

## **FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY**

### **Minutes November 12, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am by Co-Chair Guido Ciardi. Self introductions were made.

Attendance: Denise Enea, WFPD, Klaus Zalinskis, NCFA; Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford; Dick Schwind, South Skyline Assoc., South Skyline FSC; Ken Broome, South Skyline Emergency Prep. Org.; John Martinez, Scott Bullock, Richm Sampson, Clayton Jolley John Sims, CAL FIRE; Laura Wuest, Middleton Road Association, Lori Cuesta, WCE/PG&E ; Brian Malone, Mid Peninsula Regional Open Space District, Guido Ciardi, SFWD and Steve Richmond, Fire Safe.

Correspondence: We received a \$8,000 grant from the USFS to take down dead SOD trees on Skyline. Thanks to Angela Bernheisel of Cal Fire for her work on this project.

Fire Safe Account: \$200,075.00

Crystal Springs Project: Richmond reported only pile burning remains to complete the project.

Portola Ranch Project: Denise Enea reports things are moving well. All ten days scheduled will be used and three will be part of the Fire Safe grant we issued to the Ranch in the spring of 2008. The Ben Lomond crews have done a great job in some really large stands of Oak that were killed by Sudden Oak Death. The crews also worked in the Los Trancos Water District on a chipping project.

South Skyline Fire Safe Council: Ken Broome, the South Skyline Emergency Preparedness Org. introduced Dick Schwind who has worked with Santa Clara FSC to establish this new council along Skyline Hwy which includes three counties, San Mateo, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara. They have about 15 people attending their meetings and were able to use some of the chipping grant money from the Santa Clara FSC to do work about homes on Skyline.

CAL FIRE, County Parks, North County Fire have met to determine the feasibility of a fuel break on San Bruno Mountain to assist in protecting homes in Brisbane should a fire be moving towards them.

Review of 2008 Goals: The committee reviewed progress on the five goals we had set for the year. All felt we had make excellent progress. These will be highlighted in the 2008 Annual Report. The Task Force that made the presentation to the Board of Supervisors this past spring was asked to make some changes for a presentation to the SMC Fire Chiefs.

Laura Wuest, Middleton Tract expressed the homeowners appreciation for the three days of chipping Fire Safe and County Fire Departments provided working with residents to chip material cut from along roads in the to provide better access.

John Martinez, CAL FIRE presented a DVD "Forests are the Lungs of the Earth". The basis for this presentation is that managed forests produce less carbon than dying and decaying forests.

#### AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:

Brian Malone, Mid Pen Regional Open Space District - With fire season over, fire pumps and fire danger signs have been removed. The District's Wildland Management Plan is going to the Board of Directors. Key items: Primary fire response maps and to allow adjacent property owners access to gain 100 feet of defensible space for homes and out buildings, fuel breaks and develop fire response plans. The Palo Alto Fire Plan will be ready shortly for public comment.

Lori Cuesta, PG&E says inspectors and crews are currently working in Woodside. Most of the other tree crews are working in L.R.A. areas and are ahead of schedule. Dead SOD trees tend to be in pockets of infestation.

Clayton Jolly, Coastside FPD/Cal Fire has a new web site with much fire prevention detail included. They are waiting for action from the district board to move from a weed abatement program to a fuels management program.

John Martinez, Cal Fire is working on a CWPP for both Santa Cruz and San Mateo County. They will be integrated into the unit fire plan. This process will allow for planning areas in high hazard places. Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map updates are being produced by FRAP. When completed, they will be presented to the city councils.

Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve - Next week the A.C.E. Crews will be working on clearing vegetation on the perimeter of the preserve. The Preserve is currently working on a fuel load assessment using a light ranging and detecting system which will produce very accurate maps identifying fuel loads and vegetative species. Philippe will make a presentation to our group of this system.

Klaus Zalinskis, N.C.F.A. – His work with the Southern Hills Homeowners in Daly City is going well. He would like to find a way to assist older homeowners who are physically unable or cannot afford to clean their lots. In Brisbane they are moving in the direction of hiring a contractor to do lot clearance when the owner does not comply. The cost will be added to their tax bill. They are in the process of developing instructions for the contractor.

Denise Enea, Woodside FPD - The town of Woodside is in the process of building code changes. She is working with Palo Alto City with their Fire Management Plan.

Guido Ciardi, San Francisco Water Department – Studies on department land in the Kings Mountain area indicate about 17% of oaks are dead, mostly from SOD. They had a recent nine acre fire. They are going to set the fire area up as a study to determine what kind of vegetation comes into the burned area.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am. Next meeting is December 10, 2008.