

## FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY

August 8, 2007

### Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Co-chair John Sims. Attendance: Anelina Cincci, North County Fire; Denise Enea, WFPD, John Martinez, John Sims, Rich Sampson, CAL Fire; Jimmy Forbis, County Manager's Office; Margaret Glomstad, Highlands Recreation District; Guido Ciardi, SFWD; David Sanguinetti, MROSD and Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator.

**Update, Crystal Springs Fuel Break:** Steve Richmond had contact with **Wendy Poinsot of NPS**. All the environmental materials had been submitted and she expected staff to approve the project. A response is expected in a few days.

**Coast Region Workshop-Oakland:** Those who attended felt they gained much from sharing success stories. There is talk of having such meetings a few times a year.

**Chipper Program, LaHonda and Woodside:** **Denise Enea** stated the program in Woodside has gone well this year. **Ben Lomond Camp** has done an excellent job in providing crews even with the heavy fire activity. The chippers are both working well. **CAL Fire** spent \$5,000 on their chipper to bring it up to good working order. **John Martinez**, speaking for **La Honda's Chief Whitney**, reported the success of their community project. This year a drop-off yard was available for residents to bring in material for chipping. Chief Whitney felt the participation of the residents was beyond his expectations. There was some trash brought in that needs to be cleaned up since it was not suitable for chipping.

**Fire Safe Financial Report:** **John Sims** reported the fund has \$169,000 of which \$9,000 is designated for payment to **Ben Lomond Camp**. (This has since increased to \$18,400) **Jimmy Forbes, S.M. County** and Chief Sims explained how the **Fire Safe Fund** works and how it is administered. It was suggested to have a fund balance on each monthly agenda and to prepare a yearly budget.

**Cargo Container:** Richmond stated we are in the process of selling one of our cargo containers to SFW for \$2,500.

**Chippers:** \$810.00 has been spent on two Troy chippers to make them serviceable for the Highlands Project. It was decided we continue to charge agencies \$25/day for each chipper used on a project.

**Crew Transport Vehicle:** It seems the options have run out to sell the crew transport. We will more than likely turn it over to the county for disposal.

**Woodside's Sudden Oak Death Program:** Denise Enea announced another well attended session. She is thinking of providing another training program on how to protect the trees by applying chemicals. Fire Safe is willing to co-sponsor.

**AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:**

**David Santuinetti, MROSD,** reports the recent **Russian Ridge VMP burn** went extremely well. The purpose of the burn was to rid undesirable plants and hopefully allow natural species to reestablish. Woodside FPD expressed concern they were not notified on the day of the burn. Rich Sampson will check on notification procedure.

**Margaret Glomstad, Highland Recreation District,** is working with the Ben Lomond crews to establish a 30-50 foot fuel break behind homes on district land. SFWD is also a partner in the project.

**John Martinez, CAL Fire,** finished the public hearings for the Fire Hazard Severity Zones. There was very little public input.

**Rich Sampson, CAL Fire,** stated the LE 100 inspections are going well and will be working on the non-compliance issues with the county district Rich is also working with RCD to see if they can't obtain an exemption for landowners who want to remove eucalyptus trees in the coastal zone. A permit now costs \$4,000.

**Denise Enea, Woodside,** reports they are on the second round of hazard reduction inspections. There is some non-compliance. Denise is looking into a district ordinance to require property owners to mow large parcels of land if not used for grazing. Denise is working on three large projects to utilize the Ben Lomond Crews.

**Angelina Cincci, North County Fire,** stated hazard inspections have been completed in Brisbane and will have the non-compliance issues cleaned up by September 1. Their clearance ordinance needs to be changed to include the 100 foot clearance. Brisbane is looking to work with CAL Fire, Fire Safe and the Ben Lomond crews on a similar project recently completed in Daly City.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Next Meeting is September 12.