

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(916) 653-8007
(916) 653-0989 FAX
Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov



BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Sacramento, CA
November 8, 2017

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS PRESENT:

J. Keith Gilles, Chair
Mark Andre
Rich Wade
Mike Miles
Darcy Wheelles
Susan Husari
Chris Chase
Marc Los Huertos
Katie Delbar

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS ABSENT:

BOARD STAFF:

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

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

Ken Pimlott, Director
Janet Barentson, Chief Deputy Director
Janet Upton, Deputy Director, Communications
Helge Eng, Deputy Director, Resource Management
Craig Tolmie, Assistant Chief, Southern Region
Bill Solinsky, Forester III, THP Administration
Eric Huff, Staff Chief, Forest Practice Program

NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY:

Russ Henly, Assistant Secretary of Forest Resources Management

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.

The August and September 2017 were reviewed by the Board members and no changes were made.

MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

Report of the Chairman J. Keith Gilless

- Chairman Gilless expressed the Board's sympathies for all those affected by the wildfires and expressed thanks to the emergency responders for their efforts in protecting life, property and the environment. He also expressed thanks to all the volunteers who assisted during the fires in the North Bay. He extended a special thanks to the communities coming together to assist their fellow neighbors while facing the same danger and hardships.
- He expressed that care should be taken not to interpret losses seen during the siege that citizens cannot live in reasonable safety in the California environment. All mechanisms should be used to ensure building codes, vegetation treatment programs, communication protocols, pre-planning at the levels of community organizations or agencies allow communities to live in reasonable safety and harmony with the natural environment. He applauded the efforts that kept the loss of property and life to a level which was much lower than it could have been.

Report of the Director/Department Ken Pimlott

October Fire Siege:

- Director Pimlott covered some of the amazing stories from the North Bay fire lines with firefighters coming back on duty and working over 72 hours before relief was available.
- Recovery Response in the North Bay was rapid, with FEMA assistance in place before the fires were out. OES, counties and FEMA are fully engaged in debris and hazardous material cleanup.

Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT):

Fires were still burning when WERT began their work.

Four teams were assigned and the reports have been finalized. Data on post fire risks and recommendations for mitigating those risks have been provided to counties afflicted by the North Bay fires. Work is ongoing by all agencies to get mitigations in place ahead of large winter storms.

Post Fire Analysis:

- Investigations into causes and damage assessment on structure loss is an ongoing effort.

Director Pimlott provided an over view of the ongoing Department efforts in fire prevention, which have also been supported by the Board:

- D-Space inspections. CAL FIRE has exceeded their goal of 250,000 inspections last year and have already performed 26,000 since July 1.
- Land use planning – Implementation of Senator Kehoe's bill (SB 1241, 2012) has allowed collaboration with local governments in reviewing General Plan Safety Elements.
- Pace and scale of fuel treatments- The Department met their target for fuels treatment projects last year, and although they did not meet the goal for prescribed fire, they did achieve a significant increase over recent years. The Department will continue to strive to meeting prescribed fire targets in coming years.

- Effective this fiscal year, the Administration and the legislature invested in 42 year-round engines, of which these engines will be used to conduct fuels treatment work during non-emergency response periods, assist others with prescribed fire projects, and perform additional D-Space inspections.

Succession:

- Dave Teter, Deputy Director of Fire Protection, retiring December 31.
- Chris Downey, Assistant Deputy Director of Cooperative Fire, Training, and Safety, retiring December 31.
- Hugh Scanlon, Humboldt Del Norte Unit Chief, retiring November 30.

Appointments:

- Working to fill vacancies noted above.
- Completing the recruitment process for the Assistant Deputy Director for Climate Change.

Cap and Trade:

- The Administration and the legislature committed a one-time allocation of \$200 million from the Greenhouse Gas Restoration Fund to pursue forest health and resilience projects and \$20 million to urban forestry.
- The Department is currently working through questions with the Governor's office on potential limitations on funding allocation with the goal of open grant applicants as soon as possible.
- The intent is to get as much money back out on the ground.
- The Department will hold public workshops in the near future.
- The \$220 million is a onetime infusion of funds, however the Department has several years to encumber the money.

Helicopter Procurement:

- The protest filed by one of the vendors currently sits with the administrative law judge. The Department anticipates a decision early in December.

Federal Government:

- The Director be attending a field tour with the new chief of the U.S. Forest Service, Tony Tooke, to build upon the cooperative relationship between CAL FIRE and the USFS.

Report of the Regulations Coordinator. Matt Dias.

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

- Board Rulemaking Matrix

Report of the Executive Officer. Matt Dias.

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

- Annual Call for Regulatory Review was published and the public comment period ends on November 22, 2017. Discussion of 2018 committee priorities will occur at the December committee meetings.
- Staffing – Introduced Eliana Camargo, Environmental Scientist that was recently hired by the Board.
- AB 1504 Report will be finalized prior to the December Meeting.
- Recirculation of the Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic EIR.
- Letter provided to Counties to Appoint Authorized Designee to Review Less Than 3 Acre Conversion Exemptions – Thembi Borrás
- Tree Mortality Task Force – Member Rich Wade

Report of the Standing Committees

Forest Practice Committee & Management Committee Joint Meeting

- Member Andre updated the Board on the Department's/Board's report to the Legislature covering Exemptions and Emergency Notices.
- Member Andre provided an update on Stocking Standards Revisions and the William Main Project Report.
- Member Miles indicated the Joint Committee did discuss the petition submitted July 27, 2017 by Environmental Protection Information Center, Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch, and Klamath-Siskiyou Wildlands Center requesting rule revision to 14 CCR §§ 1052 "Emergency Notice", 1052.1 "Emergency Conditions", 1052.2 "Emergency Substantiated by RPF", and 895.1 "Definitions"
- Member Miles discussed progress on the Cumulative Impacts Assessment Checklist, Technical Rule Addendum No. 2 and Appendix Amendments, 2017. The committee forwarded draft rule text to the full Board. Staff will prepare the draft Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) for the December Meeting. The Board will consider the draft ISOR and rule text for authorization for a 45-day public comment period in December.

Report of Board's Advisory Committees

Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC). Edith Hannigan.

- Ms. Hannigan updated the Board on the Committee's most recent meeting and upcoming projects.
- Nominations for re-appointment of some members of RMAC will be before the Board in December.

Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC). Russ Henly.

- Mr. Henly provided an update on EMC Project Proposals.
- 2018 Draft EMC Strategic Plan was provided to the Board for review. The Board will consider approval of the draft revised plan at the December meeting.

Public Comment

Richard Gienger – indicated that there are already several projects related to cumulative effects at the Resources Agency looking at processes in forestry and their relationship with cumulative effects. Many of these projects are very esoteric and there needs to be a better balance of the public concerns. The types of research being done will not help reach the goals of the 1994 Little Hoover Commission report.

Professional Foresters Examining Committee, Dan Stapleton.

- Assistant Executive Officer Dan Stapleton introduced the Licensing Vital Statistics and recognized the passing of James Nicklos, RPF 181.
- Member Wade shared a few memories on his personal experience working with RPF James Nicklos.

11-17-01 Member Gilless moved to approve the requested RPF withdrawal. Member Andre seconded the motion.

RPF 333 – Gerald Ranger

Roll Call

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

The motion passed unanimously

Additionally, Mr. Stapleton gave an update on Registered Professional Forester Outreach.

SPECIAL BOARD HEARINGS/REPORTS

Presentation: Risk Assessment of California's Key Source Watershed Infrastructure; Laurie Wayburn, Co-founder, Co-CEO and President, Pacific Forest Trust

Presentation: SB 859 Working Group – Recommendations to Expand Wood Product Markets in California; Claire Jahns, California Natural Resources Agency.

Public Comment:

Eric Carlson, Associated California Loggers (ACL) - understands the contention of Woody Biomass running difficulties as an energy source. Other uses from the stand point of forest products industry should support the report. He gave a brief overview of points where he is in support of the report.

Presentation: Tree Mortality Task Force, Forest Health and Resilience Working Group: Update on Ongoing Projects; Stuart McMorrow, CAL FIRE Deputy Chief of Forestry Assistance

Public Comment:

Eric Carlson, Associated California Loggers (ACL) - was pleased that Governor Brown signed an Executive Order that clarified that Licensed Timber Operators do not require the C61 or D49 contractor's license to do tree mortality work. ACL has distributed a list of ACL members to the 10 counties most impacted by tree mortality, as well as to Cal Fire and the Tree Mortality Task Force. The list was broken down county by county in terms of ACL members being available to those still needing work done. The next phase will be to work with tree mortality counties with any calls and contracts for proposals for tree mortality work.

CONCLUSION.

Public Forum

Eric Carlson, Associated California Loggers (ACL) - suggested an agenda item for the January 2018 Board meeting.

Richard Gienger, Forests Forever - welcomed Board members Katie Delbar and Chris Chase as he has not been to a Board meeting in quite some time. Mentioned the North Bay fires, and subterranean shelters for fire prone areas. He commented how incredible it was that CAL FIRE was able to deal with the enormity of all the fires. Suggested that they consider a science member for nomination to the EMC.

ADJOURNMENT.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Matthew Dias
Executive Officer

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Gilles", with a large, circular flourish at the end.

Keith Gilles
Chair