



Berkeley, February 11<sup>th</sup> 2019

## **NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS**

**Sudden Oak Death –SOD- Blitzes: monitor SOD spread in a rainy year, test oaks for SOD thanks to OakSTeP, and help create a database of effective SOD treatments!**

U.C Berkeley announces three programs in one aimed at professional arborists, urban foresters, licensed tree care specialists, pesticide applicators, and qualified government and NGO employees.

### **1)-Want to know at no cost if a client's property or a public space is infested by the deadly Sudden Oak Death (SOD) Pathogen?**

Starting March 30<sup>th</sup> 2019, 20+ SOD blitzes will be organized Statewide from San Luis Obispo County all the way to Northern Humboldt County,. Go to [www.sodblitz.org](http://www.sodblitz.org) for dates and venues. Join other volunteers at one such events where you will get all the material you need to survey, and where you will learn how to properly survey trees for SOD. You will have two or three days AFTER the training to sample yours or your clients' trees (Bay laurels and tanoak leaves *only*) at ZERO COST. Results will be communicated to you in early October.

### **2)-Do you have clients with oaks symptomatic for SOD, but you need lab confirmation? U.C. Berkeley is launching the OakSTeP program (OakSTeP stands for Oak Sod Testing Program).**

Once officially enrolled, you will be given the necessary supplies and you will be trained on how to sample oak stems. Ship samples to Berkeley, where experts will diagnose the presence of the SOD pathogen. You will then communicate the results to the landowner. All of this, at a fraction of the cost. Details and registration (a single \$200 fee) information available at [www.oakstep.org](http://www.oakstep.org) . Registration will be FREE, and you will be given priority for sample processing, if you register in person during a SOD Blitz ([www.sodblitz.org](http://www.sodblitz.org)) .

### **3)-Have you been (or will you be) treating oaks and removing bays laurels to control SOD?**

A 5-minute survey, done at the end of the SOD Blitz training session will allow you to enter information on your SOD treatment work. Within a year or so, **participants will have access to the database containing information on the most widespread and the most effective SOD treatment by location.** Come to the 2019 SOD Blitzes (info at [www.sodblitz.org](http://www.sodblitz.org)) to take advantage of this opportunity