

# California Urban & Community Forestry Hitting The Big Time!!!!

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John Melvin, **CAL FIRE** - State Urban Forester



# About me.

- B.S. in Forestry, Humboldt State University.
- ISA Certified Arborist (WE-5889A)
- CA Urban Forests Council Cert. Urban Forester #101
- Registered Professional Forester #2817
- Wildland Fire Training
- Medical and Hazmat First Responder Training
- Work experience in forestry, urban forestry, arboriculture, wildland fire, medical first response, and GIS.
- 1 wife, 2 daughters: Kiera - 3 years old, Moira - 5 years old

# What I Normally Do

- Assist CAL FIRE upper management in developing policy and legislation in regards to urban forestry, urban greening, and climate change.
- Run day to day operations of the Urban Forestry Program. (Supervision, grant administration, budgeting, etc.)
- Public relations and advocacy within state government and externally.
- Media relations.
- Policy interpretation and decision making.
- Integrating urban forestry into other policy areas.
- Technical assistance and public presentations
- Tracking and working on national UF related issues.



# *CAL FIRE's* Urban & Community Forestry Program

- Carry out activities under the Urban Forestry Act of 1978 (PRC 4799.06-4799.12)
- Technical assistance and advice
- Public and professional education
- Public events
- Regional & local advocacy
- Fostering partnerships
- Connecting people
- Grants





# Urban Forestry Defined

## PRC 4799.09 (UF Act Definition)

**"Urban forestry" means the cultivation and management of trees and associated vegetation in urban areas for their present and potential contribution to the physiological, sociological, and economic well-being of urban society.**

# Program Overview 2013/2014

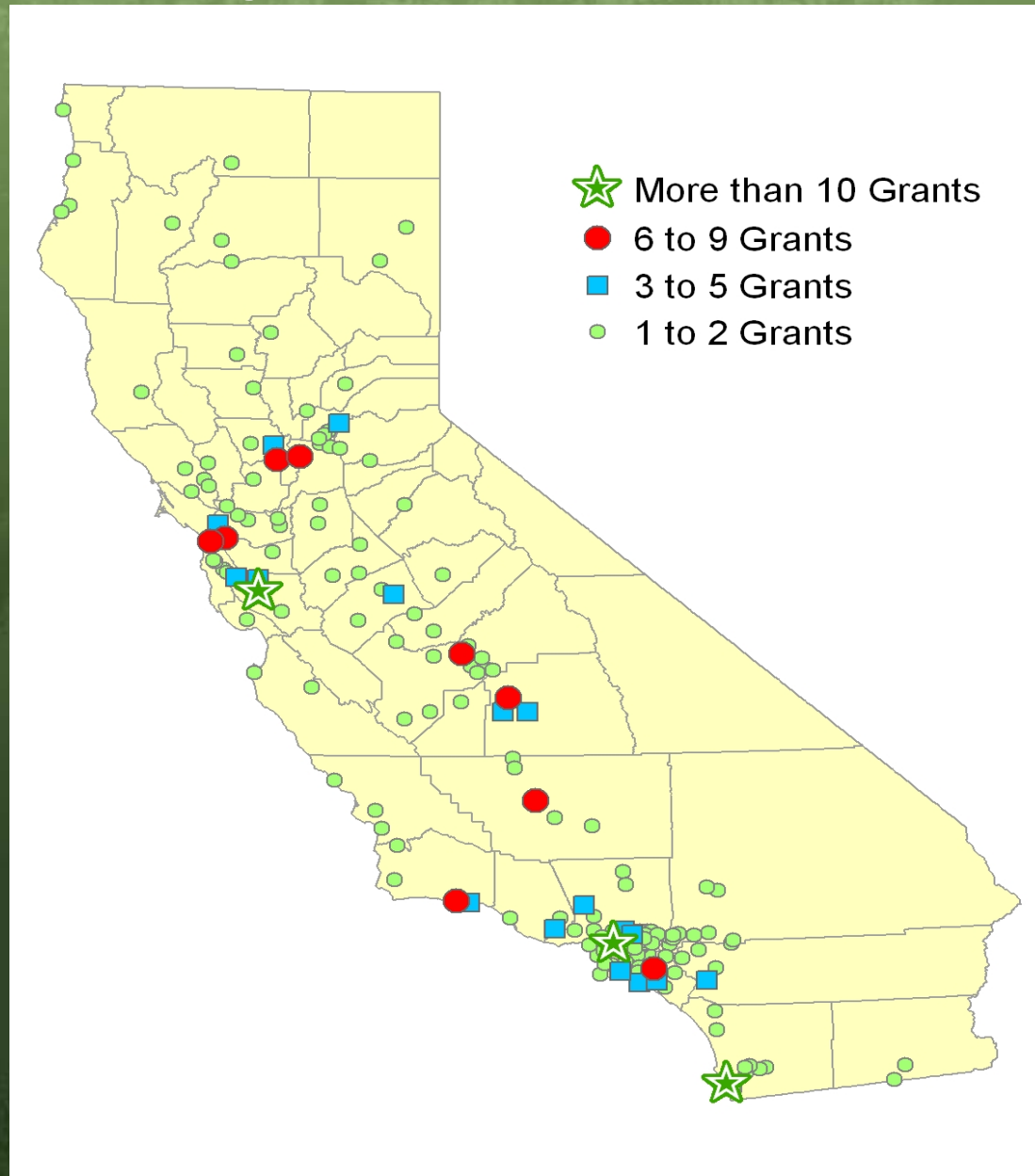
- Appropriations
  - No General Fund \$, but do have authority
  - Approximately \$1.0 Million in USFS federal funds
- Previous Funding
  - bond funds (Props 12, 40, 84)
- Staffing (8.0)
  - 1 Analyst
  - 1 Program Manager
  - 6 Regional Urban Foresters (1 vacant, to be filled ASAP)

# Urban Forestry – Our Approach

- Ecosystems Management Approach
- Helping communities that need urban forest benefits the most.
- Functional design (not just pretty)
- Sustainability (economic, social, environmental)
- Stewardship – the big buy-in!
- Benefits vs. Costs
- Climate adaptation



# Grant Project Areas Over Past Ten





# Program Overview 2014/2015

- **\$17.8 Million** for Urban Forestry from Cap and Trade Auction Revenue Fund.
- Approximately \$1.3 Million in USFS federal funds
- Same Staffing.
- Enhanced administrative capacity at CAL FIRE



# **CAL FIRE Project Requirements**

- **We always require best management practices.**
- **We inspect all projects. Most projects multiple times.**
- **We assist grantees throughout the project. So far as I know, this is unique in state government.**
- **We help grantees overcome obstacles to success. This includes technical assistance and advocacy for their projects.**
- **We want our projects to help communities realize their next step to increased UF sustainability.**
- **We leverage grant funds to accomplish other goals with grantees.**
- **Grants are a tool in the toolbox.**

# Cap and Trade Requirements

- At least \$10.5 Million for disadvantaged communities as defined by Cal Enviro-Screen 2.0
- Projects **MUST** reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or sequester greenhouse gasses.
- Tracking of greenhouse gas emissions, sequestration, and avoided emissions.
- Project Types (we know for sure):
  - Tree planting, establishment care, site enhancement, maintenance (?) etc.
  - Green infrastructure (to include local land acquisition).
  - Urban wood and/or urban biomass utilization.



# Cap and Trade Requirements 2

- **Project Types (we don't know for sure):**
  - **Education**
  - **Urban Forest Inventories**
  - **Urban Forest Management Plans**
- **CAL FIRE hopes to provide these types of grants as well.**
- **GHG must be tracked. We will provide some tools. Some tools have yet to be worked out. All time and costs related to tracking will be reimbursable.**
- **Drought related issues will be taken seriously and strongly considered.**
- **Must be within a census defined urban area.**
- **Matching will be 25% as a start. Disadvantaged communities will qualify for 10% or no match.**



# Websites

- [www.fire.ca.gov/resource\\_mgt/resource\\_mgt\\_urbanforestry.php](http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry.php)
- <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/>
- [www.ufe.org](http://www.ufe.org)
- [www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr](http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/cufr)
- [www.californiareleaf.org](http://www.californiareleaf.org)
- [www.caufc.org](http://www.caufc.org)
- [www.wcisa.net/](http://www.wcisa.net/)
- [www.treelink.org](http://www.treelink.org)
- [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)
- [www.treesaregood.com](http://www.treesaregood.com)
- [www.urbanforestmap.org](http://www.urbanforestmap.org)
- [www.ufmptoolkit.com](http://www.ufmptoolkit.com)
- <http://depts.washington.edu/hhwb/>
- [www.naturewithin.info/](http://www.naturewithin.info/)
- <http://lhlh.illinois.edu/index.htm>

# WOW

## WHAT AN AMAZING TIME FOR URBAN FORESTRY!!!!!!!

It takes a team effort to accomplish something of this magnitude. If the work you are all doing on the ground in your communities was not so excellent and compelling, we would not have been successful in getting to where we are today. Your local work, local advocacy, as well as the work of CA ReLeaf, CaUFC, and many, many others in a coordinated, unified voice is how we achieved this success. It is the power of PARTNERSHIP. True partnership means the partners are equal, and that must continue to be our mantra going forward.

LET US ENJOY THIS SUCCESS, MAKE THE FUTURE EVEN MORE SUCCESSFUL, AND CONTINUE TO TAKE OUR INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT WORK TO NEW HEIGHTS!!!



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS



# Thank You!

**John Melvin**

**CA Dept. of Forestry & Fire Protection (*CAL FIRE*)**

**Urban & Community Forestry Program Manager**

**P.O. Box 944246**

**Sacramento, CA 94244-2460**

**(916) 657-2289**

**(916) 653-8957 fax**

**[john.melvin@fire.ca.gov](mailto:john.melvin@fire.ca.gov)**