

MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • 209-966-3222



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2015-322

MEETING: July 7, 2015

TO: The Board of Supervisors

MINUTE ORDER ATTACHED

FROM: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

RE: Formation of the Mariposa County Tree Mortality Disaster Mitigation Committee

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Approve the formation of the Mariposa County Tree Mortality Disaster Mitigation (MCTMDM) Committee and approve a plan for the Committee's activities. This Committee will investigate and further define the extent of the tree mortality disaster confronting Mariposa County, including as areas of emphasis: public safety, property vulnerabilities, natural resource protection and economic impacts. The Committee intends to gather tree loss data at the County, landscape and parcel level; design and implement a hazard tree abatement program; provide economies of scale in abatement projects through coordination and cooperation among stakeholders; assist in the preparation of a Disaster Declaration by the County Office of Emergency Services; and seek outside funding from State, Federal, and private sources to support these activities. Other strategies, projects, and specific actions will be identified, defined and submitted to the Board of Supervisors for discussion and approval where appropriate.

The incidence of tree mortality in Mariposa County, as is true in other areas of the state, is increasing at alarming rates. Estimates based on U.S. Forest Service aerial mapping data indicate that approximately 35% to 40% of trees are currently dead and it is expected that the proportion of dead trees will increase to 50%-60% this year. Further estimates are that about 200,000 acres of land are affected in Mariposa. Given these numbers, it's clear that tree mortality is destroying many of the forested areas that make Mariposa County so attractive to tourists. It is also clear that factors such as poor precipitation levels in Mariposa County over the last 4 years have negatively impacted tree viability. However, this tree mortality disaster will continue regardless of future precipitation levels. The inevitable conclusion is that not only public safety and property values will diminish, but that we can also expect adverse impacts to our local economy.

Proposed Committee members

- Chair: Rosemarie Smallcombe, Supervisor District 1 (continuous term)
- Co-Chair: Don Florence, Office of Emergency Services (continuous term)
- Agency members (each to serve continuous terms):
 - Mariposa County Fire Safe Council representative(s);
 - Natural Resources Conservation Service representative;

- o Mariposa County Resource Conservation District representative;
- o Mariposa County Fire representative;
- o CAL FIRE representative;
- o BLM representative;
- o Yosemite National Park representative;
- o United States Forest Service representative; and
- o up to 5 Private Citizens, to serve two year terms.

The Governor's office has been focused on drought, but has recently begun to acknowledge the implications of tree mortality and has therefore allocated some State funding to address it. On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown declared a drought emergency in several counties, including Mariposa County. Several subsequent gubernatorial executive orders followed to address ongoing issues facing the state and individual counties including private well emergency funding, non-owner occupied assistance for dry wells, emergency drinking water programs and financial assistance to counties whose ground water was deemed contaminated. Through executive actions in the last twelve months, funds from the State Responsibility Area prevention fee were re-distributed into staffing to pre-plan for an increase of fire statewide associated with the widespread tree mortality.

On June 15, 2015, Cal FIRE issued a countywide burn ban prohibiting outside burning due to the increased early season critical wild land fuel conditions.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

On May 13, 2014, Mariposa County Board of Supervisors proclaimed that a drought existed. Mariposa County seeks financial recovery funds when a declared or significant disaster impacts communities or the county as a whole. Prior Board action has allowed local Office of Emergency Service to seek funds and or assistance during a county disaster.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Forgo an opportunity to recover from or mitigate the financial impacts created by this significant disaster.

ATTACHMENTS:

USDA/USFS Tree Kill Report April 2015 (PDF)

Stanislaus National Forest Fire Season Update as of June 19, 2015 (PDF)

SRA report 2015 (PDF)

CAO RECOMMENDATION

Requested Action Recommended

Mary Hodson

Mary Hodson, CAO

7/1/2015

RESULT: ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Kevin Cann, District IV Supervisor

SECONDER: Marshall Long, District III Supervisor

AYES: Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier



COUNTY of MARIPOSA


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MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTE ORDER

TO:	SUPERVISOR SMALLCOMBE
FROM:	RENE' LaROCHE, Clerk of the Board 
SUBJECT:	Approve the Formation of the Mariposa County Tree Mortality Disaster Mitigation (MCTMDM) Committee; Approve Appointment of Agency Representatives to Continuous Terms; and Approve a Plan for the Committee's Activities
Resolution:	15-322

The following action was taken by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors on **July 7, 2015, 2015:**

AMENDMENTS:

CA10, change "design and implement a hazard tree abatement program" to "design and recommend a hazard tree abatement program"; change the number of private citizen members from 5 to 10.

CA10. Board of Supervisors RES-2015-322

Approve the Formation of the Mariposa County Tree Mortality Disaster Mitigation (MCTMDM) Committee; Approve Appointment of Agency Representatives to Continuous Terms; and Approve a Plan for the Committee's Activities

Cc: File