



California Urban Forests Council – 11.11.17 – Executive Director's Report

Federal Policy Update –From Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition

Appropriations Update

SUFC continues to monitor amendments to the omnibus bill, which is scheduled for early December. SUFC members are encouraged to continue to contact elected representatives and ask for FY17 levels for our program priorities, especially the Urban and Community Forestry program.

SUFC Farm Bill Recommendations

The **Farm Bill**, enacted every five years, provides the framework through which Congress enacts, amends and/or repeals a wide range of agricultural and conservation programs. The Farm Bill has often been the vehicle for changes and improvements to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, and in turn, to urban and community forestry.

In response to this window of opportunity, members of the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition developed a set of three recommendations designed to deliver economic, environmental, social, and health benefits through urban trees and green infrastructure.

SUFC members urge their constituents and partners to support the recommendations and pro-actively advocate for an inclusive 2012 Farm Bill that addresses urban and rural issues. Below are the list of background information documents and others designed as leave-behind materials (i.e., SUFC Executive Summary). The recent webinar, [Farm Bill: Call to Action](#), provides an summary of the recommendation development process, an overview of the recommendations, and how to take action on behalf of the urban forest.

- a. [SUFC Farm Bill Re-Authorization Recommendations, Executive Summary \(High Resolution Print Media Version\)](#)
- b. [SUFC Farm Bill Factsheet](#)
- c. [SUFC Talking Points - 2012 Farm Bill](#)
- d. [SUFC ACTION ALERT Farm Bill 2012](#)
- e. [Letter from SUFC to House Ag. Committee SUFC re: Recommendations on 2012 Farm Bill](#)
- f. [Letter from SUFC to Senate Ag. Committee SUFC re: Recommendations on 2012 Farm Bill](#)
- g. [House Agricultural Committee Members](#)
- h. [Senate Agricultural Committee Members](#)

Forest Service Regional Update – attended the November 2-3, 2017 for the LA Center Advisory Committee meeting working on the Strategic Focus for research not only in LA but statewide.

Forest Service Funding – Our budget has been increased to \$155,000 for July 2018-June 2019. There is \$5,000 included to develop a parklet for the Forest Service next February at the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference in San Francisco February 2018. The other \$20k has gone into salaries to help keep staff on-board. Otherwise, very similar to years past.

Forest Service Research –I was part of a group that met on 10/31/17 with Alex Friend, Director of the Southwest Research Station within which the urban forestry research work is done. Dr. Greg McPherson is retiring. This was a listening session by Forest Service leadership to better understand what we in CA think to be important. Funding is very limited so how the remaining funds will be spent is TBD. It is promising that they see the importance of this research but a bit dismal in terms of the important research actually being done.



CalFire – I have signed the High Speed Rail contract and returned it to CAL FIRE for signatures. We should be working on this before the end of the month, with a budget of \$1.5 Million and a timeframe till March 2020.

Our new TreeMap and Greenhouse Gas Calculator are both about to be launched. CAL FIRE U&CF will be using the Calculator on their next round of grant applications and Davey Institute will present on the tool at the Arbor Day Partners Conference next week. Please be advised, we are only one partner on the tool; Davey, the Forest Service, Arbor Day, etc., are all involved in its delivery, but it was our design and push for a better mouse-trap regarding calculating carbon sequestrating and other associated tree benefits, and our funds that helped to make it a reality – with the intention of helping those in CA be successful.

City of Merced – we will be working with Dave Resources and the City on their community outreach efforts in 2018 and 2019. Details are in the development stages. I attended a meeting in Merced on October 27th to begin the planning process. With City staff.

CUFAC – No update

State Policy Update –
NO updates

Program Updates –

- **CIRCLE Projects (Cap & Trade Funding)** – moving along with our contractors and cities nicely. I met with West Coast Arborists (our contractor on CIRCLE 1.0, 2.0 and High Speed Rail last week for a planning session designing an approach into next year.
- **Conferences** – 2018 in Irvine in partnership with Arbor Day Foundation and CA ReLeaf.
- **Communications** – see Deb’s report
- **Workshops** – one last workshop scheduled for December 7th in San Luis Obispo working with the Central Coast Regional Council.
- **Regional Councils** –reached out to councils to begin plans for next year and what we can chose to do collectively for our 50th birthday. Held a call with the council leadership and it appears they want to focus on a joint effort at the conference next November. More on this as it unfolds.

Other Issues/Opportunities:

- Taxes are completed and submitted along with documents for the Attorney General’s office. Need to determine best time to schedule the audit = a discussion with Dave is in order.

Emergency Preparedness – Associated paperwork has been distributed to Emily, Dave and Gordon. A Doodle Poll has been sent out to schedule an on-site meeting in January of 2018 for a training.

Advocacy – It appears we will be partnering with the Resource Conservation Districts and Invasive Pest groups on our advocacy in 2018 in Sacramento as it relates to CSG and the Shot Hole Borer and other issues. There is an Invasive Species Summit in January 2018 aimed at elected officials and staff in Sacramento. I am part of the organizing committee though my role is small.

Partners Conference – Tulsa, OK – November 13-17, 2017 – I’ll be attending the national U&CF conference put on by the Arbor Day Foundation.

I will be meeting with Arbor Day folkd while there regarding next year’s conference.



I will be out of town over the Thanksgiving weekend through Monday November 27th, hanging out with my family in DC.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hughes