

TUOLUMNE COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2026 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, September 2, 2026, 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 Mike Holland

Agency Representatives

Tuolumne Me Wuk

Diana Beasley

Chicken Ranch Me Wuk

Stephanie Suess

Tuolumne Utilities District

Don Perkins

Groveland CSD

Pete Kampa

Hetch Hetchy

Joy Meller

Fish and Game Preserve Fund

Jim Maddox

Agricultural Advisor

Dick Gaiser

Tuolumne Co. RCD

Jim Phelan

At Large Member

vacant

Staff

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 ON August 5, 2026

V. CONSIDERATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBER CANDIDATES (Correction)

VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

a. Staff Reports and Recommendations

b. Committee Member Reports

II. ADJOURNMENT

The Next meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2026



Tuolumne County Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes For the Meeting on August 5, 2026

2026 Natural Resource Members (or assigned delegates)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Anaiah Kirk		✓			✓			✓				
Mike Holland			✓					✓				
Don Perkins		✓			✓			✓				
Pete Kampa		✓	✓		✓			✓				
Joy Meller		✓	✓		✓			✓				
Dianna Beasley					✓			✓				
Dick Gaiser		✓	✓					✓				
(Vacant)												
Jim Maddox		✓	✓		✓			✓				
Jim Phelan		✓	✓		✓			✓				
Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E												

- CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Holland called the meeting to order at 10:00. Chair Kirk joined the meeting at 10:02.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Kirk, Vice Chair Holland, Abby Parcon (on behalf of Tuolumne Utility District), Pete Kampa, Ethan Billigmeier (on behalf of Hetch Hetchy), Mindy Calbert (on behalf of Tuolumne Me Wuk), Dick Gaiser, Jim Maddox, Jim Phelan, and 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.)*

Ron Riffin, TUD Director, mentioned the importance of completing additional raw water draft points along the Tuolumne Main Canal for fire suppression.

Jim Maddox mentioned the value of a water tank at the spring near Phoenix Lake and indicated that it could also function as water for fire suppression.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** In Consideration of approving the minutes of the May 2026 meeting. Jim Maddox made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Jim Phelan. The motion was approved unanimously.
- CONSIDERATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBER CANDIDATES:**

Two Candidates applied for the vacant position of Ad Hoc Member, Michael Griffen and Gerald Jensen.

There was a consensus among Committee members that both candidates appear qualified.

During public comment on this item, Mike Griffen commented on his interest in the committee and summarized his qualifications for the position.

Pete Kampa made a motion to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that Mike Griffen fill the vacancy. The motion was seconded by Jim Phelan. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. CONSIDERATION OF LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR ACWA 'VISION FOR OUR WATER FUTURE'

- a. Abby Paron of Tuolumne Utility District gave a report summarizing the Association of California Water Agencies Vision and its purpose to advise the incoming California Governor of the importance of long-term investment in watershed health and built environment infrastructure modernization to protect California's future affordable, reliable and sustainable water supply.
- b. Public Comment:
 - i. None
- c. A motion was made by Jim Phelan to recommend a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors. The motion was seconded by Dick Gaiser. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. PUBLIC AGENCY UPDATES

- a. None

8. COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- a. Staff Recommendations and Reports:
 - i. Sean Hembree gave an update on the progress of the grant-funded project:
 - ii. Sierra Jobs First Capacity Grant Programmatic CEQA
 - iii. USDA Community Wildfire Defense Grant
 - iv. USBR WaterSMART Grant
 - v. Proposal for the CAL FIRE Regional Resilience Block Grant
- b. Committee Member Reports:
 - i. Pete Kampa reported that GCSD now has an interconnected secondary water supply available as an emergency water supply contingency. Kampa indicated that agreements are pending to extend the duration of short-term emergency water agreements with other water rights holders.
 - ii. Kampa also reported that GCSD and partners currently have 18 months to identify a plan to continue to fund the current level of staffing and resources for fire emergency response.
 - iii. Jim Phelan reported that TCRCD has nearly completed the Jamestown Road fuel reduction project.

- iv. Abby Parcon reported that TUD expects to have most of the excavation/earthworks phase of the Sierra Pines Raw Water storage pond and emergency project and related helicopter landing zone to be completed within about two months.
- v. Parcon further indicated that the water rights agreement between the State of California, TUD, and the Chicken Ranch Rancheria for 6,000 acre-feet of water from Melones Reservoir is nearly complete.
- vi. Chair Kirk expressed an interest in having a discussion in an upcoming meeting regarding steps to identify the Tuolumne Main Canal and Wooden Flumes as 'critical infrastructure'.

9. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 by Chair Kirk.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sept 2, 2026

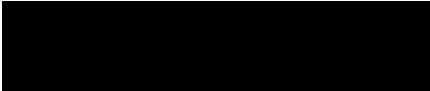
**Committee and Commission
Application**

BOS-25-24

Submitted On: Nov 16, 2025

Applicant

 Aaron Gonzalez

 
 @

Application Information

Vacancy Applied For

Natural Resources Committee

Applying for Reappointment

--

Mailing Address

PO Box 1674

City

Twain Harte

Zip Code

95383

Residential Phone

--

Business Phone

--

Cell Phone

How long have you lived in Tuolumne County? (years)

3

How long have you lived in Tuolumne County? (months)

4

Which Supervisorial District do you reside?

3

Name of present employer

Cal Fire

Employer Address

2235 Airport Blvd

Employer City

Santa Rosa

Employer State

CA

Employer Zip Code

95403

Occupation

Fire Apparatus Engineer

Briefly describe the qualifications you possess which you feel would be an asset to the Commission/Committee/ Group for which you are applying.

With my experience as a firefighter for both the US Forest Service and Cal Fire, I bring an understanding of wildfire management, natural resource preservation, and land stewardship. My hands-on knowledge of forest ecosystems, fire behavior, and emergency response equips me with a unique perspective on the importance of proactive conservation and sustainable land use. As an avid outdoorsman and nature enthusiast, I am personally invested in preserving the environment and our beautiful county for future generations. My background in firefighting has honed my leadership, problem-solving, and collaboration skills—traits that will make me an asset to Tuolumne County as we work towards protecting and enhancing local natural resources.

List the community organization(s) and describe participation in which you have been involved.

In the past, I have served as a volunteer for the California State Park system at Calaveras Big Trees State Park in Calaveras County. I grew up vacationing in this area, and I've grown to know and love the beauty of this county, and I am devoted to preserving and protecting it to the best of my ability. I served as a firefighter with the US Forest Service for several years, and took an avid role in the protection of our local natural resources to ensure that they were kept safe and managed effectively and efficiently for the health of our environment and the preservation of our natural beauty for future generations who visit and live in Tuolumne County. I am also a reserve firefighter with

Twain Harte Fire, and have served on the Board of Directors of two 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations that focus on outreach and teaching American history in Southern California.

I confirm that I have sufficient time to devote to this responsibility and plan to attend the required meetings if I am appointed to fill a vacancy. I understand that if I am appointed to a commission where a Disclosure of Assets Statement is required by State Law or Board Policy, I shall do so within ten (10) days of assuming office.

I hereby consent that this document is considered a public record and will be available to the public.

Signature

true

Applications not acted upon will expire after two years from the date submitted unless renewed by applicant.

Committee & Commission Application

05/17/2026 7:55 PM (PDT)



Applicant Information

Confirm your contact information

Ensure your contact information is up-to-date so that we can get in touch with you when needed.

First Name	Michael
Last Name	Griffin
Email Address	
Phone Number	
Street Address	PO Box 1092
City	TWAIN HARTE
State	CA
ZIP/Postal Code	95383
How long have you lived in Tuolumne County? (years)	5
How long have you lived in Tuolumne County? (months)	0
Which Supervisorial District do you reside in?	District 3
Occupation	Retired
Employer State	CA

Committee and Commission Application

Vacancy Applied For	Natural Resources Committee
Briefly describe the qualifications you possess that you believe would be an asset to the Commission/Committee/Group for which you are applying.	Firewise community leader, CalFire approved Defensible space Assessor. Member of Twain Harte CERT. Frequent volunteer with CSERC and TRT. Three FNR/Forestry related degrees from Columbia College in Watershed Mngt, Water Resource Mngt, Natural Resources and Conservation. Graduate of UCANR Forest Stewardship. Management and Analysis skills from my previous Careers in Telco Engineering and Retail management. Member of BOS Solid Waste committee-

provided guidance for acquiring Chipper and Dump Trailer to provide assistance in Vegetation mngt in Tuolumne county.

List the community organization(s) and describe participation in which you have been involved that is applicable to the position you are applying for.

Firewise community leader Pinewood Upper Sullivan, organized community and submitted application including 3 year plan. Organized spring 26 project to clean up vegetation along Pinewood lane, using TuCare provided funds. Have participated in Reforestation, Meadow restoration, and invasive species removal volunteer projects with CSERC and TRT.

Attachments

I confirm that I have sufficient time to devote to this responsibility and plan to attend the required meetings if I am appointed to fill a vacancy. I understand that if I am appointed to a commission where a Disclosure of Assets Statement is required by State Law or Board Policy, I shall do so within ten (10) days of assuming office.

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Signature



Date

05/17/2026

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Committee & Commission Application

05/14/2026 9:29 AM (PDT)



Applicant Information

Confirm your contact information

Ensure your contact information is up-to-date so that we can get in touch with you when needed.

First Name	Gerald (Jerry)
Last Name	Jensen
Email Address	
Phone Number	
Street Address	
City	Tuolumne
State	CA
ZIP/Postal Code	95378
How long have you lived in Tuolumne County? (months)	280 months
Which Supervisorial District do you reside in?	District 3
Occupation	Forester (retired)
Name of present employer	Consultant/ Retired
Employer Address	N/A
Employer City	N/ A
Employer State	CA
Employer ZIP/Postal Code	95378

Committee and Commission Application

Vacancy Applied For	Natural Resources Committee
Briefly describe the qualifications	I am a Registered Professional Forester (RPF) and am retired from the US Forest

you possess that you believe would be an asset to the Commission/Committee/Group for which you are applying.	Service. My family owns a cattle ranch in Western Stanislaus County and I was born and raised on a dairy farm in Gustine, CA so I understand agricultural issues;I have worked on the Stanislaus NF two different times. I belong to several service clubs and professional organizations so I understand social issues facing Tuolumne County. I support active management of our forest lands to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire
List the community organization(s) and describe participation in which you have been involved that is applicable to the position you are applying for.	Society of American Foresters (SAF) both National and our local 49er Chapter Forest Landowners of California - I am a Director for the organization\ Sonora Lions Club LEAF wild land task force. Yosemite Stanislaus Solutions (YSS)

Attachments

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