



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
(919) 653-7772
Website: www.fire.ca.gov



June 9, 2015

RECEIVED BY

JUN 10 2015

Dr. Keith Gillless, Chairman
State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P. O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

Re: Drought Mortality Amendments, 2015

Dear Chairman Gillless:

As outlined in my letter dated May 7, 2015, there are a significant amount of dead and dying trees across the forested landscape of California as a result of either direct or indirect drought related mortality. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) appreciates the quick response by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to direct staff to convene a working group of the reviewing agencies to develop proposed emergency regulations to address this issue.

Emergency rulemaking to address drought related dead and dying trees is currently on the agenda for the Forest Practice Committee to review and discussed the proposed draft regulations. I understand that this may be a possible action item in front of the full Board on June 17, 2015. Although the final rule language has not been determined, CAL FIRE certainly supports the concept of bringing regulatory relief to timberland owners by assisting with the removal of their timber resource and by reducing the risk of wildfire.

Thank you for providing the Department an opportunity to comment on this important rule package. A representative from CAL FIRE will be at the hearing should any questions arise related to this proposed change to the regulations.

Sincerely,

DUANE SHINTAKU
Deputy Director
Resource Management

Attachment