



News Advisory

SUDDEN OAK DEATH AERIAL MONITORING INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS

Date: April 19, 2006

**Contact: Katie Palmieri
Information Officer
(510) 847-5482**

CENTRAL COAST—The USDA Forest Service and collaborators* will begin their 6th year of Sudden Oak Death (SOD) aerial survey monitoring in mid-May. Aerial surveys in central and southern California will take place in Monterey, Western San Benito, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties. Areas found to have oak mortality will be followed up with ground-check surveys. Samples of symptomatic host species, including oaks, tanoaks, and California bay laurel trees will then be collected for laboratory diagnosis.

Cooperation from landowners, by granting access to their property for the ground surveys, will be crucial to the success of the monitoring program. Informational meetings will be held for community members and landowners to learn more about the program and the importance of their participation.

**When: Thursday, May 4, 2006
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Where: San Luis Obispo Co. Sheriff's Department Offices
Conference Room
356 North Main Street
Templeton, CA 93465**

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**When: Friday, May 5, 2006
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.**

**Where: San Luis Obispo Co. Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Downstairs Auditorium
2156 Sierra Way
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401**

*Collaborators include: USDA Forest Service; California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo; and UC Davis.

Sudden Oak Death, the plant disease caused by the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum*, has killed hundreds of thousands of oaks and tanoaks along California's central coast. The flyovers and ground surveys are crucial in understanding the full scope of infection and facilitating the development of a proactive disease management program.

If you have any questions about the USDA FS monitoring program, please contact Lisa Bell, SOD Monitoring Outreach Coordinator at: (866) GOT-OAKS or lisabell@fs.fed.us. For more information on Sudden Oak Death, contact Katie Palmieri at: (510) 847-5482 or go to: www.suddenoakdeath.org.

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