



## California Urban Forests Council – 8.11.17 – Executive Director’s Report

### **Federal Policy Update** – Update from Sustainable Urban Forest Coalition -

**National Appropriations Update** - As you know, the President's Budget for FY 2018 proposed to eliminate the national Urban & Community Forestry Program managed by the Forest Service.

Since the budget was released, the SUFC Coalition members have been working hard to maintain historical funding and reaching out to their elected representatives in both the House and Senate. The Coalition's Policy Working Group, together with the National Arbor Day Foundation's Alliance for Community Trees Program, also conducted a webinar to explain the budget process and how we all can be more effective advocates for Urban and Community Forestry and national appropriations. Over 200 people attended the call, hosted by Dana Karcher from the Alliance for Community Trees/Arbor Day Foundation. SUFC Policy Co-Chairs Rebecca Turner, from American Forests, and Danielle Watson, from the Society of American Foresters, were guest speakers. [You can view the recording here](#) (please note that you'll need to submit your name and email to view it).

The good news is the House has released their budget numbers for FY 2018, and they allocated \$27.3 million for the national program -- \$716,000 below last year. As Becky Turner said, "All things considered, this is a win for us and we should be pleased with our work thus far. We've got to keep the pressure on the Senate for a similar level."

### **Forest Service Regional Update** – no update

### **Forest Service Funding** – no update

**Forest Service Research** –we are going to press with one of our infographics that Deb has completed citing some of Dr. Greg McPherson’s research

**CalFire** –We have heard preliminary feedback that our proposal for the High Speed Rail grant for \$500k will be accepted, and we were asked if we can handle more funds. I said yes, though staffing will need to be addressed, etc. Exciting.

We are still waiting for our final version of our new TreeMap and Greenhouse Gas Calculator to come from our vendors. Changes are still being made.

### **State Policy Update** –

**AB1530 continues to move forward** – AB1530 is “under attack” in the 11<sup>th</sup> hour as a money grab (my words) from the CA Conservation Corps. Also, the Finance folks at the Governor’s office do not like the word “shall” which was added to the CALFIRE requirements, but prefers the word “may” – essentially taking some of the steam out of the bill. Things are unfolding minute by minute right now.

**Park Bond/Initiative** – also a minute by minute issue – remains to be seen if there will be a bill or a ballot measure.



**Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds** – There will be a auction of carbon offsets credits August 15<sup>th</sup> – the success of this may indicate if there will be more U&CF dollars this for 2018 grants. Since the legislature passed the reauthorization of the GHG Reduction Act with a super majority chances are good that investments will be made.

**Program Updates** –

- **CIRCLE Project (Cap & Trade Funding)** – beginning planning on 2.0 – working to partner with 10 cities – the plantings will be planned for Spring 2018. Held a meeting last month with our contractors on initial planning processes.
- **Conferences** – Please go to the website to see our amazing agenda! And please register! <https://caufc.org/programs/conference-2017/>. Deb and I are pretty much working on nothing else as time allows.
- **Our 2018 conference will be held in Irvine, CA** – in partnership on some level with the Arbor Day Foundation and their national conference. It will be in November, wrapping up our birthday year.
- **Communications** – see Deb’s report
- **Workshops** - will begin planning a series of them through the end of the year after Labor Day.
- **Regional Councils** – nearly all will be attending the conference!

**Other Issues/Opportunities:**

- Audit – waiting to hear from the auditor for our two-day phone interviews coming up after the conference.
- How’s your fundraising coming?
- **Registrations for the conference is improving but it is sad for me to see our board members are not planning on attending (for the most part).** You are missing an awesome event! Please support this endeavor yourselves! **You each should be donating a silent auction item to the event too. Reach out to Dorothy Abeyta with your Silent Auction donations – much appreciated!** [dorothy.abeyta@davey.com](mailto:dorothy.abeyta@davey.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
*Nancy Hughes*