

**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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**MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT**

*-Meeting Held May 5, 2009-*

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

Committee Members Pam Giacomini, Tom Walz (Chair); Bill Snyder, Mike Bacca, Allen Robertson (*CAL FIRE*); Tim Robards (FRAP); Addie Jacobson (Ebbetts Pass Forest Watch); Richard Gienger (Humboldt Watershed Council);; Bob Rynearson (Wm. Beaty & Associates); Doug Ferrier (Forest Slopes Management); Frank Mulhair (CLFA); Stacy Heaton (RCRC).

**AGENDA ITEM 1: REVIEW OF 45-DAY NOTICE OF RULEMAKING FOR “SUSTAINED YIELD PLAN RENEWAL, 2009” REGULATORY PROPOSAL.**

Staff reported that several letters of support had been received to date and that no opposition to adoption of the proposal was apparent. *CAL FIRE* Staff Chief, Dennis Hall suggested several important, but non-substantive language edits to the rule pleading that have been incorporated. **(Note: Chief Hall and Board staff refined the language edits further following the Committee Meeting).** Chair Walz and Member Giacomini concurred that they would recommend full Board adoption of the regulatory proposal with the inclusion of Chief Hall's edits.

**BOARD ACTION ITEM #1**

**The Committee recommends full Board adoption of the Initial Statement of Reasons and Rule Pleading, with incorporation of the non-substantive edits provided by the Department, for the 45-day Notice of Rulemaking for the “Sustained Yield Plan Renewal [“Requests for Renewal of Approved Sustained Yield Plans”], 2009” Regulatory Proposal.**

**AGENDA ITEM 2: CONTINUING DISCUSSION OF A MODIFIED TIMBER HARVESTING PLAN (MTHP) REGULATORY PROPOSAL FOR STREAMLINED PERMITTING OF FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION PROJECTS.**

Chair Walz introduced the topic and staff provided a brief synopsis of the changes to the draft Initial Statement of Reasons and Rule Pleading. As directed by the Committee during the April meeting, staff combined the draft MTHP proposal provided by Deputy Director, Bill Snyder with the staff draft MTHP proposal, yielding two different types of MTHP. The first type would focus intensive treatments for strategic protection of communities and infrastructure. This approach would utilize fuelbreak special silvicultural prescriptions and rigid post treatment standards. The second type of MTHP would focus on project area treatments of lesser intensity to promote fire resiliency across the landscape. Staff noted that the two options were complementary and could be utilized together in a single MTHP approach.

Deputy Director Snyder explained the rationale behind the Department's alternative proposal and noted his desire to see what FRAP's treatment modeling effort reveals in terms of treatment standards. Tim Robards of FRAP described the work plan for this modeling effort and suggested that FRAP may have results to present at the July Committee Meeting.

Chair Walz then provided a slide show featuring photographs representing the types and conditions of young mixed conifer plantations envisioned for treatment under this MTHP proposal. Bob Rynearson followed with a PowerPoint presentation highlighting treatment intensity differences and showing real stand effects of fire in thinned and unthinned stands.

Mr. Ryneanson showed several photographs illustrating that even a modest reduction in fuel loading and orientation beats doing nothing at all. These presentations prompted further discussion amongst the assembly. Discussion concluded with an acknowledgement of FRAP's anticipated report on the treatment modeling at the July Committee Meeting. In the meantime, meeting participants were encouraged to review the latest draft proposal and provide comment. Staff was directed to continue working on the draft proposal with Deputy Director Snyder.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: PTEIR GUIDANCE DOCUMENT REVIEW.**

Staff introduced the topic and briefly explained how the document came to be in its present form. Deputy Chief, Allen Robertson provided a more in-depth summary of the Department's internal review of the draft document. Chief Robertson noted that a number of changes to the guidance document resulted from these discussions, but had not yet been incorporated into the document. Absent these necessary language revisions, Chief Robertson advised that the document should not be posted on the Department and Board websites. Staff suggested that perhaps a more complete draft could be ready for Committee review at the July Meeting. Chief Robertson concurred that this was possible.

Meeting participants then questioned Chief Robertson about the various elements of a PTEIR and PTHP. Discussion concluded with an update on the status of PTEIRs currently proposed by Mendocino Redwood Company and the Mattole Restoration Council.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF A 45-DAY NOTICE OF RULEMAKING FOR THE REGULATORY PROPOSAL TO LENGTHEN THE EFFECTIVE PERIOD OF AN EMERGENCY NOTICE.**

Staff introduced the topic and summarized changes to date in the draft Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR) and accompanying rule pleading language. Staff noted that no opposition to the proposal had been encountered to date and that full Board authorization of a 45-day Notice seemed the logical next step.

Following Committee discussion, staff was directed to prepare the draft ISOR and Rule Pleading for full Board consideration of a 45-day Notice of Rulemaking the following day.

**BOARD ACTION ITEM #2**

**The Committee recommends full Board authorization of a 45-day Notice of Rulemaking for the "Emergency Notice Effective Period Extension, 2009" Regulatory Proposal.**

**AGENDA ITEM 5: NEW AND UNFINISHED.**

Mr. Richard Gienger brought up discussion of the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's proposed waiver of certain types of timber operations from waste discharge reporting requirements. Chair Walz summarized the proposed changes and noted that NCRWQCB representative, Bob Klampt would be presenting to the full Board on the following day.

**Staff noted that due to the Board's proposed June workshop for review of the proposed revisions to the threatened or impaired watershed regulations, the Management Committee would likely not meet again until the July Board Meeting. Items for discussion and possible action at the July Management Committee Meeting will therefore be agendized at a later date by staff upon consultation with the Committee Members.**

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