

Resource Protection Committee (RPC)

The mission of the RPC is to evaluate and promote an effective fire protection system implemented by the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and improve forest and rangeland health in California.

JANUARY 25, 2017

COMPLETED OR SUBSTANTIALLY COMPLETED 2016

1. Vegetation Treatment Plan EIR (VTP EIR)

***Objective:** Review public comment received during the April 1-May 31, 2016 CEQA comment period. Direct work team to make updates and develop responses as necessary.*

Status: Revisions and responses in progress.

2. SRA Fee Grant Program

***Objective:** Develop a grant program to comply with ABX1 29, which directs the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to utilize money from the SRA fee to provide local assistance grants for fire prevention activities to benefit owners of habitable structures in the SRA.*

Status: Rulemaking complete.

3. Utility Notice of Operations

***Objective:** Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) are required to disclose known overhead power lines within the plan area when filing a Notice of Intent to Harvest Timber. This information is not usually forwarded to the Utility responsible for the maintenance of those power lines. If the utilities were made aware of impending operations in close proximity to their power lines, they would be able to perform work necessary to ensure public safety.*

Status: Rulemaking complete.

4. Cal Poly 1273.09 Dead End Roads Study

***Objective:** Cal Poly conducted a study to evaluate the Board's dead end road regulation in 14 CCR 1273.09. Study results will be used to inform future rulemaking updates to 14 CCR 1270 et seq.*

Status: Final report produced June 2016.

ANNUAL ONGOING ITEMS

1. Safety Element Review (all counties with SRA; cities with VHFHSZ)

***Objective:** Review General Plan Safety Elements of all counties with SRA and cities with Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones.*

Status: Review of safety elements ongoing.

2. Title 14 § 1270.03 Certification

Objective: Review and certify local county ordinances submitted for certification under 14 CCR §1270.03.

Status: Ongoing as counties submit ordinances.

3. Forest Pest Council

Objective: Ongoing monitoring, management, and education and outreach (for professionals and lay people) in areas known to be impacted by sudden oak death (SOD) as well as bordering counties. There is a need for increased research for effective management strategies for homeowners and landowners; however, funding appears doubtful. Funding for all SOD-related activities continues to diminish.

Ongoing monitoring, management, and education and outreach in areas known to be impacted by goldspotted oak borer (GSOB) as well as nearby communities and counties. Ongoing monitoring, management, and education and outreach in areas known to be impacted by polyphagous and Kuroshio shot hole borers. Possibly explore a ZOI with Cal Fire and regionally affected contacts/partners for invasive shot hole borers.

The “Phytophthoras in Native Habitats Working Group” will be joining the COMTF website as a partner. The working group has a Nursery BMP Committee, a Restoration Committee, and a Diagnostics Committee. The working group is focused on educating the native plant nursery industry about BMPs as well as working through issues/problems specifically related to native plant trade as there have been numerous instances of Phytophthoras and other pathogens being moved into native landscapes/restoration areas from stock provided by native plant nurseries over the past year. As SOD was introduced to the native landscape via nurseries, the COMTF is interested in supporting the efforts of the working group.

The CFPC is working on developing a traveling insect/disease training to the various regions of the state to offer locally focused forest health training sessions to professionals, tribes, and other interested parties. Such trainings will not happen before 2017.

Ongoing effort to offer relative, practical information on the drought, tree die-off, pathogens, and diseases to professionals and lay people.

Ongoing effort to further advance the CA Firewood Task Force ‘Buy It Where You Burn It’ message as well as the risks associated with spread of invasives through the long-distance movement of firewood.

Status: Ongoing review in 2017.

2017 PRIORITIES

PRIORITY 1:

4. AB 1504

Objective: In 2010, the Legislature passed AB 1504, requiring the Board to examine the Forest Practice Rules to ensure they meet or exceed the state’s greenhouse gas reduction requirements for the forestry sector, consistent with the scoping plan adopted

by the State Air Resources Board pursuant to the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32).

Status: The Board has contracted with UC Berkeley and CAL FIRE FRAP to provide this analysis of the Forest Practice Rules and will review the findings when available. A revised agreement has been signed with the USFS Southwest Region 5 to compile summaries of carbon stocks and flux for California forests since 2001, write the inventory-related portions of the first AB 1504 Forest Carbon Report, development procedures to automate this compilation for future updates, and to compile summaries and write the inventory-related portions of the second AB 1504 Forest Carbon Report. A senior environmental scientist has been hired by FRAP to assist with these efforts. Action by Board to be determined based on results of the review.

RPC requests regular updates on the development of this analysis and report to 1) determine committee assignment as necessary, 2) review consistency with the most recent forestry carbon targets in the AB 32 update and Forest Carbon Plan, and 3) provide input and direction as necessary.

5. **California Fire Plan**

Objective: *Update California Fire Plan for 2018.*

Status: 2018 update workgroup formed. Prescribed fire MOU incorporated into 2010 Plan in spring 2016.

6. **Decision-Making Information Support Systems**

Objective: *Review information support systems developed by CAL FIRE FRAP, such as Fire Hazard Severity Zone inputs, WUI discussion, CAL MAPPER, and other systems for discussion and possible updating.*

Status: Presentation by department later in the year.

7. **Fire Safe Development Workgroup**

Objective: *Develop a workgroup to revise the Title 14 SRA Fire Safe Regulations on a triennial basis to coincide with the California Fire Code updates. Ensure consistent, technically sound, and appropriate regulations and guidelines are established for governing fire safe development in State Responsibility Area and other locations determined to be within the statutory responsibility of CAL FIRE and the Board.*

Status: Workgroup Vision/Scope approved by RPC January 2017; workgroup members identified and contacted; first meeting set for February 23, 2017.

PRIORITY 2:

8. **Blue Book Staffing Review**

Objective: *To provide basic fire protection for CAL FIRE Direct Protection Area (DPA), which includes significant portions of Board designated State Responsibility Areas (SRA), the Board, working cooperatively with the Department, has developed a Strategic Fire Plan (Fire Plan; see Priority 1, Item 5 above). The Strategic Fire Plan, amongst other items, provides policy level guidance to the Department to produce Administrative Unit Plans, which provide information on existing fire protection engine companies, stations, equipment and related staffing standards. The Department periodically*

synthesizes the data from Administrative Unit Plans on fire suppression and prevention assets into a Blue Book Report for purposes of providing information to the Legislature on Departmental staffing. .

“PRC 4130 states: The board shall classify all lands within state responsibility areas into types of land based on cover, beneficial use of water from watersheds, probable damage from erosion, and fire risks and hazards, and shall determine the intensity of protection to be given to each such type of land. A plan for adequate statewide fire protection of state responsibility areas shall be prepared by the board in which all land of each type shall be assigned the same intensity of protection, and the estimated cost of such intensity of protection shall be determined.”

Status: The existing Blue Book Report may not reflect the most current fire protection assets of the Department. When updated, the Board will review the Report to assure consistency with the Board approved Strategic Fire Plan

9. Safety Element Review Assessment

Objective: Develop a regulation codifying the review of General Plan Safety Elements by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and, to a certain extent, the pre-review and consultation stages by the CAL FIRE land use planning program.

Status: Rulemaking to occur in 2017.

10. Role of Grazing in Fire Hazard Reduction

Objective: Examine barriers to using grazing as fire hazard reduction tool.

Status: Primarily led by the Range Management Advisory Committee; status reports to RPC as necessary.

PRIORITY 3:

11. Technical Rule Addendum No. 4, Minimum Distances Require by Law, Fire Safe THP Vegetation Treatment

Objective: The Department has request that the Board amend the diagram in technical rule addendum No. 4 to accurately portray the vegetation treatments as required by PRC § 4291(b) and 14 CCR § 1299(a)(2).

Status: Committee requests staff investigate utility of Section 100 regulatory process to accomplish this item and move forward on a regulatory process.

Topic/Item	Type	Substantially Completed 2016	Annual Ongoing	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
VTP EIR	Programmatic Environmental Impact Report	X				
SRA Fee	Rulemaking	X				
Utility Notice of Operations	Rulemaking	X				

1273.09 Dead End Road Study	Research Project/Report	X				
Safety Element Review	Board Process		X			
Topic/Item	Type	Substantially Completed 2016	Annual Ongoing	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3
Title 14 § 1270.03 Certification	Board Process		X			
Forest Pest Council	Policy		X			
AB 1504	Research Project/Report			X		
California Fire Plan	Policy			X		
Decision Making Support Systems	Research Project/Report			X		
Fire Safe Development Workgroup	Rulemaking			X		
Blue Book Staffing Review	Policy				X	
Safety Element Review Assessment	Rulemaking				X	
Role of Grazing in Fire Hazard Reduction	Policy				X	
Technical Rule Addendum No. 4 Revision	Rulemaking					X