



## REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE JUNE 2001

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### REGULATIONS

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The California Department of Food and Agriculture issued emergency regulations May 17, 2001 that restrict the export of diseased oak products and rhododendrons from the infested counties. Agricultural commissioners in each of the seven known infested counties will assist with enforcement. The regulations are part of a statewide oak mortality management program consisting of exclusion, delimitation and detection survey, control, scientific support, research and development, and outreach. The regulations establish a seven-county control area consisting of the Counties of Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma. For further details on the Oak Mortality Management Program contact **Steve Lyle (916) 654-0462**. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is expected to issue parallel domestic and international regulations aimed at preventing the spread of the Sudden Oak Death pathogen outside of California and preventing importation from Europe (Germany, Netherlands are known to have the Sudden Oak Death *Phytophthora* on rhododendrons and viburnum).

The California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) will assist in coordination of the Oak Mortality Management Plan (see collaborative education effort).

### FUNDING

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#### **Federal Funding**

In an effort to combat Sudden Oak Death, **U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA)** introduced a bill on June 7, 2001 to help fight the disease.

"California's beloved oak trees are in grave peril. From our yards to our forests, more and more trees are dying from Sudden Oak Death Syndrome. My bill will help to stop this deadly disease in its tracks."

The bill would provide more than \$70 million in funding over the next five years to [federal] local and state authorities for research and outreach related to Sudden Oak Death Syndrome, as well as monitoring, management, and treatment of the disease.

#### **State Funding-**

**Governor Gray Davis** announced that his revised budget for Fiscal Year 2001-2002 will include \$1.9 million to combat Sudden Oak Death. The money will support a coordinated effort by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), and the State Resources Agency and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) to develop and enforce regulations, assist local landowners and expand research. Funds for management of the problem will be targeted to local governments for implementation of the regulations and to help landowners remove dead trees. The funds will also assist with a comprehensive management program coordinated through the California Oak Mortality Task Force.



The State Senate and Assembly have allocated approximately \$4.7 million in the draft 2001-2002 State Budget. These additional funds (2.8 million) would help pay for a comprehensive research, monitoring, management, education, and fire protection plan that addresses the additional complications of the new hosts.

#### **Bill Status –**

**AB62** was amended and adopted on May 31, 2001 to appropriate \$4,645,000 to "...to develop and implement measures designed to prevent, control, and manage the condition known as "sudden oak death," and to perform control work on public and private lands within zones where sudden oak death is occurring," For a detailed description of the bill see

[http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab\\_0051-0100/ab\\_62\\_bill\\_20010531\\_amended\\_asm.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_0051-0100/ab_62_bill_20010531_amended_asm.html)

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For detailed bill history see end of this document.

#### **BIOMASS**

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The **COMTF Biomass Committee** has received grants totaling \$60,000 (\$30K from USDA –Forest Service, \$6K from Marin County, and \$24K from Fire Safe Marin) to carry out an inventory and feasibility of use study on Sudden Oak Death materials. The study, to be based in Marin with support from the University of California Forest Products Lab, will determine the number of dead trees that can and should be removed and address potential uses of SOD materials in biomass energy generation, composting, and other select products.

For more information contact Don Gasser at [dpg5@pge.com](mailto:dpg5@pge.com)

#### **COLLABORATIVE EDUCATION EFFORTS**

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CDFA is creating an educational package and training program for Agriculture Commissioners in counties affected by the emergency California Sudden Oak Death regulations. COMTF is providing slide presentations, images of infected hosts, and recent publications to support this effort. COMTF is committed to providing assistance to CDFA in its implementation of the Oak Mortality Management Program.

Licensing News, a regular publication for Registered Professional Foresters, recently featured an article on Sudden Oak Death. The article was put together by several COMTF committees and was intended as a first step to provide RPFs with the information they will need to address Sudden Oak Death in forest management.

#### **USDA FOREST SERVICE, INTERNATIONAL FORESTRY SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE FOR SUDDEN OAK DEATH**

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Scientists from the Netherlands, Germany, and Great Britain met with the pathology research team led by Dave Rizzo, UC-Davis and Matteo Garbelotto, UC-Berkeley during the week of May 14, 2001. The group coordinated methodology for host susceptibility studies to be carried out in Europe and the United States and discussed various aspects of the new *Phytophthora*'s genetics and biology. The exchange was funded by the United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service (USDA-FS), International Forestry and



was also attended by representatives from the USDA Agriculture Research Service, USDA –FS and COMTF.

### **MARIN COUNTY HELICOPTER FLYOVER**

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A group of state, federal and county officials toured Marin by helicopter on May 11, 2001 to view the spread and intensity of oak mortality in Marin and Sonoma Counties. Marin County Supervisor Cynthia Murray organized the flight. From the air, the mortality from Sudden Oak Death is very dramatic in Marin County. It is widely scattered and patchy in Sonoma County. Marin County's Sudden Oak Death Recovery Plan was distributed to participants, the plan identifies over \$4 million needed by Marin County to repair and maintain a safe and healthy environment for oaks and people of Marin County.

### **WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS**

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California Forestry Association has a new addition to their homepage that provides the key hotlinks for some Sudden Oak Death websites. To get to the site:

Go to the Homepage at <http://www.foresthealth.org>

Click on the "Advocating Responsible Forestry" picture

Click on the "About Forests" box at the top of the page

Click on any of the hotlinks listed under "Sudden Oak Death" disease

### **KUDOS TO THE.....**

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**San Francisco Water Department** for initiating self-imposed restrictions on the movement of oak products on the Peninsula Watershed in San Mateo County. Using the best available SOD science, they developed best management practices specific to their operational situation, for the disinfections of tools and equipment along with an SOD detection and inventory procedure.

**Dipsea Race Committee** for including a notice about Sudden Oak Death in race packages. The committee plans to make an announcement about "Stopping the Spread" and asking runners to wash their shoes at the finish area.

**Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods, State Parks, the City of Sausalito and Marin County Open Space** for posting trailhead posters that ask users to "Stop the Spread" of Sudden Oak Death.

If you know of a group that is working to minimize the impacts of Sudden Oak Death email the Nicole Palkovsky at [palkovsk@nature.berkeley.edu](mailto:palkovsk@nature.berkeley.edu) and we'll be sure to include them in our Kudos section.

**From the bill history files:****SB31**

May 31 Set, first hearing. Held in committee and under submission.  
May 25 Set for hearing May 31.  
May 24 Placed on APPR. suspense file.  
May 22 Set for hearing May 24.  
May 21 Hearing postponed by committee.  
May 10 Set for hearing May 21.  
Feb. 22 Read second time. Amended. Re-referred to Com. on APPR.  
Feb. 21 From committee: Do pass as amended, but first amend, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 8. Noes 0. Page 151.)  
Feb. 5 Set for hearing February 13.  
Jan. 4 To Com. on N.R. & W. 2000  
Dec. 5 From print. May be acted upon on or after January 4.  
Dec. 4 Introduced. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment. To print. AB62, ACR5,

**AB 62**

June 6 In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.  
June 5 Read third time. Urgency clause adopted. Passed and to Senate. (Ayes 77. Noes 0. Page 2116.)  
June 4 Read second time. To third reading.  
May 31 From committee: Amend, and do pass as amended. (Ayes 21. Noes 0.) (May 31). Read second time and amended. Ordered returned to second reading.  
May 29 Joint Rule 62(a), file notice waived. (Page 1856.)  
Apr. 4 In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file.  
Apr. 3 Joint Rule 62(a), file notice waived. (Page 884.)  
Feb. 28 Re-referred to Com. on APPR.  
Feb. 27 Read second time and amended.  
Feb. 26 From committee: Amend, do pass as amended, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (February 22).  
Feb. 20 Joint Rule 62(a), file notice waived. (Page 348.)  
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.  
2000  
Dec. 6 From printer. May be heard in committee January 5.  
Dec. 5 Read first time. To print.

**ACR 5**

June 6 In Senate. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.  
June 5 Amended, adopted, and to Senate. (Page 2130.)  
May 30 From inactive file. To third reading.  
Apr. 16 From Consent Calendar. To inactive file on motion of Assembly Member Nation.  
Apr. 4 From committee: Be adopted. To Consent Calendar. (April 4).  
Apr. 3 Joint Rule 62(a), file notice waived. (Page 884.)  
Feb. 22 From committee: Be adopted, and re-refer to Com. on APPR. with recommendation: To Consent Calendar. Re-referred. (Ayes 11. Noes 0.) (February 22).  
Feb. 20 Joint Rule 62(a), file notice waived. (Page 348.)  
Feb. 14 Re-referred to Com. on NAT. RES. (Corrected February 13.)  
Feb. 9 From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on NAT. RES. Amended.  
Feb. 5 Referred to Com. on NAT. RES. 2000  
Dec. 5 From printer.  
Dec. 4 Introduced. To print.