



California Urban Forests Council – 6.12.17 – Executive Director’s Report

Federal Policy Update - President Trump’s budget has zeroed-out urban and community forestry for next year. Efforts are underway to reach-out to congressional representatives via Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition to influence change. I will keep you updated on this, but if this comes to pass it could mean the end of our Forest Service funding. Attached are the two letters that SUFC has sent to each House and specific subcommittees asking to have the funding restored.

Forest Service Regional Update – no update

Forest Service Funding – We also received a small grant, funded by the Forest Service) through CityPlants (City of LA’s urban forestry program) to have Deb create a logo and new look and feel for the LA Center for Urban Natural Resources Sustainability’s new website - and that work has just wrapped up. Deb will give you more information on that.

Forest Service Research –I attended the Partners Meeting on 6/5/17 at the LA Center for Urban Natural Resources Sustainability where the latest round of Fellows presented their research findings from funds/grants given through the Forest Service. The event was well attended by Forest Service researchers and staff, related industry professionals from across CA and especially Los Angeles agencies and nonprofit folks. I have been involved with the Center since its inception over five years ago and still remain on the advisory committee.

CalFire – We received our CIRCLE 2.0 grant funding through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction funds of \$1 million! Most of that goes out to our vendors but it is helpful to a certain extent to cover a bit of my time and administrator’s time, and some overhead. This has a much-expanded community outreach element that I think is important. I have already signed the contract and returned it to CAL FIRE; once we get our signed copies back we can begin work. That should be any day. We’ve held our first planning call with the team. It is good work and we should be very proud of version 1.0’s success!

We have not heard back yet on the proposal submitted for the High Speed Rail grant for \$500k, but imagine we will hear soon.

The City of Merced also received a grant and we will be a small part of this – working with the local community college and other organizations on the outreach portion but that will be implemented in 2018.

We are still waiting for our final version of our new TreeMap and Greenhouse Gas Calculator to come from our vendors but it should be up and running on our website very soon.



We are acting as a fiscal sponsor for our Inland Urban Forest Council on a small grant from CAL FIRE for the Urban Forest Management Plan Toolkit website. Nancy Sappington from the Inland Council will be offering trainings and workshops on how to use the tool.

As you know, we received \$52,000 to extend Deb's employment via CAL FIRE/Forest Service – this will carry us into early next year.

CAL FIRE also stepped-up with a \$10k sponsorship.

CUFAC (California Urban Forestry Advisory Committee) – I attended my first CUFAC meeting in approximately three years (I was a member of the first installment of participants and then rolled off after two years). This is the advisory body to John Melvin and CAL FIRE regarding urban forestry. The first group of members crafted a strategic plan and it expires next year, so work will begin on revisions over the next year.

Other State Funding: ABAG submitted the Urban Greening Grant application within which we may have a role in community organizing but no word on this yet.

State Policy Update –

- AB1530 continues to move forward – it has moved to Senate Committees and appears to be smooth sailing there.
- There is also language under review for a Park Bond Measure in the event that the Legislature and Governor do not approve the one moving through chambers of the legislature. We have been part of this conversation and will continue with it for now. If the Bond Measure comes to pass we will need to discuss our position on it formally as a political effort will then unfold.
- There will be not opportunity to generate funds to address the pest issues via State budget until later this summer as the budget process had been well underway when we approached the sub-committees.
- CSG (Conservation Strategy Group) is now working in DC as well as California and we participated in a call discussing CA's issues and needs along with other CSG clients. Not clear yet if there is a fit with the SUFC approach, as it is a unified effort for national funding, not state-by-state, but we will continue to discuss with CSG.

Program Updates –

- **CIRCLE Project (Cap & Trade Funding)** – no update
- **Conferences** – Please go to the website to see our amazing agenda! And please register! <https://caufc.org/programs/conference-2017/>
- **Communications** – see Deb's report
- **Workshops** - the Central Coast Regional Council had a great event on May 25th with Dr. Matt Ritter, from Cal Poly, as the keynote. The City of Lompoc hosted the event and it was well attended.
- **Regional Councils** – ordering new pull-up displays for each council. Deb is in the process of designing them.



Other Issues/Opportunities:

- Audit – The auditors working on the Federal/Forest Service Audit from last December called me Thursday, June 8th, (day before leaving for vacation) wanting additional information and to schedule two – two hour phone interviews. Needless to say this was a bit stress inducing, coming out of the blue, leaving for vacation the next day. I contacted Miranda Hutten, our Forest Service Program Manager, and Beverly Smith, our Forest Service Grants Manager (both stewarded us through the December process) to let them know. Miranda and Bev instructed me to tell the auditors that we need to receive 60 days notice in these matters and that the Forest Service needs to be contacted first. There has been no communication since but it appears a good deal more time may be going into the Federal Audit. I'll keep you posted.

In terms of our own audit – it will be moved to the Fall, after the conference sometime.

- Office relocation update – no update
- Finding funding for the conference and the pest issues is vitally important – please share your ideas.
- Our new Administrator, Morgan McCurdy, is learning quickly and taking on responsibility easily and affectively. You will all get to meet her at the conference!

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hughes