

TUOLUMNE COUNTY FIRE SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Date/Time: Wednesday, July 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 Griefer

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 3:03 pm

Additional item added to regarding approval of Sheriffs request for recommendation to BOS on supporting application for Cal Fire Prevention Grant funding.

II. ROLL CALL – In attendance (Y).

Supervisor Campbell (Y)
Supervisor Griefer (Y)
Tuolumne County Fire – Chief Nate Gorham (Y)
Tuolumne Fire Chiefs Assn – Neil Gamez (Y)
Sonora Fire – Chief Carlson (Y)
Tuolumne County Sheriff – David Vasquez (Y)
Public Rep – Scott Fremd (Y)
Public Rep – Charles Sloan (Y)
Public Rep – Betsy Hurst-Younger (Y)
Confirm quorum requirements are met (Quorum = 5 members) –
MET w/9

Tuolumne County
Dore Bietz, Dave Salzer – OES Staff

III. PUBLIC FORUM

Public question about capacity for public outreach, staff updated on general OES public outreach activity and capacity.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING 6/25/2025

Motioned by Chief Gamez 2nd by Supervisor Griefer. All in favor no abstentions. Motion approved.

V. PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES/PRESENTATIONS

Tuolumne Fire Safe Council update – Karen Caldwell: grant apps in progress – CalFire prevention, Tuolumne City & Big Hill, TUD for ditch area. Mid-August start on Groveland project. Defensible space contractor training this week.

CAL FIRE – August 5th Chicken Ranch Agreement on BOS Agenda

SWIFT - Spoke about 360 tool for veg treatments and 8/24 demo.

VI. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Staff Reports: Sheltering status (3 sites) and Red Cross relationship. Noting parking, generators availability. Cache of cots/tarps/comfort kits. Increase in ARC volunteer staff, esp. on 120 corridor. Reminder, all TC employees are DSWs. 2hr window for OES+volunteers opening shelter then ARC staff take over. MotherLode fairgrounds: secondary only (due

to expense and it's actually state property). Committee asked about FMAG status for MLF option, provision for infrastructure. Non-service animals may not enter CRCs. Sheltering rules require accommodation for co-location of pets at (at least) one shelter. Coordinating through Animal Control – options include schools, portable connex. ARC does NOT handle animal care, it will be County responsibility to shelter, but Clients are responsible for feeding, meds, exercise. No Mutual Aid agreements currently for overflow with respect to animals.

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

VII. DISCUSSION and APPROVAL (as applicable)

- a. Outdoor Audible Alerts or Sirens as a form of Alert and Warning – staff presented on history, current locations, test survey results and discussion of future systems. Activated by SO dispatch and status of current agreements discussed. May Survey results review, GIS dashboard presentation. No Action taken.
- b. ADDED ITEM: Approval of recommendation to BOS to support Cal Fire Wildfire Prevention Grant. Sheriff explained grant application to utilize jail crew for roadside brushing to focus on Cedar Ridge, Big Hill Rd areas and Cedar Pines Vista (Twain Harte). August 5th deadline. Roadside brush clearing is primary work category. Requested committee recommendation to the BOS to support application. Motion to approve letter: Supervisor Griefer, 2nd Scott Fremd, motion passed without abstentions.

Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per person) –

VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS- none

IX. ADJOURNMENT at 4:23 pm

Next meeting will be held Aug 27th, 2025.

Location: ANF Building – Committees & Commissions Room (3rd Floor)

