

Tuolumne County
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Heather Ryan
*Clerk of the Board
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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

Fire Safety Advisory Committee – September 28, 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 8 members present)
 - i. Supervisor Ryan Campbell -District 2
 - ii. Supervisor David Goldemberg – District 1
 - iii. Chief Marc DiTullio - County Fire (alternate Jeff Santos)
 - iv. Sheriff Bill Pooley – Tuolumne County Sheriff -Absent
 - v. Wesley Brinegar – District 3
 - vi. Jerry McGowan -Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians - Absent
 - vii. Glen Gotschall – Tuolumne Firesafe Council representative
 - viii. Chief Mark Ferreira – Tuolumne County Fire Chief’s Association – Absent
 - ix. Dennis Randall – District 2 public representative Absent
 - x. Scott Fremd – District 1
 - xi. Monica Fox – Chicken Ranch Band of Me-Wuk Indians - Absent
 - xii. Eric Holly – District 4 public representative
 - xiii. Chief Aimee New – Sonora City Fire
 - xiv. District 5 – public representative (not filled)
 - b. Others present
 - i. Dore Bietz – OES Staff
 - ii. Tracey McKnight – OES Staff
 - iii. Sean Hembree – OES Staff
 - iv. Public – Various
2. Public Comment
 - a. None
3. Approval of minutes 8.24.2022 with modification to c.2, c.5, and 8.i. Chief New motioned to approve, seconded by Supervisor Cambbell.
 - a. Vote taken all in favor, no nays, no abstentions. Motion approved.
4. Old Business

- a. TCTC Evacuation Planning Grant Update and presentation from consultants on project progress and discussion of capacity strategies. Committee members to provide input and direction
 - i. Derek Grossie, TCTC provided an introduction for Matt Braughton, Kittleson & Associates. Matt presented Tuolumne County Evacuation Needs Assessment and Communication Strategies. The presentation will focus on road communication and communication strategies. This initiative is being funded by a grant. The consultant who has been assigned to this initiative is Kittleson & Associates. The presentation focuses on Wildfire Risk Mapping and Scenario modeling, Evacuation capacity analysis and strategies including the methodology, vulnerable populations and communities, shelter in place and communication strategies and next steps. Presentation also included fire scenarios specifically to communities. The presentation did not address evacuation routes but identifying strategies on how to make the county more resilient if the County experiences a wildfire. Recommendations or treatments on how to add to the evacuation capacity and Shelter-in-Place emergency planning considerations was proposed. See attached presentation.
 - ii. Committee Comments:
 - a. Discussion on vegetation management and clearance.
 - b. Inquired about the name of the fire modeling platform that was used and if weather and if structures were considered.
 - c. Addressed the Shelter-in-Place topic.
 - d. Consideration of the human factor variables.
 - e. Discussion of the methodology for the wildfire scenario modeling.
 - f. Provided a summary of survey literature including vacancy rates and traffic.
 - g. Consideration of running a model based on specific location to capture potential impacts.
 - h. Posed the question of staffing requirements standards, traffic control/ reverse traffic, and roadway flows in the event of wildfire.
 - i. Discussion about what the plan or consideration of operational response for road network and rerouting residents to evacuate including widening roads and recognition the need for implementing 8 foot shoulders on both sides.
 - j. Commented on improvements on East side of the county and if the West side of the county was considered. These strategies could apply to all areas of the county. Majority of traffic and the east side has a higher density of population on the East side of the county.
 - k. Consideration of evacuation routes even though initiative doesn't propose this effort. Fuels Reduction should also be considered in this effort when addressing grid lock.
 - l. Address the emphasis is on getting out and not shelter-in-place.
 - ii. Public Comment
 1. Address the grid lock topic and the relation to evacuation process. Gave the example of someone running out of gas or accidents and how it creates grid locks.
 2. Discuss how timing is a factor and to consider the scenarios with ag pass and recognizing how agriculture effect evacuating including those with animal trailers.
 3. Consideration of adopting of Temporary Refugee Area or TRA – a place to go to send residents in the event of a wildfire.
 4. Commented the plan seems like a good plan but would like to more on who has the jurisdiction to push this plan through and how can the process be speed up.

5. Reports/Presentation

- a. Introduction of new Wildfire Communications and Outreach Analyst within OES.
 - i. Introduction for Sean Hembree, Wildfire Communications and Outreach Analyst

6. New Business

- a. Presentation of TUD's Community Wildfire Defense Grant Application to the U.S. Forest Service – request for recommendation to BOS for letter of support.
 - i. Don Perkins, TUD provided an introduction to Rick Lend to present the Tuolumne Utilities District Wildfire Defense Plan Application to the U.S. Forest Grant Program. The presentation focused on the areas of interest for the grant and provide more resilient area and defensible in the event of a wildfire. CBI Conservation Bureau Institute is supporting TUD in creating a plan for their grant submission. Some topics that were addressed are the current needs for fuels management. Their proposed scope of the project includes the installing infrastructure that will allow to draw water from the ditches and optimum location and what is needed to provide this as a needed resources. There is a request for input/support and suggestions for the submission of the TUD Grand application to USFS. The consideration of providing TUD a letter of support from the Board. See attached presentation.
 - ii. Committee Comments –
 - i. Inquired about areas that will be considered to draw out water. Commented that they have some areas of interests but will be discussing the proposed areas to various fire staff to get their recommendations. Chief New invited consultants to the next's Chief Fire meeting to further discuss these proposed areas.
 - ii. Consideration of ground based resources.
 - iii. Motion to provide a memo for recommendation of letter of support to TUD. Supervisor Campbell motioned to approve, seconded by Wesley Brinegar.
 - i. Vote taken all in favor, no nays, no abstentions. Motion approved.

7. Working groups updates provided by Dore Bietz

- a. Communication and Education Outreach workgroup updated on outreach –
 - i. Continued Outreach provided by OES
- b. Governance Workgroup –
 - i. Vegetation Ordinance is currently being discussed within the County counsel department. and hope is to have it back on the agenda by the end of year.
 - ii. Regular scheduled meeting will start up again soon to address the Fire risk and related topics.
- c. Emergency Planning workgroup – Sirens update; MOU was established with various fire districts and entities. Update was provided on the four entities. The agreement is the sirens will only be used in the event of evacuation and will only be activated by the Sheriff's office.
 - i. Supervisor Goldemberg commented about the siren updates.

Committee Updates-

- ii. Chief New noted will not be present at the October 26th meeting. Commented her organization is working on grants and happy to report been recently award with a few grants. Requested contact information for TCAR to do a follow up to their previous presentation.
 - i. Supervisor Goldemberg provided an update to the recent approval of the mastacator.
- iii. Glen G. noted he will not be present at the next October meeting, he will be sending an alternative.
- iv. Wesley B. – commented on the increasing costs of fuel and how it related to funding and bids.
- v. Jeff S. – provided update on the increase of inspection fees with respect to the State mandates.

vi. Eric H., Scott F., and Supervisor Campbell - no updates.

8. Next Meeting and Adjournment

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

b. Next Regular Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – October 26th @ 10:30 am