

Tuolumne County
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Heather Ryan
*Clerk of the Board
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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*

MINUTES

Fire Safety Advisory Committee – October 28th, 2021 @ 10:30 am Board of Supervisors Chambers 2 South Green St. 4th Floor, Sonora, CA

AGENDA

1. Call the Meeting to Order: Meeting called to order by Supervisor Campbell at 10:36 am, OES staff took roll call.
 - a. Committee Members present (quorum established with 8 members present)
 - i. Supervisor Ryan Campbell -District 2
 - ii. Supervisor David Goldemberg – District 1
 - iii. Chief Andy Murphy- Tuolumne County Fire
 - iv. Sheriff Bill Pooley – Tuolumne County Sheriff
 - v. Wesley Brinegar – District 3
 - vi. Jerry McGowan -Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
 - vii. Karen Caldwell – Tuolumne Firesafe Council representative
 - viii. Chief Mark Ferreira – Tuolumne County Fire Chief’s Association (via phone)
 - ix. Dennis Randall – District 2 public representative (absent)
 - x. Scott Fremd – District 1 (absent)
 - xi. Monica Fox – Chicken Ranch Band of Me-Wuk Indians (absent)
 - xii. Eric Holly – District 4 public representative (absent)
 - xiii. Chief Aimee New – (absent)
 - xiv. Malcolm Carden – District 5 – public representative (absent)
 - b. Others present
 - i. Dore Bietz – OES Coordinator
 - ii. Neil Evans – Tuolumne County Undersheriff
 - iii. Public – various folks
 - i. Cole Przybyla – Tuolumne County Innovation & Business
 - ii. Pamela Purdue – PG&E

- iii. Lisa Westbroke – TUD
- iv. Jen Lopez – Visit Tuolumne County
- v. Public

2. Public Comment

- a. Jen Lopez – Marketing Manager, Visit Tuolumne County. Recently released a Wildfire Toolkit for members. Links to official sources such as Sheriff and Office of Emergency Services. Just wanted to inform committee of new toolkit. www.VisitTuolumne.com

3. Approval of minutes for October 6, 2021 - Motioned by Chief Ferreira, seconded by Wes Brinegar with correction Vote taken all in favor, no nays, no abstentions.

4. Old Business

- a. BOS Agenda item update on Outdoor Audible Alerts
 - i. OES stated the ruling came back that there was not a conflict for Supervisor Kirk. Will be presented on BOS agenda Tuesday Nov 2.

5. Reports/Presentations

- a. OES – staff member Dore Bietz updated committee on OES program activities
 - i. Alert and Warnings – Tuolumne County OES is the updated alert authority for any public alerts or warnings within Tuolumne County. This process includes identifying alert originators who will have to be trained and then we will be doing monthly simulated training to improve our alert system. Should the BOS approved development of a plan that includes sirens, then we will be busy developing that as well.
 - ii. Public outreach is continuous. Attendance at special interest and service clubs such as Kiwanis, rotary, Homeowners Associations, Business Councils etc. is ongoing. Recent Motherlode views with Sheriff on 10/24 focused on emergency alerts and evacuations.
 - iii. Washington Fire Proclamation from Governor last week means we are coordinating with DTSC and state contractors of household hazardous waste removal. Will be issuing a press release this week for the public jointly with City of Sonora. Also working on burn severity mapping and long-term debris flow potential alongside various partners.
 - iv. OES has a dedicated vehicle now and we will be starting an Admin Analyst dedicated to OES on Nov 15th
 - v. We have received one application for committee membership, Melinda Fleming of TuCare. No vacancy currently. Want to remind those agencies represented that if you cannot attend, let's try and get alternate from your organization.
- b. Partner updates
 - i. TUD – Announced new general manager Don Perkins
- c. PG&E Presentation – New initiative to underground powerlines in High Fire Threat Areas. Pamela Purdue spoke on PG&E project and need for community to be a part the solution of lessening wildfire risk. PowerPoint sent out to all committee members. The utility company cannot do it alone. Asking for proactive solutions and assistance from private property owners to allow for improvements. Also need entities to work collaboratively with PG&E for improvements to infrastructure. Need committee to help prioritize those areas that are needed the most. One of the areas of concern is near the hospital.

- i. Comments/questions from committee members:
 - i. Appreciate the presentation. Tuolumne County would like to work with you to prioritize areas for undergrounding. Supervisor asked about sharing layers of infrastructure. Portal access electronically for county and governmental access. Look to create an opportunity for presentation at future meeting. Emergency Planning meeting should do a virtual meeting with GIS and PGE to go through portal information and create first attempt on prioritizing areas.
 - ii. Public Comments
 - i. What is status of replacing old transformers within Tuolumne County. PG&E representative will get back to committee.
 - d. Woody Feedstock Supply Presentation – Cole Przybyla, biomass to business to promote community fire resilience. Provided PowerPoint presentation and walked committee through the idea and problem statement as well as the ideas for a 5-county solution. Invited committee members to participate in all phases. This value is for private property owner with small underbrush, not larger commercially valued trees. They do care about species
 - i. Committee members comments included regulations that prohibit this and encouraged that CalFire needed to be on board and support. Also discussed insurance issues as it relates to value of vegetation management in lower insurance costs.
 - ii. Public Comment – what would be incentive of private landowners to sign up instead of taking to SPI where they could get more money? Cole explained how this is for the underbrush and not valued timber.
6. Working groups
- a. Communication and Education outreach workgroup
 - i. OES ordered additional Emergency alert and Wildfire Evacuation Pamphlets to be distributed. Workgroup members will be distributing throughout county. Continue to work on ways to educate community.
 - b. Governance
 - i. Met 10/28 to discuss three items: Vegetation Ordinance, Fire Insurance, Fire Inspection prior to house sale. See notes from meeting.
 - i. Committee members asked about Insurance rates and reported on invitation to California Insurance Commissioner to speak at future committee meeting.
 - ii. Real Estate issue and seller having to get fire inspection completed – Put on agenda for future meeting agenda item.
 - c. Emergency planning workgroup
 - i. Provided direction in prep for Oct 19th BOS agenda item but that has been pulled. Please join us on Nov 2 @ 1:30 to discuss sirens and recommendation from FSAC to disallow any new installations or activations until an Alert and Warning Plan that considers outdoor audible alerts can be approved. Since Oct 6 the meeting have found additional existing sirens in the county.
7. New Business
8. Adjourned @ 12:40pm
- a. Committee encouraged to attend Nov 2nd Board of Supervisors Meeting @ 1:30 pm
 - b. **Next Fire Safety Advisory Committee Meeting – November 24th @ 10:30 am??**