



## REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE APRIL 2002

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### **PRESS COVERAGE**

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USA Today is going to be reporting on Sudden Oak Death (SOD) the week of 4/1 – 4/5. The reporter plans to cover overall SOD information, research, and the potential for spread to the rest of the nation.

### **REGULATIONS**

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The end of the comment period for the United States Department of Food and Agriculture (USDA) federal quarantine regulations for *Phytophthora ramorum* is April 15, 2002. The second and final public hearing was held in Riverdale, MD on March 27, 2002. Only one person testified at the hearing. 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](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=fr14fe02-1).

There have been a number of changes in the federal regulations since it was first filed in February. The most substantial change, affecting forestry, notes that, while soil is regulated, regulations will not be enforced unless in a nursery setting. Best management practices will be encouraged as related to soil in California.

Frequently asked questions about the *Phytophthora ramorum* quarantine have been posted to the Internet by USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service at: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ispm/sod/FAQ.pdf>.

### **EDUCATION**

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March 13, 2002, the Task Force and CDFA sponsored “Basic Management of Sudden Oak Death on Forestlands.” This was the first of two training sessions offered to Registered Professional Foresters (RPF) and personnel with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, USDA Forest Service, County Agriculture Departments and others that are responsible for sampling, confirming the presence of Sudden Oak Death (*Phytophthora ramorum*), setting up timber or firewood sales in areas with the pathogen and enforcing Sudden Oak Death regulations. It included both lecture and a hands-on field session at China Camp State Park. Those who attended and meet all other qualifications are now considered “official” regulatory samplers by CDFA. The class was overbooked, with 110 people in attendance, including 23 private RPFs.

Note: Comments have been received over concern with who can be an “official” sampler. Currently, you must be an RPF or work for a government agency and have attended a training session to qualify as a regulatory sampler. CDFA, the agency that defines an “official” sampler, is reviewing this matter and will come to a conclusion soon.



On April 10, 2002, the Task Force and CDFA will be sponsoring the second “Basic Management of Sudden Oak Death on Forestlands” training session. The morning session will be held at the Corte Madera Inn, Corte Madera, with the afternoon hands-on session being held at China Camp State Park. The targeted audience, criteria for obtaining the “official” sampler status, and the agenda will be the same as the first session.

#### **FUNDING**

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Assemblyman Joe Nation’s AB2251, calling for \$6.2 million in State funds for Sudden Oak Death management, monitoring, research, and education, will be heard on April 15, 2002 at the Capitol. It is currently scheduled for 1:30 p.m. in room 447.

#### **RESEARCH**

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Research on the Placer County, Foresthill SOD DNA finding is ongoing, as is the research to determine whether or not redwood is a host. Scientists hope to have more definitive data by late May or early June.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

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The next COMTF meeting will be held May 14 – 15, 2002 in Santa Rosa. On May 14<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> Task Force committees will meet at the Finley Center in the morning, followed by presentations to the entire task force on research, regulations, and impacts on the ornamental/nursery industry. Presenters will be coming from California, Oregon, and the East Coast.