



REPORT TO THE CALIFORNIA OAK MORTALITY TASK FORCE FEBRUARY 2002

REGULATIONS

The United States Department of Food and Agriculture (USDA) issued federal quarantine regulations for *Phytophthora ramorum* yesterday, February 14, 2002. The regulations can be viewed at:

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

A public hearing will be held February 27, 2002 at Luchessi Park, Petaluma Community Center, 320 North McDowell, Petaluma, CA from 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A representative of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will preside at the hearing. The hearing allows any interested person to appear and have their comments documented for consideration in the final version of the federal regulations. Further information on providing written or verbal comments about the regulations can be found with the posted federal regulations at the site noted above.

The Federal quarantine covers movement of materials out of California. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) regulations cover movement between counties within the state. State regulations remain in effect with the Federal quarantine.

EDUCATION

The Task Force and CDFA are sponsoring “Basic Management of Sudden Oak Death on Forestlands,” a training session March 13th 2002 from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in San Rafael. The morning session will be held at the Marin Center, followed by a hands-on field session in the afternoon at China Camp State Park. The class costs \$25 and is intended for 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. The class roster will be used by CDFA as a list of “official” samplers; persons authorized to take regulatory samples. (Note: You must be an RPF or work for a government agency to qualify as a regulatory sampler.) The class will combine lecture and field exercises in: regulatory sampling and notification procedures, symptom recognition, survey and mitigation measures. The latest information on Sudden Oak Death regulations will also be presented. You can obtain a registration form by going to the COMTF web site at: <http://suddenoakdeath.org> or by contacting Cheryl Pescio via email at cherylpescio@fs.fed.us. Be sure to register early, as the class is limited to 100 people.

FUNDING

- The Farm Bill passed by the U.S. Senate 2/14/02, includes a provision offered by Senator Barbara Boxer (D-CA) authorizing \$70 million of for the fight against Sudden Oak Death Syndrome.



The provision authorizes over \$70 million in funding over the next five years to local, state, and federal authorities for research and outreach related to Sudden Oak Death Syndrome, as well as monitoring, management, and treatment of the disease.

The funds were included in the Farm Bill currently working its way through Congress. The bill will now go to a joint House and Senate Conference Committee before receiving final approval from Congress and a signature from the President that would make it law.

- On January 10, 2002, Barbara Boxer called on Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman to authorize \$14 million in additional emergency funding to fight Sudden Oak Death Syndrome citing information that redwood trees may be at risk. Congressman Mike Thompson and Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey requested \$5 million in emergency funds.
- Agriculture Secretary Ann Venneman approved a \$3.5 million proposal from USDA to fund research, monitoring and education for Sudden Oak Death. The proposal is being reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget.
- Assemblyman Joe Nation is introducing legislation calling for \$6 million in State funds for Sudden Oak Death management, monitoring, research, and education.
- The USDA Forest Service awarded \$400,000 to CDF earmarked for the prevention of pathogen spread via utilization and disposal. This money will be matched by AB62 funds for use by the COMTF Biomass Committee for their proposed Removal and Utilization of High Risk Sudden Oak Death Host Material project. Cooperators include CDF, USFS, and UC Forest Products Laboratory. The goal of the project is to ensure that removal of SOD-infected material is done in a manner that does not spread the pathogen.

HAZARD TREE REMOVAL

Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park is in the process of felling over 100 SOD trees and clearing trails to ensure visitor safety. There are now eight state parks affected by SOD. They are Austin Creek State Recreation Area, China Camp State Park, Jack London State Park, Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, Samuel P. Taylor State Park, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park, Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park, and Mt Tamalpais State Park.

MONITORING

CDF and the USDA-FS have revised their SOD monitoring plan for California. The plan outlines over \$900,000 in monitoring activities that combined provide a statistically based program of survey and plots to determine the incidence, distribution and impact of *Phytophthora ramorum*. A previous draft issued in December targeted delimitation survey. Since there are more than 15 million acres of potential *Phytophthora ramorum* habitats in California, the original goal to tell exactly where it is and where it is not was abandoned as not feasible. The document is still under development with summaries and



study plans for each project to be added as soon as they are available. The proposed plan may be viewed at <http://www.suddenoakdeath.org>.

RESEARCH

The first peer-reviewed scientific paper on *Phytophthora ramorum* and extensive oak mortality in California is out in the March issue of the Journal "Plant Disease." The citation is Rizzo, D. M., M. Garbelotto, J. M. Davidson, G. W. Slaughter, and S. T. Koike. 2002. *Phytophthora ramorum* as the cause of extensive mortality of *Quercus* spp. and *Lithocarpus densiflorus* in California. 86: 205-214.