

Tuolumne County
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Heather Ryan
*Clerk of the Board
of Supervisors*

**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*

DRAFT MINUTES

**Fire Safety Advisory Committee – February 22, 2023, at 10:30 am
18440 Striker Court, Sonora CA 95370**

AGENDA

1. Meeting is called to order by Supervisor Goldemberg at 10:30 AM. Roll call taken. Quorum Established
 - a. Committee Members present
 - a. District 1 Supervisor – Supervisor Goldemberg
 - b. District 2 Supervisor -Ryan Campbell
 - c. District 1 public representative -Scott Fremd
 - d. District 3 public representative Wesley Brinegar
 - e. Tuolumne County Fire – Jeff Santos
 - f. Tuolumne County Sheriff – Dave Vasquez
 - g. District 2 public representative Dennis Randall
 - h. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians – Jerry McGowan
 - i. Tuolumne County Fire Chief’s Association - Chief Gamez
 - j. City of Sonora – Chief New
 - b. Committee Members absent
 - a. District 4- Eric Holly – Absent
 - b. Chicken Ranch Band of Me-Wuk Indians- Absent
 - c. Tuolumne Firesafe Council - absent
 - d. District 5 – public representative (vacant)
 - c. Others present
 - a. Dore Bietz – OES Staff
 - b. Sean Hembree – OES Staff
 - c. Public – Various
2. Public Comment
 - a. Public Comment

TCTC Advisory Board and PML Safety members voiced some concerns and deficiencies to report done by TCTC regarding evacuation planning study. Moccasin Fire was omitted from report, evacuations shown not accurate. Why was PML not added as a vulnerable community and no discussion on radio communications. Review report and hoping to correct some of the information pertaining to PML.

3. Approval of minutes 1/25/2023:

- a. Motion was made to approve by Chief Gamez without changes/corrections, 2nd by Supervisor Campbell . Vote was taken all in favor, no nays, 1 abstentions. The motion was approved unanimously.
No Public Comment.

4. Old Business

- a. Review of Approved Goals for 2023.
Hand out goals sheet just as information and no action to be taken
Public comment: none

5. Reports/Presentation

- a. County Fire Services Presentations (2/month)– Cal Fire TCU, Columbia Fire
As discussed at our last meeting, committee agreed that having each fire district or organization with Tuolumne County the opportunity to give a presentation
 - Columbia Fire Chief Ferreira spoke about history and 1.1 square mile district covers which includes the State historic park. Talked about benefit and taxes and limited funding to the district. COVID hit they are fully staffed and had to raise salaries but slowly chipping away at contingency fund saved. Currently working with Tuolumne County to enter into a cooperative agreement to have a fully staffed station funded by Tuolumne County. 12 on the current roster, more coming but will cap the number of volunteers.
 - Committee members – Chief New asked to clarify paid stations and fulltime or volunteers. Chief Ferreira expressed the concern of paid volunteers and that about 75% of their volunteers left to go to paid full time fire jobs at other departments. Current employees are not full-time benefitted employees. Interns are paid anywhere from \$750-1500 depending on certification. Committee asked about equipment and whether it will go with contract. Chief Ferreira explained what they had and what issues each have and not sure operationally what the county will keep or not. Asked whether Columbia has been able to purchase all the SCBA's, no but they have a plan to purchase some of them to stagger future purchases. Discussion of station and potential use or finding another place. Supervisor Campbell thanked Chief Ferreira for coming to speak. Asked what he thinks we could do better to support. Chief Ferreira spoke of the ability we must work together but the public education component is important. An overarching funding mechanism is needed to be shared across the board and getting the voters approving any additional fire fund is difficult. Supervisor Goldemberg also thanked Chief Ferreira for coming and explaining what Columbia is doing currently to make it better. Chief Ferreira expressed his appreciation to the County.
 - Cal Fire TCU unit spoke about Cal Fire services in Tuolumne County – Chief Munson presented what the Cal Fire services are in Tuolumne County. Presentation about the jurisdictional authority of 386,503 lands within Tuolumne County. Last year calls were 17,000. During peak times 580 personnel staffed in the unit. In Tuolumne County, Cal Fire has 5 staffed stations in the summer. 7 hand crews (seasonal) of which 5 at baseline and 2 Motherlode Fire Center total of 180 personnel. Unit has Columbia Air Attack and one Fuels Crew of 12 personnel. 2 Cal Fire BC, 5 Cal Fire/1 Assistant Chief on duty. Spoke about reduction of offender population effect. Both programs (seasonal).

- Committee questions/comments. Is the hand crew temporary? Chief Monsen stated full time not going away. Function of fuels crew is there to do everything include using mastication. Fuels crew does not have a dozer assigned but an HVFO has requested a dozer. Asked about Copter 404 being staffed year-round and available for rescues. You
- Public Comment
 - Asked if the presentation can be shared. Cal Fire has a website that can be used, and it breaks out all the counties.

Public Comments - Max 2 minutes/person with total 10 minutes

b. Staff Report

Staff presented changes in committee handbook, staggering of terms, application process.

Presented Committees & Commissions Handbook found

<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/24183/TC-Governing-Bodies-Handbook-2023>

Public comments - Max 2 minutes/person with total 10 minutes

6. New Business

- a. Discussion of proposed changes to Cal Fire Hazard Severity Zones and requests for comments. Discussion of a draft comment letter as recommendation to BOS. Staff presented the changes to the Fire Severity and presented videos found here <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/wildfire-preparedness/fire-hazard-severity-zones/> Looked at the changes for the county. Draft a letter to submit that identifies concerns that impact Tuolumne County and bring back for consideration.

Public comments – Max 2 minutes/person with total 10 minutes

- Asked for links to cal fire changes.

7. Working group updates

- a. Communication and Education Outreach workgroup
- b. Governance workgroup
- c. Emergency Planning workgroup

Public comments - none

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

County Fire – Inspection’s time of the year. Preparing for the home hardening and vegetation management ordinance. Sheriff’s Office – staffing plans, educating neighborhoods. Sonora City – Green waste gearing up. Defensible space starting up as well. Educational piece. Fire Chiefs Plan – going over with Cal Fire for response times. Tuolumne Rancheria – CWPP for Tribe and fuels projects.

9. Next Meeting and Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.
- b. Next Regular Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – March 22nd @ 10:30 am back at the Board of Supervisors Chambers**
- c. Fire Department presentations**
 - a. March 22-Mi-Wuk Sugar Pine
 - b. April 26 – Sonora City, Tuolumne City Fire, Tuolumne County Fire
 - c. May 24 – Tuolumne Me-Wuk Rancheria Fire, Twain Harte Fire District/Strawberry
 - d. June 28 - Groveland, Jamestown Fire (re-scheduled)**