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STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Gavin Newsom, *Governor*

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEETING MINUTES

Sacramento, CA

June 12, 2019

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION MEMBERS PRESENT:

- Keith Gillless, Chair
- Darcy Wheelles, Vice Chair
- Marc Los Huertos
- Chris Chase
- Rich Wade
- Susan Husari
- Mike Jani
- Katie Delbar

BOARD STAFF PRESENT:

- Matt Dias, Executive Officer
- Eric Hedge, Regulations Program Manager
- Linda Cano, Executive Assistant
- Laura Alarcon-Stalians, Budget Analyst
- Dan Stapleton, Licensing Officer
- Jeff Slaton, Board Counsel
- Edith Hannigan, Land Use Planning Program Manager
- Katie Harrell, Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation
- Brandi Goss, Environmental Scientist
- David Ludwig, Forestry Assistant II

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF PRESENT:

- Helge Eng, Deputy Director, Resource Management
- Dennis Hall, Assistant Deputy Director
- Eric Huff, Staff Chief, Forest Practice Program

Announcement of Action(s) Taken in Executive Session:

- a) Coast Action Group vs. California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Case No. RG17860755)
 - i. No reportable actions were taken.

Consent Calendar Items:

- a) Approval of May Board Meeting Minutes (with minor edits if requested by members of the Board); and
- b) Review of the Board's Rulemaking Matrix

The approval of May Board Meeting Minutes was deferred. No action was taken on the consent calendar.

MONTHLY BOARD REPORTS

Report of the Chair, Dr. Keith Gillless:

- Chair Gillless expressed that as we enter fire season, CAL FIRE has done an excellent job reaching out to the public and advising them to prepare and take appropriate safety measures. He also expressed his condolences to the Department, family, friends and colleagues of Captain Stacy Hamilton.
- Chair Gillless appointed Member Wheelles as the Board's Vice Chair and Chair of the Resource Protection Committee.

Report of the Director, Thom Porter:

- Director Porter thanked the Board for their condolences on the loss of Captain Hamilton. Director Porter commented that Captain Stacy had a career with the USFS before joining CAL FIRE. He worked in Region 5 and was a well-known figure on fires. Captain Hamilton was with the air program on both helicopter and fixed wing and was one of the department's seasoned air attack captains. It is a tough and sad loss for the Department.
- Compared to last year's numbers, California is below average for number of acres burned and total number of fires.
- Seventeen new officers graduated through the regular basic wildland fire training and are going on to complete their field training. A Forestry Assistant II was one of the graduates. CAL FIRE is also looking to increase the number of forestry professionals going through peace officer training.

Aviation

- The first 70 I Black Hawk helicopter is scheduled to be delivered in late July.
- Seven C1 30's are in the process of being outfitted. They will not have operational capabilities until 2021 however, the Department is moving ahead with a pilot training program.

Conservation Camps

- The first crew has completed their Type I hand crew field training through the Ventura Training Center. These graduates are ready to join active fire lines.
- Department leadership is working with Under Secretary Diaz, Department of Corrections, to solve the inmate shortage. The Department is at crew capacity of 66%.

Wildfire Prevention

- The Department continues to conduct prescribed fire and fuel reduction projects with hand crews, fuels crews, and National Guard field crews. With almost at 16,000 acres completed, 64% of targeted goals in fuels treatments have been conducted to date. 55% of the targeted number of defensible space inspections have also been completed.
- Eight draft Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Plans that were submitted by investor owned utilities have been reviewed by CAL FIRE. The Department is not certifying the plans, but CAL FIRE is assisting the California Public Utilities Commission in the developed of the certification process for these required Wildfire Mitigation Plans.
- The environmental evaluation process is complete for nearly all of the 35 projects and those evaluations have been submitted to the Natural Resources Agency. Some level of vegetation treatment has started on virtually all projects, but some areas that require prescribed fire are waiting for appropriate weather. The 35 projects are intended to bridge a time gap until the Board has certified the CalVTP.
- The Department revealed its new mascot on June 18, 2019. The mascot will be used as a tool to educate the public, especially children, on wildfire and emergency preparedness and emergency services.

Report and Annual Update – USFS Region V, John Exline, Director Ecosystem Management

Director Exline provided a presentation to the Board that included annual updates and accomplishments within Region 5 related to programs such as wildfire suppression, aerial detection for forest health and tree mortality, timber harvest activities, reforestation, and fire prevention activities.

Report of Executive Officer. Matt Dias, Executive Officer, provided an update on the following matters:

- a) Introduction of the Overhead Rate Policy

06-19-01 Member Jani moved to adopt a draft overhead rate policy. Member Los Huertos seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	aye
Husari	aye
Jani	aye

Delbar	aye
Wheeles	aye
Los Huertos	aye
Chase	aye
Gilless	aye

The motion carried unanimously.

- b) Budget Update
- c) Cal VTP Update

Board staff is working with consultants to publish a draft PEIR on June 24, 2019 for a 45-day public comment period.

Report of the Regulations Coordinator.

Eric Hedge, Regulatory Program Manager, provided an updated on the following matters:

- a) Introduction of the Re-Adoption of Emergency Regulation Entitled “Emergency Rulemaking to Facilitate Post-Fire Recovery Effort within the Counties of Lake, Siskiyou, Mendocino, Shasta, Trinity, and Napa” (14 CCR § 1038.5);

06-19-02 Chair Gilless moved to Re-Adopt Emergency Regulation Entitled “Emergency Rulemaking to Facilitate Post-Fire Recovery Effort within the Counties of Lake, Siskiyou, Mendocino, Shasta, Trinity, and Napa”. Member Chase seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	aye
Husari	aye
Jani	aye
Delbar	absent
Wheeles	aye
Los Huertos	aye
Chase	aye
Gilless	aye

The motion carried with one Member absent.

- b) Introduction of Re-Adoption of emergency regulation entitled “Emergency Rulemaking to Facilitate Post-Fire Recovery Effort within the County of Butte” (14 CCR § 1038.6);

06-19-03 Chair Gilless moved to re-adopt the emergency regulation entitled “Emergency Rulemaking to Facilitate Post-Fire Recovery Effort within the County of Butte” with minor revisions as requested by the Office of Administrative Law. Member Los Huertos seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Wade	aye
Husari	aye
Jani	aye

Delbar	absent
Wheeles	aye
Los Huertos	aye
Chase	aye
Gilless	aye

The motion carried with one Member absent.

- c) Board consideration of authorization of 45-Day Notice for rulemaking entitled "Permanent Post-Fire Recovery Exemption.

06-19-04 Member Chase moved to adopt the Initial Statement of Reason and to authorize 45-Day Notice for Rulemaking entitled "Permanent Post-Fire Recovery Exemption". Member Jani seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	aye
Husari	aye
Jani	aye
Delbar	absent
Wheeles	aye
Los Huertos	aye
Chase	aye
Gilless	aye

The motion carried with one Member absent.

- d) Board consideration of approval of the Final Statement of Reasons and Final adoption of the regulatory text for rulemaking entitled "Fire Safety Survey, 2019".

06-19-05 Member Wheeles moved to approve the Final Statement of Reasons and for Rulemaking Entitled "Fire Safety Survey, 2019". Member Husari seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	aye
Husari	aye
Jani	aye
Delbar	absent
Wheeles	aye
Los Huertos	aye
Chase	aye
Gilless	aye

The motion carried with one Member absent.

06-19-06 Member Wheeles moved to adopt the draft regulatory text for rulemaking entitled "Fire Safety Survey, 2019" with minor revisions as requested by the Office of Administrative Law. Member Husari seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	aye
Husari	aye
Jani	aye

Delbar	absent
Wheeles	aye
Los Huertos	aye
Chase	aye
Gilless	aye

The motion carried with one Member absent.

Report of the Standing Committees:

Forest Practice Committee - Rich Wade, Chair, reported out on the following matters:

1. Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction
2. Re-adoption of Exemption Emergency Regulations, 2019

06-19-08 Member Wade moved to move to re-adopt the emergency regulation entitled "Exemption Emergency Regulations" with minor revisions as requested by the Office of Administrative Law. Member Jani seconded.

Roll Call Vote

Wade	aye
Husari	aye
Jani	aye
Delbar	absent
Wheeles	aye
Los Huertos	aye
Chase	aye
Gilless	aye

The motion carried with one Member absent.

3. Staff is developing a white paper to promote the use of Feller-Bunchers within Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones.

Management Committee - Chris Chase, Chair, reported out on the following matters:

1. Potential Revisions of Stocking Standards within 14 CCR 913.

06-19-09 Member Chase moved to approve the Initial Statement of Reasons for rulemaking entitled "Stocking Standard Amendments, 2019" and authorize the draft rule text for 45-Day notice. Member Los Huertos seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	aye
Husari	aye
Jani	aye
Delbar	absent
Wheeles	absent
Los Huertos	aye
Chase	aye
Gilless	aye

The motion carried with two Members absent.

2. Potential revision to Categorical Exemptions within 14 CCR § 1153.

06-19-10 Member Chase moved to approve the Initial Statement of Reasons for rulemaking entitled "Categorical Exemption Revisions, 2019" and authorize the draft rule text for 45-Day notice. Member Los Huertos seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	aye
Husari	aye
Jani	aye
Delbar	absent
Wheeles	absent
Los Huertos	aye
Chase	aye
Gilless	aye

The motion carried with two Members absent.

Resource Protection - Susan Husari, Chair, reported out on the following matters.

1. Safety Element Review for the City of Berkeley
2. Fire Safe Regulations Local Ordinance review for the County of Napa

06-19-07 Member Wheeles moved to Certify Fire Safe Regulations Local Ordinance for Napa County. Member Husari seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	aye
Husari	aye
Jani	aye
Delbar	absent
Wheeles	aye
Los Huertos	aye
Chase	aye
Gilless	aye

The motion carried with one Member absent.

3. Review of the Board's existing regulation for vegetation clearance of utility infrastructure.

Report of Board's Advisory Committees:

Professional Foresters Examining Committee – Licensing Officer, Dan Stapleton reported out on the following matters:

- a. RPF and CRM Withdrawals and Voluntary Relinquishments.

06-19-11 Chair Gilless moved to approve the RPF Withdrawals. Member Los Huertos seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	aye
Husari	aye
Jani	aye
Delbar	absent
Wheeles	absent
Los Huertos	aye
Chase	aye
Gilless	aye

The motion carried with two Members absent.

Joint Institute on Wood Products Innovation – Katie Harrell, Program Analyst

a. Board Consideration of the DRAFT Charter

06-19-12 Member Los Huertos moved to approve the DRAFT Charter for the Joint Institute for Wood Product Innovation. Member Jani seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Wade	aye
Husari	aye
Jani	aye
Delbar	absent
Wheeles	absent
Los Huertos	aye
Chase	aye
Gilless	aye

The motion carried with two Members absent.

SPECIAL BOARD HEARING/REPORTS

Presentation: Update on the Forest Resilience Bond: Zach Knight, Co-founder and Managing Partner, Blue Forest Conservation

CONCLUSION

Public Forum

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
ATTEST:



Matthew Dias
Executive Officer



Keith Gilles
Chair