



## California Urban Forests Council – 5.15.17 – Executive Director’s Report

**Federal Policy Update:** - The Congress passed a continuing resolution so the government will function utilizing previous funding levels through September 2017. This is good news but the 2018 budget is where the serious cuts may take place.

**Forest Service Regional Update** – no update

**Forest Service Funding** – no update

**Forest Service Research** – I did not attend the two-day meeting as originally planned due to significant work load here. I attempted to call-in on both days but we ran into technical issues and I was unable to participate.

**Federal Advocacy** – No update

**CalFire** – Submitted final proposals for our CIRCLE grant 2.0 and contribute to the Merced submittal. We also submitted a proposal for the High Speed Rail grant for \$500k. This one is iffy but was worth the try, as we were encouraged to submit.

Our very cool new TreeMap and Greenhouse Gas Calculator will be up and running on our website by sometime next month. We met with the Air Resources Board later in early May and they were very pleased with the presentation made by our contractor Kelaine Ravdin. It appears they will bless the use of the calculator for future projects. They are following up with peer review and background into our process, etc. We will upload the new calculator as soon as a few more changes are made by Davey Institute (i-tree folks). It is a very excellent tool that can be used irrespective of CARB’s approval for their projects.

**Other State Funding:** ABAG submitted the Urban Greening Grant application within which we may have a role in community organizing.

**State Policy Update** –

- AB1530 continues to move forward – it passed out of Assembly Committee on consent two weeks ago and is scheduled for Senate Committee on consent this week – fingers crossed on this. There will be more updates this week.
- We are also focusing on funding for pest issues and solutions, working with John Kabashima, Ca ReLeaf and others.

**Program Updates** –

- **CIRCLE Project (Cap & Trade Funding)** – no update
- **Conferences** – Location changed to Embassy Suites by – The Marin Center, San Rafael, CA – August 23 & 24<sup>th</sup>. The 23<sup>rd</sup> is essentially planned with training on “How to organize a ballot measure for your community.” ½ day event. Day two will be a full day with a working title of Urban Forestry and Nature in Your Neighborhood. Will need board member volunteers to help at the event.
- **Communications** – see Deb’s report
- **Workshops** – Central Coast May 25<sup>th</sup>
- **Regional Councils** – ordering new pull-up displays for each council. Deb is in the process of designing them.



**Other Issues/Opportunities:**

- Budget – behind the 8-ball but will have answers soon.
- Audit will be scheduled for the fall – Dave has agreed to support the cause.
- Office relocation update – up and running – more to do, but very nice and peaceful.
- I attended the WCISA conference – it was a good one and I learned a lot, and I appreciate the opportunity.
- We are working on an infographic for John Kabashima regarding the Shot-hole borers as educational tool
- Finding funding for the conference and the pest issues is vitally important – please share your ideas.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Nancy Hughes*