<b>\$ 2,947,965</b>

**Cultural Resources**

- New Associate State Archaeologist Denise Ruzicka started in August 2016, at the Southern Region Administrative Headquarters in Fresno. Southern Region Senior State Archaeologist Stephanie Velasquez has been working with Ms. Ruzicka to provide job and Departmental orientation. We are very happy to have a permanent archaeologist in Fresno.
- Sacramento HQ has advertised for an Associate State Archaeologist position. The advertisement will remain open until filled. The position will provide cultural resources management coverage within Central California.
- CAL FIRE is re-forming its Native American Advisory Council. The Council's mission is to assist CAL FIRE in establishing a cooperative and meaningful

relationship with California tribes. CAL FIRE expects the process to take several months. It hopes to hold its first council meeting once it has recruited sufficient members.

### **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Program**

- The Governor's FY 16-17 budget provided CAL FIRE with a total of \$40 million in GGRF grant funds, \$15 million will be administered through the Urban and Community Forestry program and \$25 million will be administered through the Forest Health program. Staff are completing updates to the grant procedural guides and are planning GGRF grant workshops within the next few months.
- In anticipation of receiving the GGRF funds, staff have been meeting regularly all year with Air Resources Board staff on program development, funding requirements and quantification methods.

### **Other Grant Programs**

- CAL FIRE recently signed an inter-agency agreement to assist the California High-Speed Rail Authority meet its environmental commitments to offset direct greenhouse gas emissions resulting from construction of Phase 1 of the California High-Speed Rail Project. CAL FIRE will provide tree planting services through its Landowner Assistance and Urban and Community Forestry Programs. The tree planting will provide climate benefits by sequestering carbon.

### **Forest Pest Management**

- The polyphagous shot hole borer (PSHB) has now been confirmed on 2 new reproductive hosts. These are California Buckeye (*Aesculus californica*) and Canyon Live Oak (*Quercus chrysolepis*) bringing the total reproductive hosts to 44. The complete lists of reproductive hosts for PSHB and Kuroshio shot hole borer can be found at <http://eskalenlab.ucr.edu/pshb.html>.
- The polyphagous shot hole borer has been found in Topanga Canyon, Los Angeles County for the first time.
- Pest Management Staff has detected potential movement of the pitch canker pathogen into northwestern Sonoma County, where pervasive dieback of bishop pine branches and tops has been observed this year in Salt Point State Park. Samples yielded a fungus, which was submitted to UC Davis to confirm the identity. Continued sampling along the coast into Mendocino County is planned. This will not change the existing zone of infestation, but does represent a large new infested area.
- Staff assisted USFS personnel in annual monitoring of Port Orford Cedar test plantings on public and private properties in Del Norte County. These trees are putative resistant genotypes that were planted between 1995 and 2005 in areas

infested with the pathogen that causes Port Orford cedar root disease. Survival was documented and plots maintained for continued monitoring.

- Numerous calls have been received concerning death of oaks and incense cedar trees in the Central and Southern Sierra Nevada Region of the California. No insect or disease pests have yet to be found and the cause appears to be continued stress from the ongoing drought conditions.

### **Tree Mortality Task Force**

- The Mapping and Monitoring working group completed the update of high hazard zone Tier 1 areas using the new data from the 2016 partial aerial survey of California provided by the USFS State and Private Forestry (S&PF). Updated areas include lower elevations along the Western slope of the Sierra Nevada. HHZ Tier 2 updates are in progress, with an expected completion of mid-September.
- Solutions to interconnection challenges with projects in the BioMAT program have progressed. Trailer bill language, which clarifies project's eligibility related to interconnection to participate in auctions, was approved by the Senate (SB 840) on August 24. The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) assigned to the BioMAT proceeding received comment on implementation of the bill prior to its passing. The ALJ decision addressed 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 Emergency Proclamation.
- Mapping and Monitoring working group is developing a TMTF FAQ for dead trees as a reference document for TMTF members and the public to review the latest estimates of the number of dead trees, and other metrics detailing the severity of this event. This fact sheet will be maintained by the working group in coordination with the Communications working group as the agencies response to this epidemic continue.
- Members of the Regulations working group participated in a meeting with the CA Department of Insurance, the Fair Plan and members from various TMTF counties to discuss the various insurance concerns being brought to the TMTF.
- CAL FIRE is executing a contract with the BECK Group to refine its 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 September. The Market Development group has begun conversations on how to integrate the eventual findings of this report into existing statewide planning efforts, and to carry the findings through into business development opportunities in the affected counties.
- The Resource Allocation Working Group has been developing a new grid by

which to match other department resources to CAL FIRE program resources committed to Tree Mortality. This grid is then expected to be a launching board for developing cooperative projects between CAL FIRE and departments to leverage maximum resource use on TM projects going forward. The details are expected to provide the framework for interagency agreements as well, if determined beneficial.

## **Fire Protection**

### **Law Enforcement/Civil Cost Recovery**

- Last month, CAL FIRE Law Enforcement made 26 arrests and issued 162 citations (excluding 4291).
- Last month, CAL FIRE received \$117,825 resulting from Civil Cost Recovery actions.
- On Monday, August 15, 2016, CAL FIRE law enforcement officers arrested Damin Anthony Pashilk, 40, a Clearlake man, on suspicion of 17 counts of arson in connection with numerous fires in Lake County over the past year, including the Clayton Fire, which burnt portions of the community of Lower Lake.
- On September 13, 2016, Zane Wallace Peterson, 31, pled guilty to 22 felony counts stemming from a series of arson fires he ignited between September and November of 2013. As a result of his pleas, Peterson will be sentenced to state prison for a minimum of 35 years, 8 months and a maximum of 44 years. The most serious and damaging fire set by Peterson was the September 9, 2013, "Clover" fire. This fire, which involved two separate ignitions by Peterson, burned over 8,000 acres and destroyed more than 60 homes. This fire also resulted in the death of Brian Henry. In the plea agreement related to this incident, Peterson admitted to 15 counts of arson (for the fire itself) and 1 count of voluntary manslaughter (for the death of Mr. Henry).
- On Thursday, September 15, 2016, CAL FIRE law enforcement, in cooperation with law enforcement personnel from the Kern County Fire Department made a serial arson arrest in San Luis Obispo. Devorah Collins, 58 from Bradley, CA, was booked on four counts of arson; two counts of manufacturing an incendiary device, two counts of use of a time delay device, four counts of arson during a State of Emergency and one count of resisting a peace officer. During an interview, Collins admitted to starting the four charged fires. He did not have any involvement with the cause of the Chimney Fire.

### **Fire Protection Operations**

- **Predictive Services** – Three new Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) installed and transmitting in TCU, NEU, and LNU. SLU is pending while we work with State Parks on identifying a mutually beneficial site.

- **SCOUT** – SCOUT “mobile” has been deployed on both iPhone and Android by CalOES. CAL FIRE has been involved in the education and issue identification process. User training sponsored by CAL FIRE is now occurring, dates include Sept. 13 (Sacramento) and Sept. 29 (Redding) and will result in a reproducible curriculum.

### **Mobile Equipment**

- One Type III fire engine is being prepped for release. Four Type III engines are being returned to the manufacturer for pump modifications. Two Type I fire engines for the CAL FIRE Academy is scheduled to arrive in December 2016. A total of 19 fire engines are scheduled for purchase in 2016.
- The first of the new light vehicles are starting to arrive from the FY 2015 Fleet Acquisition Plan to begin outfitting and release.
- New Artisan/Mechanic vehicles are currently being outfitted for release.
- Working with DGS to update the specifications for Emergency Crew Transports, Type III fire engines, and low bed (Cozad) type trailers.

### **Aviation Management Unit**

- Tanker 79 (replacement for T-81) buildup is progressing. The “teardown” phase is complete and re-fabrication has started.
- CAL FIRE’s new helicopter specifications are finalized. DGS has submitted these specifications to the known helicopter manufacturers as a Request for Information (RFI) prior to releasing them as a formal solicitation. The manufacturers have until the beginning of October to provide feedback.

### **Tactical Air Operations**

- It has been a very busy month maintaining coordination with California National Guard deployment of hand crews, water dropping helicopters, medivac helicopters, and off road fuel tenders to the major State wildland fires.

### **Incident Management Teams**

- **August 14, 2016** - Incident Management Team 2 assigned to San Benito Monterey Unit, Chimney Incident.
- **August 14, 2016** - Incident Management Team 3 assigned to the Sonoma Lake Napa Unit, Clayton Incident.
- **August 23, 2016** - Incident Management Team 3 assigned to the Humboldt Del Norte Unit, Tully Incident.

- **September 11, 2016** - Incident Management Team 5 assigned to the Lassen Modoc Unit, Willard Incident.

### **Cooperative Fire Program**

- **Conservation Camp Program** – An interagency ad hoc workgroup consisting of CAL FIRE and Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) managers continues to revise and update the CAL FIRE Handbook 6400. This policy section addresses the operation and administration of conservation camps and applies to employees of both agencies. As such, the directors of both agencies must approve all revisions.
- The statewide Conservation Camps count as of Wednesday, September 14, 2016: the current statewide shortage of fire crew members is **817** (a reduction of 1 from 818 as of August 3, 2016). The inmate population stands at 83% (-1%) of capacity while crew capacity stands at 74% (-1%). During the height of fire activity in August, over 160 of the total 196 fire crews were assigned to incidents throughout the State.
- **State-Federal Program** – With the current level of activity experienced this fire season, the Department has seen a marked increase in the number of federal Fire Management Assistant Grants (FMAG) approved. The State-Federal Program is currently processing four new grants, in addition to the nine grants previously reported, for the 2016 fire season. The most recent requests are for the Clayton, Chimney, Cedar and Blue Cut fires. These FEMA administered FMAG's provide up to a 75% federal reimbursement of costs linked to efforts (fire suppression) to mitigate a major disaster.
- **Local Government Program** – The Local Government Program has completed its annual collection of personnel and cost data related to all fire protection contracts in which CAL FIRE partners with local government to provide services. These services range from full fire protection to dispatch services, medical response, wildland fire protection and winter (Amador) fire protection. The data collected is required by the Department of Finance to establish reimbursement authority as well as position control.

### **Safety, EMS and R&D**

- A rhabdomyolysis informational sheet and physician guidance/request for lab work was drafted by OSHPros and the Safety Program and is being reviewed by Executive for approval to implement.
- AB1129 draft regulations are still pending. The State EMSA hopes to have a meeting schedule the first week of October and CAL FIRE's EMS ad hoc group continues to meet to address the potential impacts and will be involved in developing a process to finalize the patient care reporting regulations.

## **Statewide Training**

- All instructors at the CAL FIRE Academy have reached the certification level of Fire Instructor 1 through California State Fire Training.
- The painting project of the CAL FIRE Academy buildings has been completed with a new grey and blue trim scheme.
- CAL FIRE Academy fire grounds:
  - Fire training tower has been completely rebuilt
  - Areas around the existing fire props and buildings are prepped for concrete with an anticipated project start date of Monday, September 19.

## **Office of the State Fire Marshal**

### **Planning and Risk Analysis Division**

#### **Wildland Pre-Fire Engineering**

- Defensible Space Inspection data using the new electronic collector app is now approaching 24,000 records across the State. Data migration glitches are being identified and corrected. With the new ESRI Enterprise License now in place, all records are being migrated over to this new platform. (Additional ESRI information below.)
- Initial purchase of the first 100 tablets for electronic data collection for both D-Space and DINS (Damage Inspection) has now been completed. An additional 350 tablets will be purchased over a phased-in timeframe.
- Developing a training curriculum to train the Units and Contract Counties as we bring them on board with using the Collector App for D-Space inspections.
- A renewed 12 month temporary exemption letter has been issued to Siemens Corporation for their 15kV and 25kV Type 3EK4 surge arresters equipped with Arc Prevention System (APS) and visible fault indicator.
- So far this year, DINS teams have been deployed on the Erskine, Soberanes, Chimney, Clayton, Goose, and Grade Fires.
- At the previous BOF Meeting on August 24, 2016, questions were asked about how the new ESRI platform would help to characterize and define activities occurring in the WUI. There were also questions raised about when the updated version of CalMAPPER would be rolled out and how the improvements will be used. The following bullet points are in response to these questions:

- Formerly we had several independent accounts set up with ESRI (Pre-Fire Engineering, FRAP, Pipeline Safety). These were the bigger accounts, but there were a few smaller ones as well.
- Through the D-Space and DINS program, there was a need to add more.
- The Department looked at and did switch over to an ELA (Enterprise License Agreement). As a result, we were able to add users, while saving money through economy of scale.
- The ELA is currently set up for 250 users within the Department.
- By signing an ELA, this gives the Department free access to use the ESRI Collector app and Arc GIS Online (AGOL) as well as technical support.
- The ESRI Collector App is the app used to document a Defensible Space (D-Space) inspection electronically.
- The Collector App is used to document damage inspection data (DINS) after a fire. It is still in Beta testing. We are currently planning for all D-Space Inspection data to use the new electronic Collector App beginning in 2017.
  - The goal is better documentation and reporting of D-Space and DINS inspections, validation of PRC 4290, PRC 4291 and Chapter 7A WUI building requirements.
  - Provides timely documentation after damage inspection to the SRA Fee program manager to help prevent bills going to a property owner who's structure was destroyed in a wildland fire or validate the fee exemption for a structure destroyed in a wildland fire.
  - Will help identify benefits of prevention activities on fire suppression efforts and reduction of wildfire risk to habitable structures.
  - Could possibly be used by IMTs and operations during a wildland fire for structure defense.
- By going with one ELA instead of individual accounts, it reduced the cost to the Department and provided more flexibility in the use of our licenses and functionality (Collector App).
- CalMAPPER Version 3 (V3) is currently being programmed, with an expected rollout in early 2017.
- V3 will include a Data Summary Tool (DST) that will provide a much better review and comparison tool for users to look at multiple projects and offer better project analysis.

- V3 will enhance the current online options, and offer a more user friendly work environment, allowing a shallower learning curve, and enabling more users to enter projects into the statewide database.

### **Fire Plan**

- Staff has coordinated with BOF Staff to complete information on the SRA Report from the Board.
- Information is being gathered to prepare the annual report and presentation of the Strategic Fire Plan to the Board on accomplishments by CAL FIRE. Update for the Board will be presented at the November 2, 2016, BOF meeting here in Sacramento.
- Applications for the annual Western States Fire Manager Program WUI Grant program were due on Thursday, September 15, 2016. Evaluations will now take place and potentially 10 grant applications will be forwarded for National Review, scheduled in Bend, Oregon in late October.
- Updated 2016 Unit Fire Plans have now been posted to the internet.

### **SRA Fire Prevention Fee**

- SRA FPF Grant application period (in conjunction with other Tree Mortality Grant Programs) was publicly launched on August 22, 2016. Application deadline is Wednesday, September 28, 2016, at 3:00 PM, PST. We anticipate announcing the successful grant awards by early December.
- There has been a significant increase in SRA Exemption Applications from individuals who have lost their homes due to a natural disaster.
- SRA Fire Prevention Fee staff have been working with the CAL FIRE Liaison to the California Conservation Corp to establish a coordination process for approving and gathering reporting information on projects in the SRA.
- SRA Fire Prevention Fee staff is working on an updated SRAFPF Report with a new format with updated budget information that will provide more detail on SRAFPF expenditures and revenues. We anticipate that the report will be release before the end of October 2016.

### **CAIRS**

- 2015 Redbook is currently going through the Green Sheet process.
- Evaluations of the existing CAIRS program are being conducted to identify updates and improvements to be made during the upcoming renewal period for the CAIRS contract, which expires in May, 2018.

## **Land Use Planning**

- LUP Staff, in conjunction with DSFM members from the State Fire Marshal's Office, have been deployed on 6 fires, to collect data on damaged and destroyed structures.
- LUP Staff is coordinating Safety Element Reviews with BOF Staff for a number of cities and counties around the State.
- Informational outreach to all required jurisdictions is complete. Active involvement with Safety Element reviews will be initiated as these jurisdictions begin their reviews.