



California Forest Pest Council

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Dedicated to protecting California's forests since 1951

www.caforestpestcouncil.org

August 25, 2009

Pam Giacomini, Chairperson
Resource Protection Committee
California Board of Forestry & Fire Protection

Re: Goldspotted Oak Borer (GSOB)

VIA EMAIL

Dear Pam:

After CAL FIRE forest pest specialist Kim Camilli's presentation to the Resource Protection Committee (RPC) on the status of a recently introduced invasive insect (GSOB), the RPC requested that the California Forest Pest Council (CFPC) advise the Board of Forestry & Fire Protection on possible actions that the Board could take to address this issue. In response to this request the attached memo was prepared by the CFPC Executive Committee in consultation with members of the Council who have expertise regarding GSOB. The following is a very brief summary of this detailed memo.

Although further research is needed to answer many questions, timely action is also needed to prevent the further introduction of GSOB into California and its spread from San Diego County into other counties of the State. The need for action is justified as follows:

1. GSOB is a recently introduced exotic insect that has no known native control mechanisms in California and has killed significant numbers of oaks where it has been introduced.
2. GSOB can inhabit a wide range of climates and attacks host species of oaks that are distributed across millions of acres in southern and northern California. If introduced into other areas of California, GSOB has the potential to kill significant numbers of oaks throughout the state.
3. The threat of GSOB introduction into other parts of California is primarily through the transport of infested log segments with intact bark, primarily firewood.

The CFPC recommends that the Board of Forestry & Fire Protection:

1. Formally recognize GSOB as a significant threat to the health of California's forests, and
2. Contact USDA Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to express this finding and request that they work within their regulatory purviews to plan and implement timely actions that would minimize this threat.

The CFPC is committed to working with the Board of Forestry & Fire Protection, state and federal agencies and stakeholders to facilitate an effective response to the GSOB situation.

Sincerely,

Bob Rynearson
Chairman, California Forest Pest Council

Enclosure