

# Placer County Tree Mortality Landowner Assistance Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## **Why are so many trees dying?**

- Trees throughout California are dying at an increased rate due to a combination of drought and bark beetle infestation.
- While this has primarily occurred in the Southern Sierras to date, Placer County is now seeing an increased rate of tree mortality that is expected to last the next 3-5 years.
- Governor Brown has declared a tree mortality state of emergency for the entire state. Ten counties, including Placer County, have been prioritized for assistance.

## **Who is working on this issue in Placer County?**

- The Placer County Tree Mortality Task Force (TMTF) is an inter-agency effort to coordinate on all aspects of the tree mortality issue, such as public outreach, resource and funding identification and procurement, and landowner assistance.
- Collectively, we are doing as much as possible to slow the bark beetle infestation, remove dead and dying trees, and maintain healthy forests.

## **Who is responsible to remove dead and dying trees?**

- Private landowners have the primary responsibility to manage the natural resources, including trees, on their properties.
- State law requires landowners to maintain 100-feet of defensible space (reduced fuels) around their homes.
- All dead and dying trees should be removed. Trees with bark beetles should be felled, and either covered with plastic or chipped, to eliminate the beetles.
- Public agencies at the local, state, and federal levels have varying strategies and resources to deal with dead trees on their properties.

## **Is there any assistance available for private landowners?**

- Placer Resource Conservation District (RCD) is available to answer your questions and/or visit your property to provide site-specific advice. You are welcome to fill out a "Landowner Assistance Request Form." Placer RCD can help determine your eligibility for various funding assistance programs.
- The partners of the Placer TMTF are working together to identify what funding may be available to assist landowners.
- If you own at least 3 acres of forestland property and have a minimum of 4 dead conifers/acre, you may qualify for cost-share assistance through USDA NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).
- If you own at least 20 acres of forestland property, you may qualify for forest management cost-share assistance through CalFIRE's California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP). This may not include dead tree removal.
- PG&E is falling and removing dead trees along powerlines. Contact PG&E to see if you qualify for assistance.
- Placer TMTF is working to identify solutions for biomass removal and treatment.

For more information, visit these online resources:

Placer County Tree Mortality Page: [www.placer.ca.gov/trees](http://www.placer.ca.gov/trees)

Cal Fire Bark Beetle Page: <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Bark-Beetles-Dead-Trees/>