



Amador Fire Safe Council

PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665

www.AmadorFireSafe.org



January 17th, 2024

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 November Minutes*
3. Introductions
4. Treasurers Report (John)*
5. 2024 Budget (John)*
6. Coordinator Report (Amanda)
 - a. County Roads Ingress/Egress Work Update
7. Grant Resolution (Amanda)*
 - a. Resolution # AFSC 2024-1-17-1: Approval for Application to Bureau of Land Management IJA/IRA Bureau of Land Management California Plant Conservation and Restoration Grant Opportunity.
8. FireWise Community Program Update (Megan)
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
November 15, 2023 3:00pm



November 15, 2023 - 3:00 pm

1. Approve/Modify Agenda - CG motioned for approval, JH seconded

2. Approval of September Minutes - JH motioned for approval, FL seconded

3. Introductions: Frank Leschinsky (FL), Connie Gonsalves (CG), John Heisenbittel (JH), Susan Peters (SP), Patrick Minyard (PM), Amanda Watson (AW), Dana Simpson, Kayla Dale (KD), Megan Scheeline (MS), Patrick McDaniel, Julie Harris, Bob Deacon, Ralph Meier, Tom Ellison, other members of the public (not audible)

Absent: Chris Dow (CD), Richard Yarnell (RY)

4. Treasurer Report:

\$821k approximately in general accounts; \$100k unrestricted reserve account; behind in groundwork contracted labor expenses, but work is going to start picking up now. RFP for I/E work is coming out soon, in addition to contracted mastication work that will be starting up again.

IRS is having difficulty in understanding the Board's desire to change our FY to a regular calendar year schedule. We have dutifully filed all IRS forms requesting this change, on time, since 2020, however, they have been rejected. JH recommends getting representative from congress involved - wants Board permission to construct a letter to McClintock. **SP motioned for approval, CG seconded.**

5. Coordinator's Report (AW):

Capacity Building Discussion

Submitted high-level proposal for capacity building needs to the SNC (Sierra Nevada Conservancy). Approx \$250k requested. Also, working with FW communities to develop projects and come up with project sheets, work with partners and research/develop plans, have on the shelf ready to go. (project pipeline assistance - similar to comm fuel break prog).

AFSC (also ARCD) - good funding and momentum to grow, must look closely at staffing - making sure we have organizational capacity to back it up. Plan the next 5 years... JH recommends doing this in conjunction with the ARCD, considering "booming and/or busting" years. SP recommends a workshop to discuss. KD encourages the Board to reach out and speak with other agencies regarding future funding/projects (Red Cross, etc.) to make sure we aren't falling behind or duplicating efforts. AW asks what key questions for discussion and possible time frame: JH - monthly grant money document (snapshot) from Dana should be available, staff costs, consider prevailing wages; SP - other funding coming down pipeline we should know about; AW wants to have a contractor's workshop also, what would this look like for our working relationship with them, etc.;

Julie Harris - suggests hearing comments from the public regarding capacity building

PM - Outline of what increased capacity organization would look like. AW - has one for both AFSC/ARCD. Can draft one for the discussion. PM - is there any way to predict a "bust" cycle in grant funding? SP - natural disaster driven; should see more action regarding fire prevention after January (driven by insurance rates and consumers); FL - large push for economic development, however, not good in large fire threat and un-insurable areas, how would AI impact our labor needs or streamline workload?; AW - host tours to bring attention to the work

we are doing, to resonate the good work to continue to showcase our projects (in Amador County and beyond); FL - CAFSC should be doing this on a state level.

Should decide details regarding our December Board meeting - 'gathering' like last year or official meeting? Board agrees on doing another quasi-meeting (gathering) at Breakeven Beer-makers. Inform public of change. Shoot for 12/20.

6. Grant Resolutions:

- Volcano Hills - ***JH motioned for approval, SP seconded***
- Ohio Hills (possible inclusion of Kennedy Mine) - ***JH motioned for approval, SP seconded***

7. Firewise:

We currently have 33 Firewise Communities in Good Standing, more being developed. Deadline to recert is this Friday - All communities have been submitting their applications. Last month's Firewise Forum was great, had guest speaker Mary Beth Bykowsky, Outreach Analyst with the CA Dept of Insurance, who spoke about updates regarding insurance - i.e. the FAIR plan deciding to give discounts on multiple levels, instead of just one lump discount once everything is done.

8. PGE Undergrounding: AW looking into this, Public Utilities Commission does not favor this option. Steve Christianson wants AFSC to write a letter in support of burying overhead power lines.

JH - read PUC letter AW sent- very complicated and costly issue. \$550 billion dollars estimated to underground system. Letter describes alternatives to burying lines (i.e., replacing wooden poles, wrapping poles, etc.). Would feel more comfortable developing a stance as a Board after speaking with Richard Yarnell (AFSC Board Member). ***Suggestion: tabling issue until later date.***

9. Partner Update:

CAL FIRE: Forest Health grant (large landscape scale projects) opened on Monday. Funding is up to \$170 million, \$50 for post fire reforestation, etc., and \$120 for Forest Health projects.

AFPD: None **BLM:** None

10. Public Comment:

Jeff White (via Zoom): Thanks the council for the help in getting the PGE Fuel Break at Butte Mtn. (15.30.430 - AC Defensible Space Code - Title 15, Chp 30 Fire and Life Safety, point E) *Fuel Mods are required to a width of 10 ft on each side of roadway, etc.* Although the county has no enforcement capability, sharing this code with neighbors who are unwilling to participate in fuel reduction projects sometimes helps. How to share this code with more residents and bring more awareness to the community? AW would like to speak about this further. Issue for the BoS, as well. SP - can request to be on AFPD agenda to touch base on this at a future meeting.

JH - Clemson beat Notre Dame

Adjourn: 4:05 pm

Amador Fire Safe Council Grant Snapshot
as of Dec 31, 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	\$ 797,447.93	\$ -	\$ 46,627.34	\$ 36,678.07
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	\$ 165,458.39	\$ -	\$ 47,576.17	\$ 9,540.61
4	Ingress/Egress (CalFire) 5GG19102	5/13/2020 - 3/1/2024	\$ 1,044,296.00	\$ 949,360.00	\$ 94,936.00	\$ 515,845.62	\$ 38,560.40	\$ -	\$ 528,450.38
5	Pine Acres (CalFire) 5GG20101	approval - 3/15/2025	\$ 515,405.00	\$ 468,550.00	\$ 46,855.00	\$ 23,993.37	\$ 104,857.89		\$ 491,411.63
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	\$ 461,119.38	\$312,034.38		\$ 827,324.62
8	Amador County Evac Improvement - CWPP (CalFire) 5GG21101	6/14/2022 - 3/15/2024	\$ 379,982.40	\$ 335,000.00	\$ 44,982.40	\$ 87,493.36	\$ 6,586.64		\$ 292,489.04
9	Amador Community Fuel Break Develop Proj (CalFire) 5GG21201	8/4/2022 - 3/15/2026	\$ 726,000.00	\$ 660,000.00	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 291,194.21	\$ 71,962.74	\$ -	\$ 434,805.79
10	Upper Rancheria Community Fuel Break 5GA21149	- 5/31/2025	\$ 950,010.00	\$ 863,645.00	\$ 86,365.00	\$ 13,131.95		\$ 2,627.00	\$ 936,878.05
11	PGE Butte Mountain	- 11/30/2023	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 29,141.78		\$ 12,234.77	\$ -
			\$ 6,768,462.40	\$ 6,129,369.00	\$ 639,093.40	\$ 2,555,453.62	\$ 561,554.37	\$ 109,065.28	\$ 4,207,150.56

complete

*matches Unearned Revenue

*Matches Accounts Receivable

AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

2023 Budget

As of Dec 31, 2023

Expenses

Grants Expenses

305 AFSC Coordinator	62,000.00	1	82,913.25
306 Coordinator Assistant	13,000.00	2	5,918.84
307 Outreach Coordinator	14,400.00	3	41,140.60
308 Technical Assistance	14,400.00	3	7,195.26
309 Project Management	0.00		16,156.51
310 RPF Professional Forester	125,000.00		119,808.80
315 Environmental Documentation	10,000.00		3,298.90
320 Groundwork Contracted Labor	2,024,000.00		1,104,532.62
350 Outreach/Materials/Supplies	10,000.00		6,040.97
Total Grant Expenses	2,272,800.00		1,387,005.75

Operating Expenses

302 Depreciation	450.00		0.00
311 Bookkeeper	4,000.00		6,696.23
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		62.32
346 Postage	400.00		428.04
350 General Outreach	10,000.00	4	292.95
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		10,579.20

Unrestricted Reserves

100,000.00	100,000.00
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Total Expenses

2,398,760.00	1,397,584.95
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Revenue

Grants

PG&E CEMA Program	22,500.00	6	27,031.61
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	193,805.62
SNC County Steward Implementation	658,000.00	¹⁰	416,386.30
Community Fuel Break	397,000.00	¹¹	241,568.16
CAL FIRE Pine Acres Maintenance	90,000.00	¹²	21,812.17
CAFSC County Coordinator	78,000.00	¹³	95,609.47
CalFire Evacuation Improvement	60,000.00	¹⁴	78,119.07
CAL FIRE Upper Rancheria			11,938.15
Misc Grant Income			2,500.00
Contributions	500.00		655.72
Indirect/Admin Revenue	228,950.00		144,056.56
Interest Income	200.00		347.03
Total Revenue	2,475,150.00		1,533,873.79

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 Dec 31, 2023
3000 General Fund	153,610.19	106,797.38
Savings/Reserve Account	0	100,016.99
4255 PG&E/CWPP	288.75	94,180.01
4412 Tiger Creek Enhance	66,056.22	32,804.55
4420 CFSC Coordinator	6,006.35	4,754.63
4222 Tiger Creek Implementation	170,798.19	2,808.66
4651 Ingress/Egress	3,111.92	43,451.81
4834 AmCo Stewardship	386,546.97	312,525.74
4842 Community Fuel Break	100.00	73,302.29
4842 Pine Acres Fuel Break	100.00	106,901.35
Total	\$ 786,618.59	\$ 877,543.41

AFSC 2024 DRAFT Budget for consideration at the 1/17/24 AFSC Board Meeting

EXPENSES				
Grants Expenses	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget	
305 AFSC Coordinator (Amanda)	62,000.00	82,913.25	80,000.00	assumes 100 hrs per month
306 Coordinator Assistant (Dana)	13,000.00	5,915.59	6,000.00	assumes 10 hrs per month
307 Outreach Coordinator (Megan)	14,400.00	41,140.60	40,000.00	assumes 80 hrs per month
308 Technical Assistance (Tamryn)	14,400.00	7,195.26	8,000.00	assumes 16 hours per month
309 Project Management (Gordon)		16,156.51	70,000.00	assumes 100 hours per month
310 RPF Professional Forester	125,000.00	115,683.80	125,000.00	
315 Environmental Compliance	10,000.00	3,298.90	10,000.00	
320 Groundwork Contracted Labor	2,024,000.00	1,104,532.62	1,983,550.00	
350 Outreach/Materials/Supplies	10,000.00	5,342.18	10,000.00	
Total Grant Expenses	2,244,000.00	1,382,178.71	2,332,550.00	
Operating Expenses				
302 Depreciation	450			
311 Bookkeeper (Dana)	4,000.00	6,696.23	10,000.00	assumes 16 hours per month
321 State Filing Fees	85	350.00	350.00	
330 Insurance, D&O	2,000.00	2,196.03	2,000.00	
343 Bank Charges	50	33.00	50.00	
345 Office Supplies	4,000.00	62.32	4,000.00	
346 Postage	400	360.04	400.00	
350 Outreach	10,000.00	517.29	10,000.00	
365 Professional Fees	600		600.00	
365 Telephone	375	150.00	375.00	
370 Mileage	4,000.00	327.68	4,000.00	
Other	0	42.95		
Total Operating Expenses	21,960.00	10,735.54	31,775.00	
Unrestricted Reserve Fund	100,000.00		100,000.00	
Total Expenses	2,365,960.00	1,392,914.25	2,464,325.00	
REVENUE				
Grant Revenue				
PG&E CEMA Program	22,500.00	27,031.61	30,000.00	
SNC Tiger Creek Implementation	226,000.00	193,136.03	29,750.00	
SNC Tiger Creek Enhancement	40,000.00	106,907.90	43,675.00	
CAL FIRE Ingress/Egress	674,000.00	193,805.62	599,600.00	

SNC County Steward Implementation	658,000.00	415,786.83	283,600.00
CAL FIRE Pine Acres Maintenance	90,000.00	18,305.67	333,233.00
CAFSC County Coordinator	78,000.00	95,609.47	90,000.00
CAL FIRE Community Fuel Break	397,000.00	239,722.10	294,175.00
CAL FIRE Evacuation Improvement	60,000.00	76,047.86	183,000.00
CALFIRE Upper Rancheria		10,397.22	587,750.00
Volcano Communications Grant	0		
Misc Grant Income		2,500.00	
Contributions	500.00	655.72	500.00
Indirect/Admin Revenue	228,950.00	143,058.71	247,478.00
Interest Income	200	347.03	
Total Revenue	2,475,150.00	1,523,311.77	2,722,761.00
profit/loss	109,190.00	130,397.52	258,436.00

Expenses for Each Major Project (based on percentages we estimate to complete in 2024)

	Mastication	Staff	RPF
PG&E CEMA Program (100%)	\$25,000.00	\$5,000.00	
SNC Tiger Creek Implementation (100%)	\$15,600.00	\$6,250.00	\$7,900.00
SNC Tiger Creek Enhancement (100%)	\$25,000.00	\$7,800.00	\$10,875.00
CAL FIRE Ingress/Egress (100%)	\$520,000.00	\$7,600.00	\$72,000.00
CAL FIRE Ingress/Egress Round 2			
SNC County Steward Implementation (40%)	\$250,000.00	\$4,800.00	\$28,800.00
CAL FIRE Pine Acres Maintenance(100%)	\$245,550.00	\$39,683.00	\$48,000.00
CAFSC County Coordinator (100%)		\$90,000.00	
CAL FIRE Community Fuel Break (75%)	\$220,000.00	\$22,425.00	\$51,750.00
CAL FIRE Evacuation Improvement 100%)	\$168,000.00	\$15,000.00	
CALFIRE Upper Rancheria (80%)	\$514,400.00	\$27,750.00	\$45,600.00
TOTAL	\$1,983,550.00	\$226,308.00	\$264,925.00

Will we start on this one in 2024?

Budgeted amounts		\$204,000.00	125,000.00
Remaining		\$22,308.00	\$139,925.00

**Amador Fire Safe Council
Coordinator Monthly Report**

Jan-24

Date Range: November 15th 2023 - January 17th 2024

Project	Update	Future Planned Actions
General	All grants project reporting and invoicing is due by January 31st	
AmCo Stewardship - Mokelumne Community Forest	160.47 acres/413 acres of mastication has been completed. Met with Calaveras RCD, BLM and SNC to discuss the Timber Sale. BLM advertised the Sale and received no bids, we are currently planning to wait to re-advertise the timber sale until July to see if log prices rise. There has been conversation about subsidizing the timber sale by cover transportation costs.	Grant Reporting. Continue to research stewardship agreement and Timber Sale options.
Amador County Collaborative Ingress, Egress and Education Plan	<p>Work has started on County Roads, three contractors were selected to treat 57 miles of road.</p> <p>Planned Private Road RFP grouping, currently collecting ROEs: Fiddletown Park, Quartz Mtn, and Andrews Road. Anticipating that the RFP will be release in January.</p>	Next Projects Committee will be February 5th
County Coordinator - CAFSC	<p>FireWise Forum will be held on January 31st. Gordon will be presenting on how to develop and submit a project to the AFSC. Participated in CARCD Legislative Committee.</p> <p>Working with Ag Building staff to develop 'available resources' database.</p>	ARCD/AFSC staff are meeting to develop an outreach plan for the organizations on January 25th.
Community Fuel Break Project	<p>AFSC was not awarded funding from SNC for Rancheria Ridge/Crestview Project. Have identified other funding opportunities for both of these projects.</p> <p>Krisman Enterprise has moved equipment on to River Pines FB and is waiting for the right weather to begin work; will likely not be completed until end of winter.</p> <p>AFSC staff is working to get current projects RFPs out and work started. Staff is working to plan out project development and anticipate starting this in late February with the bulk of planning to happen in the summer months.</p>	Upcoming needs: schedule townhalls for all community projects, will be covered in the annual outreach plan.
Potential Funding	<p>AW wrote and submitted three grant application to the CalFire CCI Wildfire Prevention solicitation: County-wide CCWPP Update \$167k</p> <p>Ohio Hill Community Fuel Break, 240 acres, \$917k Volcano Hills Community Fuel Break, 270 acres, \$1.019 million</p>	Grant Writing to the NOFO grant application to BLM for the Rancheria Ridge and CWPP revision. Grant application due Feb. 2nd



Amador Fire Safe Council
PO BOX 1055
Pine Grove, CA 95665

RESOLUTION

Before the Board of Directors of the Amador Fire Safe Council
Amador County, California

IN THE MATTER OF: Approval for Application to IJJA/IRA Bureau of Land Management California Plant Conservation and Restoration Grant Opportunity

RESOLUTION # AFSC 2024-1-17-1

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Amador Fire Safe Council hereby authorizes Amador Fire Safe Council Coordinator, Amanda Watson, to submit an application to the IJJA/IRA Bureau of Land Management California Plant Conservation and Restoration Grant Opportunity.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that John Heissenbuttel, Treasurer of said Board be hereby authorized to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Amador Fire Safe Council at a regular meeting held on the day of January 17th, 2024:

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Signature

Print Name, Title

1/17/2024

Date