

TUOLUMNE COUNTY FIRE SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 3:00 pm
Location: Board of Supervisors Chambers, 4th Floor, 2 S. Green Street 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 Grier

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 3:00 pm

II. ROLL CALL – In attendance

Supervisor Grier
Tuolumne County Fire – Steve Gregory
Tuolumne County Fire Chiefs Association – Chief Gamez
Tuolumne County Sheriff – David Vasquez
City of Sonora Fire – Chief New & Gary Carlson (interim FC)
Public Rep - Chuck Sloan
Public Rep – Scott Fremd
Public Rep – Betsy Hurst - Younger

Confirm quorum requirements are met (Quorum = 5 members) – MET w/8

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 3/26/2025

Motioned by Chief New, Seconded by, Chief Gamez. All in favor no abstentions.

V. PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

Tuolumne Fire Safe Council – Mike Olenchak

Summary of defensible space compliance waiver clarification
NOE for Groveland, 13 participants, CEQA document rec'd.

USFS – Brian McCrory

Staffing down, reduced 59%. Summary of suppression equipment.
SERAL project coming together, large number of contractors.
Rx burning update on Cedar Ridge

Reforestation work on China Plantations, south county, Rim fire

SWIFT – Lindsay Mattos updated June 13th project in Mariposa.

VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

a. Staff Reports and Recommendations

1. *PGE 2026-2028 Wildfire Mitigation Plan*

PG&E's 2026-2028 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP), details the company's relentless actions to construct, maintain and operate its system to minimize the risk of catastrophic wildfires and help keep its customers and hometowns safe. The plan fully integrates high-tech tools and solutions including inspecting assets with drones, using artificial intelligence to improve weather forecasts and installing sophisticated sensors that can detect vibrations, sounds and light that

could indicate potential anomalies on an electric circuit that could lead to an ignition.

Staff requested to have PGE rep present at next meeting. Supervisor Griefer confirmed PGE for next mtg.

2. *Board of Forestry Subdivision Review Program* – staff presented and asked if there were any follow up questions about that program.
3. *Board of Forestry Fire Risk Reduction Communities List*. Staff spoke to CDD Director, and we will have a presentation at the next committee meeting detailing steps.
4. *Legislation updates - none*
5. *Fire Service Recognition*.
Staff gave thank you to Sonora Chief New and welcome to Chief Carlson. Also wanted to express gratitude, congrats and farewell to Chief Murphy.

Other notes: Wildfire Town Halls next week, 3 Zoom meetings. Call for board members to spread news of the events on social media.

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

VII. **DISCUSSION and APPROVAL OF**

- a. *Support recommendations to improve and secure sustainable funding for fire safety.* - Recommendation made to use term “public safety” not to limit to “fire”.
- b. *Fire lane and access at Pinecrest discussion and recommendations.*
Staff updated on BOS recent approval. Sheriff updated on considerations for tow/no-tow decisions (storage, strandeers, etc. Staff explained parking violation fees review, County Board amendment reflects state highway parking violation language to be used for county roads, increase from \$35 to \$100 for first violation and \$200 for second. County Fire asked Fire agencies to inform them if over time, additional areas need to be considered.

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

VIII. **COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS (10 minutes)**

Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per person.

Staff gave report on Home & Garden Show, Volunteer Fair. Chuck Sloan expressed gratitude for cooperation shown here. Sheriff Vasquez noted chipper/dump truck availability of 1 crew daily, can expand to two/day – part of work certification.

IX. **ADJOURNMENT at 3:53pm**

The Next meeting will be held May 28, 2025.