

**FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY  
MINUTES**

**May, 10, 2006**

The meeting was called to order at 0945 by Co-chair John Sims. Self introductions were made. Paule Medeiros of South San Francisco FD was welcomed to his first meeting.

**Attendance:** David Sanguinetti, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District; Paule Medeiros, South San Francisco Fire Dept.; Lori Cuesta, PG&E Vegetation; Jim Rust, CDF/Co.Fire; Denise Enea, Woodside Fire; John Ferreira, Rich Sampson, Rodney Maddocks, CDF; Gary So, John Sims, CDF/Co.Fire; Guido Ciardi, SFWD; Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge and Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator.

**Correspondence:** (a) Richmond shared a news release from Bay Area Air Quality District that crop burning had been extended to May 31. (b) A public meeting and public input for the County Parks Master Plan is scheduled for May 11, 7 to 9 pm.

Discussion was held regarding the **Crystal Springs Southern Fuel Break**. **Guido Ciardi** would like to see a track type chipper leased or contracted to chip the breaks the crews would be cutting. The other possibility would be to use two Masticators to speed up the completion of the project. There are some problems with the project site. There is a high pressure water line and AT&T underground communication lines on the location of the fire break.

**Denise Enea, Woodside FD** gave an account of the first day the **Ben Lomond Crews** worked on the Woodside chipping program. She said there were many issues and training needs to be addressed prior to the first day of work. The crew worked with two chippers and accomplished a great deal of work. She was very happy with the production and the work ethic of the crew. It is important that other agencies commit to using these crews for hazard reduction work.

**CDF Vegetation Treatment Program- Draft Environmental Impact Report** Rich Sampson reported the department was in the process of updating its policy on vegetation treatment. Much of the existing program is the same, but new tools have been added such as herbicide use.

**Update on PRC 4291 Clearance Requirements:** **Rodney Maddocks** and **Rich Samson** attended an update meeting on May 10. CDF now has the tools and a policy for this. With the drawings and information, they will work on updating the clearance section on "Living with Fire in San Mateo County". We will then be in a position to reprint the brochure.

**Additions to the Agenda:**

**Chief Ferreira, CDF**, expressed his concern with what had happened in Santa Cruz County regarding clearance requirements imposed by insurance companies. Rich Sampson related the following: Residents in Bonny Doon had been contacted by their fire insurance companies stating satellite pictures indicated they did not have enough clearance and their insurance would be terminated if they did not meet clearance requirements. The residents felled some large redwoods and were red tagged by Santa Cruz County for not obtaining the required county permits for cutting timber in the coastal zone. CDF contends the county is interfering with a responsibility given to CDF by Statute. CDF was asked to make a presentation on cutting trees in San Mateo County at our June meeting.

**Chief Ferreira** announced that **Chief John Sims** was retiring but would be returning as a retired annuitant if CDF is unable to find a qualified replacement. John will continue to work with the Fire Safe Committee.

**AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:** Rich Sampson CDF reports there are still openings for clearance requirements on distribution and transmission lines at PG&E's Belmont yard on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May.

**David Sanquinetti, Mid Pen Reg. Open Space Dist** says the heavy winter rains caused an estimated \$60,000 damage to district roads and trails. David will be meeting with CDF to identify roads that will be closed this fire season. CDF is providing training to district employees on the use of the new district water tender. District personnel will be disking fire breaks instead of using a contractor. They also anticipate using the Ben Lomond CDC crews for some of their clearance work. There is a VMP burn in the works for Russian Ridge.

**Guido Ciardi, San Francisco Water Dept.** has three Masticators working and have knocked out about 250 acres of fuel break. The watershed keepers have received in-house safety and fire training for the upcoming fire season.

**Lori Cuesta, PG&E** reports trimming crews have completed work on Skyline and Kings Mountain area. They are currently working in Woodside and will be moving through Page Mill Road area.

**Rodney Maddocks, CDF** has received material to begin "Train the Trainer" classes for PRC 4291 inspections. If you have an interest, contact Rodney.

**Jim Rust, CDF/Co. Fire** is starting a mailing for property clearance. He is working with the code enforcement task force to write a new clearance ordinance. The **Urban Wildland Interface Task Force** is still working on a county interface code.

**Denise Enea, Woodside FD** reports wildland clearance inspections will begin June 1.

**Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve** says most of the preserve is still too wet to mow. As a fire prevention effort, the preserve has eliminated one of its power lines. Philippe will be conducting a coordinating meeting for the preserve and will discuss fire management and review some potential problems with structures and power lines. This week he will send a letter to fire agencies inviting their personnel to the preserve to familiarize them with access and other concerns.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.