Tuolumne County
Draft Hazardous Vegetation Management Ordinance
July 5, 2022

Outline
• Presentation
• Board questions
• Public Comment
• Board Direction
Fire Safety Advisory Committee

Fire Safety is a priority of the Board of Supervisors.
Fire Safety Advisory Committee created on Feb 16, 2021
Comprised of 14 members

Three workgroups created:
- Outreach & Education
- Governance
- Emergency Planning

The Governance workgroup
Working on a draft hazardous vegetation management ordinance since last year.
Purpose of creating a Hazardous Vegetation Management Ordinance

Number one complaint reported - vacant lots

Existing codes apply only around existing structures.

Tuolumne County residents deserve a safe place to live

State agencies encourage counties to address vegetation management and create Fire Risk Reduction Communities
Benefits of the Ordinance

- Will it help firefighters gain access and residents get out? **Yes**
- Would our community become more fire safe? **Yes**
- Possible future funding available by creating a fire risk reduction community? **Yes**
Background and work already completed

Numerous meetings held with county staff, outside agencies and the public.

Researched other counties, looked at existing ordinances.

Comments have been incorporated into approved draft.
Community Public Meetings

Seven (7) Public Meetings
* December 8, 2021
* January 5, 2022
* January 26, 2022
* March 20, 2022
* May 25, 2022
* June 1, 2022
* June 15, 2022

Meeting Attendance
* Minimum of 8 and most 63
* 5 virtual
* 2 in person
* Additional opportunities (FSAC)
* 7 written Comments
  6 individual
  1 organization
What is P.R.C 4291?

- California law requires homeowners in State Responsibility Area (SRA) clear out flammable materials (brush or vegetation) around their buildings to 100 feet (or the property line) to create a defensible space buffer.

- Helps halt the progress of an approaching wildfire and keeps firefighters safe while they defend homes.

- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection enforce PRC 4291.

The proposed Tuolumne County Hazardous Vegetation Management Ordinance has key life safety elements not included in P.R.C 4291.
Clearances for driveways, roadways, and road easements.

Unimproved parcels

Properties that are adjacent to another property that has a building or structure within 100’

Parcels with a current Williamson Act contract and an approved agricultural plan (as defined by Resolution #106-04)
Hazardous Vegetation removal along roadways remove heavy fuels and are designed to prevent roadside sparks from becoming a devastating wildfire.

They also create safer ingress and egress routes for emergency personnel and residents.
½ Acre Unimproved Parcels (Vacant Lots)

- Unimproved parcels of one-half acre or less shall complete a “Reduced Fuel Zone“.

- There are 7532 vacant properties in all of Tuolumne County.
Adjacent Properties

Properties that are adjacent to another property that has a building or structure within 100' from property line.

30'x 30' area of reduced fuel zone clearance.
FAQ’s

- Why Doesn’t This Ordinance Apply to Government Owned Land and Only Private Property Owners?

- Who is Going to Pay for This and How Can Those that Cannot Afford to Pay for Removal of Hazardous Vegetation Management on their Private Property Get Assistance?

- What are the examples of Reduced Fuel Zone?

- There is no equity to encourage an adjoining property owner to clear vegetation on their property that affects a neighbors.

- If there are problems with Enforcing 4291, why would you want to mandate more on Private Property Owners?
Staff Recommendations

- **Take back comments and amend draft**: Take the comments we discussed here today and make any necessary changes. Present to Fire Safety Advisory Committee for approval on July 27th, 2022.

- **Final Draft for 1st Reading August 2nd**: Bring back changes for a 1st Reading as an afternoon appointment.

- **2nd Reading**: Depending on 1st Reading hold 2nd Reading either Aug 16th or Sept 6th, 2022 as appointment (not consent calendar).
Questions, Public Comment, Board Direction

Happy to answer questions of the Board

Would like to hear public comment

Board direction
Comments

- Please send comments to oes@co.tuolumne.ca.us
- Bring them here to the 4th floor of Administration Building
- Mail to:
  - 2 S. Green Street Sonora, CA 95370