

Tuolumne County

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*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*

Fire Safety Advisory Committee – June 26th, 2024, at 3:00 pm A.N.F. Building 48 Yaney Ave 3rd Floor, Sonora CA 95370

I. Meeting is called to order by Supervisor Campbell at 3:03 PM. Roll call taken.

II.

a. Committee Members present

1. District 2 Supervisor – Ryan Campbell
2. District 1 Supervisor – David Goldemberg
3. Public Rep – Scott Fremd
4. Public Rep – Betsy Hurst
5. Public Rep – Chuck Sloan
6. Tuolumne County Fire – Chief Mario Torres
7. Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office – Lt. Nikifork
8. Tuolumne County Fire Chiefs Association – Chief Gamez
9. City of Sonora – Chief Aimee New

b. Advisory Committee Members

c. Others present

1. Dore Bietz – OES Staff
2. Anna Fagioli – OES Staff
3. Miguel Ramirez – OES Staff
4. Public – Various

III. Public Comment

a. None

IV. Approval of minutes 5/28/2024:

- a. Motion was made by to approve by Chief Gamez 2nd by Scott Fremd. All in favor, no nays, no abstention. The motion was approved unanimously.

No Public Comment.

V. Partner Agency Updates/Presentations

- Cal Fire Updates – Staffed and actively responding to fires. Aero fire has been the biggest. Lots of aircraft activity locally.

- USFS Stanislaus National Forest – fully staffed up. 6 fires burning on forest, various stages of containment. Resources have been sent off forest to assist other fires in state.

VI. New Business

- a. Discussion of roadside brushing strategies including discussion of roadside spray programs. Blossom Scott-Heim, Public Works Director spoke about current reality of number of miles of road and the budget allocations towards roadside brushing which is about \$68,000 for 612 miles of county-maintained road.
 1. Committee members comments and questions on current process
 2. Public comments
 1. Why are we not using inmate crews? Cal Fire Battalion Chief updated current situation. Legally Cal Fire crews cannot enter into private property within an agreement and or CEQA Compliance. They can in an emergency at the request of local government. Sheriff talked about re-energizing the inmate release program but depends on inmate population and staffing.
 2. Why is there so little funding available? Public works spoke about the roads funds that come down and are allocated. Grants help offset but require hiring contractors who cost more.
 3. Greenly Oaks Firewise community member spoke about their efforts. Asked about right of way? Explained that it varies from 20-60ft.
 - Community members
 4. Fireback spoke about their services and reminded committee about the work they do.
 5. CSERC staff raised concerns with herbicide use on fuels reduction. Should not be a default, should be carefully considered and applied in limited use, not near waterways, wetlands, schools ,etc. Fuels hazards are a high priority, but we need to limit use of herbicides.
 3. Committee members asked about herbicides and pre-emergent and the difference. Clarification that it is a type of herbicide, but it is to prevent growth.
 4. What can the committee do to support the effort, continue grants that helps free up county staff, counsel review of agreements to allow private property owners to work within a public right away removing vegetation.
 1. Staff discussed how Cal Trans get the bulk of gas tax revenues and then the remaining is divided up amongst the counties. Larger counties have more money and more tax base revenue.

VII. Committee Business

a. Staff Reports and Recommendations

1. Introduction of new Senior Analyst – Miguel Ramirez
2. New committee make up approved recently by Board of Supervisors
3. Emergency Notification System Tests Update – test tomorrow of our 5 outdoor audible alerts at 11:00 am. There will be a public survey that folks can participate in,,,,,we want to know where individuals are when they hear the alert.
4. Insurance updates
5. PGE Wildfire Safety Progress map

VIII. Committee Member Reports

1. None

Public comment - none

IX. DISCUSSION and APPROVAL OF

- a. Recommendations to Board for sustainable funding of emergency services in Tuolumne County long-term to include:
 1. Offset costs and reduce non-emergency call volumes (Fire and Law) such as fees for service, non-county resident calls for service; TABLED TO NEXT MEETING
 2. Support hazardous veg ordinance inspectors to be included in Fire Budget.
 - a. Supervisor Goldemberg and Supervisor Campbell spoke about their efforts in advocating one position in next year's budget.
 3. Support recommendation for relocation/improvement of county sheriff's dispatch with long term options such as developing a regional facility.
 - a. Supervisor Campbell and Supervisor Goldemberg have advocated support funding in new budget to repair and improve dispatch.

Public Comment - none

X. Next Meeting and Adjournment

- a. Meeting Adjourned at 4:40pm
- b. **Next Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – July 24, 2024 @ 3:00 pm**
NOTE NEW LOCATION – ANF Building 3rd floor Committees and Commissions Room