

FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY

Minutes May 9, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 9:46 am by Co-Chair Guido Ciardi.

Attendance: Erin Parks, PG&E; Lori Cuesta, WEC/PG&E; Chris Baker, ACE; Julie Lamb, Larry Pasero, Rocque Yballa, Central County F.D.; Pamela Noyer, Priscilla Alvarez, San Mateo County Parks; Alex Naer, NPS; David Sanguinetti, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District; Denise Enea, WFPD; Jim Palisi, Belmont-San Carlos Fire Department; Philippe S. Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford; Guido Ciardi, SFWD; John Sims, Cal Fire/San Mateo Co. Fire; Klaus Zalinskis; North County Fire Authority and Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator.

Additions to the Agenda: Steve Richmond relayed a message from John Martinez that the Fire Hazard Severity Public Hearing will be July 9, 3 – 5 pm in the Board of Supervisors Chambers in Redwood City. Chris Baker, representing a volunteer group American Conservation Experience that does all sorts of work from trail building to campground improvements, made a short presentation on the work his group does for \$10.00 a hour per person. They are setting up in Santa Cruz County and will be happy to work in San Mateo County.

Crystal Springs Fire Break – Angela Peterson has been ill and Jennifer Stoly, biologist for SFWD has been on vacation. They will collaborate on the CEQA needs and submit to NPS and the clearing house.

Guido Ciardi has yet to contact AT&T to have them post on the F.B. site the location of their underground lines. We need to develop a spread sheet so those working on the project can post their in-hand hours.

Erin Parks,, PG&E, gave the Committee an excellent overview of the responsibilities PG&E has to maintain its power line complex and requirements to meet state codes regarding pole and line clearance.

- *PG&E has \$150 million budget to maintain clearance.

- *In this area, they have 12 inspectors and 25 crews.

- *PG&E has the largest clearance program for any utility in the United States.

- *Challenges – owners planting trees under power lines or denying access for crews to perform necessary line clearance.

John Sims, Cal Fire gave an update on the 2007 fire potential:

- *No snow pack to speak of and potential for high elevation fires lightning fires.

- *Forest fuels will be ready to burn earlier in the season than normal.

- *Not much grass in Southern California. This can help on small fires. Brush fuels will burn rapidly with winds.

- *Southern California has a lot of dead forest fuels and sizeable fires could occur with Santa Ana

- *Dead forest fuels in the south could cause sizable fires when the Santa Anna winds begin.

Denise Enea, Woodside Fire, announced a Sudden Oak Death Workshop in Woodside on May 31, 1-3 pm.

AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:

Jim Palisi, Belmont/San Carlos F.D. – The Devonshire Fuel Break work has been completed. Ben Lomond Conservation Camp Crews did an excellent job.

Denise Enea, Woodside F.D. – The community chipping program is underway.

Priscilla Alvarez, County Parks – They are in the process of requesting the Ben Lomond Crew to return to Wunderlich Park.

Pam Noyer, County Parks – The Boundary Project on San Bruno Mountain has been completed.

Klaus Zalinskis, North County Fire Authority – reported the cooperation by all agencies on the Boundary Project was wonderful.

David Sanguinetti, Mid Penn Regional Open Space District – landing and staging areas have been mowed. It is still too wet to begin disking.

Rocque Yballa, Central County Fire – Cities of San Bruno, San Mateo, Burlingame doing their own hazard reduction programs. Prevention Officers are moving forward on the Urban Interface Code.

Lori Cuesta, PG&E – Crews have almost completed Skyline and Portola State Park line training. They will be moving into the L.R.A in North County and will then move to the coast.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Next meet is June 13, 9:30 am at Woodside's Independence Hall