



REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE MARCH 2002

PRESS COVERAGE

On March 1, 2002, the Contra Costa Times reported on DNA evidence of Sudden Oak Death in Placer County near Foresthill. This information was retrieved through a Public Records Act request from Mike Taugher of the Contra Costa Times to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The information had not been formally announced because findings are preliminary and culturing of the pathogen has not been successful (a necessary step in classifying an area as regulated for Sudden Oak Death). Many media outlets reported on the story.

The Rizzo (UC-Davis) and Garbelotto (UC-Berkeley) labs are collecting samples of big leaf maple and other symptomatic hosts in the area and are in the process of confirming pathogen presence. The DNA results are the first evidence of *Phytophthora ramorum* in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. To date, Solano County is the furthest inland-confirmed site of *P. ramorum*.

REGULATIONS

The public hearing on the United States Department of Food and Agriculture's (USDA) federal quarantine regulations for *Phytophthora ramorum* was held February 27, 2002 at Luchessi Park, Petaluma. Over 25 people presented oral comments at the hearing, including representatives from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, California Oak Mortality Task Force, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Integrated Waste Management Board, California Nurseryman's Association, Oregon Nurseryman's Association, wreath makers, and greenwaste recyclers. Further information on providing written or verbal comments about the regulations as well as transcripts of all comments presented at the hearing can be found with the posted federal regulations at:

http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=fr14fe02-1.

EDUCATION

The Task Force and CDFA "Basic Management of Sudden Oak Death on Forestlands" training session on March 13, 2002 in San Rafael is full. We are planning to repeat this session in a few months and will provide registration materials in the next monthly update.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

The next COMTF meeting will be held May 14 – 15, 2002 in Santa Rosa. On May 14th a field trip will highlight Sudden Oak Death in Sonoma County with presentations and a tour of symptoms and impacts at Jack London State Park. On May 15th Task Force committees will meet at the Finley Center in the morning, followed by presentations to the entire task force on research, regulations, and other topics in the afternoon.