

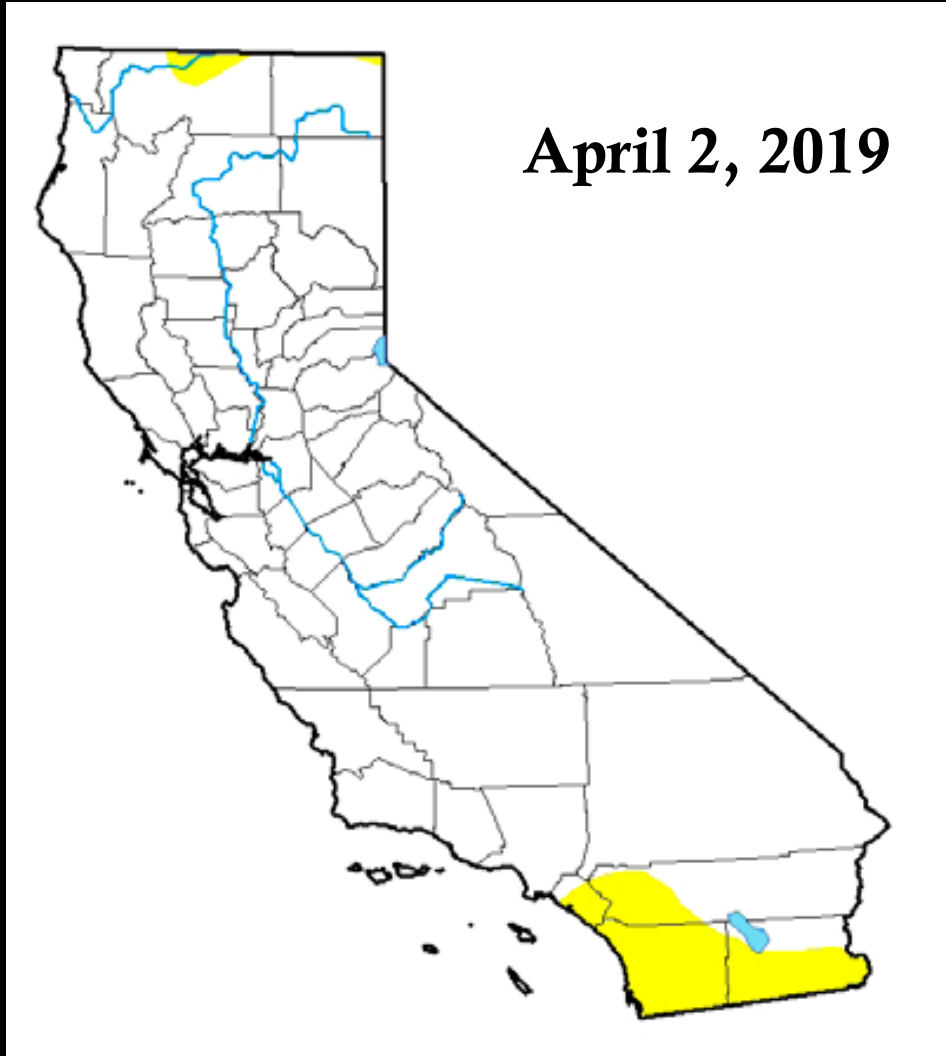
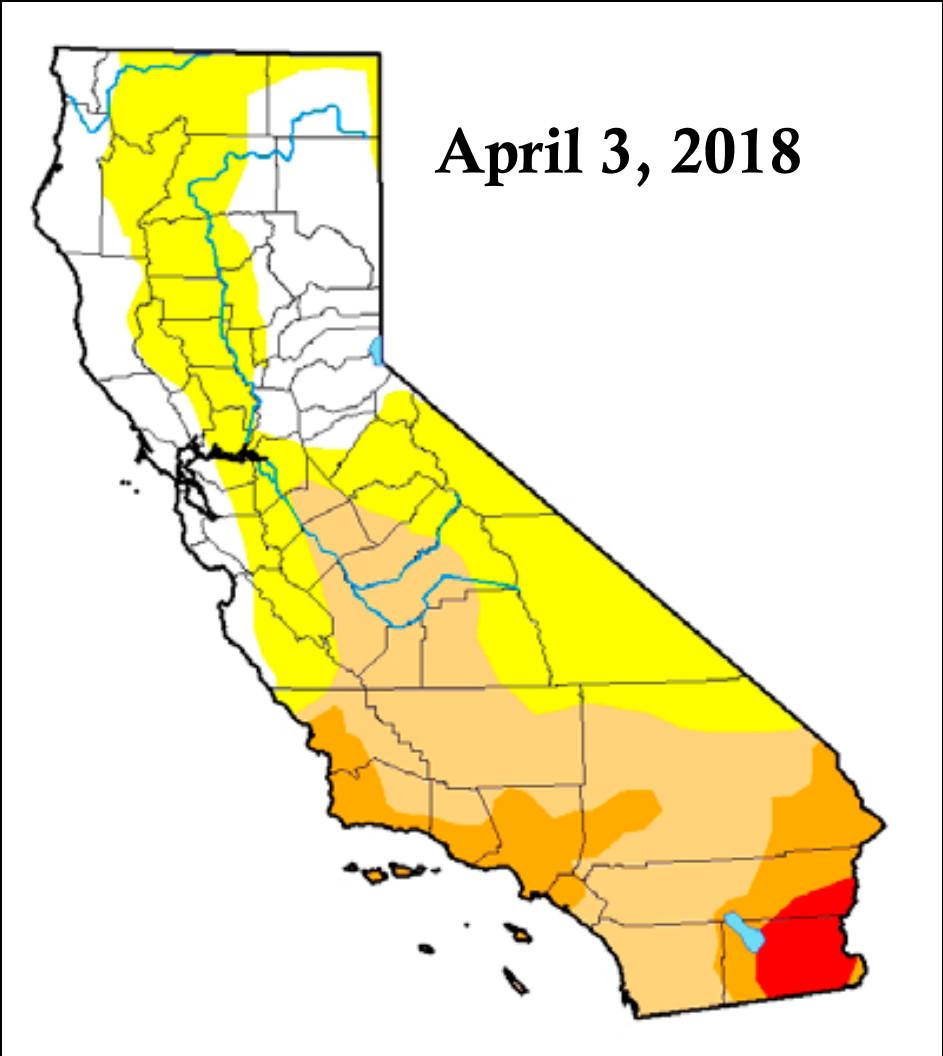
California Forest Pest Conditions Report 2019
Tom Smith – Forest Pest Management Specialist
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection





Aerial Detection Survey for Mortality

- 41 million acres surveyed
- Mortality recorded on 2.2 million acres
- Approximately 15.1 million dead trees (163 million dead trees since 2010)
- 82% true fir mortality at higher elevations
- High levels of mountain pine beetle mortality but a decrease in western pine beetle mortality
- Also increases in gold spotted oak borer and sudden oak death mortality s well as various defoliators



DROUGHT - Drought Conditions Down, 20th wettest year on record

Fir Engraver Beetle

- Fir engraver (*Scolytus ventralis*) remained the single major cause of insect related mortality killing increased numbers of true firs at higher elevations throughout California, often in association with dwarf mistletoe, root disease and/or Cytospora Canker

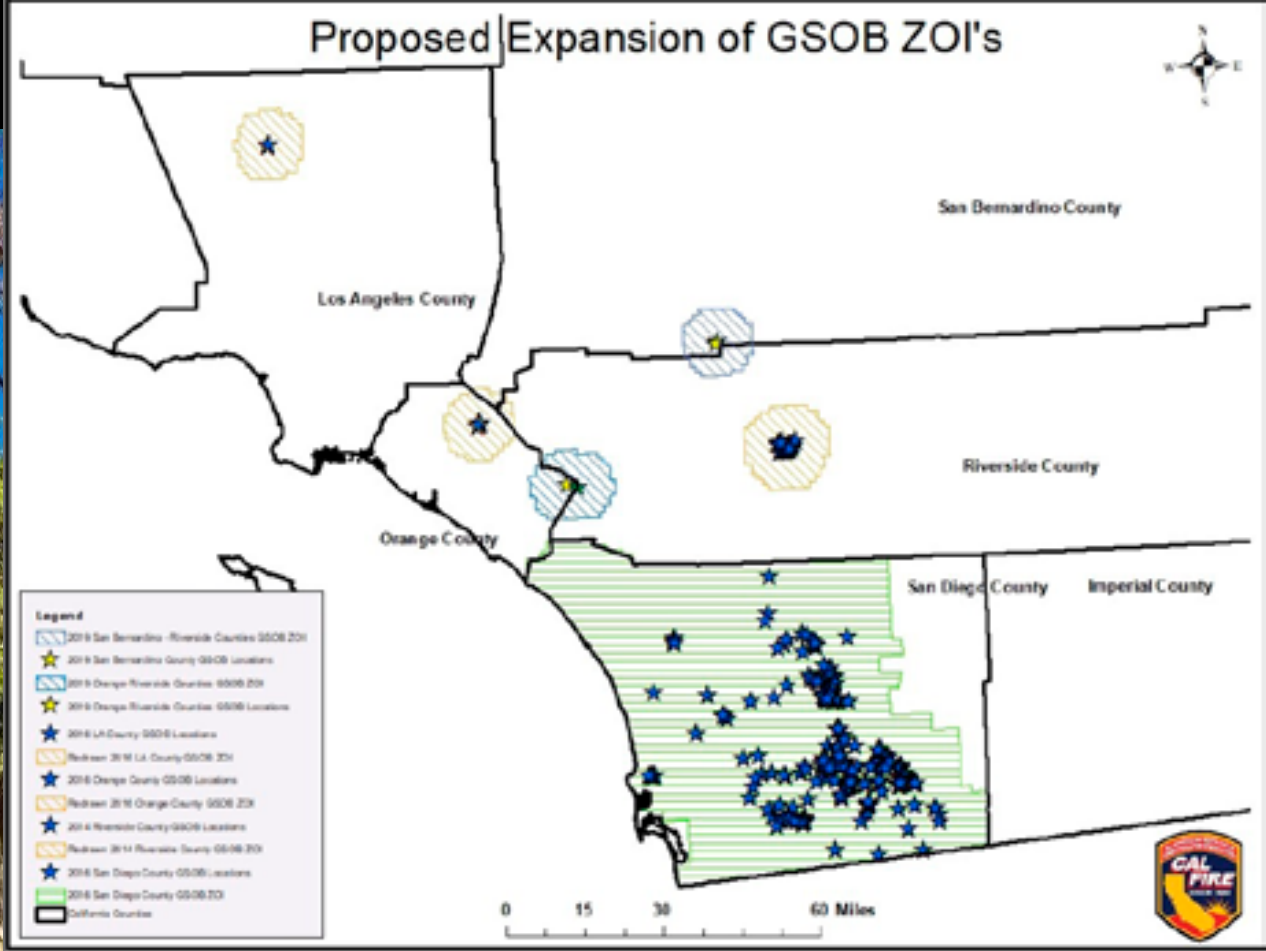
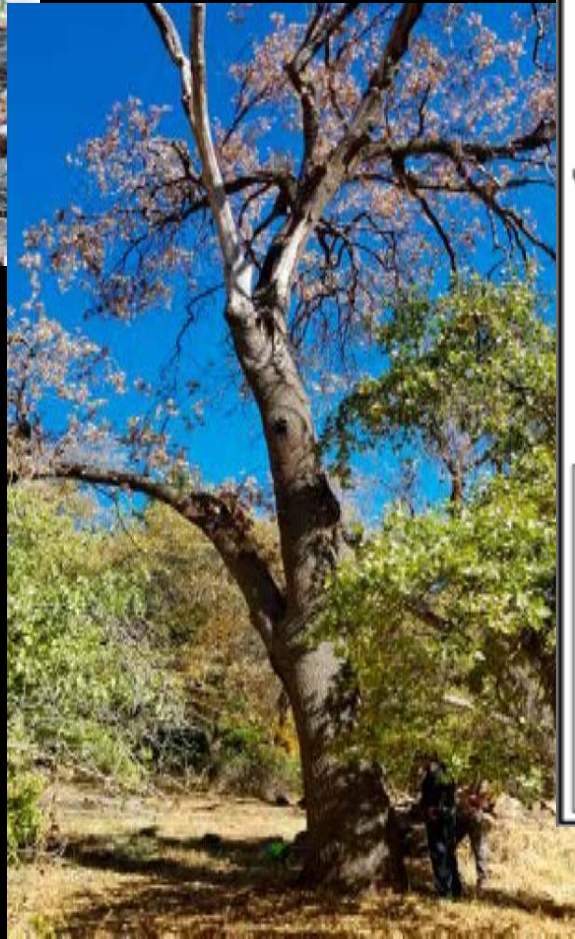


Pine Bark Beetles

- Western Pine Bark Beetle (*Dendroctonus brevicomis*) mortality of ponderosa pine decreased in 2019
- Mountain pine (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) beetle mortality of high elevation five needle pines increased



Gold Spotted Oak Borer



New infestations of GSOB (*Agrilus auroguttatus*) were found in Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties and spread elsewhere

Invasive Shot Hole Borer Complexes



- *Euwallacea* species
- Found in seven southern California counties
- Large host ranges – killing as many as 60 species of trees



Mediterranean Oak Borer



- *Xyloborus monographus*
- Killing Valley and Blue Oaks in Napa and Lake Counties
- First report in North America



Pitch Canker

- *Fusarium circinatum*
- Continues to kill pines in coastal counties
- Especially severe in Sonoma County and Point Reyes



Sudden Oak Death



- *Phytophthora ramorum*
- Intensifying after two years of wet spring weather
- Mortality is increasing
- Potential new sites in Del Norte County and San Luis Obispo County

Coastal Pine Decline

- **Multiple Causes**
- **Pitch Canker Disease**
- **Destruction of root systems by previous drought conditions**
- *Ips* **Pine engraver beetles**
- **Short Lived Species**
- **Lack of Regeneration due to Fire Suppression**



Drought



- Although the drought is over many species continue to suffer due to the loss of fine feeder roots – particularly incense cedar and various oak species

Invasive Weeds

- Eight New Species Highlighted by the California Invasive Plant Council and the California Department of Food and Agriculture
- Invading New Areas
- Costly Eradications
- Negative Impacts on Native Vegetation
- Potential Impacts on Wildfires



Update on the Invasive Shot Hole Borer Complexes



\$5 million to CDFA (over 3 years):

- **\$2 million for research**
- **\$1.6 million for survey, detection and rapid response**
- **\$450,000 for outreach and education**
- **\$240,000 for training**
- **\$150,000 for green-waste and firewood management**
- **\$450,000 for overall management/coordination**

Update on the Invasive Shot Hole Borer Complexes

\$5 million dollars through Cal Fire:

\$4.5 million to impacted counties for tree removal, treatment and disposal

- **\$598,000 each for San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Ventura, Riverside, San Bernardino and Santa Barbara Counties**
- **\$165,000 each for San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties**

\$500,000 for traps, lures and trapping supplies for the entire State



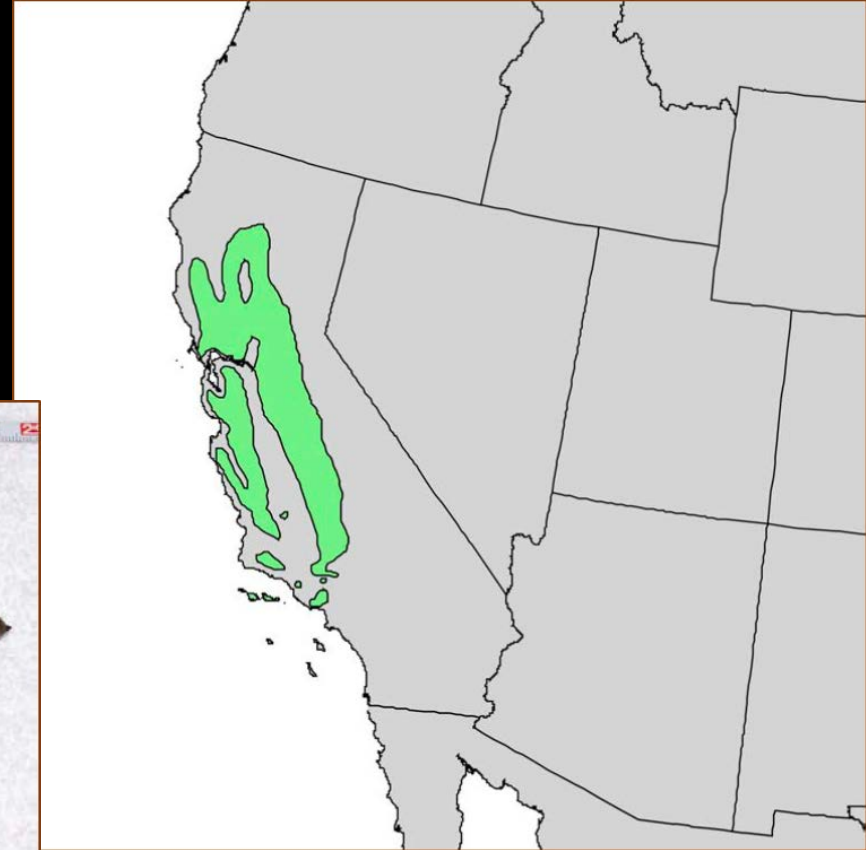
Mediterranean Oak Borer (MOB)



- **First Identified In Late October/Early November 2019**
- **Native to Europe, North Africa and Western Asia**
- **Attacks European Oak and Some Other Hardwoods**



Attacking Valley Oaks



Also Attacking Blue Oaks



BLUE OAK
Quercus douglasii

European Oak Ambrosia Beetle



Symptoms



Symptoms



Beetle Lifecycle



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Present Situation for MOB

- ICS Team Involved (State, Federal, County, Tribal, University, Arborists, Landowners, PG&E)
- Evaluation Monitoring Project Approved by the USFS
- Survey and Monitoring
- Education and Outreach
- Research into the Identification and Pathogenicity of the Fungi
- Do the Beetles Healthy Trees or Only Stressed Trees?





Questions?