

TUOLUMNE COUNTY FIRE SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 3:00 pm

Location: ANF Building, Committees and Commissions Room – 48 Yaney Ave, 3rd Floor, Sonora, CA 95370

Contact: Office of Emergency Services at oes@co.tuolumne.ca.us (209) 533-6395

Chair

Supervisor Ryan Campbell

Vice Chair

Supervisor Steve Grierfer

Member Representatives

- Tuolumne County Fire
- Tuolumne County Sheriff
- City of Sonora
- Tuolumne County Fire Chiefs Association
- Public Representatives
 - Scott Fremd
 - Charles Sloan
 - Betsy Hurst-Younger

Advisory Members

- Chicken Ranch Band of Me-Wuk Indians
- Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
- Tuolumne Fire Safe Council
- USFS Stanislaus

Staff

OES Assistant Director
Dore A. Bietz

2025 Strategic Goals

1. Support recommendations to improve and secure sustainable funding for fire safety.
2. Support increased education and outreach of Fire Safety and Wildfire Preparedness campaigns.
3. Support coordinated fuels reduction projects and secure funding for prioritized fuels management projects.
4. Support advocacy to address fire insurance rate impacts for Tuolumne County residents and businesses.

I. CALL TO ORDER at 3:02pm

II. ROLL CALL

Introductions during roll call

Present

Supervisor Campbell

Supervisor Grierfer

Tuolumne County Fire Chief Murphy

Tuolumne County Sheriff Vasquez

City of Sonora Fire Chief Bew

Public Rep - Betsy Hurst Younger

Public Rep - Chuck Sloan

Confirm quorum requirements are met (Quorum = 5 members)

III. PUBLIC FORUM

The public may speak on any item, not on the agenda. No action may be taken by the Committee.

No Public Comment

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING 2/26/2025

Motioned by Andy Murphy, Seconded, Sheriff Vasquez. All in favor no abstentions.

V. PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

Introduction of SWIFT

The South West InterFace Team (SWIFT) is a unified, collaborative partnership established in 1999 to protect the watersheds, communities and residential concentrations from wildfire within a designated 132,000 acre area in southern Tuolumne and northern Mariposa counties. SWIFT is composed of City, County, State, and Federal agencies working cooperatively to reduce the wildfire problem.

Tuolumne County has always taken the lead but the cost for the coordinator position has always been a share between Tuolumne and Mariposa at \$10,000 each. OES cost center has been allocated 10,000 by the BOS to pay for our share of the contract. We are on our third coordinator since inception and Lyndsey Mattos is here today and hopefully at all fire safety advisory meetings and will be giving us an update moving forward.

First meeting in February and in process in rescheduling congressional site visit. Working with Byron Krempl to pull the

Tuolumne Fire Safe Council Updates – Mike updated the committee on the

projects Fire Safe Council is working on.

Cal Fire Updates – Discussed defensible space exemptions request. Governor made proclamation for CEQA Exemption on Monday 3/24/25. There has not been any movement since then.

USFS – updated about burning, 8,000 acres of piles within forest. Looking to work towards broadcast burning.

VI. **COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

a. Staff Reports and Recommendations

1. *Board of Forestry Subdivision Review Program – discussion of recommendations and direction.*

Staff presented information on the Board of Forestry Subdivision Program that identifies 12 communities within Tuolumne County as vulnerable due to lack of secondary access. Each of the areas were created under the Subdivision act and include areas of 30 or more homes. While we have additional communities without secondary egress that have 30 or more homes, those communities do not fall under a subdivision. The purpose is to identify recommendations for each subdivision to improve fire safety. Staff provide a list and a link to where the information can be found as well as a list of which recommendations apply to each.

2. *Board of Forestry Fire Risk Reduction Communities List – discussion and recommendation by staff.*

3. *Legislation discussion and recommendations. Staff presented fire related legislation.*

Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)

VII. **DISCUSSION and APPROVAL OF**

a. *Presentation and discussion on TUD Wildfire Protection Draft Points Plan. – Rick Lind and representatives from TUD consultant presented the TUD Draft Points Plan. Went through presentation and scope of grant project. Went through the tasks of the grant Created two key deliverables was to create a wildfire risk management plan and Raw Water Draft points Plan. Purposes of the grant and development actions including reducing risks to water infrastructure. Landscape scale plan that was developed, for TUD service areas. TUD Board will adopt on April 22 after a public comment period. TUD would like the county to support or endorse the plan as presented. TUD if approved would like the have the plans adopted into the CWPP.*

Questions from the committee – are there any water rights. PGE owns rights but TUD has contract, as soon as it hits the ditch, it is TUD water. Discussion on water flow.

No public comment.

b. *Approval of recommendation on Support of the TUD Draft Plan to the Board of Supervisors.*

Direction to create memo and concepts

Chuck ,motioend, Betsy Seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per person) - none

VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS (10 minutes)

Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per person) - none

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The Next meeting will be held April 23 2025.

