



## California Urban Forests Council – 9.8.17 – Executive Director’s Report

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

National Appropriations Update – There is a continuing resolution agreed upon by President Trump and the Democratic leadership which takes the pressure off the immediate funding for urban and community forestry funding in the short term.

Forest Service Regional Update – participated on the Los Angeles Center for Urban Natural Resource Sustainability quarterly advisory call in preparation for later this year and next year’s strategic planning and implementation.

Forest Service Funding – we will be moving forward on our proposal for 2018-2019 funding in the upcoming weeks. The Forest Service will be sharing CA’s allocation with John Melvin from CAL FIRE then I will begin negotiations with him soon. Our proposal from earlier this year to bring on staff to help build on our desire to invest in Marin County is back on Jan Davis’s desk in DC – it is a priority project if additional funds are released for U&CF projects. No idea on when that will be.

Forest Service Research –We awarded Dr. Greg McPherson with an Urban Tree Legacy Award at our conference’s Tree Hugger’s Soiree – he is the researcher that far and away has influenced our industry’s trajectory with good science that demonstrates the contributions trees make.

CalFire –We have submitted a revised proposal (upon request from CAL FIRE) for our High Speed Rail application, tripling our request to \$1.5 Million. We should know soon. If this is awarded we will be adding staff to manage a separate portion of the grant which includes Energy Saving Trees program from the Arbor Day Foundation.

We are still waiting for our final version of our new TreeMap and Greenhouse Gas Calculator to come from our vendors. We will hear from CA ARB soon, most likely with their approval, for the broader community to begin using our tool.

### **State Policy Update** –

From Alfredo at Conservation Strategy Group - Late last week both park bond bills, AB 18 (E. Garcia) and SB 5 (de León), were heard in and passed by policy committee in the opposite house - AB 18 in Senate Natural Resources & Water and SB in Assembly Water, Parks, and Wildlife. We are aware of the two houses and the Administration negotiating on language and dollar amounts over the weekend and are still picking up intel about how those negotiations are panning out.

One interesting string that we have picked up is that the Assembly leadership that is involved in the negotiations could be targeting some of the climate resilience funds, which include the UF investments that are in SB 5. We are actively working with Assembly



offices, to ensure that this does not happen. We will be sure to keep you in the loop as that conversation continues, and if we need to, will activate you to reach out to legislators.

A main obstacle to the passage of a parks bond is a deal on housing. Coming out of cap and trade, there was an agreement to put a housing package together and that it would be the priority for the end of session. This package is hitting a roadblock in that one of the key bills, SB 2 (Atkins) which would increase fees on transaction documents to help pay for a bond, is falling short of the necessary 2/3 vote. If SB 2 does not pass then there is no housing package (according to various reports of what the Governor wants) and then it is likely no deal is reached on Parks.

SB 5 as was amended Wednesday to reflect agreements reached in the Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee. The amendments increase the amount of funding for Per Capita and Salton Sea, priorities of Asm. Eduardo Garcia, and eliminates funding for IRWM to keep the size of the bond lower. The changes are:

- The bond total is now up to \$3.99B
- Per capita is up \$40M to a total of \$240M
- Increases Salton Sea by \$250M to a total of \$280M
- The \$125M for IRWM funding is eliminated

**Program Updates –**

- **CIRCLE Projects (Cap & Trade Funding)** –1.0 – continuing with ongoing monitoring on last year’s tree planting projects. – 2.0 - working on developing partnerships for community-based education and outreach and finalizing our 10 cities
- **Conferences** – Great success overall, I am pleased to say. About 100 people attended (our goal) and it appears we will be well in the black once all debits and credits are entered (nearly finished. I have a rough estimate of net profits but please don’t hold me to this quite yet – between \$10k-\$11k. Thank you to those of you that contributed to the silent auction and volunteered to help our success. We also previewed our latest flyers and infographics for members and supporters to use.
- **Our 2018 conference will be held in Irvine, CA** – in partnership on some level with the Arbor Day Foundation at their national conference, along with California ReLeaf. 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 – we will begin work on these next week.
- **Regional Councils** –all attended the conference! We had new pull-up banners for all councils and it made the conference look attractive and professional.

**Other Issues/Opportunities:**

- **Audits** – Heard from the Forest Service today and we were told that we would be getting a close-out letter by the end of September! This means there will be no



two-day phone interview, and that we must have done a fairly good job, though I am sure there will be some findings – as is an auditor’s responsibility. I feel a huge weight lifted.

This is entirely up to the board, but I would like to request our moving our internal audit to next Spring and do 2017 rather than go back now and do 2016. I ask this simply so we can get a head of steam on our new endeavors around the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, etc.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Nancy Hughes*