

**County of Los Angeles Fire Department**

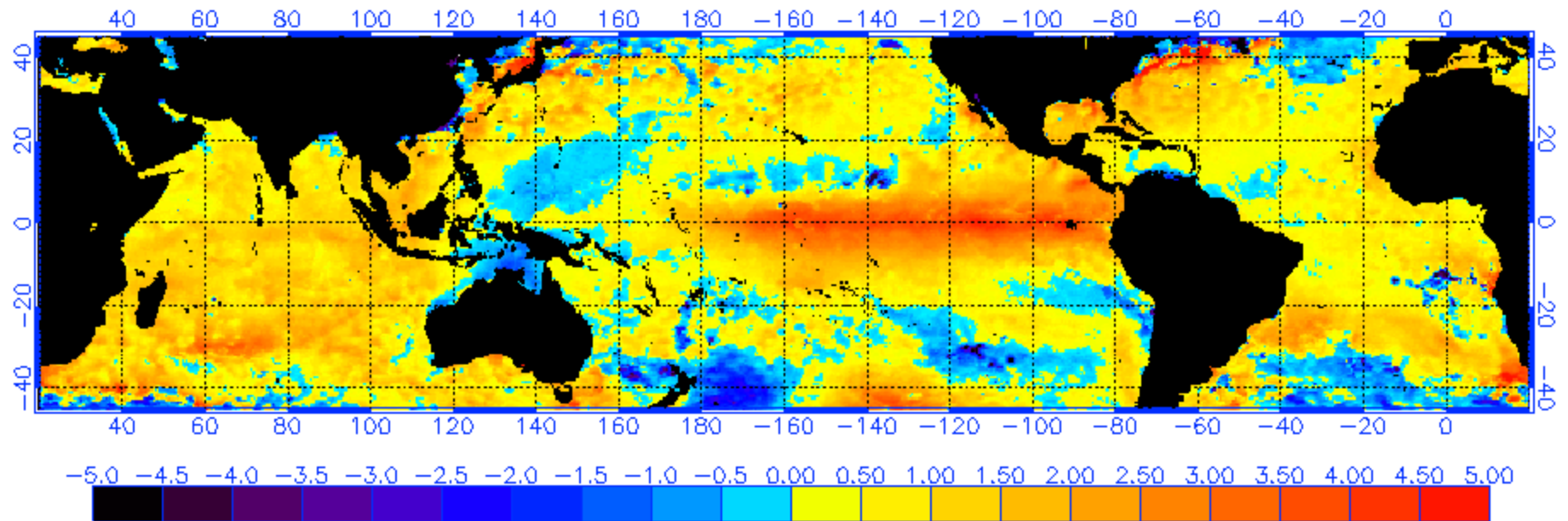
**Update on Forest & Trees in  
Danger during the Drought**

**Altadena Coalition of Neighborhood Associations**

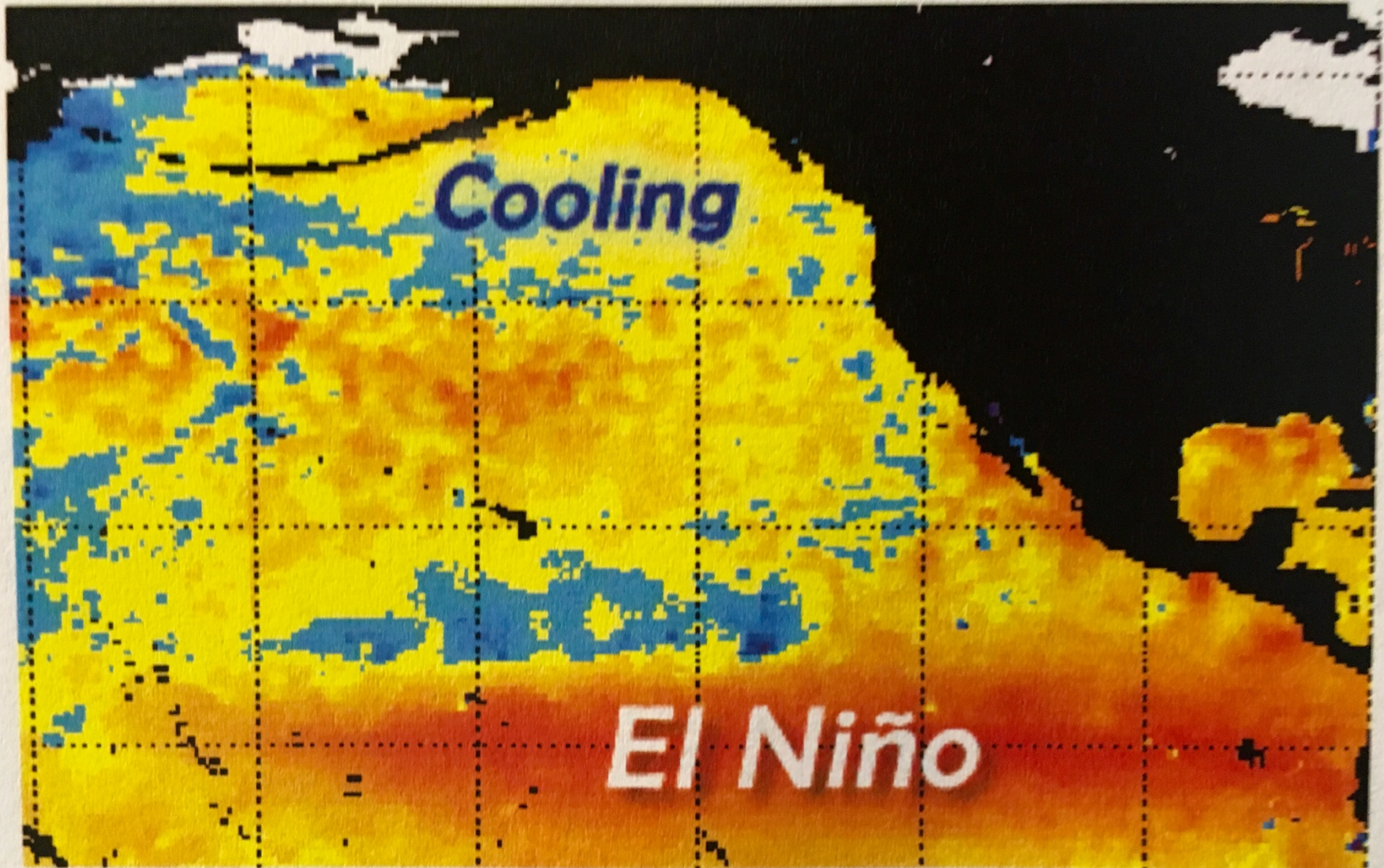
J. Lopez, Assistant Chief  
County of Los Angeles Fire Department  
Prevention Services Bureau  
Forestry Division  
Natural Resources Section

# Current Sea Surface Temperature (SST) Anomalies

NOAA/NESDIS SST Anomaly (degrees C), 1/4/2016



**Figure 1: Current SST Anomalies over the Eastern Pacific**





# Normal Conditions vs. El Niño Conditions

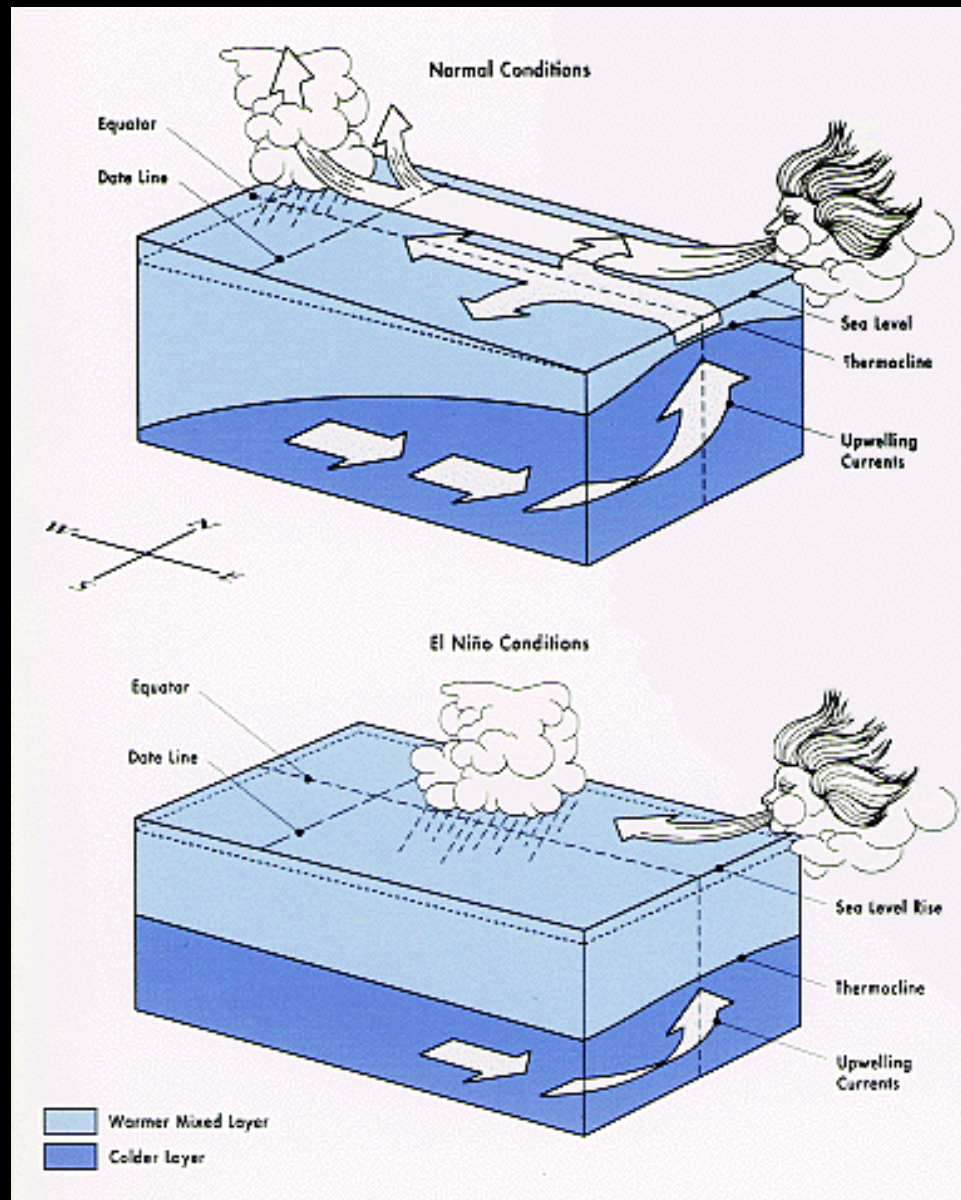
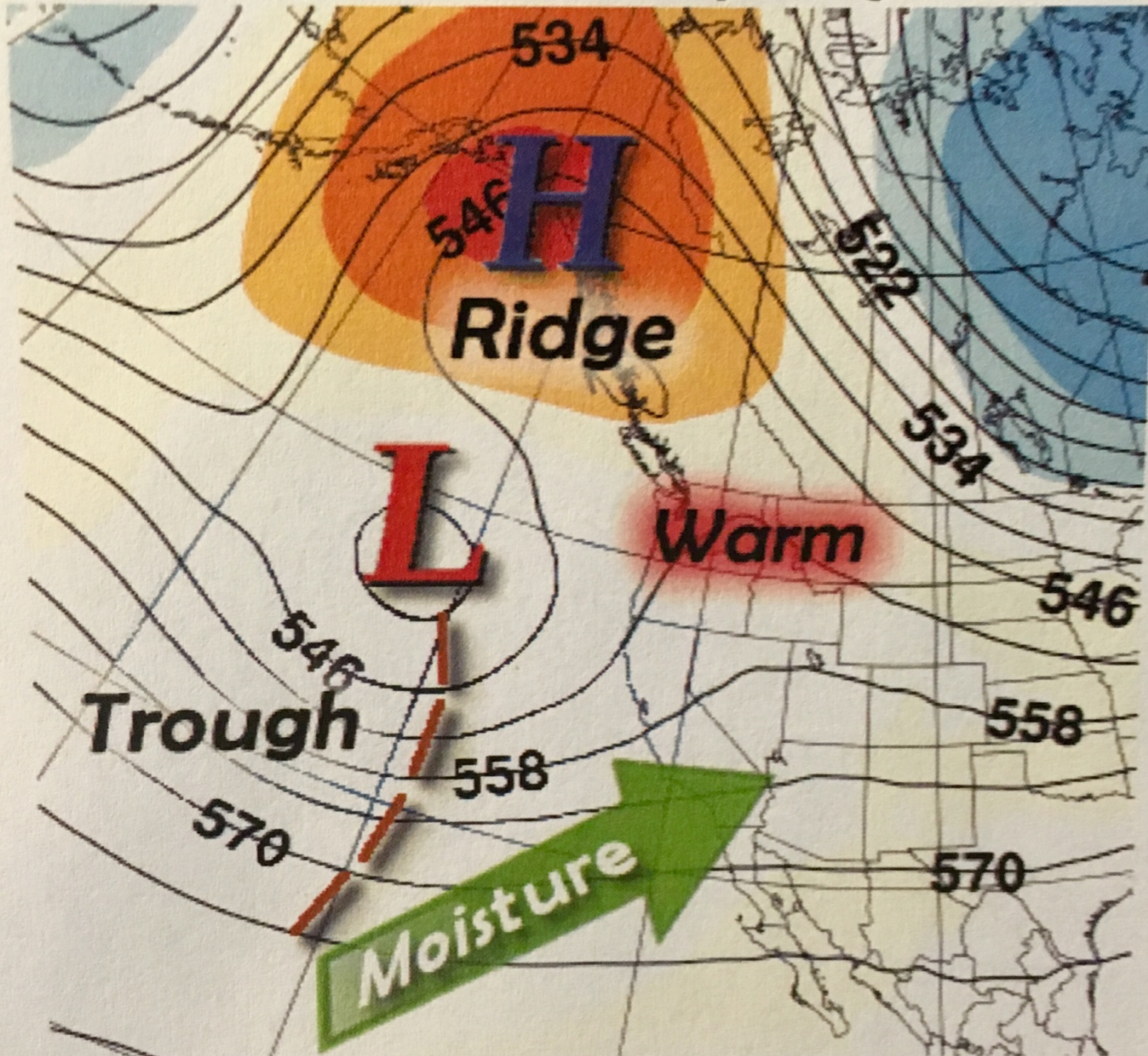




Figure 2: A split flow pattern may emerge this winter



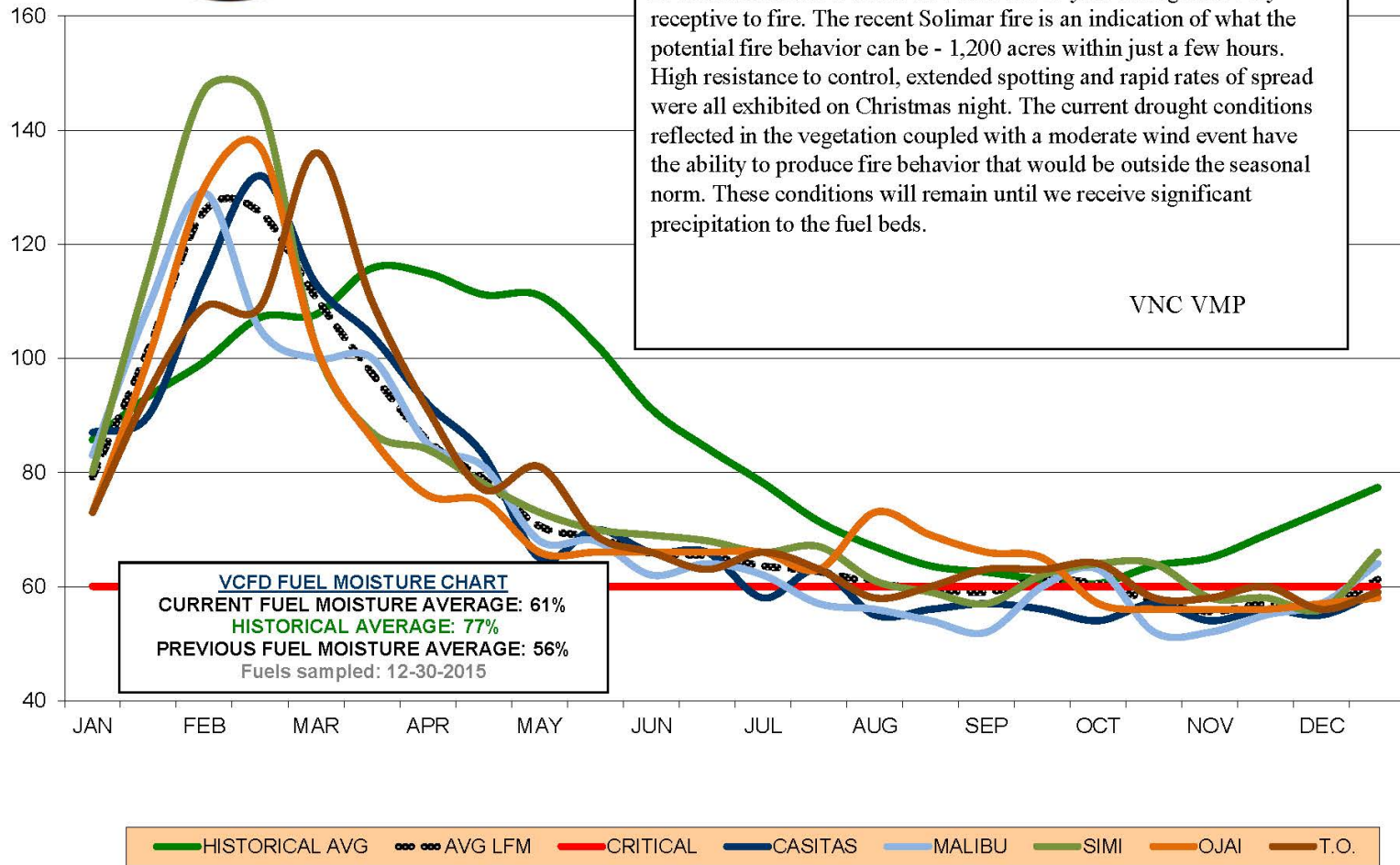


## VENTURA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT LIVE FUEL MOISTURE 2015 ALL FUEL BEDS - CHAMISE

**Fuels/Fire Discussion**

Live fuel moisture is still well below the 10 year average and very receptive to fire. The recent Solimar fire is an indication of what the potential fire behavior can be - 1,200 acres within just a few hours. High resistance to control, extended spotting and rapid rates of spread were all exhibited on Christmas night. The current drought conditions reflected in the vegetation coupled with a moderate wind event have the ability to produce fire behavior that would be outside the seasonal norm. These conditions will remain until we receive significant precipitation to the fuel beds.

VNC VMP



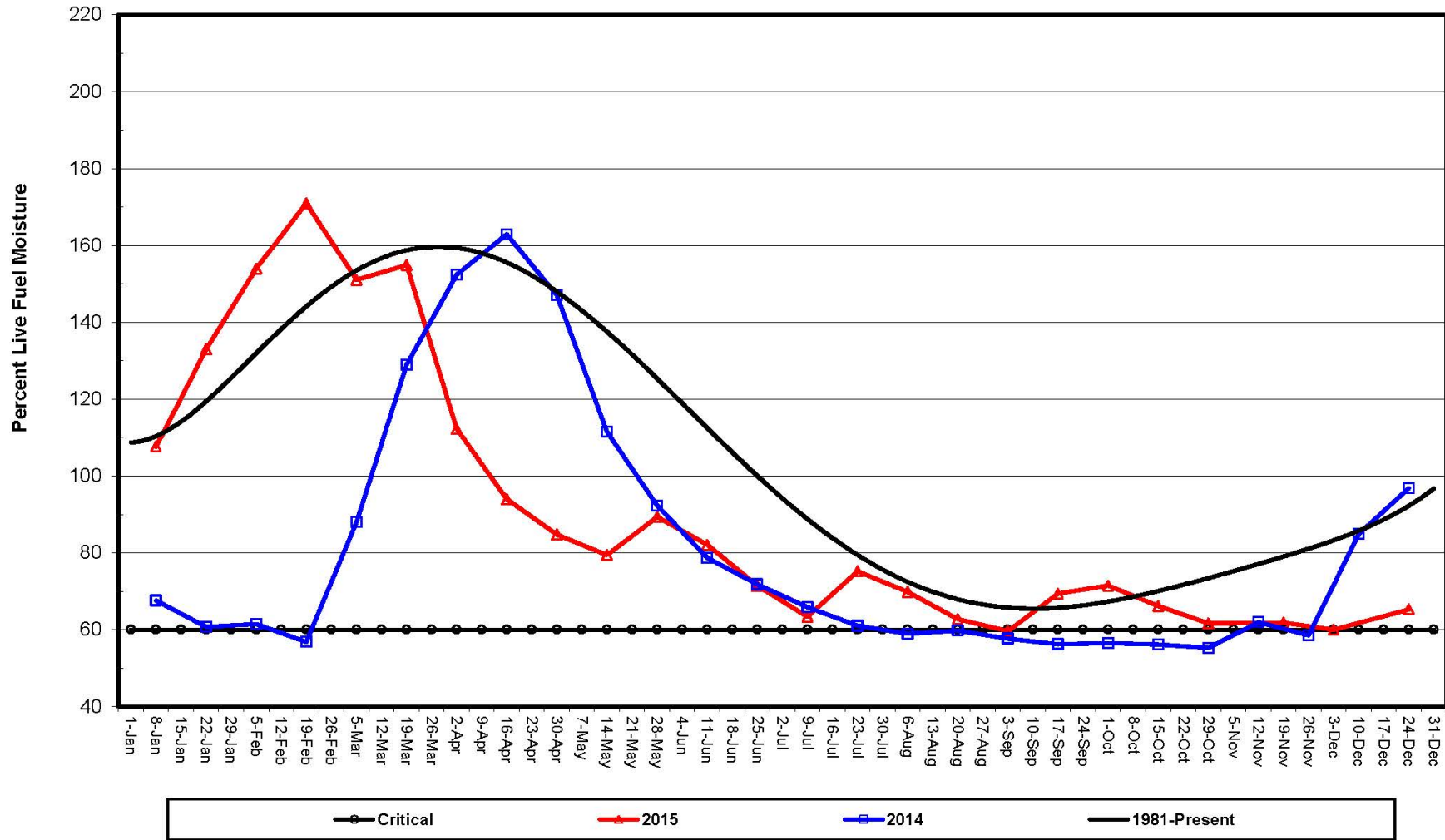


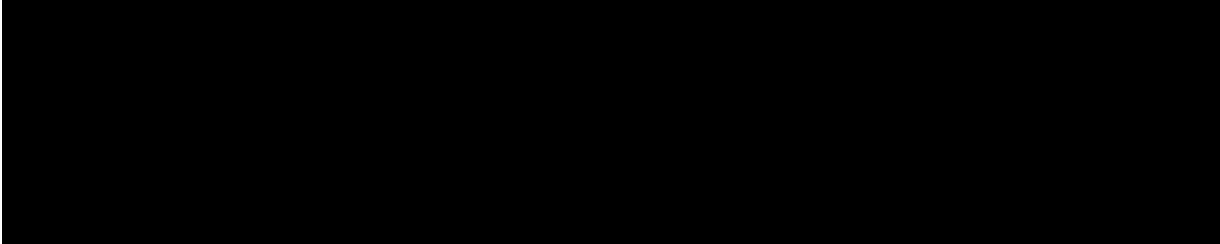
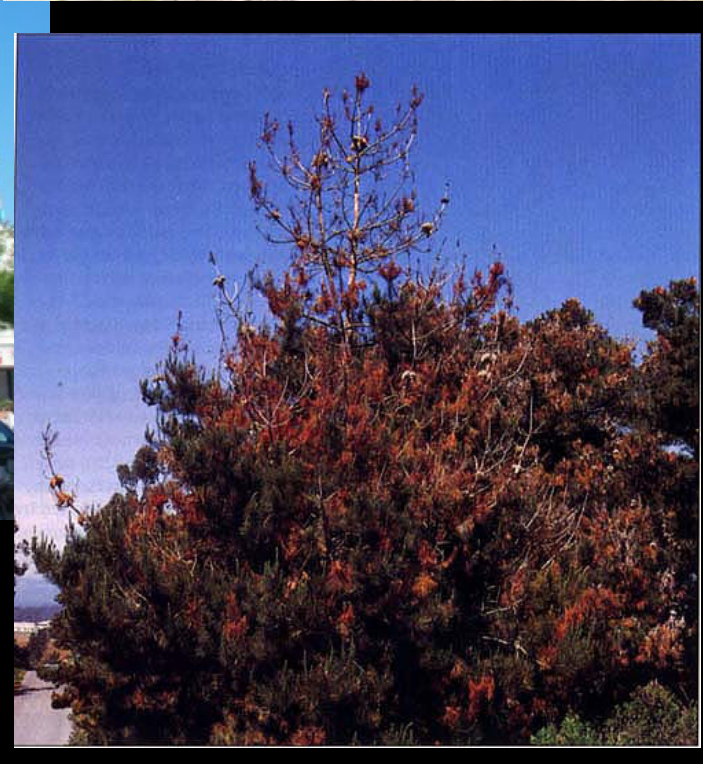
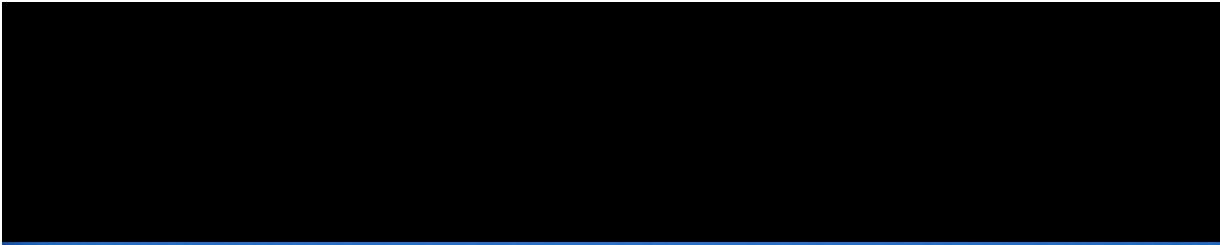


# Vegetation Management Program Live Fuel Moisture 1981-2015



All Areas, All Fuels - Chamise, Ceanothus, Sages, Sagebrush









Dead 2

Dead 1



# HELP YOUR TREES SURVIVE THE DROUGHT



**BE WATER-WISE. IT'S EASY. HERE'S HOW.** Trees and water are both precious resources. Trees make our houses feel like home—they also improve property values, clean our water & air, and even make our streets safer & quieter. When we water wisely and maintain our trees carefully, we enjoy a wide range of benefits at a low cost and with little effort.

### YOUNG TREES

The roots of younger trees are less established & need easier access to water to establish deep root systems.

### MATURE TREES

Mature trees require MORE water when growing near heat traps such as driveways & foundations.

### EXPOSED TREES

Water loss is greater where trees are exposed to hot afternoon sun & strong or constant wind.

### DECIDUOUS TREES

The critical time for water is during later winter/early spring when new buds and leaves are forming.



### THE RIGHT AMOUNT

Water young trees twice per week (about 5 gallons) & mature trees once per week in several places (the equivalent of 1 to 1.5 inches of rain).

### IN THE RIGHT PLACE

Water the "drip zone," area directly beneath the foliage & shaded by the tree. Also, add mulch to lower soil temperatures & reduce water evaporation.

### CONSERVE & RECYCLE WATER

Inside: Place buckets in the shower to collect warm up water. Recycle water from the dehumidifier, collect air conditioning condensation, & "save a flush" to conserve. Outside: Convert irrigation systems to drip, low-flow or micro spray & fix leaks.

### THE RIGHT TIME

Water early in the morning or after the sun has set, as this is when trees replace the water they've lost during the day. Also less water is lost to evaporation at these times. Mulching your tree will also keep soils warmer in winter & cooler in summer.

### DON'T WASTE WATER

Water should soak into the ground rather than running off into the drain.

### THE RIGHT WAY

During drought, water directly with a hose or 5-gallon bucket.

### THE RIGHT DEPTH

Deep watering helps deep root growth & healthier trees.

### THE RIGHT CHOICE

Plant native or drought resistant tree species that require less water. Choose trees over lawn, as trees are a long-term investment.



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