



California Urban Forests Council – 2.6.17 – Executive Director’s Report

Federal Policy Update - CaUFC participates with the Sustainable Urban Forests Coalition on their advocacy efforts as much as feasible. Plans are underway for 3/22 & 3/23 educational event and Hill Day in Washington DC.

1. SUFC Annual Hill Day - March 22 (Danielle)

- Volunteers to help organize Hill Day
 - Group leads may be needed on day to escort folks coming in.
- Draft talking points
 - Existing materials are available to review and expand upon
 - President’s budget will not be released until April, but SUFC appropriation levels are relatively constant and part of Hill Day discussion
- Coordinate with Water Week
 - Participation with rally in the morning on the 22nd, followed by afternoon meetings
- Hill Day Training Webinar for mid-March (week before annual meeting)
 - Training for both folks coming to DC and those doing visits at District offices.

2. Farm Bill Recommendations (Becky)

- Volunteers needed to help craft draft recommendations for urban forests
 - Becky is reaching out to NASF, NACD and CISP as possible volunteers
- In person meeting to discuss options generated by subgroup
 - Half day to coordinate recommendations
- Coordinate with Forests in the Farm Bill Coalition
 - FIFB is looking to SUFC to generate urban forest recommendations for their agenda.
 - Reviewing RISC coalition recommendations as it relates to urban forest pests – coordinating messaging among all 3 coalitions.

3. Questions for Governor Perdue’s confirmation hearing for Secretary of Agriculture

- a. SUFC should craft questions for allies on AG Committee for Perdue’s confirmation hearing get for mid to late February.
- b. Good feedback from Georgia Urban Forestry Council—Perdue is big fan of Tree City USA and knows about urban forestry!!
- c. Faith is crafting Pest Questions with an urban focus

Forest Service Regional Update – Miranda Hutten came to the office on January 30, 2017 to perform a programmatic audit. That went fine; no problems.

Forest Service Funding – We were the first organization to get our paperwork submitted and PRIOR to the Trump administration taking over. This is good because we don’t have to wait now for additional submittal reviews. We are good to go. Many others have a longer less predictable wait now for their funding.

Forest Service Research – Deb is working on infographics and other educational materials to support Greg McPherson’s U&CF research. We will have these wrapped up by the end of June.



Federal Advocacy – SUFC advocacy days are tentatively scheduled for March 22nd and 23rd in DC and as of this writing I am planning on attending.

CalFire – No update other than to say that CAL FIRE has been in the review process of the applications. Word whether we will be invited back for the final submittal should come by the end of the month.

Other State Funding: no update

State Policy Update – Still in the strategy stage but we are also working on updates to the Urban Forestry Act of 1978 in partnership with CA ReLeaf, TreePeople, and others – supported by CSG as well.

CaUFC Board of Directors

No update

Program Updates –

CIRCLE Project (Cap & Trade Funding) – no update

- **Conferences** – plan on a small conference in late summer in Marin County – will fill you in at the board meeting
- **Communications** - See Deb's reports
- **Workshops** –nothing firm yet
- **Regional Councils** –The Urban Forest Master Plan Toolkit website has had a reboot, and the Inland Council has submitted a small grant request to the Forest Service for support in maintaining the site, and updating it when needed and offering workshops and doing outreach. San Diego Council has created their own website which you can link to via our website. Many of the councils are busy with educational events as well. I attended the Bay Area Council's event last Friday which was in partnership with the Bay Area Landscape Supervisors' Forum on Trees and Sidewalk Conflict".

Other Issues/Opportunities:

- Budget – we will go through it in detail on 2/16/17
- I've previously run two ads recruiting job applicants for our bookkeeping positions. So far have received about 20 submittals but there are only a handful of strong applicants. I placed a new ad today hopefully eliciting more qualified responses.
- I will be leaving tomorrow to Southern CA trip heading to Pasadena and Anaheim – meeting with Pat Mahoney from West Coast Arborists, one of our valuable funders for our advocacy work; meeting with Rose Epperson from WCISA and our LA/OC Council and I will be attending the Western Tree Symposium event; and meeting with Nancy Sappington from our Inland Council. A meeting with the Forest Service, which was the original reason for going, was cancelled. CSG will be calling in to update Pat on our work with the Labor Union in Sacramento, along with the other work we will be doing. Mike Palat from the San Diego council will be with me at the meeting with Pat.
- Deb and I met with two staff members from the Audubon Society, looking for ways to potentially partner. Also, they may have office rental space which we will be looking into.
- Office update – Dave will be looking at the site in San Rafael/Terra Linda, I still need to meet with my contractor and I am waiting to hear back from Keene!

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hughes