

Resolution Declaring a Tree Mortality Disaster In California

RESOLUTION 15-08.03

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WHEREAS California Democrats believe it is necessary to preserve our forests, conserve our upper watershed areas, promote air quality and carbon sequestration, and encourage the creation of sustainable jobs for all Californians; and

WHEREAS experts believe that due to rising temperatures associated with climate change, four years of inadequate precipitation, and increased insect infestation, tree mortality now ranges between 20 and 85 percent of all trees in several areas of the state encompassing several million acres statewide; and trees are dying on both private and public lands, including in national parks and managed forests; and

WHEREAS this unprecedented tree mortality disaster will adversely affect the watersheds that supply nearly two-thirds of the water used in California, dramatically increase the risk of large wildfires, diminish air quality, disrupt the food web and result in increased mortality rates for wildlife, as well as cause more greenhouse gases to be released; and scientists agree that the best solution is to remove dead and dying trees which, given the scale of the disaster, property owners and local agencies cannot afford, and for which state and federal agencies have not adequately budgeted;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the California Democratic Party calls upon Governor Brown to declare a tree mortality disaster in afflicted areas of the state and calls upon funds to be released to facilitate removal of dead and dying trees in areas which will maintain watersheds and wildlife habitat, promote carbon sequestration, and create jobs in rural communities by restoring forest resiliency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the California Democratic Party send this resolution to Democratic state legislators and Governor Brown.

Sponsored by Mariposa County DCC & Mariposa Democratic Club, Region 4 and the El Dorado County DCC

Adopted by the California Democratic Party
At its Summer/Fall 2015 E-board Meeting
Hyatt Regency
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