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BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Sacramento, CA
January 24, 2018

BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD STAFF:

Matthew Dias, Executive Officer
Dan Stapleton, Licensing Officer
Edith Hannigan, Land Use Planning Program Manager
Eric Hedge, Regulations Coordinator
Conner Pompa, Forestry Assistant II
Linda Cano, Executive Assistant
Laura Alarcon-Stalians, Associate Government Program Analyst
Eliana Camargo, Environmental Scientist
Ali Karaouni, Board Counsel

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:

Janet Barentson, Chief Deputy Director
Helge Eng, Deputy Director, Resource Management
Dennis Hall, Assistant Deputy Director
Mike Mohler, Acting Deputy Director, Communications
Bill Solinsky, Forester III, THP Administration
Eric Huff, Staff Chief, Forest Practice Program
Thom Porter, Southern Region Chief
Heather Williams, Information Officer

Natural Resources Agency:

Russ Henly, Assistant Secretary of Forest Resources Management

Announcement of Actions Taken in Executive Session

No reportable actions taken.

Approval of December 2017 Board Meeting Minutes.

**01-18-01 Member Andre moved to approve the December 6, 2017 Meeting Minutes.
Member Wade seconded the motion.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion passed with one abstention

Approval of January 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

**01-18-02 Member Wade moved to approve the January 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes.
Member Wheeles seconded the motion.**

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion passed with one abstention.

MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

Report of the Chairman J. Keith Gilless

The Chairman commented that it was great that California finally received rainfall, although the impacts within some portions of the state were terribly unfortunate. He expressed, on behalf of the Board, their sympathies and compassion for those in areas where debris flows caused such devastation in recently burned areas within southern California. He also expressed appreciation for the agencies that responded to assist those affected.

Board Special Recognition:

Laura Alarcon-Stalians was presented with an Award of Excellence for her superior work and dedication to service with the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Report of the Director/Department Janet Barentson:

Director Pimlott was in Arizona at the Fire Managers meeting. Chief Barentson congratulated and thanked Laura Alarcon-Stalians for the work she does with the various departments and programs within CAL FIRE and provided a report on the follow matters:

Statistics

- There have already been 100 fires since the beginning of the year of 2018.
- E-Fund fiscal expenditure for 2017 fire suppression efforts is approximately \$900. This represents an all-time high for the state, exceeding the previously all-time high of \$525 million.

Department staffing levels

- The Department will be maintaining 3 southern units at peak staffing patterns on a year round basis, while Southern Sierra and Coastal units are in transition to seasonal staffing levels. The Northern Region is at winter staffing with 2 engines per unit activated. The Department was successful in retaining funding for augmented Limited Terms Fire Apparatus Engineers to staff engines.
- The Department will be maintaining 3 helicopters in the south, 2 in the north and 2 large air tankers for year-round stand by.
- California Conservation Corp (CCC) fire crews at the Placer CCC Center are staffed and staged for deployment.

Governor's January 10 Budget contains the following prospective departmental appropriations

- Permanent funding for 20 new CAL FIRE staff to support department financial services.
- Replacement of Self Contained Breathing Apparatus;
- Permanent authority for 34 seasonal Captains;
- Permanent funding for the McClellan Reload Base;
- Permanent funding for 3 additional CCC Fire crews;
- Ventura Training Center-program to enable 80 ex-offenders to gain the training and experience; to qualify for entry level firefighting positions with local, state, and federal firefighting agencies; and funding for procurement of 4 additional helicopters.
- The contract for the procurement of these helicopters is near completion and the department has received approval from DGS to award the contract.

Thomas Fire Watershed Emergency Response Team (WERT)

- A Draft Report was recently made available and the information contained within the draft was used to identify areas of voluntary and mandatory evacuation.

Government actions in response to October and Southern California wildfires

- The Department will be participating in several upcoming events and Hearings focused on all aspects of fire prevention and suppression efforts including:
 - The Senate Energy, Utilities and Communications Subcommittee on Gas, Electric and Transportation-Friday in Santa Rosa
 - Marin Town Hall on Fire Preparedness
 - Budget Overview Committee Hearings
- The Department is also working with several legislative consultants looking at drafting significant legislation affecting fuels treatment and fire prevention.

Climate Change Investment (CCI)

- Public workshops have begun for the CCI grant process. Angie Lottes will be facilitating those workshops.

- The Department continues to work with the Air Resources Board on the quantification methodology for CCI funded projects.
- Beginning to Update Department's Strategic Plan-Roadmap for the next 3-5 years
 - Secured a vendor to assist
 - Anticipate completion this summer.

Report and Annual Update- USFS Region V Acting Deputy Regional Forest, Al Olson:

Mr. Olson provided an in-depth overview the 2017 management actions and collaborative efforts of USDA, Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.

Report of the Executive Officer. Matt Dias:

Executive Officer Dias provide reports on the follow subject matters:

- Jeff Slaton, the Board's dedicated Attorney IV, starts January 31, 2018.
- Review of the Rulemaking Matrix, noting no substantive change other than the Board's recent action on Emergency Rules to Facilitate Post-Fire Recovery Efforts within the counties of Napa, Sonoma and Mendocino.
- Reviewing legislation that may affect Board workload, which could include issues such as exemption, fire protection and prevention issues and potentially licensing issues. It was stated that Board staff has been asked to provide information on certain legislative efforts. The Board acknowledged that this legislative season is quite active and supports Board staff in working with legislative staff on bills that could affect the Board's program.
- Introduction of the Draft Annual Report along with the final standing committee priorities for 2018. The Board offered comment and revisions to the Draft 2017 Annual Report. The Board acknowledged that the standing committee priorities for 2018 were completed and should be included as an appendix to the annual report. Board staff will bring forth a revised draft in March.
- Edith Hannigan provided a Vegetation Treatment Program PEIR update.
- Member Wade provided an update on the Tree Mortality Task Force.

Report of the Standing Committees:

Forest Practice Committee, Mike Miles, Chair

- Reviewed staff revisions of 2006 Board Policy on annual review of Forest Practice Rules.
- Gave an update on Reporting to Legislature on Exemptions and Emergency Notices.
- Gave an update on Stocking Standards Revisions and the William Main Project Report.
- Reviewed staff revisions to 14 CCR §1038.
- Discussed Class II-Large ASP Rules Extension.

Management Committee, Mark Andre, Chair

- Mountain Home Demonstration State Forest Management Plan Update.
- Discussed Program Timberland Environmental Impact Report (PTEIR) for Carbon Sequestration and Fuel Reduction Program.
- Reviewed the Joint Policy for Hardwoods for Consideration of Updating.
- Reviewed staff revisions to 14 CCR §1104.1- Conversion Exemptions.

Resource Protection, Susan Husari, Chair

- Introduced the Fire Safe Regulations Certification for the County of San Diego
01-18-03 Member Husari moved to certify the Fire Safe Regulations for San Diego County. Member Los Huertos seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion passed unanimously.

- Introduced the Safety Element review for the City of San Diego.
- Discussed revisions to SRA Fire Prevention Fund Grant Guidelines.
- Introduced the discussion of review of existing Board land use related policies (Board Policy 0340).

Report of Board’s Advisory Committees

Forest Pest Council-Katie Harrell

Ms. Harrell provided an update from the Forest Pest Council.

Range Management Advisory Committee- Edith Hannigan

Effectiveness Monitoring Committee-Russ Henly and Susan Husari

Dr. Henly provided an update on the January 12, 2018 meeting and introduced the proposal that will soon be submitted to the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management by Dr. Kim Rodriques.

Public Comment:

Richard Gienger, Forests Forever, commented he was excited to see the draft proposal to the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management, UC Santa Barbara.

Professional Foresters Examining Committee-Dan Stapleton

- Announcement and Board consideration of acceptance of successful applicants from the October 2017 RPF and CRM examinations

01-18-04 Member Gilless moved to approve the successful applicants for the October 2017 RPF exam results. Member Wade seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion passed unanimously with one member absent.

01-18-05 Member Gilless moved to approve the successful applicants for the October 2017 CRM exam results. Member Wade seconded the motion.

Board approved RPFs and CRMs:

Milan Atwell - RPF No. 3051	Nikolai Hall - RPF No. 3056
Julian Womble - RPF No. 3052	Nochella Funes - RPF No. 3057
Evan Light - RPF No. 3053	Miao Ling He - CRM No. 115
Justin Britton - RPF No. 3054	Billey Freeman - CRM No. 116
Joseph Starr - RPF No. 3055	Robert Gillaspy - CRM No. 117

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion passed unanimously with one member absent.

01-18-06 Member Gilless moved to approve the requested license withdrawal for RPF 1151 – Ralph Duddles. Member Chase seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion passed unanimously with one member absent.

Public Comment:

Gary Ryneerson, Green Diamond Resource Company, shared his experience during his tenure serving on the PFEC regarding the trends of participants, exam content and exam results.

SPECIAL BOARD HEARINGS/REPORTS

Presentation: El Dorado Forestry Challenge 2017 - First Place Team, Sacramento New Technology High School and Diane Dealey Neill

Presentation: Update on the development of the on-line timber harvest permitting system, the California Timber Regulation and Environmental Evaluation System (CalTREES). Russ Henly, Assistant Secretary of Forest Resources Management, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA); Regina Bell, Enterprise Project Manager, CNRA; Dennis Hall, Assistant Deputy Director for Forest Practices, CAL FIRE; Dan Craig, Forest Practice Project Review Coordinator, CAL FIRE

Public Comment:

Richard Gienger, Forests Forever, shared his concerns regarding the data and integration of the CalTREES system and how it will improve the timber harvest regulatory process.

Presentation: CAL FIRE Lessons Learned from the 2017 Wildfire Season, Chief Deputy Director Janet Barentson

Public Comment:

Mike Garabedian, Friend of the North Fork American River - commented (online) the public is not understanding the experts in fire behavior, including observations topographic effects on wildfire, which informs decisions on where buildable lots and structures should be placed. When and where will this happen if not at the Board of Forestry.

CONCLUSION

Public Forum

Richard Gienger, Forests Forever - gave a brief update on the migration of Coho and Chinook salmon. He shared his concerns regarding AB1492, include the restoration and carbon sequestration work being conducted. He commented there needs to be something comprehensive done to satisfy the public, plan submitters, and agencies so they have what they need to understand the physical situations, changes and conditions to come up with something that will provide for high quality forests in the future.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

ATTEST:



Matthew Dias
Executive Officer



Keith Gilles
Chair