

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 – July 24th, 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 3:04 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 Sheriff's Office – Undersheriff Neil Harris
7. Tuolumne County Fire - Chief Mario Torres
8. CAL Fire – Chief Gary Whitson

b. Advisory Committee Members

c. Others present

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

III. Public Comment

a. None

IV. Approval of minutes 6/26/2024:

- a. Motion was made by to approve by Chief Torres 2nd by Betsy Hurst. All in favor, no nays, no abstention. The motion was approved unanimously.

No Public Comment.

V. Partner Agency Updates/Presentations

- Cal Fire Updates – No Updates
- Presentation from CA Department of Insurance, Mary Beth Bykowsky on current issues and map of highest priority counties. PowerPoint and handouts presented.

- Public comments and questions
 - How is the homeowner expected to navigate the process to hit that benchmark, staff stated the detailed process is being discovered as the program and requirement is new. But offered some helpful steps that have been taken in other settings, and explained the process is still being defined. The insurance companies are supposed to maintain a certain percent of business in CA, specifically in wildfire area, and as that is being worked towards it should help shift the covered %.
 - Committee members ask about the algorithm that is used to assign a risk for a residence and are there any requirements to use one over the other. Staff explained that the process is proprietary, and they private companies are not legally required to share how they reach their assessment, and as a result some conversations are being had to develop a public facing model to provide assessments and insurance risks. If that's the case, and they won't share, it seems that they recognize the public pressure mounting, resulting from the ongoing events, and is asking if the companies would budge on sharing those risk methodologies insight. Staff shared that bringing in other partners like the mortgage companies who has a vested interest in home hardening throughout the designated areas.
 - Committee asks if there is a plan to attract other insurance companies with the departure of the big ones. Once they can use CAT modeling they'd come back and have committed to doing so.
 - If the industry won't provide the information on what model is used to determine risk, then is there any way the Attorney General could be involved, and pressure be applied to have that information shared.
 - Discussion of the financial investment the County has made stemming from previous wildfires, but community members are continually seeing insurance rates increasing despite the mitigation efforts that have been taken. What can we tell the community members about the steps that the State is providing? The SAFER from wildfires was first attempt and it wasn't as successful as we anticipated, the discounts were minimal. We are also focused on reducing the number of policies on the FAIR program from 40% to 15%.

VI. New Business - none

VII. Committee Business

a. Staff Reports and Recommendations

1. Briefed committee on OES analyst staff departure – Anna Fagioli. Briefed committee on Home Hardening Grant to include the project area and funding source, described RFP related to roadside brushing and hope to accomplish 22 miles of roadside brushing. Discussed EHP process for residences located within the project area. Discussed next steps in selecting project manager, and costs associated with office rental space near project site. Also mentioned evacuation planning grant looking at evacuation zones.

VIII. Committee Member Reports - 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 4:43pm
- b. **Next Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – August 28, 2024 @ 3:00 pm**