

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE**

David Goldemberg, *First District*
Kathleen Haff, *Fourth District*

Ryan Campbell, *Second District*

Anaiah Kirk, *Third District*
Jaron Brandon, *Fifth District*

MINUTES – Special Meeting

Fire Safety Advisory Committee – November 21, 2022 @ 10:30 am

AGENDA

1. Call the Meeting to Order: Meeting called to order by Supervisor Goldemberg at 10:40 am, roll call taken. Quorum made.
 - a. Committee Members present (quorum established with 11 members present)
 - i. Supervisor Ryan Campbell -District 2
 - ii. Supervisor David Goldemberg – District 1
 - iii. Chief Marc DiTullio - County Fire (Jeff Santos)
 - iv. Sheriff Bill Pooley – Tuolumne County Sheriff
 - v. Wesley Brinegar – District 3
 - vi. Jerry McGowan -Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
 - vii. Glen Gotschall – Tuolumne Firesafe Council representative
 - viii. Chief Mark Ferreira – Tuolumne County Fire Chief’s Association
 - ix. Dennis Randall – District 2 public representative
 - x. Eric Holly – District 4 public representative
 - xi. Chief Aimee New – Sonora City Fire
 - b. Committee Members absent
 - i. Scott Fremd – District 1 Absent-excused
 - ii. Monica Fox – Chicken Ranch Band of Me-Wuk Indians - Absent
 - iii. District 5 – public representative (vacant)
 - c. Others present
 - i. Dore Bietz – OES Staff
 - ii. Sean Hembree – OES Staff
 - iii. Public – Various
2. Public Comment
 - a. Public Comment – Hazardous Vegetation Management Ordinance, someone does clearance for another’s property, what is the obligation of the county to get the work completed. Leads into 8.14.080 No Duty to Enforce...Supervisor Campbell asked to speak to offline.
3. Approval of minutes 9/28/2022 Supervisor Campbell motioned to approve with changes/corrections, seconded by Wes Brinegar.
 - a. Vote taken all in favor, no nays, no abstentions. Motion approved.
 - b. No Public Comment

4. Old Business

- a. Local Fire Insurance – Kaenan Whitman provides update on number of Tuolumne County residents covered under California Fair Plan. California Insurance companies have rated Tuolumne County as number one for potential catastrophic fire, and sixth in the state with the largest numbers of individuals on the fair plan .
 - i. Committee discussed the CA Wildfire Mitigation Risk Advisory Committee <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/boards-committees/risk-modeling-advisory-workgroup/> and the work the state is doing on this issue.
 - ii. Public Comment – what are other county’s doing? Compared to Tuolumne County to address the situation?

5. Reports/Presentation

- a. PG&E Hazard Tree Removal Process – Pamela Purdue and Will Harris presented the process for hazard tree removal and answer any questions.
 - i. Committee members asked
 - i. about agreements with property owners, is there a process to take away larger timber, moving forward it’s on hold, PG&E is trying to figure out a process as the amount of wood created is incredible. If a property owner did not opt in at the beginning to have PG&E remove of the downed, they may not have the option to opt-in after the fact and will be responsible for removing.
 - ii. Is there a fact sheet or information that can be shared for property owners? In progress, in meantime direct interested parties to email treesafety@pge.com or call 1-800-564-5080.
 - iii. Are you seeing any trends on insect activity? PGE will follow up and get to OES staff.
 - ii. Public comment
 - i. Are down trees considered hazard tree? Not if down, but if it is smaller possibly.
 - ii. Areas where there is lots of snow, when you trim once side of the tree, with snow load, causes issues, why isn’t the entire tree taken? Most customers do not understand the issues and the responsibility to only remove the hazard tree portion.

6. New Business

- a. Setting goals for 2023 Fire Safety Advisory Committee. Staff discussed the existing goals of the Board of Supervisors and the areas we need to focus on.
 - i. Committee members asked/discussed
 - i. CWPP and how will we get it approved.
 - ii. Where do you get rid of the brush/tree/green waste, what can we do as a committee to help the public?
 - iii. What is the status of the pellet production site and is there a solution?
 - iv. Asked about TCSO Fuels crew and how we can support that and get that in place.
 - v. Let’s focus on a few items that we can work on. More globally and not specific.
 - Committee decided
 - a. Governance
 1. Recommend implementations to qualify as Fire risk reduction communities as required by Board of Forestry.
 - b. Emergency Planning
 1. Improve egress solutions for existing communities
 2. Assist in the planning of a community specific or county wide Evacuation Exercise
 - c. Education and Outreach
 1. Improve emergency information to the public

2. Improve education of visitors about emergency preparedness, egress, resources during wildfires.

ii. Staff comments

i. Cost effective and strategic planning for neighbors helping neighbors to create wildfire resiliency.

iii. Public Comments

i. Mock evacuations, need to manage egress during a disaster. Need to look at ways to identify, figuring out ways to make it out of impacted areas.

ii. Top goal should be vegetation removal and how to get rid of it, curbside program, pellet plant is a great idea, making money. Need to improve emergency information and get folks signed up for Everbridge.

b. Discussion of rescheduling December meeting or reconvening in new year. Setting new meeting dates, times and membership. Consensus was to keep same date and time.

7. Working groups updates

a. Communication and Education Outreach workgroup updated on outreach – workgroup will be meeting to discuss goals for 2023.

b. Governance Workgroup – 2nd Reading of the Hazardous Vegetation Management Ordinance will be on consent for December 6th. Workgroup will meet to discuss 2023 goals.

c. Emergency Planning workgroup – Reminder about TCTC Evacuation Planning Study Public sessions. Workgroup will be meeting to discuss 2023 goals.

8. Member Reports & Discussion – updates/reports from committee members

a. Committee member reports

i. Chiefs Association designee may change with elections.

b. OES staff updates

i. CA Wildfire Mitigation Program – Home Hardening project update

ii. CA AG Best Practices for Analyzing and Mitigating Wildfire Impacts on Development Projects under CEQA

iii. USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant submitted

iv. AmeriCorps/Tuolumne River Trust Defensible Space for elders/income vulnerable homes in Groveland area.

v. Board of Forestry Fire Safe Regulations – presentation to the Board Dec 13th

vi. Dec 20th Fire Severity Zone Public Meeting for Tuolumne County

vii. Evacuation Transportation Study Public Meetings

i. Dec 6 @ Sonora Opera Hall 5:30-7pm

ii. Dec 7 @ Groveland Community Hall 5:30 pm – 7pm

iii. Dec 8 Virtual 5:30-7pm

viii. New Tuolumne County CERT program

9. Next Meeting and Adjournment

a. Meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

b. Next Regular Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – January 25th @ 10:30 am