



## Director's Report to the Board of Forestry

Resources Building, Auditorium  
1416 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814



January 2016 Board of Forestry Report

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### Resource Management

#### Forest Practice Program (2015 year totals through 12/31/2015)

##### Plan Submissions:

- **THP Submissions:** Santa Rosa had 154 new THP submittals, Redding 100, and Fresno had 16; totaling 270. THP submissions through December were down from last year (i.e. 270 compared to 296).
- **NTMP Submissions:** There were seven NTMPs, and 105 NTOs submitted in Santa Rosa. There were 3 NTMPs and 17 NTOs submitted in Redding. No new NTMPs were submitted this year in Fresno but 5 NTOs were submitted. NTMP submissions were down from last year (i.e., 10 compared to 14).
- **Exemption Notice Submissions:** Exemption submissions were up compared to last year. Santa Rosa had 398 exemptions submitted, Redding had 1,186 (compared to 943 last year) and Fresno had 455. Through December 31, 2015 there were 197 Drought Mortality exemptions (14 CCR § 1038(k)) submitted covering 43,770 acres. There were 20 Forest Fire Prevention exemptions submitted in 2015; 9 of those utilized the Forest Fire Prevention Pilot Project regulations.
- **Emergency Notice Submissions:** Emergency Notice submissions were significantly up compared to last year. 25 Emergency Notices were submitted in Santa Rosa; Redding had 127 (compared to 120 last year) and Fresno had 64 submitted.

##### General Review Team:

###### Santa Rosa:

- The Forest Practice Manager Position is currently vacant along with a Forester II Review team Chair position. Efforts to fill the positions have started with plans to hire as soon as possible.
- Sacramento staff are assisting with office supervision and review team issues as necessary.

##### Watershed Protection Program Update:

- Pete Cafferata provided a remote PowerPoint presentation titled "Post Wildfire Assessment in California on Non-Federal Lands" to a Washington State Wildfire Workshop in Wenatchee, WA on December 17<sup>th</sup>. The presentation summarizes approaches used in California over the past 60 years, and uses the Valley Fire as an example of the current process.

- Pete Cafferata wrote a letter to USEPA providing information on California's existing programs for non-federal timberlands that protect water quality from forest road discharges. This information will assist EPA in responding to the remand in *Environmental Defense Center, Inc. v. U.S. EPA*, 344 F.2d 832 (9th Cir. 2003) that requires EPA to consider whether the Clean Water Act requires the Agency to regulate stormwater discharges from forest roads. The CAL FIRE letter emphasizes the use of the Road Rules, 2013 rule package to control runoff from forest roads on non-federal timberlands in California, as well as monitoring results compiled over the past 20 years. The comment period has been extended from January 11th to February 12th.
- Pete Cafferata continues to work with co-authors Drs. Leslie Reid and Carolyn Hunsaker of the USFS PSW on chapters for the Caspar Creek Experimental Watersheds and the Teakettle Experimental Forest/Kings River Experimental Watersheds, respectively, to be published in a USFS General Technical Report titled "Biological Responses to Stream Nutrients: A synthesis of Science from Experimental Forests and Ranges."
- Watershed staff met with CAL FIRE's Suzanne Lang, GIS Manager, on January 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss a methodology using GIS layers for deep seated landslides, slope, and erosion hazard rating to rank completed THPs for erosion risk. The goal is to use a stratified random sampling approach for the next iteration of FORPRIEM (2.0) to test the effectiveness of water quality-related Forest Practice Rules on a larger percentage of higher risk sites.
- Drew Coe was the lead author for a paper or poster abstract that was submitted to the Geological Society of America (GSA) for a conference to be held in Ontario, CA this April. The abstract is titled "Post-fire erosion and sediment delivery rates to headwater streams in the California Coast Ranges" and used data collected to date from sediment fence monitoring on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest following the 2015 Valley Fire.
- Staff continue to work on the detailed grant proposal to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board for Water Board 2016 timber funding (\$250,000) to conduct a suite of post wildfire erosion studies on Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest. The grant will go to Michigan Technological University and Dr. Joe Wagenbrenner, as the lead scientist. The preliminary grant proposal was accepted last fall, with a request for a more detailed proposal.
- Staff are working with Department of Fish and Wildlife timber staff to plan multiple water drafting workshops to be held throughout the state in March. The workshops will consist of a half-day session inside and a half a day in the field. The indoor portion of the workshop at Lone on March 1st will be videotaped by CAL FIRE's Communications staff to broaden training opportunities throughout the State.

#### **Forest Practice Civil Prosecution Update:**

- The Administrative Civil Penalty Program has a total of 44 active cases, including 9 new cases filed in 2015. All 44 cases remain in some stage of the civil process, including tracking penalty payments and probationary periods for cases that have been settled or adjudicated.

### **Timber Operators Licensing Program Update:**

- Ruby Idmilao was hired this month as the new Staff Service Analyst for the LTO program. Additionally, interviews were held this month for a limited term Licensed Timber Operator Program Analyst position to support Ms. Idmilao processing applications, updating our filing system and updating the information on the web site. Enforcement staff continues to help process LTO renewals and new applications in the order they are received.
- Staff are preparing for the upcoming LTO training class scheduled for January at Howard Forest in Willits and the new class in February at the Sierra Logging Conference in Anderson.
- In an ongoing effort to improve communication with Licensed Timber Operators, staff will be providing training this month to the Associated California Loggers covering CAL FIRE's roles and responsibilities during field inspections and our associated Law Enforcement processes.

### **Timber Regulation and Forest Restoration Fund (TRFRF) updated from TRFRF database 1/1/2015 through 12/31/2015:**

- **Specific TRFRF Forest Practice Effort:** The Forest Practice Program has utilized 126,380 hours in conducting forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (28.9%); conducting forest practice inspections (27.3%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (12.7%); participating in mandated training (12.5%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (11.0%); forest practice law enforcement (3.2%); responding to letters of concern (1.8%); and program/project monitoring (1.1%). Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of the time include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities, ecological performance, and litigation. *(This represents TRFRF funded forest practice effort only.)*
- **Total Departmental Forest Practice Efforts:** The Forest Practice Program has utilized a total of 176,688 hours in conducting forest practice activities and non-forest practice activities in the following breakdown: review and processing of THPs (20.7%); conducting forest practice inspections (19.5%); emergency incident support (14.3%); supervising and managing the forest practice program (9.1%); participating in mandated training (9.0%); other duties in support of unit programs (8.3%); processing and managing the data related to THPs (7.9%); other forestry related activities (5.9%); forest practice law enforcement (2.3%); responding to letters of concern (1.3%); project/program monitoring (0.8%). Other activities comprising an insignificant portion of time include Board of Forestry and Fire Protection related activities, ecological performance, and litigation. *(This represents all forest practice efforts both TRFRF and Non-TRFRF funded.)*
- **AB 1492 Leadership Team:** The AB 1492 Leadership Team met on January 14, 2016. The Team discussed a follow-up meeting scheduled for January 26, 2016 with the CA Forestry Association and the Coastal Action Group on AB 1492 concerns, development of a web-based work sharing site, Tree Mortality Task Force efforts, watershed pilot project development, training and an upcoming meeting with the USFWS to discuss NSO and small landowners. The Team also discussed the status for the 2016 Legislative Report and updates on the TRFRF grant programs.

## Resource Protection Program

### Urban and Community Forestry

- Work continues on all Urban and Community Forestry GGRF grant projects. The first progress reports are starting to come in.
- The Urban and Community Forestry Program will hold workshops in 7-8 locations around the state in disadvantaged communities to solicit input on revised grant guidelines that have been prepared in preparation for the possibility of future funding availability. These workshops will occur in late January and early February.
- Federal funding (USDA Forest Service) sub-grants are still in process. 6 projects are expected to be funded. These funds are used for projects that state GGRF funds cannot be used to fund. These include priority educational, applied research, and outreach projects. Four of these agreements are already executed, two are in process.
- CAL FIRE and California ReLeaf are partnering again this year for California Arbor Week and the annual poster contest. New this year is a video contest. This year's theme is Trees and Water: Sources of Life. Grades 3-8 are welcome to participate and learn all about the benefits of trees. Learn more about the contest at: <http://arborweek.org/for-educators/>

### State Forests (January 2016):

- The Boggs Mountain State Forest fire rehabilitation plan is currently being implemented with three timber salvage contracts underway. Operations have been curtailed due to the current and projected wet weather and saturated soil conditions. Four additional salvage sales are planned to be advertised in the next few months.
- Forest Manager Nick Kent conducted a tour of Boggs Mountain State Forest with the Board Members of Friends of Boggs Mountain on December 14 and showed them the damaged forest and damaged infrastructure.
- State Forest's staff conducted a tour of Boggs Mountain State Forest on December 15 with Col. George Santos and Foster Brown from the Brazilian State of Acre who are interested in the effects of the increasingly intense fires and weather events in the Amazon and elsewhere brought about by climate change.
- Forest Manager Nick Kent conducted a tour with photographer Kent Porter and a phone interview to reporter Glenda Anderson of the Santa Rosa Press Democrat on January 11. They were interested in the prospects for selling the additional salvage timber sales.
- Boggs Mountain State Forest was contacted by Yana Valacovich from University of California Cooperative Extension regarding hosting a Rx burn conference for the Northern California Prescribed Fire Council (TRES).
- The Forest Landowners of California have proposed holding their annual meeting and a forest tour in Lake County, including a tour of Boggs Mountain State Forest to observe the effects of the fire and the salvage harvest. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for May.
- Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) staff identified research study plot locations on Boggs Mountain State Forest in December to study the impacts of different harvest and reforestation scenarios on carbon storage.

- Erosion study sites established on Boggs Mountain State Forest are being monitored by Drew Coe, CAL FIRE Hydrologist, and Don Lindsay from the California Geological Survey (CGS) for post-fire sediment transport, and researcher Will Olsen from Michigan Tech is monitoring post-fire riling from precipitation events.
- CAL FIRE Pathologist, Chris Lee, has determined that the tree pathogen Heterobasidion is active on Boggs Mountain State Forest, and will be conducting research on the Forest to test the efficacy of using a borax type treatment on stumps to control this pathogen.
- Mountain Home State Forest has prepared a new 1038(K) exemption for drought induced mortality, and is hopeful that Sierra Forest Products will accept logs this approaching season. Years of fire and beetle salvage have created historically large log decks at the mill.
- Mountain Home State Forest staff burned over 400 piles from contingency fire line, fuel break and roadside fuel treatment areas throughout the forest.
- On December 3, Mountain Home State Forest staff conducted a snow survey with eight stations indicating an average snow depth of 19.16 inches with a density of 30.5 percent and a water content of 5.75 inches. Many additional storms have contributed to the snow pack since that survey.
- Jackson State Forest has filled a Forestry Assistant II Law Enforcement position on the Forest to deal with illegal activities including campground issues, vandalism, dumping and illegal access.
- A draft contract for the Jackson State Forest Resource Inventory is nearing completion. This forest-wide inventory is conducted approximately every decade.
- On December 21, stream flows in the Jackson State Forest Caspar Watershed were the highest recorded in a decade. Continuing storms and associated stream flows continue to be on threshold of being an “event”.
- A patrol of Jackson State Forest following a large rainstorm event that produced approximately 6 inches of rain in less than a 24 hour period did not find any significant damage to roads or watercourse crossings.
- Ongoing timber sales preparation work on Jackson State Forest includes finalizing five 2016 timber sale contracts with submittal to the contracts office planned in late January through the end of February.
- The Latour State Forest 2015 Cabled Cow Timber Sale was suspended due to weather. The sale contract with Trinity River Lumber Company has been extended through July 31, 2016.
- Latour State Forest staff prepared and submitted the 2016 Old Cow Timber Sale bid package and sample timber sale agreement to the contracts office for solicitation on BidSync in the next month. The estimated volume is 2.96 million board feet and the estimated value is \$510,000.
- December and early January storms have created a snow pack of approximately 60 inches at the Latour State Forest headquarters. Approximately 30 miles of state forest roads have been groomed by the Sno-Riders Club accompanied by a large amount of snow mobile recreation use compared to the previous three winters.

- Soquel State Forest is working with Verizon to establish a machine-to-machine (M2M) account in order to put information from the forest weather station online and readily available to the public.
- Researchers from the Mountain Puma Project with UC Santa Cruz have been tracking a young male mountain lion that has been staying within Soquel State Forest since November.
- The rain gauge at the Soquel State Forest office recorded 11.75 inches of rainfall for the period November 25 through January 13. The Santa Cruz area has received above average rainfall so far this year.
- Doug Schmidt from UC Berkeley returned to Soquel State Forest on December 5 to check the ongoing Sudden Oak Death research plots that were established in tan oaks on the forest several years ago.
- Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (MBoSC) held a trail work day on Soquel State Forest on Saturday December 12 with 35 volunteers and on January 10 with 60 volunteers who worked on the Flow Trail. An updated MOU between CAL FIRE and MBoSC for 2016 trail stewardship was signed and became active January 1, 2016.
- A sponsored trail work day with Bell Helmets was held on Friday December 18 with 32 participants. Bell also obtained a film permit (through their parent company, BRG Sports) from the California Film Commission to film short videos and take still photography for social media.

#### **L.A. Moran Reforestation Center:**

In December there were seed orders which totaled 192.99 lbs, and seed transfers totaling 317.49 lbs for a grand total of 510.48 lbs of seed removed from the seed bank.

A total of 8.96 lbs of seed was added to the seed bank through inputs from Redwood Forests Foundation. No other cone or seed processing activities occurred in the month of December.

The facility will be temporarily operating with limited staff in early 2016. Dorus Van Goidsenhoven, the seed lab manager is currently attending the Fire Fighters Academy and Rick Johnson is attending the Company Officer Academy in Lone in January.

Facilities repairs and maintenance continue. Staff is preparing a request for proposals for reconstruction of the cone tumbler and dewinger machines.

The new freezer is very close to completion with final adjustments and completion on the emergency generator enclosure to be finished. Racks have been installed. Transfer of seed from the old seed bank is anticipated to occur in February.

The partnership with the Putah Creek Council for growing of native plants continues to produce a positive influence on the restoration of riparian ecosystems.

## **Cultural Resources:**

The Department has promoted Gerrit Fenenga into the TRFRF Program Archaeologist position. He will participate in TRFRF rule effectiveness monitoring and will act as the lead contact for the joint CAL FIRE-CLFA Archeological Training for Resource Professionals. This training program should provide a full schedule of training and refresher courses in 2016. CAL FIRE expects this to continue similarly in the coming years.

Michael McGuirt has been hired as the SRA Program Archaeologist. Mr. McGuirt will be the lead for ensuring cultural resources are protected on SRA projects that CAL FIRE carries out and supports.

The Department has promoted Stephanie Velasquez into the Southern Region Senior Program Archaeologist. She is based out of Riverside.

CAL FIRE expects to hire two new Associate State Archaeologists (one based in Sacramento and one in Fresno) this year.

## **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) Program:**

CAL FIRE just completed its annual reporting on FY 14-15 GGRF projects to the Air Resources Board. The Governor's budget should provide funds for Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Legacy and Forest Health projects that provide climate benefits in FY 16-17. Urban and Community Forestry and Forest Legacy will be similar to past GGRF programs. Forest Health will be a new program in FY 16-17. Program development is currently underway.

## **Other Grant Programs**

CAL FIRE is currently negotiating an inter-agency agreement to assist the California High-Speed Rail Authority meet its environmental commitments to offset direct greenhouse gas emissions resulting from construction of Phase 1 of the California High-Speed Rail Project. CAL FIRE will provide tree planting services through its Landowner Assistance and Community and Urban Forestry Programs. The tree planting will provide climate benefits by sequestering carbon.

## **FRAP:**

- **Forests and Rangelands Assessment:** Indicator development. Fire and Resource Assessment staff developed candidate draft indicators to report on in the Forests and Rangelands Assessment, 2016. Public input has been solicited and supported through a UC Davis website ([www.indicators.ucdavis.edu/forest](http://www.indicators.ucdavis.edu/forest)). FRAP presented the indicator list at the June Board of Forestry meeting and asked for Board review. FRAP meet with the acting Executive Officer for the BOF to discuss board review of the FRAP indicators. The issue will be discussed at the August board meeting. A request will be made for two board members to work with the Executive Officer to provide review and input to FRAP by the end of October.
- **Wildfire Issues:** FRAP staff arranging an interagency team to draft a white paper that highlights where there is consensus among scientists that fuel treatments can be an effective strategy to provide emissions avoidance and promote stable long term carbon storage.

- Tadashi Moody (FRAP) has started work on developing a standard approach for estimating GhG emissions and carbon balance from fuel reduction projects. This work will likely result in a recommended reporting approach at both the project and landscape level. The Fire Adapted 50 project has been identified as a pilot area to develop reporting methods.
- **Climate Change:** FRAP (C. Keithley) is assisting FCAT in developing a companion document to the draft Forest Carbon Plan. The document highlights forest conditions along with goals and management strategies. A draft outline has been drafted and reviewed by an interagency team. FRAP staff (C. Keithley) will serve as the primary FRAP representative.
- FRAP staff (C. Keithley) has participated in a number of meetings and planning sessions for the development of the Natural Working Lands (NWL) section of the Air Resources Board (ARB) Scoping Plan for implementation of AB32.
- FRAP staff (T. Meyer, R. Walker) are working on a project with climate change researchers at UC Davis to develop species distribution models and maps for forest tree and shrub species. The research project will produce current species range maps and projected species range maps under future climate scenarios.
- **Vegetation Mapping:** The partnership between CAL FIRE and USFS has declined over the past 12 – 18 months and has impacted FRAP's ability to maintain current vegetation mapping. The Fire and Resource Assessment Program continues working to improve the USFS partnership and develop a contingency plan to support update of vegetation/fuels information. There are ongoing issues regarding shared priorities and USFS capacity to conduct joint mapping projects that have strained the partnership. Jerry Byrd (USFS) has offered to assist in renewing the partnership. FRAP staff is reviewing opportunities to update vegetation and fuels maps in areas impacted by elevated tree mortality.
- **Drought Monitoring:** FRAP is working with Glen Barley and others in Resource Management to map dead, dying and diseased trees affected by the current drought. A Web Map Application was developed to assist Units to prioritize areas with high levels of tree mortality that need to be mapped. USGS provided CAL FIRE with high resolution digital imagery to map tree mortality from. FRAP staff are working to organize the imagery in a format that CAL FIRE staff can use via the web mapping application. Anticipate data development to be completed by the end of August.
- **FIA Committee Assignment:** Mark Rosenberg (FRAP) is making a request to USFS-PNW to develop custom FIA tables that can be used to by FCAT for the Forest Carbon Plan and for inventory reporting requirements for AB 1504.
- In January, CAL FIRE launched the CAL MAPPER database application to capture fuels reduction projects for CFIP, VMP, Fire Plan and Fire Prevention activities. Ongoing technical support is needed to keep the tool operational. The current technical support contract will expire in September and no additional contract funds have been identified. The previous technical support contract was funded by the SRA program. Funding is needed for software maintenance (fix bugs, etc.), to enhance the product, and support new programs being added to CalMapper (i.e Urban Forestry, Camps, Pipeline).

## **Forest Health & Pest Management:**

- Efforts to deal with the drought and bark beetle related mortality continue. A total of 29 million dead and dying trees have been mapped by the joint efforts of the USFS and Cal Fire. The Governor's Tree Mortality Task Force is moving forward with efforts to manage the mortality situation.
- A new infestation of the Kuroshio Shot Hole Borer has been identified along the Tijuana River in San Diego County. The pest complex has killed thousands of willows, alders and other species along the river drainage leading to concerns about flooding and wildlife habitat in the area. New host species are being discovered daily. The pest complex is known to be native to Taiwan and Okinawa.
- Pest Management Staff will be conducting training on forest insect and disease issues as part of the 2016 Park Rangers Association of California Annual Meeting to be held in Santa Rosa at the end of February.
- Pest management staff conducted detection trapping for *Heterobasidion irregulare*, the pathogen that causes annosus root disease, on Boggs Demonstration State Forest in December. The pathogen was detected at four out of ten sites, indicating that the high-intensity Valley Fire did not eliminate the pathogen, which likely contributed to high levels of bark beetle-caused mortality in 2015. Discussions are underway to implement options for pathogen management during salvage harvest.

## **Office of the State Fire Marshal**

### **Planning and Risk Analysis Division**

#### **Wildland Fire Engineering**

- Deputy Chief Matt Lee retired in December 2015; program duties are being temporarily absorbed by PRA staff, including significant push to standardize LE100 reporting Statewide.
- Post Fire Damage Inspection Teams were deployed on a number of fires over the past year. There has been a great deal of interest in the resulting Damage Assessment Reports
- DINS Training was conducted in both Sacramento & Monrovia, for OSFM and Land Use Planning employees, as well as attendees from local government partners.
- **Fire Plan / Pre Fire**
  - Annual PFE training in November – 1/3 turnover Statewide. Many PFE positions continue to lack training / experience as they enter the position. Steep learning curve, "other duties as required", and short tenure in position creates program difficulties. Intro to GIS class is scheduled for February.
  - PFE's may (will) be tasked with elements of the Units' Fire Danger Operating Plans (HB 7842)
  - Continued expansion of GIS users is straining license allowance, including increased use by Damage Inspection, LE100, Drought, & Tree Mortality.

- All Unit & CC Fire Plans submitted & posted online.
  - Many executive requests for data & analysis; some request starting to exceed the Department's data & recordkeeping capabilities.
  - CalMAPPER working group continues to develop ways to improve program – including a proposed 1-day training course (being developed).
  - “Soft” CalMAPPER reporting requirements set – Annual cleanup in January, with semi-annual entry due in April & November.
  - Statewide fire perimeter data & DPA corrections due in February.
- **SRA Fire Prevention Fee**
    - The first year 2014-15 SRAFPF Grant is being managed jointly with the Grant Management Unit. Quite a few agreement amendment requests are being processed. The majority of the requests are to adjust the agreement dates that give the Grantee more time to complete their projects.
    - The second year 2015-16 SRAFPF Grant application deadline was January 7, 2016. The Grant Management Unit received a total of 163 applications within deadline parameters. 26 out of 163 applications are from the Tree Mortality Counties of Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, Tulare and Tuolumne. The grant approval process for those 26 applications are being fast tracked in order to begin tree mortality work as soon as possible.
    - SRAFPF Project Funds (formerly known as VPAG) have been distributed to the Regions and Units. Tree mortality projects are a high priority for the funds.
    - With the assistance of the Business Services Office, the RFP process for the SRA Designated Fee Administrator was completed. The current contractor SCI was successful in obtaining the new contract. The new contract is effective on July 9, 2016 and is good for two years with an option for one additional year.
- **CAIRS**
    - Kirsti Fong has moved on to her new position of DSFM with Fire and Life Safety, Northern Division in Sacramento. Interviews have been conducted to find an AGPA to fill her previous position. In the interim, the CAIRS OT, Katie Dobrinski, is covering some of those duties.
    - The 2014 Redbook is going through the green sheet process within the OSFM.
    - Documentation to further expand the CAIRS system has been drafted and is expected to be completed this year so that work can begin to update the system and add all remaining fire investigation reports.
    - Meetings are being scheduled IT to address technical issues within the CAIRS Program.

- **Land Use Planning**

- Met with LNU staff and Lake County Planning Official to discuss rebuilding process and support needs post Valley Incident. Many issues need to be addressed at County level.
- Met with TCU staff and Lake County Building Official on SRA inspection process. Unit and CSR staff working on Power Presentation for Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled for January 9th.
- Continued participation with Board of Forestry staff on multi-year contract with CAL POLY on Single Access Sub-Division study. Attended update/product meeting with BOF and Cal Poly staff in San Luis Obispo last November.
- Multi-level participation of program staff in Damage Inspection Program. LUP providing lead roles in team deployments. Region LUP staff asked to participate with certification classes for local government.
- Program staffing level to be complete with FC transfer to CNR LUP scheduled for February.
- Winter LUP workshop conducted in November marked one year anniversary of program role out. Many successes identified with continued enthusiasm.

## **Fire Protection**

### **Safety, Training, EMS, and Cooperative Fire Programs**

#### **Training**

- The CAL FIRE Academy trained a total of 1,762 personnel during the 2015 calendar year. These students attended a variety of courses including the Basic Fire Control (BFC) classes of Fire Fighter Academy (FFA), Company Officer Academy (COA), and Heavy Equipment Operator (HFEO), as well as a number of Incident Command, Emergency Command Center, Resource Management, Law Enforcement, and Supervision related courses.
- The numerous scheduled training classes for 2016 at the CAL FIRE Academy have begun with many students starting their careers with their first course which is the Fire Fighter Academy (FFA) class. The Academy will be instructing three FFA classes at the Ben Clark Training Center in Riverside in 2016.

## **Safety**

- The CAL FIRE Serious Accident Review Team (SART) cadre provided SART process training to 86 members of the Los Angeles City Fire Department and Los Angeles County Fire Department. The SART training provided a foundation template for both departments as they move forward in developing a standardized approach to serious accident and near miss incident reviews within their agencies.
- The Safety Program is currently preparing for the CAL FIRE SART Workshop scheduled for January 25 – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Folsom where 100 CAL FIRE and Contract County representatives will be in attendance.

## **State and Federal Programs**

- The California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFFA) annual review process is scheduled for the week of January 21, 2016.

## **Local Government Programs**

- The CAL FIRE 8500 Policy Handbook has been revised to reflect changes to California Government Code §56134 required by the implementation of California Senate Bill 239 January 1, 2016. These changes Increase oversight responsibilities of Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCO) as they relate to new fire protection reimbursement agreements between CAL FIRE and local government cooperators.

## **Conservation Camps Program**

- The CDCR/CAL FIRE interagency Camps Workshop is schedule for February 9-12, 2016 in Sacramento.
- The inmate population in the Conservation Camps Program continues to be deficient due to the low number of inmates volunteering for the camps program. The CDCR / CAL FIRE Ad Hoc working group continues to meet and work towards solutions to increase inmate volunteers for the conservation camps program. The current shortage of fire crew members assigned to fire crews is 952, placing current fire crew strength at 71%.

## **Fire Protection Operations**

### **Civil Costs Recovery**

- November 2015 Civil Cost Recovery = \$488,788.40
- December 2015 Civil Cost Recovery = \$1,170,105.90
- Fiscal Year To Date Recovery as of January 6, 2016 = \$6,551,223.84
- Open/Pending Cases Statewide as of January 1, 2016 = 281 cases
- Civil Cost Recovery and Law Enforcement Staff will be hosting a statewide workshop to bring staff together to discuss annual policy and procedural revisions and updates.

## **Law Enforcement**

- November 2015 arrests = 1
- November 2015 citations (non-4291) = 26
- December 2015 arrests = 4
- December 2015 citations (non-4291) = 32
- Law Enforcement is actively assisting the CAL FIRE Academy with the 2016 POST Regular Basic Course that started on January 4, 2016, with 18 new recruits. Staff are also actively engaged in recruitment and selection processes for the 2017 POST Regular Basic Course scheduled for January 2, 2017.

## **Aviation Management Unit**

- The Department of General Services will soon release the CAL FIRE Helicopter specifications for vendors to bid on. The goal is to have DGS award a bid by April 1, 2016.
- AMU is pleased to announce the addition of a new Aviation Safety Officer to the Program. Steve Jones started January 11, 2016, and comes to us with an aviation safety background from CalSTAR Medical Helicopter.
- AMU is also pleased to announce that Dennis Brown has promoted from the Aviation Safety Officer position to Aviation Officer III. Dennis continues to provide his broad knowledge of Fixed Wing Air Operations to AMU.
- AMU and Tactical Air Operations will be hosting the 2016 Aviation Safety Workshop January 25 – 28, 2016, to bring personnel from across the department together to discussion the 2015 season and annual policy and procedural revisions and updates.

## **Tactical Air Operations**

- TAO is conducting a hiring process for a dedicated Aviation Training Officer. This position has been long needed and will support the development and delivery of new and recurrent training to employees assigned in the Aviation Program.
- TAO is working with our Business Services Office to secure a three year fire retardant contract through DGS.

## **Mobile Equipment**

- On December 30, 2015, the Senior Forestry Equipment Manager retired after 13 years with CAL FIRE and 31 years with the State of California. Subsequently, we are compiling hiring documents to advertise the vacancy.
- With the assistance of our Region staff, the Davis Mobile Equipment Facility has outfitted and released over 62 new light utility vehicles in the past month.

## **Fire Protection Operations Support**

- The Incident Management Team Committee is actively working to host the 2016 Incident Management Team Workshop scheduled for April 25 – 28, 2016, to provide annual updates and direction to our CAL FIRE Incident Management Teams. In addition, the CAL FIRE Incident Management Team Incident Commanders and Federal Incident Management Team Incident Commanders will meet to discuss a review of 2015 as well as common issues or concerns going into 2016.
- Staff continue to work with CalOES on the development and implementation plan for the Next Generation Incident Command System (NICS). This “real time” intel tool will be beneficial in obtaining intelligence needed to make sound decisions in any type of all-risk, all hazard incident where NICS is available for use.