

REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE AND THE MARIN OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE

FEBRUARY 2001

UPDATES

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

SACRAMENTO – The Board adopted a resolution on February 6, 2001. The text of the resolution follows.

“The Board directs the Department [California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection] to work with the Oak Mortality Task Force and other State Agencies to develop the most appropriate management practices based on the current and emerging science to reduce the risk of spread and provide appropriate hazard abatement in those areas that are identified as impacted by Sudden Oak Death. This action should be an educational advisory to the public, professional foresters, arborists, and others that may have an effect on the spread of the disease.

The Board further directs the Department to keep the Board advised of the status of the science in the identification, vectors, spread, and control of the pathogen responsible for Sudden Oak Death as well as any information necessary for assessing future Board action, including the support needed to carry out the Task Force's workplan.”

QUARANTINE

OREGON – The emergency quarantine issued by the Oregon Department of Agriculture on January 4, 2001 has been amended to include rhododendrons. The quarantine will be in effect for 90 days and covers unprocessed oak materials (logs, firewood, mulch, acorns) and nursery stock as well as rhododendrons from known infested counties for movement into Oregon. It also includes a buffer quarantine that prohibits movement of unprocessed oak materials from Mendocino and Humboldt Counties even though Sudden Oak Death has never been found in these areas. The quarantine may be extended after it expires.

For more information:

http://www.oda.state.or.us/Information/sow/Sudden_oak-death.html

FEDERAL – John Kliejunas responded to inquiries about how the rhododendron discovery would change the pest risk assessment for the new *Phytophthora* that he completed for the United Nations, North American Forestry Commission, Insect and Disease Working Group. He responded that due to the high level of uncertainty resulting from a lack of scientific information (host range, spread and other factors) considered in the reports preparation, the new discovery would probably not alter the final pest ratings.

FUNDING

WASHINGTON, DC – As one of his final acts in office, Agricultural Secretary Dan Glickman approved the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station's proposal for \$3.5 million for Sudden Oak Death research. The funding for this year totals \$2.1 million. Pat Shea a retired entomologist was hired by the Pacific Southwest Research Station to put together their Sudden Oak Death program and distribute the funds. \$500,000 will be given to State and Private Forestry, primarily for monitoring. \$1.4 million is for next fiscal year and will require approval by the current administration.

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE – The energy crisis has captured the attention of the California Legislature like no other event in recent history; however, we have been assured that activity will continue on the four bills for Sudden Oak Death that were introduced. All recent activity is listed below.

- **Chesbro – SB 31** \$10 million (\$5 million to hazard tree removal)
 - Feb. 5 Set for hearing February 13.
 - Jan. 4 To Com. on N.R. & W.
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- **Wiggins – AB 53** \$10 million (\$5 million to hazard tree removal)
 - Feb. 1 Referred to Com. on NAT. RES.
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- **Nation ASR 5** no funding – Identifies support for addressing SOD
 - Feb. 5 Referred to Com. on NAT. RES.
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- **Migdon – AB 62** \$10,265,000.
(**Coauthors:** Assembly Members Alquist, Chan, Keeley, Maldonado, Nation, Richman, Salinas, Vargas, Washington, and Wayne)
(**Coauthors:** Senators Kuehl, Ortiz, and Torlakson)
 - Feb. 5 Re-referred to Com. on NAT. RES.
 - Feb. 1 Referred to Com. on NAT. RES. From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on NAT. RES. Read second time and amended.
- Please note all the co-authors on Migden's bill. They cover virtually all the coastal counties down through Santa Barbara.
- The bill has also been amended to \$10,265,000 for Sudden Oak Death broken up according to recommendations by the COMTF. It states the COMTF should set priorities for funding.

MEETINGS

San Rafael, CA - January 31 and February 1, 2001 marked the second meeting of the full California Oak Mortality Task Force. The meeting drew over 150 participants – with both sessions equally attended. The format for the meeting followed that of the first, with Wednesday offering an educational component and Thursday focusing on committee meetings and a general task force meeting. The pre-meeting workshop addressed “Hazard Trees and Sudden Oak Death” – to bring task force members up to speed on hazard tree mgt and what is known relative to Sudden Oak Death. On February 1, at the general meeting **Senator Wesley Chesbro** spoke, providing encouragement as well as giving legislative updates. **Steven Archibald** and **Linda Barr** representatives from **Assemlbmembers Migden** and **Nation’s** offices respectively, also addressed the group. **Supervisor Cynthia Murray**, who spearheaded funding efforts in the county and sounded the alarm in Sacramento, offered words of encouragement and promised the continued collaboration and partnership of Marin with the State and other counties. Other topics were the Oregon Quarantine and the preliminary Risk assessment for Sudden Oak Death written by the USFS for the United Nations, North American Forestry Commission, Insect and Disease Committee.

- The next **Executive Committee** (Board + Chairs) Meeting will be February 15th in Vallejo.
- **Committee Meetings:**
 - Education Committee -March 6, 10-3 pm in San Rafael
 - Fire
 - Funding
 - Management
 - Monitoring
 - Research
- The next full **California Oak Mortality Task Force** meeting is **May 1 and 2nd in Santa Cruz**. Information on this event will be posted as it becomes available.

TRAINING SESSIONS

- The University of California Oak Conservation Work Group sponsored a California Oak Mortality Task Force endorsed in-service training held January 23 and 25th in Santa Cruz and Marin respectively. The workshop was geared toward training for University of California Cooperative Extension and California Department of Food and Agriculture Staff in infested and uninfested counties. Over 80 participants from these agencies received the latest educational training and materials. Participation stipulated that these staff would now act as county contacts for Sudden Oak Death related issues.