



Tuolumne County Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes

For the Meeting on March 6th, 2024

2024 Natural Resource Members (or assigned delegates)	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
Anaiah Kirk	✓	✓	✓									
Kathleen Haff	✓	✓	✓									
Don Perkins	✓	✓	✓									
Pete Kampa		✓	✓									
Adam Mazurkiewicz		✓	✓									
Stephanie Suess			A									
Dianna Beasley		✓	A									
Dick Gaiser	✓	✓	✓									
Chris Trott		✓	✓									
Jim Maddox	✓	✓	✓									
Jim Phelan	✓	✓	✓									
Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E												

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Kirk called the meeting to order at 10:01 A.M. and confirmed a quorum was present.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Anaiah Kirk, Vice-Chair Kathleen Haff, Jim Maddox, Jim Phelan, Dick Gaiser, Chris Trott, Adam Mazurkiewicz (Hetch Hetchy), Abby Parcon (TUD), Pete Kampa, (GCSD), Sean Hembree (staff)
- 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.
 - Vice Chair Haff Noted a recent [report by James Schmidt entitled](#): County Wildfire Risk Ratings in Northern California: FAIR Plan Insurance Policies and Simulation Models vs. Red Flag Warnings and Diablo Winds. The Study noted a relatively lower prevalence of wind-driven fires as compared to North Bay and northern Sierra region fires and recommended that this should be reflected in risk modeling for the central Sierra region.
 - Chris Trott Noted Mountain Counties Water Resources Association (MCWRA) Forest Management Principles Adopted 2/20/24 and recommended we adopt a similar principle for recommended forest stewardship.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Consideration of approving the minutes of the

meeting held on February 6, 2023 Jim Phelan made a motion to approve the minutes. Chris Trott seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. CONSIDERATION OF: Comment letter for Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for SERAL 2.0 A motion to recommend to the Board the draft letter was made by Jim Phelan and Seconded by Chris Trott. The Motion was approved with no opposition.

- a. Public Comment: members of the public indicated disappointment that the DEIS did not include provision for cattle under the targeted Grazing plan and indicated that the relatively small allocation of treatment under the plan was an underutilization of this treatment opportunity

6. CONSIDERATION OF: Proposed endorsement of Assembly Bill 2257. Pete Kampa explained the impact of this legislation on the interpretation of Prop 218 and made a motion to support an Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) coalition to endorse this bill. The motion was Seconded by

7. PARTNER AGENCIES UPDATES:

- a. Ben Cossell USFS Public Affairs Officer reported that:
- i. Prescribed burns had been paused due to precipitation, but it was anticipated that burning would continue weather permitting.
 - ii. Cossell also indicated that a USFS resolution requiring a 5.9% compensation increase requires an adjustment to staff assignments and project completion schedules.
 - iii. Cossell indicated there was an impact on the Stanislaus Forest coming from a recent Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council (RAC) decision regarding day-use fees
- b. Gary Whitson CAL FIRE Unit Forester reported that:
- i. The California State Board of Forestry is considering a change to utility easement vegetation standards which will impact rural landowners with additional responsibility to remove trees felled by utility providers.
 - ii. Whitson also reported fuel management projects planned for the Groveland area

8. COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- a. Staff reports and recommendations:
- i. Postponed
 - ii. Public comments – None
- b. Committee member reports – Various committee members discussed the Recent BLM RAC decision and discussed updating the permit and fee plan under the Recreation Enhancement Act.

9. DISCUSSION OF the merit of forming a biomass utilization Joint Powers Authority (JPA) – Postponed

10. ADJOURNED: Chair Kirk adjourned the meeting at 11:02 A.M.
The next meeting is scheduled for April 3rd, 2024.