

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, August 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Location: A.N. Francisco Bldg. 48 Yaney Ave. 3rd Floor Committees & Commissions Rm., Sonora, 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 July 3, 2024 (5 minutes)

V. CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE COMMENT REGARDING AB 1255

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. California Board of Forestry Power Utility Easement update

b. Committee Member Reports

Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)

VIII. DISCUSSION OF AT-RISK DOMESTIC WATER SYSTEMS

IX. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF USDA OLD GROWTH FOREST

X. ADJOURNMENT

The Next meeting will be held on September 4, 2024



Tuolumne County Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes

For the Meeting on July 3, 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	✓		E					
Dianna Beasley		✓	A	A	A		A					
Dick Gaiser	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Chris Trott		✓	✓	E	✓		✓					
Jim Maddox	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		E					
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, Jim Phelan, Dick Gaiser, Don Perkins, Pete Kampa, Chris Trott, 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 May 1, 2024 Jim Phelan made a motion to approve the minutes. Chris Trott seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with correction noted.
- 5. CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BOERE RANCE CONSERVATION EASEMENT:** There was a consensus from the committee to first determine if the Ranch has an active livestock production operation before considering support. Staff Sean Hembree will review and report back.

6. PARTNER AGENCIES UPDATES:

- a. USFS – Ben Cossel reported.
 - i. Sheering Fire: This lightning strike fire started June 25th. The fire has now exceeded 300 acres. 25 resources are currently assigned and as of last Sunday, the fire management intent has moved to full suppression status. The fire is burning adjacent to the Quarry Fire and Bone Fire burn scars. There are currently no road closures and containment is expected. No prescribed fire management is planned for this season in the Stanislaus Forest.
 - ii. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for SERAL is completed.
- b. CAL FIRE – Gary Whitson
 - i. Suspended projects – Due to fire conditions and potential for resource drawdown, all prescribed fire operations are suspended within the unit.
 - ii. Fuel breaks along the Highway 120 corridor on BLM parcels are still pending approval and delayed due to multiple BLM staffing vacancies. This remains a priority for Unit Forester Whitson

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- a. Staff reports and recommendations: CAO staff Sean Hembree gave update on status of Drought Resilience Plan development including scope and purpose. Hembree gave update on current pending and approved grant proposals submitted by County staff relevant to Natural Resources. Hembree noted reported the SWIFT Coordinator vacancy and gave an update regarding ongoing California Board of Forestry utility easement rule making changes.
- b. TUD: Abby Parcon provided an update on active projects and grant applications
- c. GCSD: Pete Kampa provided an update of active projects including fuel breaks adjacent to Pine Mountain Lake area, also adjacent to the BLM/CAL FIRE fuel break referenced by CAL FIRE Forester Whitson in his report.

8. DISCUSSION OF USDA PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR OLD GROTH FOREST:

- a. There was a consensus to be wary of centralized management of discrete conditions across all National Forests
- b. Ben Cossel stated that the SNF is looking at this but does not expect it to impact projects or management in a meaningful way. Ben will discuss with SNF staff and leadership and report back

9. ADJOURNED: Chair Kirk adjourned the meeting at 11:00 A.M.
The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2024.