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BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Porterville, CA
September 28, 2017

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Keith Gilles, Chair
Mark Andre
Rich Wade
Mike Miles
Darcy Wheelles
Susan Husari
Chris Chase

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Marc Los Huertos
Katie Delbar

BOARD STAFF:

Matthew Dias, Executive Officer
Dan Stapleton, Licensing Officer
Thembi Borrás, Forester III
Edith Hannigan, Associate Government Program Analyst
Linda Cano, Executive Assistant
Laura Alarcon-Stalians, Associate Government Program Analyst
Eric Hedge, Regulations Coordinator
Ali Karaouni, Board Counsel

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

Janet Barentson, Chief Deputy Director
Janet Upton, Deputy Director, Communications
Helge Eng, Deputy Director, Resource Management
Matthew Reichman, Assistant Deputy Director, Resource Protection and Improvement
Craig Tolmie, Assistant Chief, Southern Region
Eric Huff, Staff Chief, Forest Practice Program
Gabe Shultz, Northern Region Staff Chief Resource Management
Bill Solinsky, Forester III, THP Administration

Chairman Gilless called Open Session to order and convened to Executive Session.

Re-convene Open Session.

Announcement of Actions Taken in Executive Session.

- No reportable actions taken.

Approval of August Board Meeting Minutes.

- Consideration of the August minutes was deferred to the November Board meeting.

MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS.

Report of the Chair. J. Keith Gilless

- Expressed gratitude to the Southern Region for the informative tour of Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest (MHDSF). Acknowledged Jim Kral, Forest Manager, for his grasp of knowledge of the challenges that MHDSF faces and his ability to convey those challenges to the Board.

Report of the Director/Department. Janet Barentson

- Director Ken Pimlott is in Washington DC meeting with congressional members regarding forest health issues and the federal fire funding fix initiatives.
- The Director spent a week in West Virginia at the National Association of State Foresters.
- To date, fire start activity is 34% higher this year than average. Last week there were 185 starts, 150 of which were on the State Responsibility Area (SRA).
- The Department has hosted several stake holder conference calls with industry representatives resulting in CAL FIRE representatives serving as liaisons between the incident and the landowners during fires involving private timberlands. This process ensures that land owners are kept informed on incident challenges and progress, and provides for the delivery of landowner concerns directly to the incident commanders. To date, the Department is not aware of any significant issues or concerns on behalf of timber industry representatives related to any of the recent fires.
- Global Super Tanker became a Call When Needed (CWN) vendor for CAL FIRE on August 30th after completing a comprehensive "carding" process by an inter-agency team comprised of CAL FIRE and USFS aviation specialists. Both the aircraft and pilots are carded separately. It was first used on the Ponderosa Fire in Butte County the day it came on contract. Since August 30th, it has flown on 7 different fires across the state, for a total of 15 missions, and delivered 273,028 gallons of retardant. The 747 has a maximum capacity of 18,555 gallons. As comparison, the DC-10 has a capacity of 12,000 gallons and a CAL FIRE S2T air tanker has a capacity of 1,200 gallons.
- The Legislature has passed budget bill Cap and Trade appropriations which includes a full backfill of SRA funds from the Greenhouse Gas and Restoration Fund to maintain the prevention program. In addition, a one-time \$220 million allotment was provided to the Department for urban forestry, forest health and fire prevention activities. The Department anticipates utilizing existing grant mechanisms developed last year to distribute funds for projects with GHG reduction benefits. The law allows the Department up to 3 years to award these funds, and an additional 3 years for the projects to be completed.

- The Department has constituted a steering group to address the need for better reporting from CalMapper. The goal is to have consistent and detailed reporting focusing on project type, location, fiscal year implementation, and funding source.
- The Department has established a Workforce Planning Unit, which includes a recruitment working group. This working group has been focused on improving recruitment efforts surrounding the Deputy State Fire Marshal classes, but is now refocusing on the Forester classes.
- Announced retirements:
 - Dave Teter, Deputy Director of Fire Protection, December 31, 2017
 - Chris Rowney, Assistant Deputy Director for Cooperative Fire, Training and Safety, December 31, 2017.

Report of the Regulations Coordinator. Eric Hedge

The Regulations Coordinator provided an update on the following subject matters:

- Board Rulemaking Matrix.
- Introduction of the Draft Final Statement of Reasons and Draft Regulatory Proposal for “RPF and LTO Responsibilities Amendments, 2017”.

09-17-01 Chairman Gillless moved to approve the Final Statement of Reasons for the regulation entitled “RPF/LTO Responsibilities Amendments, 2017”. Member Husari seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Absent
Wheeles	Aye
Andre	Aye
Los Huertos	Absent
Chase	Aye
Gillless	Aye

The motion passed unanimously; with two members absent.

09-17-02 Chairman Gillless moved to adopt the regulation entitled “RPF/LTO Responsibilities Amendments, 2017”. Member Chase seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Absent
Wheeles	Aye
Andre	Aye
Los Huertos	Absent
Chase	Aye
Gillless	Aye

The motion passed unanimously; with two members absent.

Report of Executive Officer. Matt Dias

Executive Officer Dias provided an update on the following subject matters:

- Legislative update
- Report on Northern Spotted Owl Stakeholder Meeting

Agency Comment:

Mandy Culpepper, DFW - Thanked the Board and the Executive Officer for reviewing and considering the Report on Northern Spotted Owl Stakeholder Meetings.

- Letter sent to Counties Requesting Appointment of an Authorized Designee to Review Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemptions – Update provided by Thembi Borrás
- Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board Waiver Process
- Outreach for Registered Professional Foresters
- 2018 Revision of the Strategic Fire Plan
- Tree Mortality Task Force – Update provided by Member Wade

Report on the Full Board Workshop.

Chair Gilliss, Member Miles and Member Husari provided an update on the following items.

- Reporting to Legislature on Exemptions and Emergency Notices;
- Safety Element Review for the City of Palo Alto and the City of Novato; and
- Cumulative Impacts Assessment Checklist, Technical Addendum No 2 and Appendix Amendments, 2017

Report of Board's Advisory Committees.

Effectiveness Monitoring Committee – Matt Dias

- It was reported that several new project proposals have been submitted to the EMC for review.
- The Draft Strategic Plan will likely be presented in November for Board consideration.
- Chair Gilliss appointed Member Husari as a Co-Chair to the EMC.

Forest Pest Council – Katie Harrell

Range Management Advisory Committee - Edith Hannigan

Professional Foresters Examining Committee – Dan Stapleton

Dan Stapleton provided an update on RPF and CRM Vital Statistics and spoke on the passing of RPF 1805- Edward Crans and RPF 2116 Roscoe Rowney.

Public Comment:

George "YG" Gentry, California Forestry Association - reflected on the CAL FIRE career and his professional and personal interaction with Roscoe Rowney.

SPECIAL BOARD HEARINGS/REPORTS

Initial Hearing: “Oak Woodland Management Exemption, 2017” – The Board proposes to adopt the Final Statement of Reasons and Regulatory Proposal for amendments to 14 CCR § 1038 to

provide timberland owners that manage specifically for California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) and Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) an exemption from the plan preparation and submission requirements (PRC § 4581) and from the completion report and stocking report requirements (PRC §§ 4585 and 4587) of the FPA when specific requirements are met.

Agency Comment:

Mandy Culpepper, DFW - Spoke in support of the pending regulations for the Oak Woodland Exemption.

09-17-03 Chairman Gilles moved to approve the Final Statement of Reasons, including the responses to written comments as provided by the Regulations Coordinator, for the regulation entitled “Oak Woodland Management Exemption, 2017”. Member Andre seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Absent
Wheeles	Aye
Andre	Aye
Los Huertos	Absent
Chase	Aye
Gilles	Aye

The motion passed unanimously; with two members absent.

09-17-04 Member Miles moved to adopt the regulatory proposal entitled “Oak Woodland Management Exemption, 2017”. Member Wade seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Absent
Wheeles	Aye
Andre	Aye
Los Huertos	Absent
Chase	Aye
Gilles	Aye

The motion passed unanimously; with two members absent.

Presentation: Discussion of Working Draft of the Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic EIR, Gabe Shultz, Northern Region Staff Chief Resource Management and Edith Hannigan, Board Analyst.

The Board was provided an update on the substantial revisions that were made throughout the working Draft of the Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic EIR.

09-17-05 Chairman Gilles moved to authorize a public recirculation of the working draft of the Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report in

its entirety with inclusion of minor editorial revisions as offered by the Board. Member Wheelles seconded the motion.

Member Husari offered a friendly amendment to clarify that the period of recirculation for public comment would be 60 days. Member Wheelles and Chairman Gilless accepted the friendly amendment.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Aye
Delbar	Absent
Wheelles	Aye
Andre	Aye
Los Huertos	Absent
Chase	Aye
Gilless	Aye

The motion passed unanimously; with two members absent.

Agency Comment:

Craig Tolmie, Assistant Region Chief, Southern Region, CAL FIRE - Spoke of the importance of the Vegetation Treatment Program PEIR to the Southern Region and supported Board action on recirculation of the document for public comment.

CONCLUSION.

Public Forum

There were no requests for public comment.

ADJOURMENT.

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:



Matthew Dias
Executive Officer



Keith Gilless
Chair