CA ad hoc Forest Biomass Working Group – eNewsletter 17/2022

International Mass Timber Conference 2022. After a full year of planning, much anticipation, and even hand-wringing - will there be an in-person event? - the 2022 International Mass Timber Conference was a rousing success. Co-hosted by the Forest Business Network and WoodWorks, it offered over 2,100 of the top minds in mass timber and stakeholders from every sector the opportunity to trade insights. Attendees traveled from 28 countries to Portland, Oregon, for the first in-person Mass Timber Conference in three years. But the fun isn't over just yet. There will be a half-day virtual continuation event on May 12, an added bonus at no cost for in-person attendees that also offers some outstanding content for anyone who could not attend in Portland. Everyone who purchases a ticket for the virtual event receives a downloadable PDF of the 2022 *International Mass Timber Report*.

Sustainable Woody Biomass Industry Development in California. In Spring 2020, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR), in consultation with the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), initiated a cross-agency discussion about woody feedstocks to help launch an administration-wide vision for productive and sustainable use of our agricultural, urban, and forest woody feedstock in ways that promote our core state values and priorities. These include: wildfire prevention; forest management; environmental protection; waste reduction and reuse; climate leadership; and sustainable economic development, particularly in rural communities. This vision statement, crafted and agreed to by the collaborating agencies, captures key goals and core values that emerged over this process.

Forest Biofuels – in a Nutshell. Renewable fuels are produced from renewable resources. Forest biofuels are renewable fuels produced from byproducts of sustainable forestry. This material currently lacks sufficient value to cover the cost of its removal and transportation to facilities that can utilize it for higher end uses, such as biofuels. Examples of renewable forest biofuels include hydrogen, sustainable aviation fuel, ethanol, drop in gas/diesel, and renewable natural gas. These biofuels can replace fossil fuels (e.g., gasoline) and would contribute directly to energy independence as well as carbon mitigation goals. The Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation (JIWPI) recently released three outreach documents to frame the topic: Why Biofuels? The Benefits of Different Biofuels; and Forest Biofuels Fact Sheet.

Wood Heater Design Challenge - Technology Slam. The Wood Heater Design Challenge exists to engage and expand the wood heater community; foster relationships between academia, industry and other stakeholders to develop the most innovative wood heaters that are cleaner and more efficient; and to encourage and build strong teams to compete in the Wood Heater Design Challenge coming in 2023. The 2022 Wood Heater Slam is an opportunity for teams to pitch innovative wood stove ideas to retailers, the public, and panels of experts, who will assess whose stove is the most innovative and has the most market potential. Teams who get the most points are eligible for funding to move forward to the competition stage of the 5th Wood Heater Design Challenge. The Slam will be held virtually via Zoom on Sept. 29, 2022.

Wood. Can we still call it that? The new generation of high-performance wood materials offers unexpected hi-tech possibilities to the worlds of design and architecture. Designed to be biodegradable and carbon neutral, the materials of the future are destined to be bio-manufactured, bio-derived, bio-based. In all likelihood, to keep their impact low, we will arrive at an idea of ad-hoc

cultivated materials. This scenario, which is changing the parameters of innovation, asks us all to rethink the way we mentally categorize materials. And it requires designers and architects to change the way they choose and use materials. All materials, including the most traditional, are being updated in technical terms. Foremost among these is wood, which, in view of a sustainability profile increasingly aimed at impact minimization and sustainable forest management, is surprisingly acquiring performance features that are entirely comparable to those of hi-tech materials.