

SUDDEN OAK DEATH FOUND IN SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY

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SAN FRANCISCO—The California Department of Food and Agriculture has announced the confirmation of two Sudden Oak Death-infected coast live oak trees in Golden Gate Park. As a result of the confirmations, San Francisco County is the 14th county* known-to-be-infested with *Phytophthora ramorum*, the pathogen that causes Sudden Oak Death. As a regulated county, San Francisco will be required to follow State and federal quarantine guidelines for the disease.

The positive confirmations were identified in the eastern portion of the park, in the AIDS Memorial Grove. Visited by thousands of people annually, the oaks in the grove are part of a small group of native vegetation in Golden Gate Park. "The confirmation of Sudden Oak Death in Golden Gate Park is unfortunate. Less than 10 percent of the park's forest canopy is comprised of oaks, and the vast majority of those oaks are located in the eastern portion of the park. Once we finish assessing the scope of the disease, we will develop and implement a proactive approach to its management and suppression," said Dan McKenna, Citywide Services Superintendent.

San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department spokeswoman Rose Marie Dennis continued, "In addition, the public should be advised to clean their shoes, bike tires, and pets' paws after walking in the AIDS Memorial Grove. This will help stop the spread of the disease into other parts of Golden Gate Park, as well as to other locations that do not yet have this disease."

The infected trees were found on a ridge, next to a trail, among other plants susceptible to *Phytophthora ramorum*. The detections were made during a survey conducted by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as part of a national effort to determine where the pathogen is throughout the US. Surveying efforts in the area are ongoing; results from other symptomatic oak, California bay laurel, and camellia are pending.

All counties regulated for *Phytophthora ramorum* have confirmed pathogen presence in natural settings. To date, more than 60 plant species are known-to-be-affected by this pathogen, with tens of thousands of oak and tanoak trees having died from Sudden Oak Death in California.

For more information, contact Katie Palmieri, Pacific Southwest Research Station and California Oak Mortality Task Force public information officer, at (510) 847-5482. For general information on Sudden Oak Death or the COMTF, go to the Task Force website at: www.suddenoakdeath.org. For information on the National Survey, go to: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/fhm/>. For more information on the San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department, please contact the General Manager's Office at (415) 831-2701 or visit the website at: www.parks.sfgov.org.

