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BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Sacramento, CA
December 5, 2017

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

**BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

Mike Miles

BOARD STAFF:

Matthew Dias, Executive Officer
Edith Hannigan, Staff Services Manager
Linda Cano, Executive Assistant
Laura Alarcon-Stalians, Land Use Planning Program
Manager
Thembi Borrás, Regulatory Program Manager
Eliana Camargo, Environmental Scientist
Ali Karaouni, Board Counsel

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

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
Daniel Berlant, Assistant Deputy Director
Dave Shew, Staff Chief, Planning and Risk Analysis
Division
Nadia Tase, Senior Environmental Scientist

NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY:

Russ Henly, Assistant Secretary of Forest Resources
Management

Announcement of Actions Taken in Executive Session.

No reportable actions taken.

Approval of November Board Meeting Minutes.

**12-17-01 Member Gilless moved to approve November 2017 Meeting Minutes.
Member Wade seconded the motion.**

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Absent
Delbar	Aye
Wheeles	Absent (absent for this action)
Andre	Aye
Los Huertos	Aye
Chase	Aye
Gilless	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with two members absent.

MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

Report of the Chairman J. Keith Gilless

Chairman Gilless expressed his sympathies to those in Southern California that experienced conditions that are all too familiar to Northern California. He offered thanks to the fire service and safety officials dealing with the very challenging situations and wished them the best in doing so.

Report of the Director/Department Janet Barentson

Current fire activity

- Chief Pimlott is in Southern California at the Thomas Fire.
- Santa Ana conditions are anticipated over the next 10 days and there are 4 to 5 large active fire in the southern portion of the state.
- The Governor has declared States of Emergency for Ventura and Los Angeles Counties.
 - 3 incident management teams are assigned to SoCal fires (Thomas, Creek and Rye Fires)
 - The Department is holding all seasonal staffing on through remainder of the calendar year and is moving resources from the north to the south. The Department is fully engaging local government resources in suppression effort in the southern portion of the state.
 - The Department has engaged additional aircraft, including the 747, Tanker 10 and MAFFs. The McClellan Tanker Reload Base has been reopened and Departmental aviation assets have been relocated to assist in suppression efforts.
 - Office of the State Fire Marshal have assigned staff to perform damage inspections in the areas impacted by wildfires.
 - Watershed Emergency Response Teams (WERT) are prepared to initiate work to identify watershed mitigation needs as soon as conditions allow.

Fire Statistics

- 2017 is on track to be the costliest year of fire suppression on record.

- Through December 3, 2017, 6,762 fires have burned 505,391 acres on SRA. For purposes of comparison, as of this date in 2016 there were 4,742 fires that had burned 244,297 acres.
- Including federal fires, a total of 8,747 fires and 1,090,214 acres have affected California so far.

October North Bay Fire Siege

- The 6 WERT reports have been completed and turned over to the affected local governments.
- CAL FIRE crews and engine staff have assisted local governments in mitigating impacts identified in the WERT reports.
- A CAL FIRE Incident Management Team has been assigned to work with the Army Corps of Engineers in addressing debris cleanup from destroyed structures.
- Chief Pimlott attended a joint legislative informational hearing regarding Emergency Warning Systems in California, where he briefed legislators on the fire activity in the State. Information regarding early warning systems were provided by Director Ghilarducci from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and a variety of communication representatives and local government officials.

Fuels Treatment Activities

During 2017 the Department completed:

- 8,536 acres of prescribed fire, 42.7% of the goal set by the Director at the beginning of the year.
- 1,334 acres of fuel reduction work, 6.7% of the goal.
- 81,389 defensible space inspections, 32.6% of the goal.

Succession Planning

- Joe Tyler was appointed Deputy Director of Fire Protection Programs effective December 1, 2017.
- Angie Lottes was appointed Assistant Deputy Director of Climate and Energy.
- Announcements for the Assistant Deputy Director of Coop Fire, Training and Safety will occur within the next week or so.
- Deputy Director of Communications, Janet Upton, will be retiring the end of the calendar year.

Report of the Regulations Coordinator.

- Thembi Borrás, Board staff, provided an update on the Rulemaking Matrix.
- Ms. Borrás introduced the Draft Initial Statement of Reasons and the Draft Regulatory Text for Cumulative Impacts Assessment Checklist, Technical Rule Addendum No. 2 and Appendix Amendments, 2017.

12-17-02 Member Andre moved to not proceed with the first 45-Day Notice (published on June 30, 2017) for the regulation entitled "Cumulative Impacts Assessment Checklist, Technical Rule Addendum No. 2 and Appendix Amendments." Member Los Huertos seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion passed unanimously with one member absent.

- 12-17-03 Chairman Gilless moved to approve the Initial Statement of Reasons for the regulation entitled “Cumulative Impacts Assessment Checklist, Technical Rule Addendum No. 2 and Appendix Amendments” with the revisions approved during Board discussion. Member Los Huertos seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion passed unanimously with one member absent.

- 12-17-04 Chairman Gilless moved to authorize a 45-Day Notice for the regulation entitled “Cumulative Impacts Assessment Checklist, Technical Rule Addendum No. 2 and Appendix Amendments.” Member Andre seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion passed unanimously with one member absent.

Report of the Executive Officer

Executive Officer Dias provided an update on the following matters:

- A draft of the 2017 Annual Report will be presented at the January 2018 Board meeting.
- A candidate for the Attorney IV position has been selected and a an offer will be made to this candidate in the very near future.
- Executive Officer Dias shared a message from Susan Robinson regarding her concerns on the structure of the Forest Practice Committee being that the committee consists of two industry members and a public member from livestock and range, which she equates to an industry member as well.
- Staff is working on the possible development of emergency regulations relating to land owners that have been impacted by the North Bay fires. Board staff will be working with CAL FIRE to refine potential emergency regulations and a special Board meeting may be schedule to consider adoption of these proposed emergency regulations

Report of the Standing Committees

Forest Practice Committee & Management Committee Joint Meeting

Chair Andre provided an update on the following items:

- Joint Board and CAL FIRE Report to Legislature on Exemptions and Emergency Notices;
- Stocking Standards Revisions and the William Main Project Report;
- Public and agency comment from the Annual Call for Regulatory Review and development of 2018 committee priorities; and
- Revisions of 2006 Board Policy on Annual Review of Forest Practice Rules.

Resource Protection Committee

Chair Husari provided an updated on the following items:

- Safety Element Assessments for the City of San Diego, Modoc County and Mariposa County response to recommendations;
- Fire Safe Development Regulations for the County of Plumas;
- Ken Zimmerman (former member of RMAC) discussion of AB 1983 (Dickerson, 2002); and
- Public and agency comment from the Annual Call for Regulatory Review and development of 2018 committee priorities.

Report of Board's Advisory Committees

Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC) Russ Henly

- Russ Henly provided an update on committee activity.
- Board consideration of the 2018 Draft EMC Strategic Plan.

12-17-07 Chairman Gillless moved to approve the 2018 Draft EMC Strategic Plan. Member Wade seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Absent
Delbar	Absent (absent for this action)
Wheeles	Aye
Andre	Aye
Los Huertos	Aye
Chase	Aye
Gillless	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with two members absent.

Forest Pest Council – Katie Harrell

Katie Harrell provided an update from the Forest Pest Council.

Range Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) - Edith Hannigan

- a) Board considered the Re-appointment of Sheryl Landrum, John van Duyn, and Brittany Cole Bush (four (4) year terms). Ms. Bush has decided not to request a renewal of her term.

12-17-06 Chairman Gillless moved to approve the re-appointment of Sheryl Landrum and John van Duyn to a 4 year terms. Member Husari seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye
Miles	Absent
Delbar	Absent (absent for this action)
Wheeles	Aye
Andre	Aye
Los Huertos	Aye
Chase	Aye
Gilless	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with two members absent.

Professional Foresters Examining Committee – Dan Stapleton

- Assistant Executive Officer, Dan Stapleton, introduced the Licensing Vital Statistics, and provided an update on Registered Professional Forester outreach efforts.

SPECIAL BOARD HEARINGS/REPORTS

Hearing (Gov. Code § 11340.7): Petition for Administrative Rulemaking to Amend the Program for Licensing, Certification, and Discipline of Certified Rangeland Managers,” submitted by Latham & Watkins (dated October 16, 2017) on behalf of Rancho Guejito requesting:

- Adoption of proposed new regulatory section Title 14 Cal. Code Regs., section 1650.1, to ensure enforcement of the requirement that licensees have “good moral character” and a “good reputation for honesty and integrity” as set forth in Pub. Res. Code section 769;
- Adoption of the proposed amendments to Title 14 Cal. Code Regs., section 1650, subsection (c)(2), to ensure better enforcement of the professional standards set by the independent society charged with administering the CRM certification program;
- Adoption of the proposed new regulation, Title 14 Cal. Code Regs., section 1650.1, subsection (f), to oversee and maintain impartiality in all CRM disciplinary proceedings;
- Adoption of the proposed amendments to Title 14 Cal. Code Regs., section 1650, subsection (c)(4), to improve enforceability of the Professional Society Reporting Requirements, including the timely submission of annual reports by internal certification panels to the relevant professional societies and/or public agencies.

Public Comment:

Larry Ford, past Chairman of the CRM Certification Panel, commented that Certified Rangeland Managers (CRM) would like to be included in the decision-making process regarding changes to the rules. He also commented they are making updates to the CRM program guidelines.

Susan Marshall, president of the CRM Certification Panel, commented (online) that any revision to the program guidelines for CRMs or the regulation that affect the licenses should include representatives of the CRM community.

- 12-17-05 Chairman Gilless moved to refer materials regarding Rancho Guejito in the Petition for Administrative Rulemaking to the Professional Forester’s Examining Committee and asked for their input back to the Board. Member Wade seconded the motion.**

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	Aye
Husari	Aye

Miles	Absent
Delbar	Aye
Wheeles	Aye
Andre	Aye
Los Huertos	Aye
Chase	Aye
Gilless	Aye

The motion passed unanimously with one member absent.

Presentation: American Tree Farm 75th Anniversary; Bill Snyder, Chair, California Tree Farm Committee, Chuck Henderson, Member of the California Tree Farm Committee

The Board presented a Resolution to Mr. Snyder and Mr. Henderson in recognition of the American Tree Farm Certification System's 75th Anniversary.

Presentation: AB1504 California Forest Ecosystem and Harvested Wood Product Inventory; Nadia Tase, Environmental Scientist, CAL FIRE/FRAP

Public Comment:

Susan Robinson, Member of the public - commented (online) that Board needs be aware that the Forest Inventory Analysis plot data from private ownerships are kept secret from the public so that there can be no independent verification that the data is valid and not skewed. This issue has been raised before and continues to be ignored. We the public have no way of knowing which industrial timber owners or geographic areas or silviculture methods are even represented.

Presentation: Fire Plan Annual Update; Staff Chief Dave Shew, CAL FIRE/OSFM, Planning and Risk Analysis Manager

Presentation: CAL FIRE Annual Report on Regulatory Review and Discussion of Comments in response to the Annual Call for Regulatory Review; Bill Solinsky, Forester III THP Administration

CONCLUSION

Public Forum

Eric Carlson, Associated California Loggers, reported that former president and current member of ACL, Buzz Eades, passed over the Thanksgiving weekend at the age of 77. He also commented on the RPF/LTO regulation that was adopted at the September Board meeting. He added that Associated California Loggers, in conjunction with California Licensed Forester's Association, are seeking a meeting with CAL FIRE to discuss and a non-regulatory approach or guidance policy to the RPF/LTO responsibilities and issued violations.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matt Dias". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Matthew Dias
Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Keith Gilles". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with multiple loops and a long horizontal tail.

Keith Gilles
Chair