

Tuolumne
County
Administration
Center 2 South
Green Street

Sonora, California 95370
Phone (209) 533-5521

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*

**Natural Resource Committee
Wednesday, May 3, 2023 @ 10:00 am
Board of Supervisors Chambers
2 S. Green St., 4th Floor
Sonora, 95370**

Minutes

Call the meeting to order

Supervisor Brandon called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and confirmed a quorum was present. Everyone introduced themselves

Members present: Jaron Brandon, Jim Phelan, Jim Maddox, Dick Gaiser

Public Forum – The public may speak on any item not on the printed agenda. No action may be taken by the Committee. The amount of time allocated for the public forum is limited to 15 minutes.

No public comment.

Consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on April 5, 2023.

Jim Phelan made a motion to approve the minutes of April 5, 2023. Jim Maddox seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Supervisor Kirk arrived at 10:06 and took over as Chair of the meeting.

Partner agencies updates

A. USFS updates:

Jose Hernandez with the USFS introduced himself and provided an update on road closures and prescribed burns and informed everyone that current road closures can be found on the USFS website.

A member of the public provided comment regarding fire season and road closures and the plan for emergency.

A member of the public provided comment regarding Mi-Wuk district road access.

Committee members provided comments and discussion continued regarding emergency road repairs and funding.

B. TUD updates:

A representative from Tuolumne Utilities District provided an update on water line work off Phoenix Lake Road and Mt. Provo Road.

Committee members had further discussion.

Committee Business

A. Staff reports and recommendations – Eric Erhardt

1. The MSA was recently awarded \$7 million for reforestation in the Rim Fire scar.
2. A notice of vacancy for recruitment of the At-Large position on the Natural Resources committee has to be posted and will be brought to the Board of Supervisors for appointment at the May 16, 2023 Board meeting.
3. If members have future agenda items, please provide them to Eric Erhardt or Mark Fisher and they will coordinate with the Chair for inclusion on the next agenda.

Discussion continued regarding the MSA award and tree planting and thinning.

B. Committee member reports

Supervisor Kirk reported:

- The Board of Supervisors approved a one-time \$52,000 investment along with other Counties to pool money to equal approximately \$15 million to pay for staffers to run reports and educate legislators on PILT and SRS.
- The County and CalTrans are having conversation for future years commitment to have Sonora Pass snow cleared by Memorial Day every year.

Committee members continued discussion.

Supervisor Brandon provided a handout regarding California Climate assessment and AB625 with a summary on both and recommended sending a letter regarding AB625. He also spoke about his participation with the UC Ag and Natural Resource committee and the research class and the idea about sharing a water specialist. He shared information regarding solar on Williamson act properties and the possible benefits.

A member of the public provided comment on carbon neutral and provided some clarity.

Discussion Items

- A. Discussion and approval of next steps with recommendation to the BOS of a draft comment letter to the legislature on wildfire emissions being included in Climate Action Plan (CAP)

Eric Erhardt provided a handout draft document for comment and will follow-up for submission as the item failed. SB32 failed. He will follow-up on the item.

- B. Discussion and next steps on the Forest Service lawsuit jeopardizing use of wildfire retardant.

Jose Hernandez noted there is ongoing discussion, and this issue is currently in the courts. No decisions have been made, but staff will keep watch on the issue.

- C. Discussion and next steps regarding fire hazard clean-up.
There was a discussion regarding clean up after the storms. Sean Hembree with Office of Emergency Services will return with updates on green waste, hazardous vegetation resources and pending OES grant opportunities.

A member of the public provided comment regarding the urgency for assisting the community with green waste clean-up.

Discussion Continued.

Open Items

- A. Open Carry-on County roads within public lands issue – Update
County Counsel has this on their list to address, but it is not a priority. Staff provided handouts. Undersheriff Evans spoke regarding the state and local laws and the confusion this causes. He suggested this might be a question for the USFS and how they enforce the laws. It was suggested individuals should do their own research regarding carrying.

Discussion continued regarding enforcement.

Supervisor Kirk requested input regarding how to move forward with this item.

There was consensus to remove the item from the agenda and once County Counsel has time to review it, staff will bring it back.

Supervisor Kirk clarified follow-up for the next meeting agenda: Reforestation, AB32, AB625.

Supervisor Brandon requested the committee review solar on Williamson act land and would reach out to a guest speaker.

Adjourn

Supervisor Kirk adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m. and announced the next meeting

scheduled for June 7, 2023.



Phone: (209) 533-5521
Fax: (209) 533-6549

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE**

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

Ryan Campbell, *Second District*

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

Governor Gavin Newsom
1021 O Street, Suite 9000
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 32 (Jones) – Additional Emissions Considerations

California is a state and global leader in sustainability and decarbonization with SB 32 setting some of the most aggressive goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG). While there are valid questions about the feasibility of public and private entities to close the “local emissions gap” of 38% in the next 7 years before 2030, as well as equity concerns from disproportionately impacted lower-income rural areas, the purpose of this letter is not just to reiterate rural concerns about wildfire but to identify three key glaring data-gaps for climate strategy and policy:

- 1) Emission increases from megafires as well as unhealthy forests
- 2) Emission reductions from managed and healthy forests
- 3) Untracked environmental cost of inaction in forest health projects

Tuolumne County is quite familiar with megafires. The 2013 Rim Fire, that burned from August 17th to October 24th, consumed 257,314 acres in both Tuolumne and Mariposa counties threatening Hetch Hetchy, Yosemite National Park, and nearly destroying the town of Groveland. It was California’s second largest fire – nine years later, it sits at eleventh largest. Fires of this scale have massive implications for emissions tracking and climate strategy.

California is measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories across many sectors but wildfire emissions are notably missing. A study conducted by UCLA and the University of Chicago demonstrated that wildfires in 2020 produced 127 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) emissions. This was approximately two times higher than the total emissions reductions since 2003. One year of wildfires effectively eliminated nearly two decades of reductions from all other sources. It is clear that wildfire emissions need to be part of the equation.

Beyond the obvious threats posed by wildfires such as destruction of property, loss of natural resources, and loss of life, is the truth that forests and climate are inextricably linked. Forest health is climate health. And conversely, an unhealthy forest contributes to an unhealthy climate. It may not be constructed by human hands like an automobile, lawnmower, or power plant, but modern fire patterns are nonetheless man made. A century of human fire suppression and reductions in mechanical harvest have left most California forests in an unsustainable cycle of

overgrowth, fuel buildup, and inevitable megafires that frequently exceed environmental tolerances and grow back as brushlands, not forests. As proud local leaders on the cutting edge of forest stewardship agreements, fire mitigation, fuel reduction, biomass, timber production, and public-private forest partnerships, we assert that there are significant emissions reductions to take into account by maintaining forest health.

While local, state, and federal jurisdictions have struggled with “green tape” even for the most clearly environmentally beneficial projects, there is no EIR required to choose not to take action. Only actions taken to improve the environment are subject to the scrutiny of CEQA and NEPA. We assert that in the case of California forests, inaction has the greatest negative environmental consequences. Without measuring those impacts, they cannot be accounted for in policymaking and this leads to incomplete planning.

Tuolumne County recognizes that data is critical to private investment, public grants, policymaking, and good governance at all levels, and we need your advocacy to see this happen. We respectfully request the Governor’s office take lead to work with the California Air Resources Board, California Board of Forestry, and the State Legislature to establish a clear, consistent data framework for the state to account for wildfire emissions, emission reductions from forest health projects, and the comparative environmental cost of not taking action. This will empower local and regional stakeholders with the data to show strong correlation between healthy, managed forests and achieving state climate goals.

We further recommend the Governor’s office solicit input from local government stakeholders in the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC), California State Association of Counties (CSAC), National Association of Counties (NACO), and partners such as the League of California Cities.

Climate Assessment

Request for Information (RFI) and Listening Sessions on California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment's Regional Synthesis Reports

OPR has released a Request for Information (RFI) seeking input to inform California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment's (Fifth Assessment) Regional Synthesis Reports. The Fifth Assessment team will be hosting virtual listening sessions on the RFI during May 2023.

The Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has released a **Request for Information (RFI)** seeking input to inform California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment's (Fifth Assessment) Regional Synthesis Reports (regional reports). The regional reports will strengthen the understanding of climate impacts and risks at the local level and inform the development of resilience actions across the state.

[Request for Information \(RFI\)](#)

The Fifth Assessment team will be hosting virtual listening sessions on the RFI during May 2023. The listening sessions are open to the public as an additional opportunity to ask questions and provide input on the scope of the regional reports.

The RFI is for public comment only.

Written responses are required to be submitted via the form linked below by **Wednesday, May 31, 2023 by 5:00 p.m. PST** to be considered.

[Complete the Request for Information](#)

If you are unable to access the submission form, responses and/or supplemental attachments can be submitted via email to climateassessment@opr.ca.gov. For emailed responses, please include in the email subject line, "Fifth Assessment Regional Report RFI".

Listening Sessions

May 4th, 2023
Statewide
2:00 p.m. PST

This listening session is geared towards a statewide audience and anyone is welcome to attend. A statewide audience includes organizations and individuals focused on multiple regions across California.

[register >](#)

May 10th, 2023
California Coast (North, Bay Area, Central)
4:00 p.m. PST

This listening session is geared towards a California Coast audience and anyone is welcome to attend.

[register >](#)

May 11th, 2023
Southern California (Los Angeles, Inland Deserts, San Diego)
10:00 a.m. PST

This listening session is geared towards a Southern California audience and anyone is welcome to attend.

[register >](#)

May 15th, 2023
Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley and Sierra Nevada
12:00 p.m. PST

This listening session is geared towards a Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, and Sierra Nevada audience and anyone is welcome to attend.

[register >](#)



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AB-625 Forest biomass: management: emissions: energy. (2023-2024)

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Date Published: 04/12/2023 09:00 PM

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 12, 2023

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 27, 2023

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE— 2023–2024 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

NO. 625

Introduced by Assembly Member Aguiar-Curry
(Coauthor: Senator Newman)

February 09, 2023

An act to amend ~~Sections~~ *Section* 38535 ~~and 38561~~ of the Health and Safety Code, to add Section 25302.3 to, to add Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 4139) to Chapter 1 of Part 2 of Division 4 of, and to repeal Section 4140.3 of, the Public Resources Code, and to amend Section 399.20 of the Public Utilities Code, relating to public resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 625, as amended, Aguiar-Curry. Forest biomass: management: emissions: energy.

(1) Existing law establishes in the Natural Resources Agency the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL-FIRE), and requires CAL-FIRE to be responsible for, among other things, fire protection and prevention, as provided. Existing law establishes the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in CAL-FIRE to represent the state's interest in the acquisition and management of state forests and requires the board to maintain an adequate forest policy. The former Governor, Edmund G. Brown Jr., issued Executive Order No. B-52-18 that, among other things, established a Forest Management Task Force, now known as the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, involving specified state agencies to create the action plan for wildfire and forest resilience. The executive order also established a Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation, to be located within the state board.

This bill would establish the Forest Biomass Waste Utilization Program to be administered by the state board's Joint Institute for Wood Products Innovation to develop an implementation plan to meet the goals and recommendations of, and the comprehensive framework to align with the state's wood utilization policies and priorities and focused market strategy of, specified statewide forest management plans, and to develop a workforce training program to complement the workforce needs associated with the implementation plan. The bill would require the state board, in coordination with the Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force, to submit an

annual report to the Legislature, beginning January 1, 2025, on the progress made on implementing the implementation plan.

This bill would require the Natural Resources Agency, in furtherance of the program, to facilitate the integration of recommendations for forest biomass waste utilization in relevant, state climate adaptation plans.

(2) The Warren-Alquist State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Act establishes the State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission (Energy Commission) and requires the Energy Commission to undertake various actions in furtherance of meeting the state's clean energy and pollution reduction objectives. Existing law requires the Energy Commission, in consultation with specified state and federal agencies and at least every 2 years, to conduct assessments and forecasts of all aspects of energy industry supply, production, transportation, delivery and distribution, demand, and prices. Existing law requires the Energy Commission, in consultation with specified entities, to adopt a biennial integrated energy policy report containing certain information.

This bill would require the Energy Commission, in furtherance of the Forest Biomass Waste Utilization Program, to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature, on or before December 31, 2024, that evaluates innovative bioenergy technologies that use forest biomass waste, as specified. The bill would also require the Energy Commission to include, as part of the 2025 edition of the integrated policy report, an assessment of the potential for forest biomass waste energy to provide firm renewable power.

(3) The California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 designates the State Air Resources Board (state air board) as the state agency charged with monitoring and regulating sources of emissions of greenhouse gases. The act requires the state air board to adopt a statewide greenhouse gas emissions limit, as specified, and to adopt rules and regulations in an open public process to achieve the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective greenhouse gas emission reductions. The act requires the state air board to develop, on or before December 31, 2020, and every 5 years thereafter, a report that assesses greenhouse gas emission associated with wildfire and forest management activities. ~~The act requires the state air board to prepare, approve, and update at least once every 5 years, beginning on January 1, 2009, a scoping plan for achieving the maximum technologically feasible and cost-effective reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from sources or categories of sources of greenhouse gases under the act.~~

This bill would require the state air board, in the report developed on or before December 31, 2025, and every 5 years thereafter, to include, among other things, a methodology to quantify the greenhouse gas and short-lived climate pollutant emissions from wildfire, pile burning, and forest management activities, as specified. ~~The bill would also require the state air board to consider the results of that report, as applicable, in the next update of the scoping plan.~~

(4) Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical corporations. The California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program requires every electrical corporation to file with the PUC a standard tariff for electricity generated by an electric generation facility, as defined, that qualifies for the tariff, is owned and operated by a retail customer of the electrical corporation, and is located within the service territory of, and developed to sell electricity to, the electrical corporation. The PUC refers to this requirement as the renewable feed-in tariff. The renewable feed-in tariff law, in part, requires the PUC to direct the electrical corporations, collectively, to procure at least 250 megawatts of cumulative rated generating capacity from developers of bioenergy projects that commence operation on or after June 1, 2013. Pursuant to this requirement, the PUC has established and revised the Bioenergy Market Adjusting Tariff (BioMAT) program. Existing law authorizes a community choice aggregator to submit eligible projects for cost recovery pursuant to the BioMAT program, as specified.

This bill would require the PUC to continue the BioMAT program until the implementation of the provisions authorizing community choice aggregators to participate in the program has been resolved as specified, and adequate time is given to community choice aggregators to participate in the program.

Under existing law, a violation of the Public Utilities Act or any order, decision, rule, direction, demand, or requirement of the commission is a crime.

Because certain provisions of this bill would be a part of the act and because a violation of a commission action implementing the bill's requirements would be a crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(5) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.



Firearms Use

Sierra National Forest



Welcome to the Sierra National Forest. These public lands are enjoyed by tens of thousands of people each year in a variety of activities. Regulations for safe shooting are to provide for safety, protection, and enjoyment of all forest visitors and for the natural surroundings.

Definition

The California Penal Code 12001 defines firearms as "rifles, shotguns, revolvers, pistols or any other device designed to be used as a weapon from which a projectile is expelled by the force of any explosion or other form of combustion."

Where Can I Use My Firearm?

Visitors are free to scout the public lands under our jurisdiction to find suitable sites for plinking. It is your responsibility to be aware of the location of private property within forest boundaries and to not trespass. Permission from the private landowner must be obtained to cross private lands to access public lands. Refer to the Sierra National Forest recreation map to determine surrounding trails, roads, and campgrounds prior to shooting. Maps can be obtained at Forest Service offices and online at www.nationalforestmapstore.com.

Things To Know

- ♦ **Current Road Information.** From late fall to spring most dirt roads are closed to vehicle travel. Obtain a motor vehicle use map from a local office.
- ♦ **Safe Shooting Area:** A good shooting area has legal access, an effective backstop that absorbs bullets without producing ricochets, an unobstructed view so that no one can wander into the line of fire without being seen, and no nearby buildings, especially campgrounds and camping areas.
- ♦ **Targets:** You must provide your own targets, preferably paper targets only. It is illegal to deface or destroy trees, signs, outbuildings, or other objects on federal lands.
- ♦ **Clean up after yourself** (and others if you can). Pack home and remove "ALL" target materials, shells, clay pigeons, and boxes.

Regulations

As a recreation shooter using the Federal Lands, it is **your** responsibility to conduct your sport safely. You must be aware of and comply with all state, county, and federal laws pertaining to the possession and transportation of firearms and to do it without damage to other forest users and to the natural environment.

The following is **PROHIBITED** under Federal regulations:

- ♦ **Discharging a firearm** or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury or damaging property 36CFR261.10(d);
 1. In or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site or other occupied area; or
 2. Across or on any Forest System road, or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result in such discharge ;
 3. Into or within any cave.
- ♦ **Shooting** in an area that has been closed to the use of firearms.
- ♦ **Damaging** any natural feature or property of the United States. 36CFR261.9(a) (includes trees).
- ♦ **Firing any** tracer bullet or incendiary ammunition. 36CFR261.5(b).
- ♦ **Failing to dispose of all garbage** (this includes spent cartridges and targets). 36CFR261.11(d).
- ♦ **Using explosives, fireworks,** or operating an engine without an appropriate spark arrestor. Exploding targets (binary explosives) falls under this prohibition. 36CFR261.52(b) *Regional Order 15-01*.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Handout

Be Legal

All shooters are expected to follow the principles of firearms safety, and to obey California State laws on the use of firearms. California Firearms Laws Summary can be found on the web at: <http://oag.ca.gov/firearms>.

Hunting

- ♦ **Know and follow** all California Department of Fish and Wildlife rules and regulations. You can check online at: www.wildlife.ca.gov for hunting and fishing information and related State regulations.
- ♦ **Your valid California hunting license and appropriate tags must be in possession** when hunting on National Forest lands and you should be prepared to show them upon request.
- ♦ **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

1416 9th Street, 12th Floor,
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 445-0411

www.wildlife.ca.gov

Thank you for your help in making forest visits enjoyable and safe! Plan ahead by obtaining a National Forest map at one of the following offices:

Sierra NF Forest Supervisors Office

1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611
(559)-297-0706

High Sierra Ranger District

29688 Auberry Road/P.O. Box 559
Prather, CA 93651
(559)-855-5355

Bass Lake Ranger District

57003 Road 225
North Fork, CA 93651
(559)-877-2218

State Law Does Apply to National Forest Lands

A few of the related State Firearms laws are listed below.

Your local Sheriff's Office is the best place to ask questions regarding these laws. (CAPC = California Penal Code).

- ♦ **CAPC 25400: Concealed Carry.** It is illegal for any person to carry a handgun concealed upon his or her person or concealed in a vehicle without a license issued pursuant to CAPC 26150. A firearm locked in a motor vehicle's trunk or in a locked container carried in the vehicle other than in the utility or glove compartment is not considered concealed within the meaning of the CAPC 25400; neither is a firearm carried within a locked container directly to or from a motor vehicle for any lawful purpose (CAPC 25610).
- ♦ The prohibition from carrying a concealed handgun does not apply to licensed **hunters or fishermen** while engaged in hunting or fishing, or while going to or returning from the hunting expedition (CAPC 25640). Notwithstanding this exception for hunters or fishermen, these individuals *may not carry or transport loaded firearms* when going to or from the expedition. The unloaded firearms should be transported in the trunk of the vehicle or in a locked container other than the utility or glove compartment (CAPC 25610).
- ♦ **CAPC 25850: Open carry of a loaded firearm in public.** It is illegal to carry a loaded firearm on one's person or in a vehicle while in any public place, on any public street, or in any place where it is unlawful to discharge a firearm. (Note: does not apply to any person while hunting in an area where possession and hunting is otherwise lawful or while practice shooting at target ranges (CAPC 26005, 26040).
- ♦ **CAPC 26350: Open carry of an unloaded handgun in public.** It is generally illegal for any person to carry upon his or her person or in a vehicle, an exposed and unloaded handgun while in or on:
 - ♦ A public place or public street in an incorporated city or city and county; or
 - ♦ A public street in a *prohibited area* of an unincorporated city or city and county.
- ♦ **CAPC 30500-30530: Assault Weapons.** These penal code sections define the regulations that govern the possession, manufacture and use of assault weapons. These regulations and prohibitions apply on National Forest lands.

Chapter 8.28

GUN SAFETY

Sections:

- 8.28.010 Shooting near dwelling unit.**
- 8.28.020 Reckless shooting.**
- 8.28.030 Loaded firearm prohibited areas.**

8.28.010 Shooting near dwelling unit.

A. No firearm may be discharged within 150 yards of any dwelling unit or public or occupied private campground without the express permission of the owner or legal occupant.

B. The following gun clubs and ranges are exempt from the provisions of this section:

1. Mother Lode Gun Club Jamestown Road, Jamestown;
2. Tuolumne County Sheriff's Range Parrotts Ferry Road, Columbia;
3. Keystone Range, Off Highway 108/120;
4. Sonora Smokepolers - The North-South Skirmish Association Range, Six Bit Gulch Road, Red Hills;
5. Pine Mountain Lake Gun Club Unit 14, Pine Mountain Lake. (Ord. 1392 § 1 (part), 1985).

8.28.020 Reckless shooting. Discharge of a firearm with wilful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property is prohibited. (Ord. 1392 § 1 (part), 1985).

8.28.030 Loaded firearm prohibited areas. It is unlawful to possess a loaded weapon or discharge a weapon in the following unincorporated areas of the County which are hereby declared to be "Prohibited Areas" for the purposes of Penal Code Section 12031:

- A. All land in or within 100 feet of any commercial business, not including a home occupation, which is open to the public.
- B. All land within any commercial parking area.
- C. All land within a public school ground.
- D. All land maintained as a public park or recreation area by the County or any local park district.
- E. All land on or along a public road or highway. (Ord. 1392 § 1 (part), 1985).