



# Fire Safe San Mateo County

June 12, 2013 Meeting Minutes

## Attendance:

**Guido Ciardi** - President. San Francisco Public Utility District  
**Philippe S. Cohen** - Vice President. Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve  
**Rich Sampson** - Secretary. CAL FIRE  
**Todd Lando** - Executive Director. Urban Forestry Associates  
**Clayton Jolley** - San Mateo County Fire Department/CAL FIRE  
**Stephen Kraemer** - San Mateo County Parks  
**John Romandia** - Black Cat Construction  
**Christine Reed** - Central County Fire Department  
**Jim Palisi** - Redwood City Fire Department  
**Rob Sherman** - CAL FIRE  
**John Martinez** - CAL FIRE  
**Brian Malone** - Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
**Jordan Reeser** - NPS/GGNRA  
**Wendy Poinso** - NPS/GGNRA  
**Jennifer Chapman** - NPS/GGNRA  
**Christine Carey** - NPS/GGNRA  
**Suzie Bennett** - NPS/GGNRA  
**Carole Bridgeman**

## Call to order

President Guido Ciardi calls the meeting to order at 9:40am.

- Denise Enea unable to attend.

## Approval of Minutes

- *Motion (Cohen), Seconded (Jolley) to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2013 Regular Meeting of Fire Safe San Mateo County with corrections. All in favor. Motion carries.*

## Treasurer's Report

- No update. Denise is still having trouble with SM County obtaining financial records. This

affects obtaining non-profit status and paying Urban Forestry Associates.

- By end of year a real working budget is needed. Executive committee to meet in June to workout budget; a date needs to be set. Executive committee meets quarterly.

## **Announcements**

- July 10 Annual Meeting and Barbecue will be held at Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve.

## **New Business/Correspondence**

- Public hearing notice sent by BAAQMD. Doug distributed copies to everyone present. Further discussion of proposed fees took place with Doug and Fire Safe members, see below.

## **Non-profit status**

- No update.

## **Grant Updates:**

- Rich Sampson states that CAL FIRE CZU anticipates funding will be finalized late in June for Hillsborough, Burlingame, and SMC County Parks.
  - Denise suggested (in May) that Steve Richmond might be available for Sponsoring in Hillsborough/Burlingame through FS SMC for \$50/hr if they need it.

## **Committees**

### **Grant Committee:**

- Members are encouraged to participate. Contact [toddlando@firesafesanteo.org](mailto:toddlando@firesafesanteo.org) if interested.
- Clearinghouse grant cycle announced. Workshop dates are set for mid-July. Applications open in late August.
- Committee members:
  - Denise Enea
  - Andy Hubbs
  - Todd Lando

### **Public Relations Committee:**

- Committee will meet in July; goal to get the word out about FSSMC mission: flyer, website, newspaper insert, Living with Fire, bulk mailer.
- Committee members:
  - Denise Enea
  - John Romandia
  - Todd Lando

### **Living With Fire Update Committee:**

- Todd Lando has received a QuarkExpress file from the printer. He's now updating the formatting and will propose minor layout changes and design updates to the committee.
- Committee has completed review of the fire code section, with valuable input from all members.
- Todd Lando has incorporated all comments into an updated section, awaiting final review from committee.
- Update suggestions currently requested for defensible space pages.
- Distribution of Living with Fire from CAL FIRE. Guido needs one box. Clayton wants two. County Parks one box.
- Committee members:
  - Andy Hubbs
  - Jim Palisi
  - Christine Reed
  - Philippe S. Cohen
  - Joel Smith

### **NPS/GGNRA Presentation: Rancho Corral de Tierra Fire Management Plan**

**Jordan Reeser** - NPS/GGNRA

**Wendy Poinsot** - NPS/GGNRA

**Jennifer Chapman** - NPS/GGNRA

**Christine Carey** - NPS/GGNRA

**Suzie Bennett** - NPS/GGNRA

The National Park Service (NPS) is soliciting input on fire management actions proposed for late summer 2013 for portions of Rancho Corral de Tierra (Rancho) where vegetated parklands border directly with private residences within adjacent communities between Half Moon Bay and Devil's Slide in San Mateo County. The NPS is proposing two mowlines on the boundary with residential development in the community of El Granada. Piles of woody debris remaining from a previous fuel reduction project will also be removed.

All national parks with burnable vegetation are required to have a wildland fire management plan (FMP). The current FMP for Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) was adopted in 2006 following a public planning process that considered several strategies for wildland fire management in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Since that time, nearly 4,000 acres at Rancho Corral de Tierra (Rancho) were added to the park. When national parks receive land donations or purchase additional land having burnable vegetation, the parks' FMP must be amended to include the new

lands. The current public planning process focuses on wildland fire management planning for Rancho Corral de Tierra.

Two meetings will be held that will present information regarding this amendment:

**Fire Safe San Mateo Monthly Meeting (Today)**

**Public Meeting: Tuesday, June 25**

6PM – 8PM (presentation at 6:30PM)

Farallone View Elementary School

Montara, CA

**From the document “[Proposed Fire Management Actions 2013 - Rancho](#)”**

*The National Park Service (NPS) is soliciting input on fire management actions proposed for late summer 2013 for portions of Rancho Corral de Tierra (Rancho) where vegetated parklands border directly with private residences within adjacent communities between Half Moon Bay and Devil’s Slide in San Mateo County. There are two concurrent planning efforts underway involving fire management at Rancho and the NPS is soliciting your input on both. These are:*

- 1) Proposed 2013 Fire Management Actions for Rancho slated for later this summer, and*
- 2) Draft GGNRA Fire Management Plan (FMP) Amendment for Rancho which would add long range wildland fire management planning for Rancho to the park-wide FMP adopted in 2006. The Draft FMP Amendment for Rancho is available for review and comment through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website:*

*<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/RCDTFMP>.*

*This announcement focuses on the Proposed 2013 Fire Management Actions for Rancho. With the objective of creating zones of reduced fuels, mowlines would be cut on NPS lands as close to the common boundary with private parcels as the terrain allows; the mowing equipment cannot operate on steep or uneven slopes. Mowlines set close to the common boundary would build upon the effectiveness of the defensible space<sup>[1]</sup> the homeowner already maintains within their property. Areas where the Rancho boundary abuts a paved roadway or a stream drainage already benefit from a permanent zone of reduced fuels in the form of pavement or fire-relatively fire resistant wetland or riparian vegetation.*

*The proposed Harbour Mowline, shown above, would parallel the rear lot lines of the homes on Harbour Drive and Coral Reef Avenue. The proposed 60-foot wide mowline, roughly 0.25 miles long, would provide 2-acres of reduced fuels within which firefighters could safely operate equipment to fight a wildfire or structural fire, should the need arise. The proposed mowline, sited at the park boundary, would supplement existing defensible space in the*

neighborhood.

*The proposed San Carlos Mowline, also shown above, would run parallel and upslope from the rear lot lines of homes on San Carlos Avenue. Because of the terrain, the mowline would be roughly 12 feet wide, the width of the existing level track behind the homes.*

*Existing wood piles, marked with a star on the image above, were part of a prior fuels reduction project and would be removed either by pile burning, chipping or hauling. The NPS is requesting your comments on these Proposed 2013 Fire Management Actions for Rancho. Comments may be made through the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/RCDTFMP>. For more information, contact [goga\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:goga_planning@nps.gov) or 415-561-4700.*

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*[1] Defensible space refers to the natural and landscaped area around a home or other structure that has been modified to reduce fire hazard. More information on creating defensible space for your property can be found at <http://www.firesafesanteo.org/resources/defensible-space>.*

Members asked questions related to: mowing; threatened species/Mission Blue butterflies; trail-closures and access; closures due to fire danger; equestrian use and access.

The public comment period for the fire management plan closes on July 12. People interested in commenting can go to the National Park website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>

## **Agency Roundtable:**

### **San Mateo County Parks - Stephen Kraemer**

- Meadow being mowed at Wunderlich.
- Edgewood Park brushing has begun.
- Small fire contained at Phleger Estate.
- 20x40, caused by PG&E lines.
- FC32s are ready for Wunderlich and Huddart Parks.

### **San Francisco Water - Guido Ciardi**

- Small fires reported on 280 corridor.
  - Disc line fire breaks have held well.
- Southern line fire break:
  - Broom control underway.
- Goats are working on Edgewood Road.

**Central County Fire Department** - Christine Reed

- Vacant lot inspections underway in Hillsborough.
  - Vegetation management contractor will abate if landowner fails to comply.
  -

**Redwood City Fire Department** - Jim Palisi

- 400 goats are working in Redwood city.
  - Will be on-site for 14 days.
  - Cost was approximately \$26,000.
  - Estimated to provide fuel reduction that will protect \$75 million in real-estate.
  - Funding provided by city parks.

**Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District** - Brian Malone

- Trail brushing underway.
- Montebello Road to Pagemill Fire Break in progress.
- 8 hour fire refresher for employees complete.
- Slip-on pumpers are on the pickups.
- Rich and John Martinez to meet with rangers to discuss fire history and wood poaching.
- Radio consolidation to allow communication with other agencies is in progress.

**San Mateo County Fire Department/Coastside/CAL FIRE** - Clayton Jolley

- First round of vacant lot inspections complete.
  - 1400 lots inspected.
  - Contractor expects to complete abatement by July 4.
  -

**CAL FIRE, Ben Lomond Fire Camp** - Rob Sherman

- Crews 14 and 15 are working in San Mateo County.
- Call Rob if crews are needed in July, as some dates are still open.

**CAL FIRE** - Rich Sampson

- CWPP updates are underway.
- Lots of small starts have been reported, earlier than normal for the County.

**National Park Service/GGNRA** - Jordan Reeser

- “Step-up” plan developed, addressing use of power tools on high fire danger days.
- Eucalyptus removal and control work underway in multiple locations on GGNRA land.

**Woodside Fire Protection District** - Denise Enea

- Chipping program season began today.
- Fire season is early so chipping program/defensible space inspections are starting off behind schedule this year.
- Wildland Fire was reported in Los Trancos already.

### **Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve - Philippe S. Cohen**

- Jasper Ridge is offering tours to fire crews to familiarize them with JR facilities, emergency access roads, provide up-to-date maps, and solicit feedback on how we can enhance our prevention efforts.
- Contact [philippe.cohen@stanford.edu](mailto:philippe.cohen@stanford.edu) to arrange.

### **Urban Forestry Associates - Todd Lando**

- Call for new project proposals for potential grant funding.
- Members are encouraged to email ideas, concepts, or proposals to [toddlando@firesafesanteo.org](mailto:toddlando@firesafesanteo.org).
- Concepts and proposals needed by end of July.
- 501c(3) status required to move forward with Google Non-Profit application, and many corporate and foundation funding possibilities.

### **Open Forum**

Carole Bridgeman, president of a Woodside equestrian group, asked about San Mateo County evacuation plans for horses. She is concerned following reports of equestrian evacuations in southern California during recent fires.

- Carole states that an equestrian rescue group has started on the coast.
- Todd Lando to contact Carole to provide information on Marin County EqVac plan (Marin Humane Society, Marin Horse Council, and FIRESAFE Marin developed).
- Fire Safe San Mateo is interested in assisting with fire evacuation element of any eventual equestrian evacuation plans in San Mateo County.

### **Meeting adjourned 11:07 am**

Respectfully submitted by Todd Lando.