

**From:** [N.D. Fenton](#)  
**To:** [Public Comments@BOF](#)  
**Subject:** reference for BOARD MEETING OCT 1, 2015 - ADDITIONAL CONCERNS REGARDING DROUGHT MORTALITY HARVESTING  
**Date:** Thursday, October 01, 2015 2:08:57 AM

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Reference to mapping project discussed to the Board:

1) **Aerial Detection Survey –Central Coast June 29 th July02 nd, 2015**

**Background:**

Most of California is well into its fourth year of exceptional drought (Figure 1). As the drought has become increasingly severe and prolonged, tree mortality has generally increased in most areas, sometimes dramatically. This portion of the 2015 regular survey season was conducted for normal data collection with particular attention to tanoak mortality in order to assess the extent and severity

Of sudden oak death (SOD) in this area. Current drought conditions in this area are mostly exceptional especially to the south.

**Objective:**

Detect and map extent and severity of tree mortality along the central coastal range. Much of this area was surveyed earlier in April, but SOD expression and status of deciduous trees (particularly oaks) were now discernable.

Surveyors:

J. Moore, A. Jirka, L. McAfee, K. Corella

Methodology

: **Recently** dead or injured trees were mapped visually by a surveyor using a digital aerial sketch -mapping system flying in a light fixed wing aircraft approximately ***1,000 feet above ground level***. The surveyor recorded the number and species of affected trees and type of damage (mortality, defoliation, etc.) at each mapped location.

**details:**

- Just over 4 million acres were surveyed covering coastal areas and the Coast Range from Monterey Bay to Santa Barbara, *as well as other forested areas further inland* (see Figure 3). Most of this area is privately owned, but public areas of note include much of LosPadres National Forest, Pinnacles National Monument and two Military Reservations along with various smaller State Parks and other public lands.

- An estimated almost 450,000 **recently killed trees** across 80,000 acres were recorded.

- Mortality was mostly tanoak in **northern coastal areas**, with scattered pockets of pine and oak mortality at various intensity throughout the survey area. (Figures 2, 4-5)•

SOD activity in tanoak, observed as large areas of moderate new mortality, was similar to previous years in intensity. The disease spread into these areas many years ago but large numbers of susceptible host trees are still common on the landscape. (Figures 6-7)

- Sizeable areas of **drought-induced discoloration** and other damage were recorded mostly in blue and live oak and gray pine. Figures 8-10)•

Live oak mortality was elevated in many areas compared to previous years, **and is likely a result of drought conditions.**

Figure 6. Scattered recent as well as older tanoak mortality likely caused by SOD southeast of Carmel

COMMENT (BETTER VISUAL)



CalFire missed actual locations of SOD diseased trees .