



Amador Fire Safe Council

PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

www.AmadorFireSafe.org



October 18th, 2023

3:00-5:00

Virtual & In-Person Meeting

Attend In-Person	Attend Virtually
19888 Church Street, Pine Grove (Behind Pine Grove Park) Volcano Communications Tech Center	Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2674846542?pwd=VjlrL25rMGkwY2paMmxhckhKbnJSZz09 Meeting ID: 267 484 6542 Call-In Number: 1(669)900-6833 Code: 2674846542# Passcode: 1055

AGENDA

1. Approve/Modify Agenda*
2. Approve September Minutes*
3. Introductions
4. Treasurers Report (John)*
5. Coordinator Report (Amanda)
 - a. Community Projects Update Presentation
6. Sirens Alert System Committee Update (Frank)
7. FireWise Community Program Update (Megan)
8. AlertWildfire Cameras Project Update (Frank)
9. Partner Updates
 - a. Cal Fire
 - b. Amador Fire Protection District
 - c. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
10. Public Comment
11. Other items/adjourn

*Action items
Meeting will be recorded.



AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BOARD MEETING
September 20, 2023 3:00pm



September 20, 2023 - 3:00 pm

Attendees: Board: Susan Peters, Frank Leschinsky, Chris Dow, John Heissenbuttel
John Heissenbuttel had the proxy vote of Pat Minyard and Connie Gonsalves
Staff: Dana Simpson, Amanda Watson
Public: Ralph Meier, Robert Deakin, Susan Scott, Jerry Scott, Serena Hangs, Sierra Gillette, Julie Harris, Sandy Geach, Bill Dye, Jeff Hoag, Megan Sheeline, Steve DeBenedet, Kayla Dale, Jason Schroeder, Tom Ellison, Lex Nelson, Paul Machi

1. Approval of Agenda - *SP motioned FL seconded; Motion passed.*

2. Approval of August Minutes - *SP motioned FL seconded; Motion passed.*

3. Introductions

4. Treasurer Report:

Bank balance of \$879,470.25. The balance is mainly grant advances will be crucial for timely contractor payment as we enter fall and winter, prime operation season.

Contracted staff line items are above budget, this is the first time AFSC has estimated contracted staff time, and we will use this data to more accurately budget in the next fiscal year. This is a result of more hours worked by contracted staff, the AFSC has grant funding to cover all costs.

5. Coordinator's Report:

Amanda announced that the Coordinator Funding from CaFSC will be renewed for another year, this funding will continue to help develop the FWC program, Community Fuel Break Development, county-wide coordination, and potentially project mapping. Amanda briefly covered the coordination meeting with CalFire and the presentation of the Project Summary for 4 upcoming projects.

a. Rancheria Ridge/Crestview Fuels Reduction Project Presentation

Amanda presented a powerpoint (ppt) on the Rancheria Ridge/Crestview Project. The ppt also covered a brief overview of the Mitchell Mine Fuel Break Demonstration Project and the most recent workshops held in partnership with UCCE and ARCD.

b. Rancheria Ridge/Crestview Fuels Reduction Grant Application Resolution

SP motioned to approve Rancheria Ridge/Crestview Fuels Reduction Grant Application Resolution the FL seconded; Motion passed.

c. Technology/Cell Phone Services Discussion:

Dana proposed the AFSC purchase a phone and two tablets through Verizon. These would be used for outreach. The board discussed that this cost could be taken out of the Outreach line item (350-line item) in the budget. The board discussed reviewing the cost and functionality of Apple products as well.

The board directed staff to move forward on equipment purchasing and entering into a contract with Verizon for 1 phone and 2 tablets for AFSC outreach. Dana and staff will research Samsung and Apple options.

6. Sirens Alert Systems Update – no update

7. Firewise: We currently have 33 registered Firewise Communities in Amador County, with the newest members being Butte Mountain Firewise #5, Andrews Lupe Ridge Firewise, and Woodland Road Firewise. There are 2 more communities in process: Petersen Ranch Firewise has submitted their application- we are just waiting on approval; and Spagnoli/Mierkey Firewise, who is in the process of organizing and completing their Risk Assessment and Action Plan and plan to submit their application soon.

Megan took part in the Quarterly Regional Coordinators conference call earlier this month and was able to obtain some documents that can possibly assist our FW communities in tracking their annual time/expense investments.

The next quarterly Firewise Forum is Thursday, October 26th @ 6pm at the Volcano Communications Tech Center. Our guest speaker is Mary Beth Bykowsky, Outreach Analyst for the California Department of Insurance. She will be updating us on recent information and developments from last year's presentation by Deputy Insurance Commissioner Julia Juarez.

8. Alert Wildfire Camera Project Update-

We're still waiting to see which University will take on the network of cameras.

9. Partner Updates

a. Cal Fire

Megan Scheeline provided an update that Rx Burns are starting up. Jeff Hoag updated on the Defensible Space Program; year to date CalFire has conducted 1509 CalFire has identified a Target Hazard Area outside of Pioneer this is an area where defensible space inspectors will be conducting inspections.

b. Amador Fire Protection District

Kayle Dale presented Amador Fire's recent work. Amador Fire has been doing FWC presentation and the county admin building. They have conducted 8-10 outreach and education events within communities. They have been conducting Risk Assessments for communities and individuals. Kayla and Megan have held 3 FireWise introduction Meetings for people interested in becoming FireWise. Amador Fire is working with FWCs to organize evacuation drills.

c. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Jason Schroeder mentioned the importance of the Rancheria Ridge/Crestview project and the importance of the AFSC/BLM partnership. Jason mentioned that he will be leaving to the Motherlode Field Office.

10. Public Comment

Jerry Scott gave some background on the KC Ranchette Project Submittal.

Cindy Engel reported that she will be retiring from her position at ACTC. The board enthusiastically congratulated Cindy on her retirement and thanked her for all her hard work on the evacuation route committee, evacuation route mapping, and with the Fire Wise communities!

11. Adjourn

Amador Fire Safe Council Grant Snapshot
as of Sep 30, 2023

	AFSC	<u>Grant Period</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>	<u>Direct Cost</u>	<u>Indirect Cost</u>	<u>Grant Funds Spent to Date</u>	<u>Remaining Advance or Advance Requested</u>	<u>Invoiced</u>	<u>Amount remaining</u>
1	Tiger Creek Implementation 1200 (SNC)	7/28/2020 - 1/1/2025	\$ 834,126.00	\$ 744,756.00	\$ 89,370.00	\$ 797,410.83	\$ -	\$ 46,627.34	\$ 36,715.17
2	Tiger Creek Enhancement 1330 (SNC)	9/13/2021 - 1/1/2025	\$ 220,200.00	\$ 200,200.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 170,627.63	\$ 27,552.37		\$ 49,572.37
3	Coordinator (CAFSC)	11/15/2021 - 12/31/2023	\$ 174,999.00	\$ 159,090.00	\$ 15,909.00	\$ 131,504.13	\$ -	\$ 68,772.87	\$ 43,494.87
4	Ingress/Egress (CalFire) 5GG19102	5/13/2020 - 3/1/2024	\$ 1,044,296.00	\$ 949,360.00	\$ 94,936.00	\$ 511,081.17	\$ 43,324.87	\$ -	\$ 533,214.83
5	Pine Acres (CalFire) 5GG20101	approval - 3/15/2025	\$ 515,405.00	\$ 468,550.00	\$ 46,855.00	\$ 18,750.65	\$ 110,100.61		\$ 496,654.35
6	Ingress/Egress Phase 2 5GA21119	6/2/2022 - 03/15/2025	\$ 600,000.00	\$ 545,455.00	\$ 54,545.00	\$ -			\$ 600,000.00
7	AmCo Implementation 1370 (SNC)	8/23/2022 - 1/1/2028	\$ 1,288,444.00	\$ 1,171,313.00	\$ 117,131.00	\$ 460,459.96	\$312,606.44		\$ 827,984.04
8	Amador County Evac Improvement - CWPP (CalFire) 5GG21101	6/14/2022 - 3/15/2024	\$ 379,982.40	\$ 335,000.00	\$ 44,982.40	\$ 1,174.44			\$ 378,807.96
9	Amador Community Fuel Break Develop Proj (CalFire) 5GG21201	8/4/2022 - 3/15/2026	\$ 726,000.00	\$ 660,000.00	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 288,048.83	\$ 75,108.12	\$ -	\$ 437,951.17
10	Upper Rancheria Community Fuel Break 5GA21149	- 5/31/2025	\$ 950,010.00	\$ 863,645.00	\$ 86,365.00	\$ 10,504.97		\$ 10,504.97	\$ 939,505.03
11	PGE Butte Mountain	- 11/30/2023	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,896.00	\$ 17,500.00		\$ 33,104.00
			\$ 6,768,462.40	\$ 6,129,369.00	\$ 639,093.40	\$ 2,391,458.61	\$ 586,192.36	\$ 125,905.18	\$ 4,343,899.79

*matches Unearned Revenue

*Matches Accounts Receivable

AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

2023 Budget

As of Sep 30, 2023

Expenses

Grants Expenses

305 AFSC Coordinator	62,000.00	1	66,471.96
306 Coordinator Assistant	13,000.00	2	4,283.44
307 Outreach Coordinator	14,400.00	3	28,176.30
308 Technical Assistance	14,400.00	3	5,278.14
310 RPF Professional Forester	125,000.00		109,246.30
315 Environmental Documentation	10,000.00		3,298.90
320 Groundwork Contracted Labor	2,024,000.00		1,005,315.04
350 Outreach/Materials/Supplies	10,000.00		5,195.43
Total Grant Expenses	2,272,800.00		1,227,265.51

Operating Expenses

302 Depreciation	450.00		0.00
311 Bookkeeper	4,000.00		5,413.07
321 State Filing Fees	85.00		350.00
330 Insurance, D&O	2,000.00		2,196.03
343 Bank Charges	50.00		33.00
345 Office Supplies	4,000.00		28.94
346 Postage	400.00		360.04
350 General Outreach	10,000.00	4	517.29
365 Professional Fees	600.00	5	0.00
365 Telephone	375.00		150.00
370 Mileage	4,000.00		327.68
Other	0.00		42.95
Total Operating Expenses	25,960.00		9,419.00

Unrestricted Reserves	100,000.00		0.00
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Total Expenses	2,398,760.00		1,236,684.51
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Revenue

Grants

PG&E CEMA Program	22,500.00	6	
SNC Tiger Creek Implementation	226,000.00	7	193,136.03
SNC Tiger Creek Enhancement	40,000.00	8	106,907.90

CAL FIRE Ingress/Egress	674,000.00	⁹	189,474.29
SNC County Steward Implementation	658,000.00	¹⁰	415,786.83
Community Fuel Break	397,000.00	¹¹	238,590.27
CAL FIRE Pine Acres Maintenance	90,000.00	¹²	17,046.06
CAFSC County Coordinator	78,000.00	¹³	64,741.93
CalFire Evacuation Improvement	60,000.00	¹⁴	
CAL FIRE Upper Rancheria			9,549.97
Misc Grant Income			2,500.00
Contributions	500.00		86.86
Indirect/Admin Revenue	228,950.00		127,386.04
Interest Income	200.00		253.04
Total Revenue	2,475,150.00		1,365,459.22

1. Assumes 80 hours/month
2. Assumes 23 hours/month
3. Assumes 40 hours/month
4. Outreach that is not directly billable to a specific grant
5. Tax preparation.
6. Assumes we receive grant.
7. Assumes 26 Acres of handwork and three miles of road clearance.
8. Assumes 20 acres of mastication.
9. Assumes 40 miles of road work.
10. Assumes 254 acres of mastication.
11. Assumes 171 acres of mastication (River Pines)
12. Environmental documentation.
13. Staff time and outreach, \$175K grant runs from 12/21 to 3/23.
14. Update Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Amador Fire Safe Council Fund Balances

	As of Dec 31, 2022	As of Sep 30, 2023
3000 General Fund	153,610.19	245,145.66
4255 PG&E	288.75	17,789.92
4412 Tiger Creek Enhance	66,056.22	32,800.42
4420 CFSC Coordinator	6,006.35	6,008.63
4222 Tiger Creek Implementation	170,798.19	2,808.30
4651 Ingress/Egress	3,111.92	51,526.04
4834 AmCo Stewardship	386,546.97	313,206.17
4842 Community Fuel Break	100.00	88,826.61
4842 Pine Acres Fuel Break	100.00	112,665.86
Total	\$ 786,618.59	\$ 870,777.61

**Amador Fire Safe Council
Coordinator Monthly Report**

Oct-23

Date Range: September 20th - October 11th 2023

Project	Update	Future Planned Actions
AmCo Stewardship - Mokelumne Community Forest	160.47 acres/413 acres of mastication has been completed.	Map/calculate additional work contracted by adjacent property owners.
Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress and Education Plan	Working with the County to identify County Roads for treatment; 53 miles of road identified.	Continue to collect ROEs. Work with community leads on new projects. Next Projects Committee will be November 6th.
	Working on new I/E projects to get ROEs. AFSC will be grouping projects in one RFP once we have a workable amount of miles ready to treat on private roads.	
County Coordinator - CAFSC	MW hosted third FWC Resource Meeting. Next FireWise Forum is scheduled for Thursday, October 26th @ 6pm at the Volcano Communications Tech Center. Participated in CARCD Legislative Committee. Completed Community Projects process and ROE submittal process development.	Draft Deliverables/Plan for next round of funding.
Community Fuel Break Project	Submitted Application to SNC for Rancheria Ridge/Crestview Project	Collect ROEs on Upper Rancheria and Butte Mtn. Work on site visits for planning and CEQA on URFB.
	River Pines work will be completed in Fall. Krisman Enterprise will be taking over this project.	
	Upper Rancheria Fuel Break NOE is approved. Gordon and Ed will work with community leads to get implementation ROEs where needed.	
	Butte Mountain Fuel Break PG&E grant work completed, 10.9 acres with the Butte Mountain FWCs. Staff will continue to work with FWC and forester to develop landscape scale funding.	
Potential Funding	Worked with AFPD to develop grant application or I/E work in Amador Pines. Working with County Public Works to develop project proposal for Roadside Brushing Equipment. Conducted Internal Assessment for a potential capacity building funding opportunity through SNC, held working group meeting to review project planning and coordination capacity needs.	Finalize staff workflow for shared projects.



AFSC Community Projects Process and Update

Presentation to the AFSC Board

October 18th 2023

Community Projects Types



INGRESS/EGRESS ROADSIDE
BRUSHING ASSISTANCE

COMMUNITY FUELBREAK
PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT

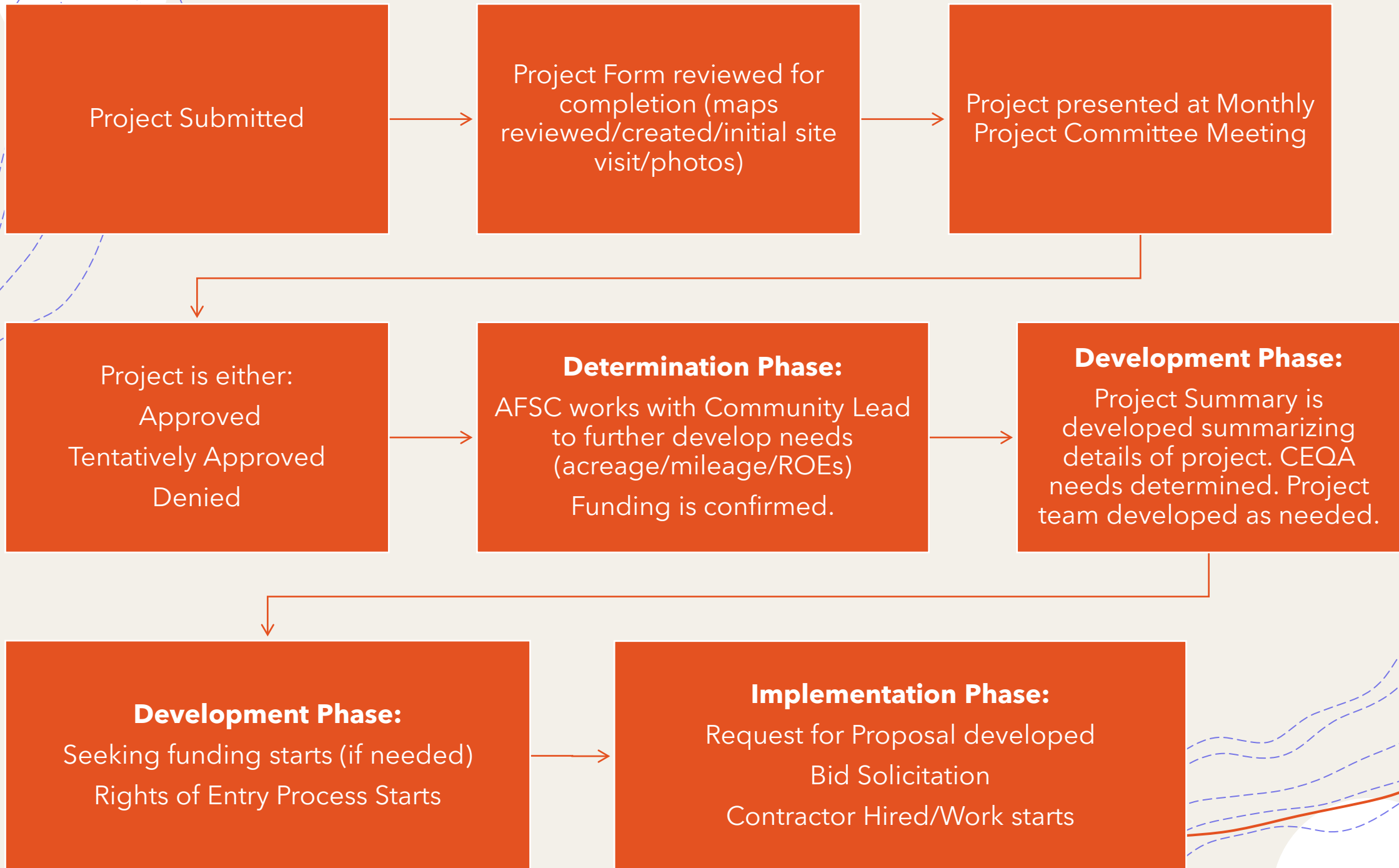
FIREWISE COMMUNITY
ASSISTANCE

Submitting a Project

- +COMMUNITY LEAD
- +PROJECT IDEA
- +CONTACT INFORMATION
- +PROJECT MAP

WWW.AMADORFIRESAFE.ORG

The screenshot shows the Amador Fire Safe Council website. The browser address bar displays 'amadorfiresafe.org'. The website header includes the Amador Fire Safe Council logo, the text 'Amador Fire Safe Council Amador County, California', and a 'Contact Us' link. A search bar is located to the right of the header. The navigation menu consists of the following items: Home, Fire Prevention Programs & Resources, Projects and Developments, Evacuation Preparedness, Governance, and Get Involved. Below the navigation menu is a large banner image of a green hillside under a blue sky with white clouds. The banner contains the text 'OUR MISSION' and a paragraph: 'The mission of the Amador Fire Safe Council is to help protect the people of Amador County and their property from the catastrophic effects of wildfire through Education, Outreach, Innovation and Action'. Below the banner is a row of seven icons with corresponding text: BOARD MEETINGS (document icon), BOARD MEMBERS (arrow icon), STAFF (people icon), EMPLOYM... OPPORTU... (hourglass icon), CALENDAR (calendar icon), HOT TOPICS (flame icon), and HELPFUL LINKS (chain link icon). At the bottom of the page, there are four small images with text: 'Education' (blue sky), 'Outreach' (yellow flowers), 'Innovation' (sunlight through clouds), and 'Action' (blue sky) with a 'Join our mailing list' button.



Fuelbreak Projects

Project Name	Project Lead	Phase
River Pines FB	AW	Implementation
Volcano Hills FB	AW	Seeking Funding
Ohio Hill FB	AW	Seeking Funding
Kennedy Mine FB	AW	Determination
Butte Mountian FB	GL	Development
Butte Mountian - PGE	GL	Implementation
Rancheria Ridge	AW	Seeking Funding
Upper Rancheria FB	GL	Development
Mt. Crossman FB	GL	Determination
Pine Grove Corridor FB (Mobile Home Park)	AW/TZ	Determination
Sunset Heights FB	GL	Determination
Woodland Road	GL	Determination
Bonnefoy Road	TZ	Determination
Amador Central Railroad	AW	Determination

Ingress/Egress Projects

Project Name	Project Lead	Phase
County Roads - Phase 2	GL	Development
Quartz Mountain	AW	Development
Fiddletown Park	GL	Development
China Gulch	GL	Determination
Andrews Road	TZ	Determination
Nina Road	GL	Determination
KC Ranchettes	AW	Determination



Thank You!

Amanda Watson

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www.AmadorFireSafe.org

Firewise Update – October 2023 Board Meeting

Prepared by: Megan Watts

Most established communities are in the process of recertification, which happens every November. This requires the communities to provide their annual time/expense investment hours or expenditures, review their community boundary (many have expanded their boundary to incorporate additional willing participants to join in their Firewise endeavors, which is exciting to see for the safety of our County!), and review their Action Plans to move forward with their contributions for the upcoming year.

This month marks the year anniversary of our Quarterly Firewise Forum. On October 26th, we will host this quarter's Forum, and are delighted to have Mary Beth Bykowsky, Outreach Analyst for the CA Department of Insurance as our guest speaker. Last year in October, at our very first Forum, Deputy Commissioner Julia Juarez presented on the "Safer from Wildfires" program and answered many questions from our community. A year later, we are hoping to receive updates from the department regarding the impact rate increases and outright rejections of coverage have had on our state, retention and addition of companies willing to insure our homes and properties, and any possible solutions the department is working towards.

We currently have 33 Firewise Communities in Good Standing, more being developed.