



Tuolumne County Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes

For the Meeting on February 5, 2025

2025 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		✓										
Mike Holland		✓										
Don Perkins		✓										
Pete Kampa		✓										
Joy Meller		E										
Dianna Beasley		✓										
Dick Gaiser		✓										
Chris Trott		E										
Jim Maddox		✓										
Jim Phelan		E										
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 Kirk, Vice Chair Holland, Tony Diaz on behalf of TUD, Pete Kampa, Dick Gaiser, Jim Maddox, Laura Hiler on Behalf of Tuolumne Me Wuk and Sean Hembree, Robbie Bergstrom, and Caitlin Henry (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.)

Note: At the beginning of the public forum section an announcement was made to clarify that the biomass update under the staff reports section of the February agenda is a discrete action from any proposed biomass facilities including the proposed Golden State Natural Resources Pellet Plant. That plan will not be considered by this committee due to an anticipated quasi-judicial hearing before the County Board of Supervisors at a later date.

Several members of the public commented on the proposed Golden State Natural Resources Pellet Project citing concerns including public health and air quality, pellet plant water demand, and impacts on local road conditions. Others cited the value in facilitating removal of excess biomass as a mitigation for wildfire risks to local forests and communities.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

In consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on November 6, Jim Maddox made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Pete Kampa. The minutes were approved unanimously 6-0

5. DISCUSSION OF FIRE-HARDENED TRAILS AND VEGETATION

MANAGEMENT CORRIDORS (proposed by Sierra Butte Trail Stewardship - <https://sierratrails.org/>)

- a. Stanislaus National Forest Public Affairs Officer, Ben Cossel Asked if recreation equity proponents such as Patagonia were participating. He recommended contacting Outdoor Alliance. Cossel further noted that there is no current Stanislaus Forest staff capacity to support NEPA requirements without a public-private partnership to bear the cost.
- b. Pete Kampa stated that the Hetch Hetchy Railroad Trail has been considered for a similar framework.
- c. Chair Kirk requested that we invite Yosemite Stanislaus Solution to consider this proposal. Sean Hembree to relay request.

6. PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES:

- a. CAL FIRE: Unit Forester, Gary Whitson stated that a January 24 meeting with State Assembly Representatives Alverado-Gill and Tangipa to highlight fuel management successes further such tours and events could bear fruit to help decision-makers understand the challenges and opportunities we face.

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- a. Staff Reports and Recommendations:
 - i. MSA Administrative Analyst, Caitlin Henry, shared an update on recent and planned fuel treatment reforestation work.
 - ii. Economic Development Administrative Analyst announced a planned Biomass Utilization Workshop Planned for March 24 at Mother Lode Job Training Center 197 Mono Way Ste. B Sonora, CA.
 - iii. Administrative Analyst, Sean Hembree reported on the status of the Pinecrest Parking Actions.
 - iv. Additional Staff Report items were postponed in the interest of time.
- b. Committee Members Reports:
 - i. Tony Diaz (TUD) announced the approval of a fire hardening project to protect TUD tank and water treatment station infrastructure. Diaz also indicated finalization of raw water utilization for the fire protection plan will go before the TUD Board of Directors for final approval soon. The Plan was developed to identify fire-water draft points in conjunction with County/CAL FIRE Prefire planning staff.
- c. Public Comment: A member of the public commented on the Pinecrest actions and consideration of fee-based parking. Another commented that winter congestion also needs to be addressed.
- d.

8. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 by Chair Kirk. The next meeting will be held on March 5, 2025