



**CALIFORNIA
LICENSED
FORESTERS
ASSOCIATION**

*The Voice of
California's
Licensed
Foresters*

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California Licensed Foresters Association

September 2020 - Newsletter

President's Message Ariel Roughton, CLFA President

As CLFA president it is inevitable that one, if not more, of these messages will unfortunately be on the topic of catastrophic wildfire. I had hoped it would not come so early or so suddenly, but here we are dealing with the state on fire once again. As happens every year in the midst and aftermath of these disastrous events we see the state and the nation asking the same questions: How did this happen? How can we ensure this doesn't happen again? As foresters we know there are many simple steps that can be taken, and that as an industry we are working towards progress on this front every day. Yet, despite our best efforts we still face obstacles that impede progress.

Much of California is a fire dependent ecosystem where disturbance is natural and inevitable. Add to this a changing climate, regulatory hurdles, a century of neglected management, and expanding development in fire prone ecosystems, and you get a recipe for disaster. The need for active management is a culture-shift for many, but it is one that is necessary and that is gaining traction. Increasingly outlets are publishing articles on the state of fire and resources management in California, with emphasis on the importance of active management. While not all media coverage hits the nail on the head, the need for action is becoming part of the collective consciousness in California. Some recent articles worth highlighting include those from [Sacramento Bee](#), [Christian Science Monitor](#), and [Salon](#).

As the call for answers and actions continues it is vital that we all remain engaged in these conversations. At times this can be exhausting, but the Registered Professional Forester is the only licensed professional involved in the management of forestlands in this state, and it is vital that we continue to assert the value of our expertise and knowledge when discussing forest and fuels management within California's forests.

Unfortunately California is far from the state of ecological resilience that it needs to be, and nothing can change the current crisis that many are facing today. With that in mind we all know foresters will continue to be there to help landowners and forestlands recover after the fires, and we will continue to work to create landscapes that are more resilient to fire and are safer for all Californians. To all of our members and their families who have experienced loss as a result of these fires, we are deeply sorry and keep you in our thoughts. To those who are currently working to protect life and property, thank you and stay safe. And to all of our members working to create a safer California, please know that we are here working beside you.

Ariel T. Roughton



Forest Practice—BOF

Andrea Eggleton—Regulatory Rep to CLFA

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection met on August 18-19, 2020 via teleconference. The next board meeting is currently scheduled for September 22-24, 2020 and will be held via teleconference. The agenda for the September meeting has not yet been published, however the agenda for the August meeting is available at:

<https://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/business/meeting-agendas-and-annual-schedules/>

The following is a summary of items of greatest interest to the RPF community from the August Board of Forestry Meeting:

Joint Committee Meeting – the Forest Practice, Management, and Resource Protection Committees met jointly to conduct business in August.

1. Utility Exemption Revisions

- **Summary: Review of the rule set is prompted by problems brought up by agencies and stakeholders with utility work. This will be a reorganization effort of the entire rule set, similar to the 1038 reorganization that was conducted few years ago.**
- 1104 includes 3 types of conversion exemptions
- The [current rule plead](#) reorganizes the rule text into 5 sections, and addresses the following items:
 - Mapping standards
 - Required form to be filled out, as provided by Dept
 - Danger tree removal and large old tree language will be looked at
 - Timelines in terms of Director's review will be clarified where the Board has discretion
 - Slash treatment includes confusing language that is proposed to just be 18" within one year for all conversion exemptions
 - A notice of completion is required as well
- This work will occur over the next year, with the goal of putting this to 45-day notice in June 2021
- A workshop on the topic will be held on September 8, 2020 at 1 pm via [webinar](#).

2. Forest Botany – [Updated BOF Staff Report](#)

- **Summary: CDFW has asked the BOF to undertake a review of botanical protection procedures for Timber Operations. See link to BOF Staff report above for details. Meeting attendees shared additional concerns on both sides with the current ways in which botanical resources are addressed and regulated in various parts of the State. There is much work to do here and this effort is just at the very beginning.**
- The BOF asked CDFW if they have any specific recommendations or ideas:
 - Small group at CDFW is working to bring ideas to the Board at the September meeting; it will not be sample rule text, but will be an outline of the regulatory concepts they would like to see. Their request will likely include formal regulations and qualifications for surveyors.
- The Board may consider a Technical Rule Addendum, but **wants to hear more from landowners**, CDFW, and CAL FIRE, including comments from these agencies on previous guidance documents produced by both in the past.
- Comments were made by Board Members, CAL FIRE, CDFW, SPI, Forest Landowners of CA

3. Full Board Meeting

- Consent Calendar Items – [Rulemaking Matrix](#), [Licensing Vital Statistics](#), [Legislative Report](#) – approved
- CAL FIRE [Director's Report](#) – Presented by Angie Lottes, Deputy Director of Climate and Energy
 - Department is dealing with historic heat wave and lightning strikes
 - Agreement for Shared Stewardship of California's Forests and Rangelands
 - State and Federal agreement for vegetation management within the state
 - 16th agreement of this type in the Nation
 - New incense cedar wilt disease being observed in the State
 - 3 successes with CAL FIRE funded fire prevention projects in assisting current wildfire suppression efforts



Forest Practice—BOF cont.

- Executive Director's Report
 - Staffing Updates
 - Made an offer to a Forestry Assistant II to an individual coming from the USFS
 - New Hire – Claire McCoy for the Land Use Planning group
 - New Hire - Sarah Walter will be starting with the Board soon
 - Regulations Coordinator Position is still vacant, has not received a wide body of applicants for the position as a Forester II, transitioning it to an Environmental Scientist position
 - Working on the statutory requirement to develop a Research Plan
 - CalVTP
 - The BOF is sponsoring outreach to individuals outside of CAL FIRE that would like to participate
 - Completing Project Specific Analyses (PSAs) – will be engaging with UC Regents and another organization to conduct these PSAs
 - Governor Newsom offered an Emergency Declaration for the current energy crisis and wildfire situation
- State Forest [Camping Fee Amendments](#)
 - Great interest and demand in camping on the State Forests with COVID
 - The change in fee structure will provide more efficient administration
 - The fee increases don't fully cover costs of providing recreational camping opportunities, they are still subsidized by sustainable timber harvest receipts
 - Motion to adopt the rule package carried unanimously
- Public Hearing – [Tethered Operation Amendments, 2020](#)
 - The purpose of the proposed action is to: 1) provide for the implementation of specific tethered logging systems for use in timber operations within the Rules and clarify what manner of system is intended for such use in Tethered Operations; 2) improve the clarity and consistency of certain existing regulations related to harvesting practices and erosion control by using modern and defined terminology and regulations; 3) eliminate redundancy within existing regulations; 4) provide for appropriate disclosure in order to support the enforcement of those purposes described above.
- Public Comments Received
 - [CDFW](#) – Presented by Elliot Chasen
 - [SPI](#) – Presented by Cedric Twight
 - [Central Valley RWOCB](#) – Presented by Dave Fowler
 - [CGS](#) – Presented by Jonathan Meurer and Jacob Lee
 - [CAL FIRE](#) with [attachment](#) – Presented by Eric Huff
 - Calforests – delivered verbally by George Gentry
 - Reminder that the rule package would extend potential use by the Emergency Notice for Fuel Hazard Reduction and the Forest Fire Prevention Exemption, which are currently precluded from tethered harvesting based on the slope restrictions within the 1038 and 1052 section. It would be a huge benefit to be able to use tethered operations for these types of operations.
 - Some confusion over the organization of the regulation itself
 - Green Diamond Resource Company – Presented by Gary Rynearson
 - Agency comments, aside from CAL FIRE, generally focus on recommendations to do studies and monitoring, and to make regulatory text more specific. Some comments seem to overlook many other existing rules that provide many sideboards on the application of the harvesting system.
- Non-substantive revisions to the Statement of Reasons and Rule Text were made during the meeting
- Motion to put the rule package forward to [15-day public notice](#) carried. Public comment period closes on September 11, 2020.



Legislative Joe Starr—Committee Chair

August 31st was the final day for floor voting for this year's legislative session. Given restrictions imposed this year to limit the spread of covid-19, There weren't very many bills on our watch list that made it out of the Legislature, with the exception of various wildfire bills and the AB 5 fix.

This month CLFA sent a letter of support for AB 2257 (Gonzalez) which is a bill amending last years AB 5 (Gonzalez), the highly discussed gig economy bill which redefined the metrics by which independent contractors can be classified as employees. As a quick recap, there are two legal cases which define what the role of an independent contractor are; for years the law was defined by *S.G. Borello & Sons, Inc. v. Dept. of Industrial Relations (1989)* and since AB5 the law has been changed to use the litmus test in a more recent case *Dynamex Operations West, Inc. v. Superior Court (2018)*. This change in designation has major consequences for contractors within the forest products industry, chiefly there is concern with one of the provisions which states that employers cannot hire independent contractor entities to conduct jobs within the normal operating scope of the work that they perform. This is a major problem for landowners that may have their own foresters, biologists, trucking, planting, or logging crews, because it would mean that they could not contract with independent contractors to expand their capacity in boom years. Within AB 2257 are a list of professions that are exempt from AB 5, and the newest version of AB 2257 included Registered Professional Foresters as exempt. We recognize that this does not solve the problem entirely, but there was not much time for deliberation given covid's impact on the legislature, and we felt that a bird in hand is worth two in the bush.

CLFA Legislative Update (9-1-20)

Bill #	Subject	Position	Status
AB 235 (Maves)	Candidate species: tak-ings	Watch	Failed
AB 464 (Garcia)	Climate change: wildfire emissions	Watch	Failed
AB 1850 (Gonzalez)	Worker classification: independent contractors	Support if Amended	Failed
AB 1659 (Bloom)	Wildfire Funding: IOU surcharge	Watch	Failed
AB 2257 (Gonzalez)	Worker classification: independent contractors	Support	Passed, to Governor
AB 2371 (Friedman)	Climate adaptation: advisory team and funding	Watch	Failed
AB 2954 (Rivas)	Climate change: natural and working lands	Watch	Failed
AB 3030 (Kalra)	Land and ocean conservation goals	Watch	Failed
AB 3074 (Friedman)	Defensible space: ember resistant zones	Watch	Passed, to Governor



Legislative cont.

AB 3030 (Kalra)	Land and ocean conservation goals	Watch	Failed
AB 3074 (Friedman)	Defensible space: ember resistant zones	Watch	Passed, to Governor
AB 3164 (Friedman)	WUI: wildfire risk model guidelines	Watch	Passed, to Governor
SB 69 (Weiner)	Ocean resiliency	Neutral	Failed
SB 182 (Jackson)	Wildfires: planning and zoning	Watch	Passed, to Governor
SB 474 (Stern)	SRA: development prohibition	Watch	Failed
SB 515 (Caballero)	PUC: high hazard fuel zone	Support	Failed
SB 989 (B. Dahle)	Sierra Nevada Conservancy	Watch	Failed
SB 1199 (McGuire)	Commission on Home Hardening	Watch	Failed
SB 1348 (Stern)	Defensible space: forest management	Neutral	Failed



Water/Wildlife/Botney

Mark Pugsley — Committee Chair

WATER QUALITY

North Coast: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast>

The Board last met on August 20th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the agenda is. Agenda: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/northcoast/board_info/board_meetings/08_2020/pdf/August%20,%202020%20Agenda_200813.pdf

The next Board meeting is scheduled for October 15 & 16th in Santa Rosa; the agenda is not yet available:

Central Valley: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/>

The Board last met on August 13 & 14th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the agenda is. Agenda: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_info/meetings/2020/2008ag.pdf

The next meeting is scheduled for October 15 & 16th in Redding; the agenda is not yet available.

Lahontan: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/>

The Board last met August 10 and 25th in a closed session via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the agenda is. Agendas:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda/2020/aug/081020_agenda.pdf

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda/2020/august_2020_agenda_announcement.pdf

The next scheduled meetings are on September 1st, 8th, 15th, 16th, 22th, and 29th in closed sessions via teleconference. Agendas: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan/board_info/agenda/2020_schedule.html

Central Coast: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/>

The Board last met on July 16th via teleconference. No forestry action items were on the agenda. Minutes are not yet available but the agenda is. Agenda: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/board_info/agendas/2020/jul/index.html

The next meeting is scheduled for September 10-11 Location and format to be determined; the agenda is not yet available.



Water/Wildlife/Botney cont.

WILDLIFE

The Fish and Game Commission: <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/meetings/2020/index.aspx>

The Fish and Game Commission (FGC) last met on August 19 and 20th via Teleconference. The Commission discussed the potential act of listing the Western Joshua Tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) as endangered or threatened under CESA. Minutes are not yet available. Agenda of meeting: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=181827&inline>

The next FGC meeting is scheduled for September 17th via teleconference. The agenda is not yet available:

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Coastal DPS of Pacific Marten (*Martes caurina*)- *The USFWS announced on August 31st the Coastal DPS of the Pacific Marten warrants listing under the ESA. The DPS is likely entirely comprised of the Humboldt Marten (*Martes caurina humboldtensis*) Subspecies which is listed as Endangered under CESA. The Pacific Marten listing was deemed appropriate due to habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of historic timber harvesting practices and catastrophic wildfires in the region. The Federal Register document for this species is unavailable as of the publication of the newsletter.*

Botany

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection- The Board last met August 7th. A discussion of Amendments to the Staff Report on Botanical Resource and the Timber Harvest Process occurred. Minutes are not yet available. Agenda: <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/business/meeting-agendas-and-annual-schedules/>

The Next BOF meeting is scheduled for September 22-24th location and format to be decided. The agenda is not yet available.



LICENSING

Robert Little—Chair

August 26,2020 Report from the Licensing Committee.

For this meeting, I met with Dan Stapleton, Assistant Executive Officer, Foresters Licensing. These meetings are being conducted remotely.

RPF Examinations: October Exam stats: approximately 66 people will sit for the RPF exam and one will sit for the CRM exam. Of this total, 11 applications are still in final review by PFEC.

The number of applicants for each exam site is: Shingle Springs- 16. Redding- 16. Eureka- 11. Ft Bragg- 6. Santa Rosa-10. Visalia- 4. Sacramento- 4.

There will be a higher level of work required at these locations for dealing with each counties health protocols. PFEC is in the process of sending out Covid-19 mitigation plans for each county to review. Proctor training will be in September and the likely location will be in Williams. The Covid-19 Protocols for proctors will be part of the training in September.

Thank you to the membership for proctor interest. This still remains a moving target but most of the needed commitments have been filled. Additional help may be needed in Ft. Bragg and Santa Rosa but these may be satisfied/confirmed in the immediate future.

RPF Licensing: Even after the recent adjustment of RPF renewal fees, there remains strong renewal activity at normal levels. The 30-year RPF fee helped retained many foresters in that classification, and in fact several foresters came out of withdrawal status because of this.

PFEC Policy. A continuation of review and revisions to policy was conducted. The goal of the update is to keep policy simple and generalized while making language consistent with definitions and processes. The goal is to more closely describe regulation requirements.

Work continues on the directory held by Professional Foresters Registration. The goal is to provide two lists with certain standards of information.

1. A Statewide consumer list. This is essentially the confidential list, used for verification of ID and RPF license status purposes only.

2. The Consulting Forester list. This will be the public list, and is being improved to allow RPFs to indicate geographic preference of where they provide service and information about the types of projects they perform, (i.e. Forest Practice projects, State grants, Federal Grants). [Improvements to this list are intended to help the public find RPF's serving their area, and the types of projects RPF's provide services for.](#)

RPF Vital Statistics: The following summarizes a presentation to the BOF on August 19, 2020.

- Currently there are 1,145 valid RPF licenses and 87 valid CRM licenses.
- There were 8 requests for RPF withdrawals
- There were 6 RPF voluntary relinquishments
- There are 4 RPF deceased

The date of the next PFEC meeting is still being determined, (likely November) and will be posted on the BOF / PFEC Committee web-page.



CalTREES

It's Ready: New Look for CalTREES System Portal!

The new CalTREES System portal (<https://caltreesplans.resources.ca.gov/caltrees>) was released on August 28, 2020. The purpose of the change is to make the site easier to navigate and help you to get to information quickly. The new interface has a new “Reports” page that is more strategically located on the homepage and with one-click you can reach a full list of reports that are available. This will help you to swiftly reach the reports page and get the needed information. Similar changes have been made regarding the ability to reach the timber harvesting plan search page.

If you log into the CalTREES system, the page to access the online Emergencies and Exemptions is more intuitive, as well as accessing the Public Comment and Notification Request pages.

CalTREES continues to provide valuable information about timber harvesting while making your interactions with us more efficient, convenient, and interactive. The system features easy-to-use forms, error checking, real-time reporting and analytics, and the ability to submit, track, and update timber harvesting documents on-line via CalTREES.

If you have any questions regarding the new interface, feel free to send them to the CalTREES IT Support Team at CalTREES.support@fire.ca.gov.

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Thanks!

Dennis O. Hall

Dennis O. Hall, RPF #2597
Assistant Deputy Director, Forest Practice

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Forestry Challenge Update Diane Dealey Neill

Hello Friends of the Forestry Challenge,

A lot of things have changed this year! Even though we won't be able to conduct in-person events this fall, we have decided to conduct one statewide virtual Forestry Challenge event for the fall of 2020. More information about the [2020 Virtual Forestry Challenge](#) is available on our [website](#).

With a potential of 120 teams competing in 6 sessions throughout November and December, we are in need of volunteers, specifically presentation judges and foresters for Ask a Forester. If we are at capacity, we'll need 5 Ask a Foresters and 15 presentation judges for each week's session. All activities will be conducted via Zoom. If you are able to commit to a few hours from the comfort of your home or office interacting with these awesome students, please visit the [website](#) and follow the link to the [volunteer registration form](#) under the "2020 Virtual Event" tab at the top of the homepage. In appreciation of your dedication to the program, you will receive a fabulous event t-shirt in advance that you can wear during your Zoom session(s).

Thank you for your ongoing support!

Diane



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[How this email was sent](#)



Save the dates for the 2020 Sprayology Virtual Seminars

Choose from 2 online Sprayology Seminars

Tuesday, September 15th

Thursday, September 24th

4 hours CEU's per seminar

Attend both dates for a total of 8 hours CEU's

Keynote Topics:

Alternative Total Vegetation Control Programs

New Products from Corteva

Post Emerge

Pre-emergent

Custom blending

Looking forward to good things to come? Us, too.

*This is a save the date only—for more information go to - <http://caforestpestcouncil.org/>
For updated registration info.*



2020 CLFA BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

BOARD MEETINGS

- ◆ September 26, 2020—9:00 am—2:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ October 20, 2020—6:00 pm—8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ November 21, 2020—TBD
- ◆ December—Dark
- ◆ January 23, 2021—9:00 am—2:00 pm—Granzellas, Williams, CA
- ◆ February 23, 2021—6:00 pm—8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ March 4, 2021—11:00 am—4:00 pm—Gaia, Anderson
- ◆ April 20, 2021—6:00 pm—8:00 pm—GoToMeeting
- ◆ May 21, 2021—6:00 pm—CLFA Audit
- ◆ May 22, 2021—9:00 am—2:00 pm—Granzellas, Williams, CA

CLFA WORKSHOPS / CONFERENCES

- ◆ October 26-30, 2020—Initial 5-day Archaeology Class—Gaia, Anderson – ***Class is Full - If you would like to be on the waiting list contact Kathleen—admin@clfa.org***
- ◆ November 11 & 12, 2020 Archaeology Refreshers—Gaia, Anderson—***these are the only refresher classes that will be offered in 2020.***
- ◆ November 2020—two field days—date and location TBD
- ◆ March 5 & 6, 2021—Spring Workshop, Gaia Hotel & Spa, Anderson, CA
- ◆ **Registrations are being accepted for the fall 2021 5-day archaeology class—spring class is full. If interested email Kathleen Burr @ admin@clfa.org - no 2021 dates has been selected.**

2020/2021 CLFA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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