

## FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY

### Minutes February 4, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Guido Ciardi at 9:30 a.m. Self introductions were made. Tom Vlastic, Planner from Town of Portola Valley was welcomed to his first meeting.

Attendance: Steve Woodill, John Ferreira, Rich Sampson, John Martinez, John Sims, Cal Fire; Phuilippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford; Selena Brown, Woodside Fire; Tom Vlastic, Portola Valley; Jim Palisi, Belmont-San Carlos Fire; Guido Ciardi, SFWD; Lori Cuesta, Erin Parks, PG&E; John Trewin, S.M.Co. Parks and Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator.

Richmond shared a recent email from the state Fire Safe Council regarding a pilot program to certify local councils. After some discussion, Richmond was asked to obtain further clarification regarding what happens if we don't become certified.

The **2007 Fire Safe Goals** were presented and approved. (See January minutes)

#### AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:

John Ferreira, CAL FIRE, discussed a recent timber harvest public hearing for property owned by San Jose Water Department. The plan is very similar to the San Mateo YMCA plan that is being opposed by the same environmental groups.

Selena Brown, Woodside Fire Department reports their chipping program is set to start in May.

Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve, Stanford, recently had a meeting at the preserve with the West Ridge Home Owners Association and presented each of them with a copy of "Living with Fire". He also met with officials from the Town of Portola Valley. The town and preserve pledged to work closely on common issues. Philippe voiced his concerns regarding inadequate setbacks on new construction that do not maintain the required clearance per PRC 4291.

Steve Woodill, CAL FIRE, Ben Lomond Camp is interested in having at least one crew a day working in San Mateo County. This will put them in a good location to respond to fires in the county. **It's important to have this membership submit project request to keep the crews working in this area.**

John Trewin S.M. Co. Parks reports the Wunderlich Project has gone very well with no complaints from the public regarding pile burning. They are working on a grant request to complete the project.

Lori Cuesta, PG&E says inspectors are developing projects from Redwood City to Colma for the tree trimming crews.

Erin Parks, PG&E reports the trimming crews are a month and a half behind schedule. She will send details to Richmond regarding the possibility of obtaining grant funds to reprint "Living with Fire".

Tom Vlastic, Deputy Town Planner, Portola Valley says the Town is sensitive to fire prevention and will work closely with Philippe Cohen. Tom feels it is a planner's job to balance fire and vegetation. They will not approve projects unless there is a plan set up to continue fuels management for developments. Tom suggested there is a need to bring this information to architects.

Jim Palisi, Belmont-San Carlos Fire reports the Belmont Parks Director wants to do work with the Ben Lomond Crews in the Water Dog Lake Area. In San Carlos, they are sending out 2,700 notices allowing homeowners to clear their 100 feet on city property when necessary. Jim suggested we change our March Fire Safe meeting to the same date as the inmate sponsor training on March 21 at 1 pm.

**Rich Sampson, Cal Fire**, says there are four VMP Project scheduled in San Mate County this year. They are gearing up for an earlier start on the LE 100 Inspection Program. Rich reports Rodney Maddocks is working on getting fire prevention material printed including "Living with Fire". Rich and John Martinez are busy on the Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps.

**Guido Ciardi, SFWD**, has contracted masticators to work on Water Department lands in San Bruno for 24 days. Guido will advise a time he can lead a field trip to observe the work.

**John Martinez CAL FIRE**, displayed the new Fire Hazard Severity map. Woodside was able to make their suggested changes after the meeting. John will contact other fire agencies who are not in attendance to determine if they have suggested map changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.

***NEXT MEETING – MARCH 21 AT 1:00 pm Woodside Independence Hall  
( Inmate Sponsor Training begins at 9 a.m.)***