



# Amador Fire Safe Council

PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

www.AmadorFireSafe.org



July 20th 2022

3:00-5:00

Virtual & In-Person Meeting

Attend In-Person	Attend Virtually
19888 Church Street, Pine Grove (Behind to the Pine Grove Park) Volcano Communications Tech Center	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2674846542">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2674846542</a> Meeting ID: 267 484 6542 Call-In Number: 1(669)900-6833 Code: 2674846542#

## AGENDA

1. Approve/Modify Agenda\*
2. Approve May Minutes\*
3. Introductions
4. Treasurers Report (John)\*
5. Electra Fire Discussion (John)
6. Coordinator Report (See Attached)
  - a. Project Updates (John)
    - i. Community Fuel Break RPF contracting\*
7. AFSC/ARCD CEQA Lead Partnership Agreement Appendix (John)\*
8. Sirens Alert System Committee Update (Connie)
9. FireWise Community Groups Update (Dick)
10. AlertWildfire Cameras Project Update (Frank)
11. Public Comment
12. Other items/adjourn

\*Action items  
Meeting will be recorded.



## Amador Fire Safe Council

PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

[www.AmadorFireSafe.org](http://www.AmadorFireSafe.org)

May 18th, 2022

Volcano Communications Tech Center

3:00-5:00



### MINUTES

Present: Pat Minyard, Connie Gonsalves, Frank Leschinsky, John Heissenbuttel, Susan Peters & Dick Stamm

Staff: Amanda Watson & Megan Watts via Zoom,

Public: Kayla Dale, Supervisor Jeff Brown, Cindy Engel, Tom Ellison, Robert Deakin & Jack Mitchell

1. Approve/Modify Agenda – Pat called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The proposed agenda was approved unanimously.
2. Approve/Modify April Minutes – The April 2022 were approved unanimously.
3. Introductions – Board members and the public in attendance introduced themselves as well as those attending via Zoom.
4. Treasurers Report – John reported that as of **4/30/22** we had an account balance of **\$275,054.45**. The balance has decreased due to project expenses. Dana has taken over the bookkeeping and has found a few errors that will cause there to be changes to amounts in the different accounts. These changes will not impact the overall budget. Additionally, RCD has made some corrections to the staff costs (didn't include workers compensation).
5. Coordinator Report
  - a. Project Updates
    - i. Michell Mine Project – Amanda is working with RCD to be the CEQA Lead Agency.
    - ii. On-going discussion regarding the CEQA process for the collaborative County project.
    - iii. County Coordinator – RCD will have a fair booth this year and will need volunteers. Amanda will get the Council a report on the survey that was sent out (we had 8 responses). Website update is moving forward.
    - iv. Communication Grant – Amanda is researching drones for purchase.
    - v. Grant Opportunities - \$100K PG&E Grant submitted. Amanda is looking into support funds for private defensible space projects. Need to establish a new grant committee to look at the new batch of upcoming grant opportunities. We were not successful with the Rebate Assistance grants.
  - b. Smokechasers Event – Still looking for volunteers.
6. Outreach with Ledger Dispatch – Jack Mitchell discussed options for using the paper for community outreach. This includes an insert dedicated to fire safe information. There was also discussion regarding the evacuation maps. Kayla confirmed that Amador OES will have a new website that will have the maps accessible.
7. April 25, 2022 Field Trip with Insurance Commissioner Lara – John reported on the field trip with

the insurance commissioner to the Mitchell Mine Fuel Break project. Connie updated the Council on insurance policy acceptance and rebates.

8. FireWise Community Groups – Dick noted that we have nine registered FireWise communities in the county and is working with at least 18 others including the mobile home park in Pine Grove. The Mace Meadows application is moving forward. Dick will provide a presentation at the next meeting about the application process.
9. Fire Safe Ordinance – Ordinance passed and will go into effect July 1, 2022.
10. Alert Wildfire Cameras Project Update – No new update.
11. Public Comment – Jeff Brown informed the Council that the Pioneer chipping project was completed. All the materials were transported to Roseville and the ballfield was all cleaned up.

Patrick with CalFire made some comments on the new Ordinance. He will be talking to the Board of Realtors on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The third town hall meeting is tonight.

*Meeting Adjourned at 4:30 pm*

## AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

**2022 Budget**

**As of June 30, 2022**

### Expenses

#### Grants Expenses

305 AFSC Coordinator	56,000.00	1	38,237.88
306 Coordinator Assistant	16,800.00	2	3,088.30
307 Outreach Coordinator			1,459.60
310 RPF Professional Forester	125,000.00		26,000.00
315 Environmental Documentation	60,000.00		0.00
320 Groundwork Contracted Labor	900,000.00	3	280,205.34
<b>Total Grant Expenses</b>	<b>1,157,800.00</b>		<b>348,991.12</b>

#### Operating Expenses

302 Depreciation	450.00		0.00
311 Bookkeeper (2021 actual is through 11/21)	4,000.00		1,065.75
321 State Filing Fees	85.00		0.00
330 Insurance, D&O	1,800.00		0.00
343 Bank Charges	200.00		50.00
345 Office Supplies	1,500.00		3,345.49
346 Postage	400.00		116.98
350 Outreach	20,000.00	4	7,551.15
365 Professional Fees	600.00	5	0.00
365 Telephone	375.00		150.00
370 Mileage	4,000.00		0.00
Other	0.00		75.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>33,410.00</b>		<b>12,354.37</b>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,191,210.00</b>		<b>361,345.49</b>
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### Revenue

#### Grants

PG&E CEMA Program	50,000.00	6	
SNC Tiger Creek Planning	0.00		5,977.13
SNC Tiger Creek Implementation	270,000.00	7	
SNC Tiger Creek Enhancement	50,000.00	8	
CAL FIRE Mitchell Mine	170,000.00	9	16 (89,632.24)
CAL FIRE Ingress/Egress	425,000.00	10	45,336.42

SNC County Steward Planning	0.00	35,882.00
SNC County Steward Implementation	125,000.00 <sup>11</sup>	
Defensible Space	0.00	
CAL FIRE Pine Acres Maintenance	50,000.00 <sup>12</sup>	
CAFSC County Coordinator	115,000.00 <sup>13</sup>	25,198.70
Volcano Communications Grant	5,000.00 <sup>14</sup>	5,000.00
Contributions	35,000.00 <sup>15</sup>	35,108.18
Indirect/Admin Revenue		9,281.82
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>1,295,000.00</b>	<b>72,152.01</b>

1. Assumes 80 hours/month, includes back pay for approved raise.
2. Assumes 40 hours/month @ \$35/hour.
3. \$100K available outside of grant obligations for public requests.
4. Reflects outreach in Ingress/Egress grant which includes support of organizing Firewise Communities.
5. Tax preparation.
6. Assumes we receive grant.
7. 80 acres of mastication currently under contract. 13 acres of handwork on south side of reservoir currently under contract. Bird surveys as required after 3/1/22. Signage. Use funds currently in account.
8. 10 acres of handwork late fall 2022.
9. 11 acres of handwork. Use funds currently in account.
10. Assumes 30 miles of road clearance, AFSC conducting 8 town halls and RPF filing exemption.
11. Assumes we secure implementation grant and begin by masticating 50 acres in fall of 2022.
12. Environmental documentation.
13. Staff time and outreach, \$175K grant runs from 12/21 to 3/23.
14. To be used to upgrade AFSC communications technology.
15. \$35K pledged by Break Even Beermakers.
16. An Advance payment of \$180,573.96 was received and recognized as income for Mitchell Mine in 2021, we did not spend the entire advance and had to refund \$89,632.24 in 2022.

<b>Amador Fire Safe Council Fund Balances</b>	<b>As of Dec 31, 2021</b>	<b>As of June 30, 2022</b>
3000 Unrestricted	20,951.06	48,949.68
4206 Mitchel Mine – Grant complete, Account closed	169,517.60	0
4222 Tiger Creek Implementation	268,166.25	29,325.67
4230 SNC County Steward Planning	17,430.70	5,650.90
4255 PG&E	288.23	288.23
4420 CFSC Coordinator		26,767.66
4412 Tiger Creek Enhance		66,043.75
4651 Ingress/Egress		222,234.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 476,353.84</b>	<b>\$ 399,260.51</b>

**Amador Fire Safe Council  
Coordinator Monthly Report**

Jul-22

Date Range: June 13th 2022- July 13th 2022

Project	Update	Future Planned Actions
Tiger Creek Fuel Break	Tiger Creek Phase 2 winter 2022 work completed, 2 units will be finished in Fall 2022	Continue work on Phase 2 Implementation, begin planning for handwork implementation Fall 22. Working on identifying additional areas of treatment
AmCo Stewardship - Mokelumne Community Forest	Awaiting fully executed agreement.	Work will begin fall 2022, first step will be sending out ROEs for adjacent property owners Contract with project forester
Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress and Education Plan	Work almost complete on County Roads in the lone area. Letters send out to landowners along Shakeridge Sections. Work will start along Shakeridge in mid-July.	RPF will start to flag non-county roads Phase 1.
	Ed is continuing to work with CALFIRE to complete MND for CEQA on private roads.	Go out to bid for the Running Gold/Surrey Junction Project. Protentional submit additional roads to ARCD as a NOE.
	NOE for Running Gold and Surrey Junction subdivisions submitted to ARCD for approval to serve as lead and submit.	
County Coordinator - CAFSC	Megan is working on Amador County Fair Planning. Creating and ordering FireWise Banner and brochure and fair giveaways. Megan is also working with steering committee to plan FireWise Forum.	Amador County Fair Planning July 28st - 31st Develop Annual Report template, new Community project form and newsletter
	Working with Tori on AFSC website updates and new emails addresses. Megan@AmadorFireSafe.org, Amanda@AmadorfireSafe.org and Info@AmadorFireSafe.org	
	Community Fuel Break Project	Awaiting fully executed grant agreement to be able to start work. Hosted a site visit with CalFire and River Pine FWC. Developed a timeline document for outreach to River Pines FWC.
Reviewing community submitted projects for potential planning under this grant.		
Pine Acres Fuel Break - Maintenance	Forester conducted site visit to create prescription.	Need to develop NOE and submit to ARCD for implementation this fall.
Partnership Updates	ARCD approved CEQA lead policy will be considering the first project at this months ARCD board meeting.	
"Fire-Adapted Landscapes and Wildfire Preparation" Workshop, August 8, 2022 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Pine Grove Town Hall 19889 Hwy. 88, Pine Grove For more information and to register: <a href="http://www.ucanr.edu/jacksonwatershed">www.ucanr.edu/jacksonwatershed</a>		

Outreach Events	Forest Stewardship Virtual 9 week Training Course August 24th- October 19th, online workshop once per week. \$60Registration information can be found at <a href="http://ucanr.edu/forestryworkshops/">http://ucanr.edu/forestryworkshops/</a>
Upcoming/Pending Grants	Amador County received CaFSC funding to implemented Evacuation Route Planning. The county will contract with AFSC to implement and administer this projects. \$380,000
	CA Fire Foundation Grant opportunity (\$15,000 available) Could be a great source for FWC support

#### **Appendix 4: CEQA Lead Agency Assistance**

The Amador Resource Conservation District (ARCD) is a partner and stakeholder in many Amador Fire Safe Council projects by providing staff to develop and implement projects as well as providing input and other support when possible.

The ARCD, as a special districts of the California government and a participating partner, can provide support to the AFSC by serving as the lead agency on fuels reductions and forest health projects to complete CEQA compliance. Below outlines the details in which the ARCD will act as the lead agency.

**Project Type:** ARCD will act as lead agency on fuel reduction and fuel break development projects utilizing practices that include handwork, mastication, mechanical/hand piling, pile burning and herbicide application.

**CEQA Compliance:** This policy will only apply when a Notice of Exemption (CEQA Article 9 Exemptions 15304 Minor Alterations to Land) is deemed to be the appropriate CEQA compliance mechanism.

#### **Process:**

AFSC will complete all necessary field work, documentation and submit to ARCD staff for review. All documentation will be submitted by the first of the month to ensure adequate review before the upcoming board meeting. ARCD staff will review documentation for thoroughness and submit to the Board of Directors for review and approval. The AFSC will provide a brief presentation at the ARCD board meeting.

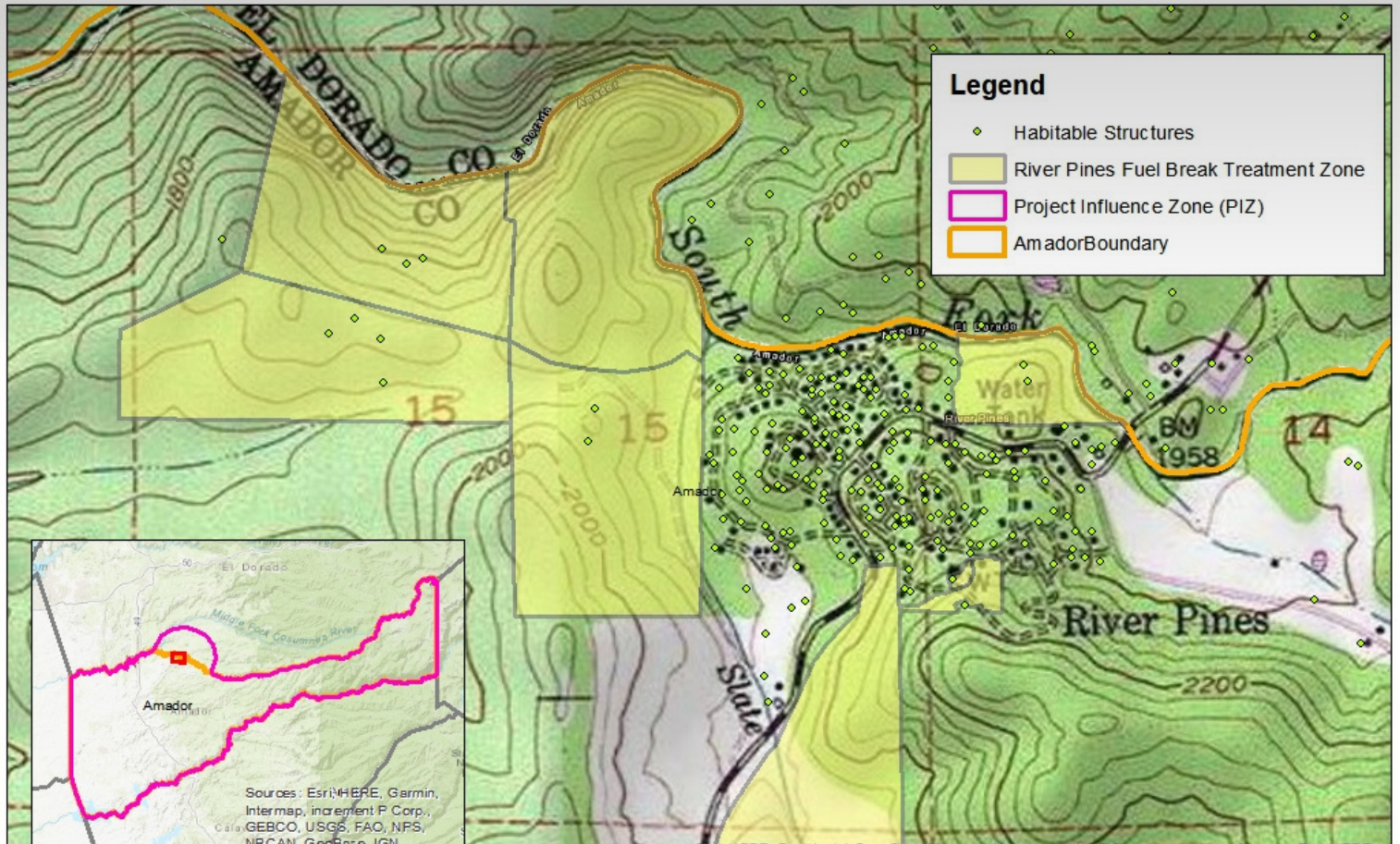
When a project is approved ARCD will file required documents with Amador County. AFSC will pay all filing fees required by Amador County and/or the State Clearinghouse.

AFSC will reimburse ARCD for staff time required to review documentation at the agreed upon rate in the ARCD/AFSC Partnership Agreement.

#### **Required Documentation:**

- Notice of Exemption Form
- Project Scope/Workplan
- Funding Status
- Budget
- Environmental Review Report for NOEs
  - Biological Report
  - Archaeological Research Documentation





# RIVER PINES COMMUNITY FUEL BREAK

AFSC and River Pines FireWise Community worked to develop a pilot Community Fuel Break. The AFSC was awarded \$726,000 through the CalFire Fire Prevention Grant Program. Funding will pay for environmental compliance (CEQA) and implementation of a 200 acre fuel break surrounding River Pines. This project will also fund the coordination, mapping, and general planning for 3-4 other community fuel breaks.

## PROJECT TIMELINE

Below is an estimated timeline showing the best case scenario for planning & implementing the River Pines Community Fuel Break. Several steps are out of the control of the AFSC.

- Sept. 2022: Execute grant agreement between CALFIRE and AFSC
- Oct. 2022: Forester conducts site visits and flags treatment areas
- Nov. 2022: AFSC partners with ARCD to complete CEQA
- Jan. 2023: AFSC selects contractor and work begins
- Jan.-June 2023: Work continues on the 200 acres
- June 2023: River Pines Community Fuel Break is completed



## TREATMENT

- Removal of brush and small trees (up to 14" dbh for hardwood species and up to 12" dbh for conifer species) and pruning of ladder fuels at least 10' from ground level.
- The target of a max 30-foot by 30-foot spacing of trees.
- Work will be accomplished by combining mastication and handwork.





**Hosted by:**

*University of California  
Cooperative Extension*

*in collaboration with:*

*American Forest  
Foundation*

*CAL FIRE*

*California Association of  
Resource Conservation  
Districts*

*California Fire Safe  
Council*

*Forest Landowners of  
California*

*USFS Region 5*



# Save the Date!

## Register now for a California Forest Stewardship Workshop

Online beginning August 24, 2022 – October 19, 2022 and in-person Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> Amador or Calaveras County (exact location TBD)

**Join the workshop to understand and protect your forests by developing a Forest Management Plan. Topics include:**

- Forest management objectives and planning
- Forest health, insects and disease
- Forest and fire ecology, wildlife, watersheds
- Fuels reduction and forest resource marketing
- Mapping, inventory and silviculture
- Project development & permitting
- Getting professional help and cost-share opportunities

Participants will utilize online resources on their own time to complete learning modules and short activities. Zoom meetings with all participants and presenters will take place once a week on Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm. The in-person field day will cover silviculture, forest inventory and mapping activities. Participants who complete the workshop will be **eligible for a free site visit** with a California Registered Professional Forester.

**Registration** for the workshop is \$60. Sign up now at:

<http://ucanr.edu/forestryworkshops/>

For questions, contact Kim Ingram, [kcingram@ucanr.edu](mailto:kcingram@ucanr.edu).



The Forest Stewardship Education Initiative is a CAL FIRE funded contract (8CA04547), awarded July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2024, to Susie Kocher, RPF#2874, University of California Cooperative Extension, to help landowners develop forest management plans.



# Fire Adapted Landscapes and Wildfire Preparation

**Due to the Electra Fire, the workshop has been rescheduled to August**

Monday

August 8, 2022

PINE GROVE TOWN HALL  
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm  
19889 Highway 88,  
Pine Grove, CA 95665

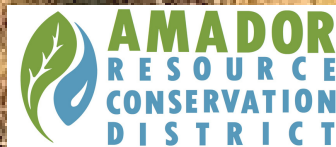
## Topics

- Electra Fire
- Building Fire Resilient Homes
- Retrofitting Homes to Make them Fire Safe
- Creating Defensible Space
- Overview of Community Fuel Breaks
- Using Livestock to Reduce Fuel Loads
- Funding Opportunities for Landowners
- Prescribed Burn Associations

**Free &  
Open to  
the Public**

*Come learn about the new Jackson Watershed and Forest Health Project*

**University of California**  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



For More Information and to Register: <http://ucanr.edu/jacksonwatershed>

Should you need assistance or require special accommodations for any of our educational programs, please contact us at 209-223-6482.

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