

FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY

Minutes
February 11, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 0930 by John Sims. Self introductions were made.

Attendance: Jim Palisi, Belmont-San Carlos F.D.; Rich Sampson, John Ferreira, John Sims, Cal Fire; Thadyne Borchert, Soquel FSC; Richard Schwind, South Skyline FSC; Philippe Cohen, Trevor Hebert, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford; Kyla Dahlin, Chris Feder, Stanford University; Margaret Glamstad HRD; Pamela Noyer, SM Co. Parks; Lori Cuesta, PG&E Veg.; Denise Enea, Woodside Fire; Guido Ciardi, SFWD; Brian Malone MROSD and Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator.

Jim Palisi led a discussion on "Leave Early or Stay and Defend". After the week of fires in Australia, LEOSAD may be rethought since the concept originated in that country. There is a lot of interest in the program in Southern California. However, in Northern California there is not that much support. Palisi and Cohen are to draft a letter to express Fire Safe concerns about implementing the program.

(Note) The week following this meeting, a joint statement by FIRE SCOPE and the Governor's Select Committee on Wild Fire stated they are not in favor of this program.

Update on Projects: Richmond reported there was a small escape on the pile burning on the Crystal Springs Southern Fuel Break. Margaret Glamstad reported she has scheduled the Ben Lomond Crews for work in the recreation district in March.

Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve presented a program on work they are conducting using airborne sensing to map fire risks at the preserve. Thanks to Philippe Cohen and staff for this enlightening program.

Update on Grant Proposals: Denise Enea and Richmond are working on a county chipper grant proposal. Thadyne Borchert- Soquel Fire Safe Council is using the Mountain School District Boundary for their new Fire Safe Council in Santa Cruz County. They are submitting a small grant request for education and prevention purposes as well as chipping.

Richard Schwind, South Skyline Fire Safe Council is submitting a small chipping request and will work with Cal Fire to conduct community fire and safety inspections. They applying for a 501-3C.

Rich Sampson, Cal Fire - Sacramento is giving the unit \$140,000 for the next three years for project work.

AGENCY ROUND TABLE:

Brian Malone, MROSD, Board of Directors will OK Russian Ridge and Montebello VMP'S. Crews are doing pile burning near Hwy 9 and Page Mill Road. S.O.D. studies are on-going at three different sites.

Denise Enea, Woodside F.D. is working with the city of Palo Alto and their Foothills Emergency Plan. She is particularly interested in developing an escape road for the community of Los Trancos.

Lori Cuesta, PG&E – Crews are finishing work on the Peninsula and will soon be back in the Woodside area and Page Mill Road.

Pam Moyer, County Parks – They are working on a joint project with the City of Brisbane which is progressing well using the Ben Lomond Fire Crews.

John Ferreira, Cal Fire – BLM has advised they are now responsible for the 5,500 acres Coast Dairy Property in Santa Cruz County which will give the county that element for federal grants.

Rich Sampson, Cal Fire – Steve Martinez is making progress on the CWPP for both counties. RCD's are Basically on hold due to budget shortfalls.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator