



# Fire Safe San Mateo County

March 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes

## Attendance:

**Guido Ciardi** – San Francisco Public Utility District  
**Philippe S. Cohen** – Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve  
**Rich Sampson** – CAL FIRE  
**Denise Enea** – Woodside Fire Protection District  
**Todd Lando** – Urban Forestry Associates  
**Dick Schwind** – South Skyline Fire Safe Council  
**Brian Malone** – Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District  
**Brigitte Shearer** – Highlands Recreation District  
**Andy Hubbs** – CAL FIRE  
**Clayton Jolly** – Coastside Fire  
**Lori Cuesta** – Western ECI / PG&E  
**Jim Palisi** – Redwood City Fire Department  
**Stephen Kraemer** - San Mateo County Parks  
**John Romandia** – Black Cat Construction  
**Rob Sherman** – CAL FIRE Ben Lomond Camp  
**Doug Tolar** – BAAQMD

## Call to order

9:44 am. President Guido Ciardi calls the meeting to order.

## Announcements

- Chief Jalbert (CAL FIRE CZU) has been appointed as liaison to Fire Safe San Mateo by the San Mateo County Fire Chief's Association.

## Refreshments

John Romandia (Black Cat Construction) provided refreshments.

## New Business/Correspondence

- Denise Enea shared the NPS Bay Area fire newsletter “Fire and Fuels News.”
  - Newsletter is produced by Jennifer Chapman at NPS.
  - Latest newsletter contains an article on the Highlands fuel break.
  - Todd Lando will contact Jennifer Chapman at NPS and invite her to a Fire Safe San Mateo meeting.
  - Todd Lando was directed to work with Jennifer Chapman to include San Mateo articles in future newsletters if possible.
- **Living With Fire Update**
  - Email distribution list (Google Groups) will be used for committee collaboration.
  - Sentinel Printers has been unable to locate an editable copy of the original document.
  - Document may need to be recreated.
  - Inventory update in progress.
  - Jasper Ridge agreed to provide 100 surplus copies to SF Water.
- **Grant Update:**
  - Huddart Park Federal Fuel Dollars are complete.
- **CAL FIRE funds update:**
  - CAL FIRE requested backup plans for application of unused fuel reduction money.
  - Projects had to be CEQA ready, shovel ready.
  - Funding expires 12/2013.
  - Funding is specifically for CAL FIRE resources to be used on fuel reduction projects.
    - Primarily hand crews, but some funds might be used for engines.
  - Funding available mid-summer 2013, until December.
  - Fire Safe San Mateo submitted letters of interest from Town of Burlingame and Hillsborough, as well as a list of County Parks and Woodside continuing projects.
  - Todd Lando met with Ed Cooney of Hillsborough, and spoke with Margaret Glomstad of Burlingame to review their project funding requests.
- **Clearinghouse Grant:**
  - CFSC expects a mid-May opening.
  - Deadline expected to be *July 31, 2013* (corrected: May 31 was incorrectly stated at meeting).
- **Website:**
  - New website has been launched at [www.firesafesanmarateo.org](http://www.firesafesanmarateo.org)
  - Old website will be taken offline soon. Domain name smcfiresafe.org to be redirected to the new site.

## VMP Updates (Andy Hubbs, CAL FIRE)

- Huddart and Pescadero PARks Federal Fuel Dollars are nearly complete.

- Bothe were Shaded Fuel Breaks.
- Crews are doing a great job, with compliments from landowners and neighbors.
- Steve Kraemer expressed his happiness with the quality of the work.

### **BAAQMD: Bay Area Air Quality Project Fees**

- Douglas Tolar, Senior Air Quality Specialist, Compliance and Enforcement - 415 749-5118
- Would be an amendment to Regulation 3: Fees.
- All 8 workshops have been completed.
- BAAQMD is now considering potential changes to the proposal.
  - Looking at dealing with fees for burns that are not completed.
- Woodside Fire asks why there are no exemptions for Fire Department managed pile burns?
- \$98 fee applies per-property for the stated burn plan period.
- Contiguous parcels under the same ownership are considered to be a single property.
- Fee proposal would apply to the 12 allowable fire types.
- BAAQMD is considering the possibility of exempting public agencies.

### **Urban Forestry Associates Update:**

- Website update:
  - New website has been launched.
  - Old website will be taken offline soon. Domain name smcfiresafe.org to be redirected to the new site.
- Fundraising
  - Contact has been made with FAIRA, VFIS, and Firemen's Fund.
  - FAIRA is interested in funding some or all of the 2013/2014 Living With Fire update and printing.

### **Agency Roundtable:**

#### **South Skyline Fire Safe Council - Dick Schwind**

- SSFSC operates on a \$6000-\$7000 annual budget.
- 1/2 of budget comes from direct donations, matched by the South Skyline Association.
- Donations are off by 60% this year.
- Some concern is that the donations may be off because of the State Fire Prevention Fee.
- Sponsor training was attended by 28 community members.
- Currently working on a 4 mile shaded fuel break - see [www.southskylinefiresafe.org](http://www.southskylinefiresafe.org) for details.

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

- Powerline work is almost done.
- Joint management effort with GGNRA for invasive weeds is underway.
  - Fennel is a new target species.

- PG&E gas line project on SF Water property is progressing quickly.
- Water is at 72% of normal, down from 140% last month!

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

- Confirmed that BAAQMD will accept credit cards for payment of the proposed fee.
- Bridge issues are being addressed as quickly as possible. Several are out of service.
- Alpine Road failure will be repaired over summer.
- Palo Alto is moving forward with burning at Arastradero.
- Long term vision plan update is underway.
  - Will address natural resources protection and public access, as well as coastal agricultural land preservation and scenic values preservation.
  - Citizens Advisory Committee being formed.
- District submitted many projects for the San Mateo CWPP.
  - Will provide a list to FSSM.

**San Mateo County Parks - Stephen Kraemer**

- Pam Noyer will retire in 2013.
- Weed abatement is in progress.
- Only potential funding for fuel work is the CAL FIRE backup proposal submitted with the Hillsborough and Burlingame proposals.
- Wunderlich fuels projects are wrapped up for the season.
- Huddart Park update:
  - Progressing nicely.
  - Should extend through end of March.
  - Dry weather is helping projects move quickly.

**San Mateo County Fire - Andy Hubbs**

- Thank you to Stephen Kraemer for helping make the Huddart and Wunderlich park projects work.

**Central County Fire District - Christine Reed**

- Christine Reed met with Lori Cuesta in Hillsborough to view distribution line issues near eucalyptus grove.
  - Line breakages have occurred from falling eucalyptus limbs.
  - Owner was happy with PG&E's responsiveness.

**CAL FIRE - Rich Sampson**

- CAL FIRE has started to see spotting outside of pile burns, with some minor escapes near ridgetops.
- Some torching has been observed.
- Discussing the possibility of an early burn ban.

**PG&E** - Lori Cuesta

- Crews are currently working in the San Mateo and Belmont area.
- Tree work will be done along Sand Hill Road.
  - No removals, but limbing and pruning.
- Joel is looking for info to use with the Living With Fire Revision.
  - Add a page on power-line safety.
- San Bruno Public Safety and Reliability Program is a big, local project.

**Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford University** - Philippe S. Cohen

- Met with manufacturer regarding a thermal early fire detection system.
- Fire Watch was on-site to discuss a demo.
- Closest system in the US is in Texas.
- Will waive the testing fees (discussed at last month's meeting).
- FLIR has agreed to loan equipment for testing also.
- Both systems detect smoke, with a 2-6% false positive rate.
- Units may cost upwards of \$150,000 each.

**John Romandia** - Black Cat Construction

- Suggests that Fire Safe San Mateo consider hosting a fire safety booth at the county fair or the Menlo Park Circus Club Horse Show.
- Question raised about local landscaping fairs.
- Fire Safe San Mateo should consider creating an updated trade-show display to have ready for upcoming and future shows.

**BAAQMD** - Doug Tolar

- Doug will stay late if there are any questions related to the fee update.

**Highlands recreation District** - Brigitte Shearer

- Pile burns and clearing to begin soon.
- Guido Ciardi asks for notification to SF Water dispatch prior to burning.

**Coastside Fire Protection District** - Clayton Jolly

- 1500 4291 notifications are being sent out.
- Mowing contract is underway.
- County Fire will begin notifications in late April.

**Redwood City Fire Department** - Jim Palisi

- Nothing to report.

**Ben Lomond Fire Camp** - Rob Sherman

- Down to 4 crews due to injuries.
- April 22 and 23 crew exercise will take crews out of service for fuel work.
- Fire season seems to have a very early start.
  - Crews observed spotting outside of piles one day after last rains.

**Woodside Fire Protection District** - Denise Enea

- Chipper program starts May 8.
- Will have crews working two days per week.

Fire Safe San Mateo thanks John Romandia of Black Cat Construction for providing refreshments!

**Meeting adjourned 11:31 am**

Respectfully submitted by Todd Lando