



The County of El Dorado

Chief Administrative Office

330 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667-4197

Don Ashton,
Chief Administrative Officer

Phone (530) 621-5530
Fax (530) 626-5730

August 2, 2016

Peter Crase
CAL OES Recovery Program Manager
3650 Schriever Ave.
Mather, CA 95655

Re: Application for CDAA – Tree Mortality

Dear Mr. Crase,

El Dorado County Tree Mortality Background

On October 30, 2015, Governor Brown proclaimed a State of Emergency due to unprecedented tree mortality caused by the conditions of extreme drought and related bark beetle infestations. The Governor's Emergency Proclamation contains 18 distinct actions that direct state agencies, utilities and local governments to remove dead or dying trees in high hazard areas across the entire State of California.

On March 28, 2016, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors declared a state of emergency due to pervasive tree mortality in El Dorado County.

The County of El Dorado alone lacks the capacity and resources to address this expanding emergency that threatens County infrastructure. The Board's adoption of Resolution 053-2016 enabled the County to start the process to seek State and possibly federal funding and demonstrated the County's intent to partner with State, federal, and local agencies and with private partners in order to immediately and effectively address tree mortality throughout the County.

On May 17, 2016, the Board of Supervisors approved the County's Tree Mortality Hazard Tree Removal Plan and allowed for the process of assessing the amount of dead trees that are threatening County maintained road infrastructure by transferring funds to the Community Development Agency to complete the count. The Facilities Division is also completing a dead tree count on County property that threatens County infrastructure.

Through the tree count, the County estimates that it has approximately 3,100 trees to remove that threaten county infrastructure (e.g. County roads or County buildings). Of the 3,100 trees that need removal, approximately 2,800 are threatening County roads and 300 are threatening County buildings and other

infrastructure. These numbers are just estimates of the number of dead and diseased trees to be removed due to the threat to County-owned infrastructure. The number of dead and diseased trees could increase over the summer and fall. It is important to note that trees marked for actual removal under CDAA must come at the recommendation of Registered Professional Foresters (RPFs) or Certified Arborists.

Order of Magnitude Scope and Cost

The following information on estimates on the number of dead diseased trees to be removed due to their threat to County-owned infrastructure (e.g. County roads and properties) are just estimates and the numbers could increase (e.g. due to continued tree mortality). Field observation made by County staff place the number of trees that need removing to date at approximately 3,100. This includes approximately 2,800 trees along County maintained roads and approximately 300 threatening County buildings.

What is the cost to remove the trees? El Dorado County followed the Tuolumne County cost methodology of removal and cleanup of a tree after receiving similar cost estimates from local experts, which is \$1,000 per tree. The County understands that the cost for each tree can be extremely different due to the environment from which it is being extracted. For example, in a residential area it will take more equipment to extract trees due to their proximity to homes and other structures. In addition, the \$1,000 figure includes the clean-up of debris.

Share of Cost/Funding

Under CDAA, the State will fund 75% of all eligible costs with the remaining 25% share to be the responsibility of the participating local government. Therefore, given the scope and cost outlined above, the share of the cost for trees to be removed related to County owned infrastructure alone would be as follows:

State	\$2,329,500
County	\$776,500
Total	<hr/> \$3,106,000

The County has many different potential sources to help with the 25 percent match:

- 1) Pursuit of Federal funding to reduce the local match requirement
- 2) Maximize reimbursement for the value of the timber removed
- 3) Pursuit of grants (federal and utility)
- 4) Donated resources (e.g. volunteer hours of work, materials or equipment)
- 5) Use the \$250,000, over two fiscal years, as a match for the tree mortality emergency grant

It should be noted that these costs are expected to be borne over at least a two year period as the drought is not over, as stated above; more trees are expected to die or become diseased. These trees will take time to remove and dispose of due to the large amount of material. As new tree mortality estimates are made next spring/summer, an evaluation of the County's tree mortality budget will be made.

Plan Implementation

With Cal OES approval of the County's Tree Mortality Removal Plan and CDAA application, El Dorado County staff will return with additional details on how it would like to proceed in implementing the plan. This will include a discussion on a professional services agreement with

a local firm that specializes in such work, proposed projects for the fiscal year, and update the budget through the addenda process for all the work anticipated to occur this fiscal year.