

SUDDEN OAK DEATH HAZARD TREE PROPOSAL APPROVED

Date: April 8, 2002

SACRAMENTO—The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (BOF) along with the California Oak Mortality Task Force (COMTF) announced the approval of the "Marin County Sudden Oak Death Hazard Tree Assessment, Removal, and Restoration Plan" today. "We are very excited to see this project get underway. The California counties* known to have Sudden Oak Death (SOD) have been handling this growing economic burden and potentially hazardous situation on their own until now," said COMTF Chair Mark Stanley.

The State of California, through the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), will provide up to \$1,296,000 of reimbursement funding to the 10 participating counties for costs incurred in mitigating the effects of SOD. To be eligible for reimbursement, each county must receive BOF approval of a hazardous tree assessment, removal, and restoration plan. Marin County's plan was the first to be submitted. With a contract in place, counties can act upon their plans and then file necessary documentation with CDF for reimbursement of their costs.

"While this project will provide much needed assistance, it only touches the surface of the financial impact and tree removal needs for counties heavily impacted by Sudden Oak Death," said BOF Chairman Stan Dixon. As in the case of Marin County, epicenter of SOD, the funds will only cover approximately 10 percent of the SOD infected hazardous tree needs.

*Alameda, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma