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BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Sacramento, CA
March 8, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mark Andre
Rich Wade
Susan Husari
Mike Miles
Darcy Wheelles
Marc Los Huertos
Katie Delbar

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

J. Keith Gillless, Chair

BOARD STAFF:

Matthew Dias, Executive Officer
Edith Hannigan, Associate Government Program Analyst
Eric Hedge, Regulations Coordinator
Linda Cano, Executive Assistant
Laura Alarcon-Stalians, Associate Government Program Analyst
Ali Karaouni, Board Counsel

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

Ken Pimlott, Director
Janet Barentson, Chief Deputy Director
Helge Eng, Deputy Director, Resource Management
Bill Solinsky, Forester III, THP Administration
Dennis Hall, Assistant Deputy Director, Forest Practice
Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director, Resource Protection
Pete Cafferata, Forester III, Forest Practice/Forest Hydrologist
Eric Huff, Staff Chief, Forest Practice Program
Drew Coe, Forester II, Forest Practice Monitoring Program Coordinator
Toby McCartt, Staff Counsel
Heather Williams, Information Officer

NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY:

Russ Henly, Assistant Secretary of Forest Resources Management

Announcement of Actions Taken in Executive Session.

Discussed permanent replacement of Assistant Executive Officer. No reportable actions taken.

Approval of December 2016 and January 2017 Meeting Minutes.

03-17-01 Member Andre moved to approve the December 2016 Minutes. Member Los Huertos seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Aye
Wheeles	Aye
Los Huertos	Aye
Andre	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with one member absent.

03-17-02 Member Andre moved to approve the January 2017 Minutes. Member Los Huertos seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Aye
Wheeles	Aye
Los Huertos	Aye
Andre	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with one member absent.

MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

Report of the Chair – Vice Chair, Mark Andre

Vice Chair Andre reported that Chair Gillless is in Washington D.C. and unable to attend the Board meeting. He acknowledged the passing of long-serving former Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Chair Stan Dixon and spoke of his achievements and public service. Member Miles also provided comment on the impact that Stan Dixon had on his service to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. Vice Chair Andre also acknowledged the passing of Lowell Diller, renowned wildlife biologist, whose professional pursuits contributed to the conservation of Northern Spotted Owls.

Public Comment:

George “YG” Gentry, California Forestry Association, Mr. Gentry offered his thoughts and memories of his professional and personal relationship with Stan Dixon.

Gary Rynearson, Green Diamond Resource Company, Mr. Rynearson reflected on the life of both Stan Dixon and Lowell Diller.

Agency Comment:

Bill Condon, Department of Fish and Wildlife, shared thoughts on the loss of Lowell Diller and made mention of the significant loss that the professional biological community will experience without the insights of Mr. Diller.

Report of the Director/Department - Ken Pimlott, Director

Director Pimlott acknowledged the passing of:

- Stan Dixon, former Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Chair
- Lowell Diller, Wildlife Biologist
- Julie Freeman, Fire Captain, Honor Guard, CAL FIRE
- Bob Wolf, labor leader and advocate for CAL FIRE Firefighters

In the ongoing efforts to address Department succession, the Director mentioned the following appointments were made over early 2017:

- Eric Huff, Staff Chief, Forest Practice Program
- Stephanie Portela, Chief, Labor Relations
- Kevin Conway, Forester II, Tree Mortality
- Nadia Tase, Environmental Scientist, Frap Program, 1504 Monitoring
- Ben Ho, Assistant Deputy Director, Pipeline Program, State Fire Marshal
- Wendy Collins, Assistant Deputy Director, Fire, Life Safety, State Fire Training Program

Director Pimlott reported on the following items as they relate to the Department:

- Effects of winter period precipitation
 - The record setting precipitation throughout much of the state has resulted in an abundant grass crop which will add to fire dangers as the transition to warmer months occur. Regardless of the wet winter period, the number of dead, dying and diseased trees will likely continue to grow, which will exacerbate fire dangers. The Department is working with the Administration on the appropriate resources to deal with the fire threat.
 - CAL FIRE was directly involved with the Oroville spillway emergency and assisted in managing the response, organizing, and planning efforts. Incident Management Team 3 was assigned to the incident along with Department of Water Resources experts. They worked with Butte County Sheriff, Department of Water Resources, CalTrans, Highway Patrol, and local law enforcement to assist with the evacuation of 200,000 residents in the Butte and Sutter County areas. This multi-agency cooperation was extremely successful and set precedent for future cooperative efforts on emergency situations into the future.
- Tree Mortality
 - A significant hurdle was accomplished with US EPA in receiving an exemption to operate air curtain burners for up to a 30-month window. Department staff hosted a workshop with the insurance community to engage in discussions regarding the challenges homeowners are facing with premiums being cancelled or not being able to renew because of the fire threat they face within the wildland urban interface. Dialogue will be ongoing.
- Fuels Treatment
 - The Department continues on the trajectory of increasing the pace and scale of prescribed fire, other fuel treatments, and defensible space inspections. Further information can be found through the Cal Mapper program and on CAL FIRE's website.

- Governor’s Budget and Departmental Budget matters
 - Budget Hearings will begin at the end of this month. The Department will be working with the Department of Finance and the Legislature on several funding matters through the coming budget season.
 - Hiring and Training Program: 55 temporary or limited term positions may be made permanent.
 - Staffing at the LA Moran Reforestation Center is a key issue for the Department to engaged in the potential propagation of seedlings in response to the drought mortality issues that state has been facing.
 - The Department made available a bid for a new helicopter. Funding for this new addition to the fleet was approved in the 16/17 Department Budget. The Department is looking forward to reviewing the responses to this published bid.
 - Exceptional Leadership Supervisor 5 training will be meeting the first week of April with prospective and future executives to walk them through the budget process.

- Grants
 - In the process of reviewing Greenhouse Gases Restoration Fund Forest Health concept proposals for urban community forestry. Notices will go out to invite several applicants back for a full application under the Cap and Trade program.
 - The Department recently approved Forest Health Grant Guidelines. These guidelines will soon be widely disseminated for larger landscape level forest health concept proposals.

- 100% CPR Challenge
 - Challenged everyone within the department to learn CPR or be prepared to coach someone through administering CPR.

Report of the Regulations Coordinator – Matt Dias

- Reviewed Rulemaking Calendar

Report of Executive Officer – Matt Dias

Executive Officer Dias reported that the Board will be traveling in the months of May, July, and September. The locations for the Board meetings will be in Auburn, Arcadia, and Porterville, California. Associated field tours will be held at Blodgett Forest, San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, and Mountain Home State Forest.

Executive Officer Dias presented the Draft Annual Report as revised per Board comments from the January Meeting. Dias recommended Board approval of the Annual Report.

03-17-04 Member Miles moved to approve the Draft 2016 Annual Report. Member Wade seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Aye
Wheeles	Aye
Los Huertos	Aye
Andre	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with one member absent.

Executive Officer Dias provided the Board with a Draft Resolution supporting the Department in securing grant funds from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to expand the post-fire erosion study being conducted on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest. Dias explained that the resolution is a requirement of the SWRCB to award the grant to CAL FIRE.

03-17-03 Member Los Huertos moved to approve the Resolution for CAL FIRE grant from State Water Resources Control Board. Member Wheelles seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Aye
Wheelles	Aye
Los Huertos	Aye
Andre	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with one member absent.

A revised draft comment letter in response to the draft Forest Carbon Plan was presented by Executive Officer Dias. The Board reviewed the letter and appointed a sub-committee of Members Wade and Andre to review the final draft letter prior to Board staff sending the to the Forest Carbon Action Team (FCAT). The Board offered several comments for Board staff to include within the draft letter. Issued identified included, but were not limited to, citation to pages within the Draft Forest Carbon Plan where specific comments apply and equitable discussion of the issues that may be present in terms of carbon liabilities on Federal land.

Public Comment

- Paul Mason, Pacific Forest Trust, commented there are elements of the draft letter he agrees with, some that he doesn't, and some that are more detailed than what is going to end up in this Forest Carbon Plan. He expressed his concern regarding the tension between having a readable accessible document versus a deeper level of technical assessment and citation. He commented that there are several places in the Board's comments that address the points of desirable resilient healthy forest transferring more of the carbon from dense stands of smaller diameter trees to fewer larger well-spaced more fire resilient trees. He indicated that there seems to be an inflation in the carbon benefits of having a slower rate of growth on large trees as opposed to faster rate of growth on small trees. Regarding comments questioning the value of conservation easements as a method for increasing carbon stocks on the landscape, he wanted to clarify the real issue is new changes in management impact, not how much carbon you have on the landscape. The conservation easement is simply a tool that would ensure those changes in management endure over time.
- Todd Morgan, Director, Forest Industry Research, University of Montana commented that their work is referenced on pages 69-70 of the Draft Forestry Carbon Plan and mentioned in the draft letter on page 9. He wanted to clarify their estimates in their publications in GTR are not of carbon masses, they provide information on cubic volumes of wood harvested in the state. Somewhere along the line there were incorrect conversions done to their cubic estimates as a means of depicting carbon accounting. These conversions were not completed by him or his peers. He shared their concerns on the calculations and methods for conversions weren't shown in the Forest Carbon Plan document and feel there is room for improvement and clarity.

- Susan Robinson, online comment, says studies on climate change have indicated that overall growth and yield will be significantly reduced in the Sierra forests. In fact, pine plantations will yield less timber or forest structure and near monoculture stands. These expected changes are completely ignored in the FCAP.
- Gary Ryneanson, Green Diamond Resources Company, commented the scoping plan, once completed, will be used in different ways by various individuals for many different purposes. Will this help inform the 2030 scoping plan? There is a natural forest working land section that FCAP would help inform. Appendix G reports a modeling exercise that shows a substantial drop in forest carbon that several individuals have raised issues with. It doesn't match any of the information that is known to be true and this process will help clarify some issues. He was pleased to see reference to the Forest Inventory Analysis data, and hopes that it will be incorporated into the draft plan. Encouraged the Board to look at the 2030 Scoping Plan, Appendix G.

Report of the Standing Committees.

Forest Practice Committee & Management Committee Joint Meeting, Co-Chair Mike Miles provided updates on the following topics:

- An update on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest Management Plan timelines.
- RPF/LTO Responsibilities.
- Discussed Technical Rule Addendum #2 and Cumulative Impacts Assessment Checklist (14 CCR § 912.9).
- 14 CCR § 1038 Exemptions.
- AB 1958 and AB 2029 Discussion and Review of Pleading Draft Regulatory Text.

Resource Protection, Chair Sue Husari, provided an update on the following topics:

- 4290 Certifications.
 - Sonoma County

03-17-05 Member Husari moved to approve Sonoma County local ordinances as meeting or exceeding the Title 14 CCR § 1270 Fire Safe Regulations. Member Wheelles seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Aye
Wheelles	Aye
Los Huertos	Aye
Andre	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with one member absent.

- Fire Safe Development Workgroup Launch.
- 2018 State Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

Report of Board's Advisory Committees

- Forest Pest Council - Katie Harrell
- Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC) –Russ Henly
 - It was reported that EMC Projects 2015-001(Class II Large) was ranked and recommended for funding.
 - EMC project 2017-001 (Nutrient Cycling) and 2016-003 (Unstable Areas) are currently still in review by the EMC and have not been ranked or funded.
 - The scope of work for the funded statistical framework of EMC Projects 2015-002 (FORPRIEM 2.0) and 2015-004 (Hydrologic Dysconnectivity) were also reviewed.
 - A new Request for Proposals will soon be widely distributed to engender interest in the development and submittal of new effectiveness monitoring project proposals.
- Professional Foresters Examining Committee – Matt Dias
 - Executive Officer Dias acknowledged the passing of RPF Fredrick Green, North Coast, Mendocino County and introduced the names of licensed individuals who requested to have their licenses placed in withdrawn status.

03-17-08 Member Andre moved to approve RPF withdrawals. Member Wade seconded the motion.

- RPF 58 – Jerry Brogan
- RPF 1930 – Stephen Funk

Roll Call

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Aye
Andre	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with three members absent.

03-17-09 Member Miles moved to approve revocation of RPF Licenses for failure to renew. Member Wade seconded the motion.

- RPF 429 – Noel Olson
- RPF 1024 – Jarrold Cone
- RPF 2080 – Stephen Carter
- CRM 58 – Joseph Wagner
- CRM 94 – Jon Gustafson

Roll Call

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Aye
Andre	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with three members absent.

SPECIAL BOARD HEARINGS/REPORTS

Presentation: Learning from Sweden's District Heating Infrastructure for Forest Management, Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions, and Local Economic Development, Dr. Catherine Brinkley, Environmental Planning, Public Health, Food Systems, Rural-Urban Linkages, UC Davis

Presentation: 2017 Update: PG&E Report on Vegetation Management in Response to Drought Mortality, Kamaran Rasheed, Manager, CEMA Electric Vegetation Management Drought & Tree Mortality Response and Niel Fischer, CEMA Electric Vegetation Management Drought & Tree Mortality Response

Presentation: Forest Practice Rules Exemptions and Emergency Notices Report Update, CAL FIRE Presenters.

Presentation: AB 1492 Program Update, Several Members of the 1492 Leadership Team provided updates on the program. Members included Russ Henly (CNRA), Bill Solinsky (CAL FIRE), Bill Condon (DFW), Paul Hann (SWRCB), Bill Short (CGS) and Elliot Chasin (DFW)

Hearing: "Safety Element Review 2017" 14 CCR, Division 1.5, Chapter 7 Adopt Article 6 §§ 1210.00-1210.03.

03-17-06 Member Miles moved to adopt the Final Statement of Reasons for the Safety Element Review 2017. Member Husari seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Aye
Andre	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with three members absent.

03-17-07 Member Andre moved to adopt the regulatory text as presented in the 45-day notice, with no changes, for the Safety Element Review 2017. Member Husari seconded the motion.

Roll Call

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Aye
Andre	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with three members absent.

Public Comment

- Mike Garabedian asked: when a THP is associated with a conversion or a TPZ rezone, how is the new 1492 process going to relate to those types of situations. When is the 1492 process going to be made available to the public?

- Dennis Hall, Forest Practice, responded the 1492 process is a series of projects for an interagency group. It is loosely connected to the already existing process for reviewing conversions and associated timber harvesting plans. He gave a brief explanation of the process.

CONCLUSION

Public Forum

No public comment offered.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Dias", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew Dias
Acting Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Gilles", with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Keith Gilles
Chair