

TUOLUMNE COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2024 Strategic Priorities

- Support our local water utility partners in their effort to modernize and improve water supply infrastructure and mitigate risk.
- Maintain awareness of pertinent State and Federal legislation regarding natural resources, land use, water, and water rights.
- Maintain awareness of Tuolumne County Federal land use policy, planning, and implementation and provide recommendations and advocacy as appropriate.
- Promote landscape and watershed resilience through innovative solutions and capacity building.

Date/Time: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Location: Board of Supervisors Chambers – 2 S. Green Street, 4th Floor, Sonora, CA 95370

Contact: Sean Hembree at shembree@co.tuolumne.ca.us (209)533-5554

Chair/Vice Chair

Supervisor Anaiah Kirk

Supervisor Kathleen Haff

Agency Representatives

Tuolumne Me Wuk

Diana Beasley

Chicken Ranch Me Wuk

Stephanie Suess

Tuolumne Utilities District

Don Perkins

Groveland CSD

Pete Kampa

Hetch Hetchy

Adam Mazurkiewicz

Fish and Game Preserve Fund

Jim Maddox

Agricultural Advisor

Dick Gaiser

Tuolumne Co. RCD

Jim Phelan

At Large Member

Chris Trott

Staff

County Administrator

Tracie Riggs

Water & Natural Resource

Analyst (CAO)

Sean Hembree

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL (5 minutes)

Introductions during roll call

Confirm quorum requirements are met (Quorum = 6 members)

III. PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)

The public may speak on any item, not on the agenda. No action may be taken by the Committee

Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per person)

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING May 1, 2024 (5 minutes)

V. CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BOERE RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT

VI. PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES (15 minutes)

a. Stanislaus National Forest:

b. CAL FIRE

VII. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

a. Staff Reports and Recommendations

i. Drought Resilience Plan update

ii. Grants update:

1. CAL FIRE Forest Health – awarded

2. WaterSMART – pre-award notice

3. IFNF – submitted/pending

4. Better Together – submitted/pending

5. REAP rescoping – in process

iii. SWIFT Coordinator vacancy

iv. California Board of Forestry Power Utility Easement

v. Green Waste disposal opportunity

b. Committee Member Reports

Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)

VIII. DISCUSSION OF USDA PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR OLD GROWTH MANAGEMENT

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Next meeting will be held on August 7, 2024



Tuolumne County Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes

For the Meeting on May 1, 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		✓	✓	E	✓							
Dianna Beasley		✓	A	A	A							
Dick Gaiser	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Chris Trott		✓	✓	E	✓							
Jim Maddox	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Jim Phelan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E												

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Kirk called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and confirmed a quorum was present.
- 2. MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Anaiah Kirk, Vice-Chair Kathleen Haff, Stephanie Suess, Jim Maddox, Jim Phelan, Dick Gaiser, Don Perkins, Pete Kampa, Chris Trott, Adam Mazurkiewicz, Sean Hembree (staff)
- 3. 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. – None
- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on April 3rd, 2024 Jim Phelan made a motion to approve the minutes. Dick Gaiser seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- 5. CONSIDERATION OF CHANGING STATUS OF CHICKEN RANCH ME WUK TO ADVISORY MEMBER:** On Behalf of Chicken Ranch Rancheria, Stephanie citing capacity constraints and scheduling conflicts, Stephanie Suess has requested that Chicken Ranch be reassigned as an Advisory Member, to the Natural Resource Committee. A motion was made to make this change by Supervisor Kirk and seconded by Chris Trott. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. CONSIDERATION OF GIVING DIRECTION TO THE TUOLUMNE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REGARDING PROPOSED BIOMASS JPA: An update was given by Christiana Darlington with California Office of Planning and Research regarding outreach to potential member agencies, assessments and reports in process, as well as the status of proposed funding and seed money allocation. No decision by the Board will be required until next March or April as to the approval/rejection of the proposed Joint Powers Authority. County staff will continue to engage in communication and report back to this committee at a later date.
7. PARTNER AGENCIES UPDATES:
 - a. USFS – Kim ***** USFS Public Affairs Officer reported on the status of ongoing broadcast prescribed burns in the Groveland area. These will be completed shortly, after which prescribed fire projects will be conducted near Cedar Ridge. Kim also stated that the SERAL DEIS review had been completed and an completed Environmental Impact Statement is expected shortly.
 - b. CAL FIRE – none
8. COMMITTEE BUSINESS:
 - a. Staff reports and recommendations – Postponed
 - b. Committee member reports – Don Perkins gave an update regarding the emergency response plan for the Lyons Canal. Supervisor Kirk inquired if steps were in place for the County to support the response logistics in the event of any failure of the canal due to environmental events or disasters. County Staff and TUD and PG&E personnel will take the matter under advisement.
9. DISCUSSION OF the California Board of Forestry proposed update changes for utility vegetation management activities was held. Concerns were addressed. There was a consensus to track this issue and provide a recommended letter to the Board of Supervisors once the public comment period opens.
10. DISCUSSION OF endorsing the [Mountain Counties Water Resource Association - Forest Management Principle](#). There was a consensus to recommend that the Board of Supervisors formally support these principles. This will be brought before the next available Board of Supervisors meeting.
11. ADJOURNED: Chair Kirk adjourned the meeting at 11:00 A.M. The next meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2024.

Date here, 2024

Re: Support for California Rangeland Trusts' application to USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Agricultural Conservation Easement Program on behalf of the Boere Ranch in Tuolumne County California.

Dear Grant Administrator,

It is with enthusiasm that I am writing this letter of support. As the County of Tuolumne Water and Natural Resource Senior Analyst and a fifth-generation descendant of a local ranching family, I am keenly aware of the challenges that family farming and ranching operations face in our community today.

The Boere Ranch supports regenerative agriculture and local food security in a meaningful way. By utilizing dry rangeland grazing, without irrigation, chemical fertilization, and minimal transportation inputs, the Boere operation has a significantly smaller water and energy footprint than conventional factory farm models.

The Boere operation supports multiple community benefits. The prescribed grazing of this ranch is adjacent to the dense development of the Pine Mountain Lake Community. The healthy management of understory fuel acts as a buffer to prevent catastrophic wildfire from damaging critical community infrastructure and human safety. The State Fire Marshal Map indicates that the wildfire hazard severity in this area is "very high".

By providing recreational camping opportunities, Boere Ranch supports the local Groveland area economy. Groveland is the primary area for services along the northern Yosemite Park gateway route and its economy is largely dependent on tourism. Moreover, the camping educates guests by allows guests to see a small-scale food system example in operation.

The Boere Operation is congruent with County general plan and development strategy. This funding will help the Ranch resist development pressure. Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) development sprawl is a large component of California's insurance epidemic. Tuolumne County has the highest per capita enrollment in the Cal Fair (State subsidized insurance program) of all the 58 Counties in the State.

I encourage you to approve California Rangeland Trusts' proposal to the Natural Resource Conservation Service's Agricultural Conservation Easement Program on behalf of the Boere Ranch in Tuolumne County California. Thank you for your attention to this effort. Please reach out if I can be of further assistance.

Respectfully,

Cc:

JT Reiser,

Land Trust Manager, California Rangeland Trust

DRAFT

"We Support the Board of Supervisors in achieving their goals through service & collaboration with the County Departments and the Community"

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Telephone: 209.533.5511 E-mail: shembree@co.tuolumne.ca.us
www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov

Greenwaste Dollar Dump Days

SATURDAYS

June 29, 2024

September 28, 2024

**Earth Resource Facility
14909 CAMAGE AVENUE**

**8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
(Closed noon-1 p.m.)**



YES!

ACCEPTABLE items include:

- Grass clippings, leaves
- Pine needles, flowers
- Tree trimmings & limbs, brush
- Dead plants



NO!

UNACCEPTABLE items include:

- Waste, liquids, trash, ash or plastic bags
- Plastic, glass, or wire items
- Pet waste or kitty litter
- Tree Stumps
- Palm trees/leaves
- Agave Cactus

**Residents may dispose of one (1) cubic yard (3x3x3) of green waste for \$1.00.
Any waste over one (1) cubic yard will be charged the regular rate for disposal.**

Participants will be required to provide identification (photo ID or utility bill with address) verifying they live in Tuolumne County. This program is for the residents of Tuolumne County **ONLY.**

Sorry NO contractors or commercial businesses permitted.

For questions and additional information please contact the Tuolumne County Public Works Department's Solid Waste Division at (209) 533-5588.

