

## REPORT TO THE OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE APRIL 2001

### UPDATES

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#### QUARANTINE

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**OREGON**– At the hearing held March 14 in Salem the Oregon Department of Agriculture proposed that the temporary emergency quarantine for Sudden Oak Death that was to expire April 4, 2001 be permanent. As of March 27, 2001 it became officially permanent.

**For more information** - Nancy Osterbauer 503-986-4666.

**CANADA** - Canada has imposed a quarantine prohibiting the import of nursery stock and unmanufactured non-propagative material (logs, mulch, etc.) of all oaks (*Quercus*,) tanoak (*Lithocarpus*), *Rhododendron* spp. and evergreen huckleberry (*Vaccinium ovatum*) and of soil from areas where sudden oak death occurs. This measure was taken to prevent the entry into Canada of this potentially injurious pest. The ban covers Germany, the Netherlands and the 7 counties that have SOD in CA. The measure went into effect March 9, 2001.

#### ZONE OF INFESTATION

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The Board of Forestry has declared an official Zone of Infestation for the seven counties known to be infested with SOD Phytophthora: Santa Clara, Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Monterey. According to a CDF press release the ZOI,

“will allow CDF to use its crews and expend resources to address the problem on state and private lands within the Zone of Infestation.

“The declaration now allows us to help landowners remove trees that pose an increased risk of fire or safety,” said Andrea E. Tuttle, Director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. “And, it will help increase public awareness of this growing menace” added Director Tuttle.”

#### POTENTIAL TREATMENT –

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**UC Berkeley** – **Matteo Garbelotto**, UC Berkeley researcher, has demonstrated that phosphonate injected into sapling coast live oak can arrest the growth of SOD cankers. These results are preliminary and there is much work needed before phosphonate can legally be used as a treatment for ornamental trees. **Phosphonate is a fertilizer and is not registered for use as a fungicide.** It needs to have toxicology work done and further efficacy testing before it can be registered for use in CA.

#### FUNDING

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##### CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE –

##### **AB62 to be heard in Appropriations Committee on April 4.**

The Assembly version of the \$10 million spending plan for Sudden Oak Death was heard by the Assembly Appropriation Committee on April 4 It was approved into suspense file. ACR 5, a joint resolution in support of the addressing Sudden Oak Death in CA and of the CA Oak Mortality Task Force has been approved to the consent calendar.

## **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

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**Fairfield** – There was an initial meeting between the task force, CDF and CDFA to coordinate the educational program. Roles and responsibilities are being worked out and a plan of audiences, messages and methods of contact are being developed in coordination with the education committee of the task force. One of the first areas to be targeted will be specialization and distribution of management recommendations (attached) to key audiences. Distribution methods are being reviewed. These include but are not limited to the Web, direct mailings through existing newsletters and regular publications. The task force will use existing communication vehicles wherever possible.

**Marin Municipal Water District** – Trailhead posters have gone up at trailheads on MMWD land. The posters warn users that the area is infested with the new SOD *Phytophthora* and educate visitors on how they can reduce the spread. An invitation has gone out to all landowners to post in their areas. Sausalito will soon be posting these.

## **MEETINGS**

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**FELTON, CA** -The next full **California Oak Mortality Task Force** meeting is **April 25 and 26<sup>th</sup>** in Felton at the Felton Community Hall, 6191 Hwy 9, downtown Felton (in the Santa Cruz Mtns)

### **TO REGISTER please contact**

Cheryl Pescio,

USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592

Phone: 707-562-8986 FAX: 707-562-9054

The cost for the session (no matter which part you attend) is \$49 and includes a box lunch and refreshments both days. For students, persons with limited income, or retirees the fee is \$25. International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and Society of American Foresters (SAF) credits have been applied for (April 25 workshop only).

Please fill out the form on the next page and make checks payable to the CA Forest Pest Council (tax ID 94-324-8514). The California Forest Pest Council is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

**Wednesday, April 25** a one-day workshop on “Recognizing, sampling and monitoring Sudden Oak Death” will be held. The purpose of the workshop is to improve and standardize recognition and monitoring skills. A hands-on session will take place at Cowell Redwoods State Park

**Thursday, April 26** in the morning, several of the committees of the California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) will meet concurrently. In the afternoon, the full task force will meet with a focus on restoration in impacted areas, and recent research updates. We will also discuss research priorities for Sudden Oak Death.

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## **NEW STAFF**

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**COMTF Coordinator - Nicole Palkovsky** has been hired as the new coordinator. She will be located at the University of CA-Berkeley as part of the Center for Forestry and will work on internal and external task force communications, and put together programs sponsored by the COMTF. The position is funded by the State from monies allocated last November. **An announcement will go out with her contact information once her term has begun.** Nicole was the Sudden Oak Death Project Coordinator for Marin County, University Cooperative Extension.