



## GOVERNOR DAVIS

### Asks President Bush For Aid To Fight Sudden Oak Death!

*Federal Aid Sought in Addition to New Funds in State Budget*

"Today's announcement about Sudden Oak Death in Douglas fir and coast redwoods significantly raises the stakes," Gov. Davis said. "As a state, we will continue to tackle this serious economic and environmental problem but we need federal resources as well."

Last year, the federal government's Office of Management and Budget turned down a request from the USDA for federal funding to address SOD issues. But since Douglas fir and coast redwoods are two of California's most important commercial species, Gov. Davis said that federal resources should be committed to bolster the state's funding.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) also announced that as a result of the latest scientific findings, existing regulations in 12 counties restricting the movement of the 15 known species that can harbor the SOD fungus will be extended to include coast redwoods and Douglas fir. CDFA and the USDA are currently working on additional regulations regarding these two species.

#### Some key accomplishments of the Davis Administration's fight against Sudden Oak Death include:

The California Oak Mortality Task Force, which brings together public agencies, non-profit organizations, and private interests to address SOD in California in a comprehensive and coordinated manner; Issuing emergency regulations that require permits to be issued by authorized agricultural official to move host plants or materials within or from infested areas; Signing AB 62 by Assembly Member Carol Migden (D-San Francisco), which authorized \$3.586 million to address Sudden Oak Death in the 2001-02 budget, based on task force recommendations; and An additional \$2 million in the 2002-03 budget.

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#### SACRAMENTO

With news that UC Berkeley scientists have found the fungus that causes Sudden Oak Death (SOD) in Douglas fir and coast redwoods, Governor Gray Davis today sent a letter to President Bush requesting \$10 million in federal funding to fight the fungus. The Governor said that the federal aid will supplement \$2 million of new funding included in the 2002-03 state budget that he is expected to sign into law on Thursday.

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