

## **FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY**

### **Minutes May 14, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by John Sims at 0939 am at Woodside Independence Hall. Self introductions were made.

**Attendance:** Klaus Zalinskis, North County Fire Authority, Pamela Noyer, San Mateo County Parks, Lori Cuesta, PG&E/Vegetation; Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University; Margaret Glomstad, Highlands Recreation District; Pete Munoa, John Sims, Cal Fire/San Mateo Co. Fire; Clayton Jolley, Coastside Fire District; Brian Malone, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District; Jim Palisi, Belmont-San Carlos Fire; Wendy Poinot, National Park Service; Christine Reed, Central County Fire Department and Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator.

**Mitigation Grants** – Richmond reported most agencies have received this information.

**Jasper Ridge Preserve** - Philippe Cohen reported he had arranged tours for initial attack engine companies during the last two weeks of June.

**2008 Goals** – 50% have been completed.

**Local Grant Requests** – John Martinez and Steve Richmond have reviewed requests for the use of seven crew days of the Ben Lomond Crew. Belmont City Parks will receive four days and Portola Ranch will receive three days.

**Crystal Spring Southern Fuel Break** - A walking review of needs for completion will be done on May 20, 2008.

### **AGENCY ROUND TABLE:**

**Jim Palisi, Belmont/San Carlos F.D.** announced the county's Prevention Officers will host the Nor/Cal FPO's on Friday, May 16.

**Klaus Zalinski**, North County Fire, reports Inspector Angelina Ciucci is undergoing treatment for a serious illness. A card will be sent with our best wishes. In Daly City dumpsters are being provided for residents to dispose of vegetation from hazard reduction projects. They are in the process of working with an elementary school to install a children's Fire Safe Garden.

**Pam Noyer, County Parks** – They are still working on islands of Eucalyptus in San Bruno Mountain Park. Employees in Wunderlich Park are improving the service road from 84 to the meadow.

**Lori Cuesta, PG&E**, reports line inspectors are in Portola Valley, La Honda and Skyline. Tree crews will be following them in about two weeks and it will be a couple of months before the crews reach Half Moon Bay.

**Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve** reports March and April were the lowest months for rainfall ever in the 80 years the Preserve has maintained records. Creek flows are very low for this time of year.

**Christine Reed, Mid County Fire** says Burlingame will be working in Miles Canyon Park to reduce hazards. Hillsborough is addressing empty lot clearance. Property owners are given the option to clear on open space to improve their defensible space. Christine was recently placed on a task force to address the issue of how to better manage canyons in the Town of Hillsborough.

**Margaret Glomstad, Highland Recreation District** says crews burned piles on the Highland Fuel Break for three days last week.

**Pete Munoa, Cal/County Fire** reports they have sent notices to absentee property owners to clean vacant lots. The County Building Director would like to pursue an ordinance which would require manufactured homes to be built with sprinklers. They recently had a quarter acre fire in Half Moon Bay.

**Clayton Jolley, Coastside Fire Department** – In 15 days the fire department employees will become employees of Cal Fire as that agency has contracted for fire service for the district. They are working with Cal/Fire Rich Sampson in the P.O.S.T. property in El Granada. They expect to have a public hearing on opening some of the roads on the property for quick emergency vehicle access. They just started the annual weed abatement.

**Brian Malone, Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District** – They have had a field trip for Sudden Oak Death. There are many dead trees. The district declared fire season on May 16. In readiness, slip-on pumps for pickups, "No Smoking" signs and disking of fuel breaks has started.

There are two burns planned in Santa Clara County and one on Russian Ridge in San Mateo County.

**Wendy Poinot, NPS** – They are doing some office reorganization. Roger Wong is the Fire Control Officer and Gordon Reisner, Fire Planning. Wendy mentioned NPS has an on-going study of Star Thistle at the Pinnacles National Monument. They are getting ready to review their Five Year Management Plan in SMCO. They need input!

**Jim Palasi, Belmont-San Carlos** – Seventeen hundred letters were sent to property owners for cleanup. The City Council is meeting to adjust Hazard Severity Maps. Jim says more than 50 home owners have had insurance dropped.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

