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**BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

**Sacramento, CA**  
**April 11, 2018**

**BOARD OF FORESTRY MEMBERS PRESENT:**

J. Keith Gilles, Chair  
Mark Andre, Vice Chair  
Rich Wade  
Mike Miles  
Darcy Wheelles  
Susan Husari  
Marc Los Huertos  
Chris Chase

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Katie Delbar

**BOARD STAFF:**

Matthew Dias, Executive Officer  
Dan Stapleton, Licensing Officer  
Edith Hannigan, Land Use Planning Program Manager  
Eric Hedge, Regulations Coordinator  
Linda Cano, Executive Assistant  
Eliana Camargo, Environmental Scientist  
Jeff Slaton, Board Counsel  
Ali Karaouni, Board Counsel

**DEPARTMENTAL STAFF:**

Janet Barentson, Chief Deputy Director  
Helge Eng, Deputy Director, Resource Management  
Dennis Hall, Assistant Deputy Director  
Bill Solinsky, Forester III, THP Administration  
Eric Huff, Staff Chief, Forest Practice Program  
Daniel Berlant, Assistant Deputy Director  
John Melvin, Staff Chief Resource Management  
Matthew Reischman, Assistant Deputy Director

**Natural Resources Agency:**

Russ Henly, Assistant Secretary of Forest Resources  
Management

## **Announcement of Actions Taken in Executive Session**

- The Board discussed the items on the agenda; and
- Issued a Private Reprimand in Licensing Case 332; and
- Adopted the proposed decision on Civil Penalty CP-17-15A Nedev and Civil Penalty CP-17-15B Tzvetkov.

## **Approval of March 2018 Board Meeting Minutes**

**04-18-01 Chair Gilless moved to approve the March 7, 2018 Meeting Minutes. Member Andre seconded the motion.**

### **Roll Call Vote:**

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Wade</b>        | <b>Aye</b>       |
| <b>Husari</b>      | <b>Aye</b>       |
| <b>Miles</b>       | <b>Aye</b>       |
| <b>Wheeles</b>     | <b>Aye</b>       |
| <b>Andre</b>       | <b>Aye</b>       |
| <b>Los Huertos</b> | <b>Abstained</b> |
| <b>Chase</b>       | <b>Abstained</b> |
| <b>Debar</b>       | <b>Absent</b>    |
| <b>Gilless</b>     | <b>Abstained</b> |

**The motion carried with three abstentions and one member absent.**

## **MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS**

### **Report of the Chairman**

### **Report of the Director/Department, Janet Barentson**

Chief Barentson presented on the following matters while Director Pimlott was attending the FIRESCOPE meeting at Mather Field.

#### **Budget**

- Budget hearings are at the height of activity, with the primary interest in the Ventura Training Center, as well as CAL FIRE helicopter replacement.
- The Department is still on track to purchase one helicopter in the current fiscal year. The Governor's budget includes funding for four additional helicopters with future procurements planned for next year.

#### **Ventura Training Center**

- The Director attended town hall meetings to address public concerns with the pending training center and attended a Senate Budget Sub-Committee 5 meeting with California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and California Conservation Corps to address the training center specifically as well.
- The Department and its partners continue to work through logistics and address constituent concerns with this inmate training and matriculation facility.

### **Forest Management Task Force**

- Director Pimlott is working with the Governor and his staff on developing the framework for the Task Force. Governor Brown has met with individuals from both the science and landowner communities to further refine his direction for the Task Force.
- It is anticipated that messaging on the Task Force will be released over the next few weeks.

### **Seasonal Staffing**

- CAL FIRE Northern Region is currently increasing staffing to perform additional fuels treatment, while the Southern Region is preparing to start increases in staffing levels in anticipation of active summer and fall months.
- To date CAL FIRE has reached 30% of the annually targeted acres for fuels reduction and 50% of the annually targeted acres for prescribed fire.

### **Strategic Plan**

- A consultant hired to assist in the development of the Department's Strategic Plan met with staff from the Office of the State Fire Marshal last week and meets with Unit Chiefs next week. The Department's Strategic Plan is still on track for an early summer release.

### **Climate Investment Grants**

- There have been 200 million dollars awarded in grants this year, with a proposed 160 million earmarked for next year.
- Forest Health and Conservation Easements Grants
  - Concept solicitations have been received and initially rated.
  - Department meeting with interested applicants to better understand applications and criteria.
  - Invitations to applicants for full applications should be going out within the next month.
- Urban Forestry Grants have all been awarded.
- Fire Prevention Grants
  - Finalizing the methodology for evaluating carbon benefits.
  - Anticipate that the application period will begin within the next month.

### **Inmate Crews**

- With a shortage of approximately 1,000 inmates throughout the conservation camp program, CAL FIRE will be consolidating short-staffed inmate crews to meet the staffing requirements to be typed as fire crew resources. Should more inmates become available, crew numbers will expand as appropriate.

**Daniel Berlant, Assistant Deputy Director**, gave a brief overview on the new Incident Reporting System that CAL FIRE will be implementing within the next year.

### **Report of the Executive Officer, Matt Dias:**

Executive Officer Dias reported on the following matters:

- Provided a Legislative update on current bills that may affect the Board's programs; and
- Provided an update on the 2018 Draft Strategic Fire Plan; and
- Presented the DRAFT Board Annual Report. The Board affirmed that the Annual Report can be finalized and distributed to the Legislature and posted to the Board's website.

- Edith Hannigan, Land Use Planning Program Manager, provided an update on the Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic EIR.
- Chris Keithley, FRAP Program Manager, introduced the DRAFT Forest and Rangelands Assessment: 2017. It is anticipated that the assessment will be finalized soon.
- Member Rich Wade provided an update on the Tree Mortality Task Force.

**Report of the Regulations Coordinator:**

Eric Hedge, Regulations Coordinator, reported on the following matters:

- Reviewed the Board Rulemaking Matrix; and
- Re-introduced the Proposed Rulemaking Addressing Cumulative Impacts Assessment Checklist, Technical Rule Addendum No. 2 and Appendix Amendments (14 CCR §§ 895, 895.1 and 912.9 [932.9, 952.9]) with options for revisions as a result of the February 2018 Initial Hearing and close of the public comment period.

**Public Comment:**

**Rob DiPerna, Environmental Protection Information Center**, shared concerns and encouraged the Board to continue to improve the draft regulatory text.

**Eric Huff, CAL FIRE, Staff Chief, Forest Practice Program**, supports moving the rule package forward with the inclusion of the CAL FIRE edits previously provided to the Board staff.

**Dave Fowler, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board**, is in favor of the proposed language with included CAL FIRE edits, except for the strikeout regarding Beneficial Uses (page 14, lines 271-273 of the proposed rule text). The North Coast Water Board feels it is important to retain the referenced Beneficial Uses because it is something separate and distinct from the water quality objectives in the next sentence. Mr. Fowler understands the strikeout was suggested because it was believed that the two concepts were redundant, but explained how they are not.

**Eric Huff, CAL FIRE, Staff Chief, Forest Practice Program**, doesn't see any harm in not striking the sentence and supports Mr. Fowler's recommendations.

**Isabel Baer, Department of Fish and Wildlife**, is in support of North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board's comments.

**04-18-02 Chair Gilliss moved to direct staff to prepare and distribute a 15-Day Notice for addition of Documents and Information to the Rulemaking file and modified regulatory text as brought forward by CAL FIRE at the March meeting, with the exception of the elimination of the statement "The evaluation of Impacts to watershed resources is based on significant adverse on-site and off-site Cumulative Impacts on Beneficial Uses," which the Board chose to retain. Member Wade seconded the motion.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| <b>Wade</b>        | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Husari</b>      | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Miles</b>       | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Wheeles</b>     | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Andre</b>       | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Los Huertos</b> | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Chase</b>       | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Delbar</b>      | <b>Absent</b> |

**Gilless            Aye**

**The motion carried unanimously with one member absent.**

**Report of the Standing Committees:**

**Forest Practice Committee, Mike Miles, Chair**

Committee Chair Miles reported on the following matters:

- Stocking standards revisions and the William Main Project Report; and
- Reviewed staff revisions to 14 CCR §§ 1038 and 1038.1 – Exemptions and Compliance with Act and Rules; and
- Discussed the use of exemptions and emergencies within the boundaries of an approved NTMP. He discussed the correspondence between the Board and CAL FIRE leadership that resulted in clarification that exemptions are still available for use within the boundaries of an approved NTMP and that the Board will continue to consider the matter and possibly provide additionally clarifications on this topic in the future.

**Agency Comment:**

**Helge Eng, Deputy Director, Resource Management,** CAL FIRE is not taking a firm position in opposition to the issues brought forth by Member Miles. They will look to the Board for input and guidance.

**Management Committee, Mark Andre, Chair**

Committee Chair Andre reported on the following matters:

- Boggs Mountain Demonstration State Forest Management Plan update; and
- Reviewed staff revisions to 14 CCR § 1104.1 – Conversion Exemptions.

**Resource Protection, Susan Husari, Chair**

Committee Chair Husari reported on the following matters:

- The Safety Element review for the Cities of Westlake Village and Redlands; and
- Provided an update on non-substantive regulatory revisions to 14 CCR §§ 1038, 1299.03, 1666.0; and
- Edith Hannigan, Land Use Planning Program Manager, provided an update on the Fire Safe Development Workgroup progress report; and
- Discussed current legislation relating to the land use planning and prescribed fire programs; and
- Pending revision of existing Board Policies commencing with 0340.

**Report of Board's Advisory Committees**

**Effectiveness Monitoring Committee, Co-Chair Russ Henly**

- Co-Chair Henly provided an update on EMC recommendation for the funding of project proposals for Fiscal Year 2017.

**Professional Foresters Examining Committee (PFEC), Dan Stapleton, Licensing Officer**

- Board considered the reappointment of Dan Sendek to the PFEC.

**04-18-03** Chair Gillless moved to approve the Reappointment of Dan Sendek to the Professional Foresters Examining Committee. Member Wade seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:**

|                    |               |
|--------------------|---------------|
| <b>Wade</b>        | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Husari</b>      | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Miles</b>       | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Wheeles</b>     | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Andre</b>       | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Los Huertos</b> | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Chase</b>       | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Delbar</b>      | <b>Absent</b> |
| <b>Gillless</b>    | <b>Aye</b>    |

**The motion carried unanimously with one member absent.**

**SPECIAL BOARD HEARINGS/REPORTS**

**Presentation: Forests and Water: Observations for the Sierra Nevada:** Mohammad Safeeq, Research Scientist and Adjunct Professor, University of California Merced

**Presentation: Introduction to the Forest Resilience Bond:** Zach Knight, Co-founder and Managing Partner, Blue Forest Conservation

**Presentation: Update on the Status of Science and Understanding of California Hardwoods:** Dr. Rick Standiford, Cooperative Extension Forest Management Specialist, Emeritus

**Review California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) Reimbursements:** Stewart McMorrow, Deputy Chief Forestry Assistance, CAL FIRE

a) The Board considered increasing reimbursement rates for precommercial thinning, mechanical release, and slash disposal.

CAL FIRE Deputy Chief of Forestry Assistance, Stewart McMorrow, offered the following recommendations for CFIP reimbursement rate application and adjustments:

- Precommercial Thinning – increase “moderate rate” to \$500/acre and increase the “heavy rate” to \$800/acre.
- Slash Disposal - increase “light rate” to \$400/acre, the “moderate rate” to \$700/acre, and the “heavy rate” to \$1,000.00/acre.
- Mechanical Release, increase the “heavy rate” to \$800/acre. In addition, recommended increasing the “light rate” to \$350/acre and “moderate rate” to \$500/acre.
- Allow for reimbursement for preparation of archaeological addendums at mini-management plan rate of \$1,750 + 1.40 acre.

**04-18-04** Chair Gillless moved to approve increasing the CFIP reimbursement rates, as proposed by CAL FIRE, and to allow the use the mini-management plan reimbursement rate for the preparation of archaeological addendums. Member Wade seconded the motion.

**Roll Call Vote:**

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| Wade        | Aye    |
| Husari      | Aye    |
| Miles       | Aye    |
| Wheeles     | Aye    |
| Andre       | Aye    |
| Los Huertos | Aye    |
| Chase       | Aye    |
| Delbar      | Absent |
| Gilless     | Aye    |

The motion carried unanimously with one member absent.

## CONCLUSION

### Public Forum

**Niel Fisher, Pacific Gas and Electric**, provided a brief overview of PG&E's new initiatives regarding the prevention of, and response to, wildland fire.

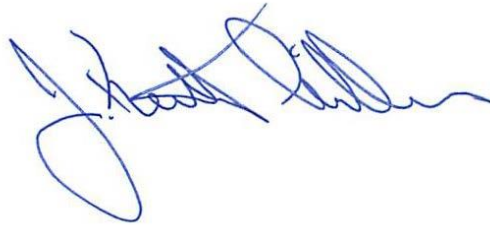
Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew Dias  
Executive Officer

ATTEST:



Keith Gilless  
Chair