

Placer County Fire Safe Alliance
December 8, 2008

1. **Call to Order:** George Alves called the meeting of the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance to order at 10:00 a.m. at the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE), Bowman Station, 13760 Bowman Road, Auburn, California.
 - a) **Introduction of New Members:** Rob Schroeder and Walter Clevenger were in attendance, representing the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.
 - b) **Self-Introductions:** George Alves, Placer County Fire Mitigation Coordinator and Brett Storey, Office of Emergency Services (OES); Rich Gresham, Ryan Bellanca and Jane Keillor, Placer County Resource Conservation District (Placer County RCD); Brad Harris Ed Crans and Bill Mendonca, CALFIRE; Tyler Harkness, Foresthill Fire Safe Council; Robin Yonash, Citizen; Karina Silvas, Sierra Forest Legacy; Joanne Drummond, Fire Safe Council of Nevada County; Karen Calvert, Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council; Gary Kirk, Foresthill Fire Protection District (FFPD); Luana Dowling, US Forest Service;
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes are available at <http://www.placerfirealliance.org> and no changes were made.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** The Agenda was approved as submitted.
4. **Public Comment:** None
5. **Information/Non-Action Items:**
 - a) **Sub-committee Update:** *Education:* No information to report. *GIS:* Planning continues.
 - b) **BOR/CALFIRE Contract Update:** Rob and Walter reported the Bureau of Reclamation has limited money and will be working with fire safe councils to stretch their dollars. The Auburn Recreational Area is maintained by the State but the Folsom State Recreational area pays its own way. The State has the water rights for the Auburn Dam Project but the construction for the dam is approved by the U.S. Congress and the President of the United States. The CALFIRE contract will expire.
 - c) **RCD /PSFSC Grant Update:** Ryan is currently working on a grant request to submit to the Clearing House. He will attend a workshop on December 18, 2008 at McClellan. A request submitted through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy was not approved. Brett recently submitted a grant that was not funded. Karen Calvert, Ryan Bellanca and George Alves will meet to plan future grant requests. .
6. **Action Items:**
 - a) None
7. **Project Updates:**
 - a) **Pending/Developing Grant Proposals-** Ryan said the "Clearing House" is a good place for us to go for funding our projects. Rich noted an "Implementation Grant" for \$300k was submitted by the County to complete 18 projects in the CWPP. Brett encourages us to work together on projects and Ryan suggested scheduling a joint meeting. Rich noted that matching funds are available to maintain existing fuel breaks through CFIP.
 - b) **Biomass Projects Update-** Brett noted the accumulated piles in the Tahoe region will be chipped soon. A similar project has been begun in the Foresthill area. They will be doing 100 acres in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service. There is Title III money left along with new funding. We need to determine how we can keep biomass and mitigation projects funded. We may have to shift the use of our funds. Title II money is also available for the "Forestlands" for \$199K. The County will match funds. Tahoe has Federal funding for projects. Under the "Secure Rural Fire Act", fire wise communities may qualify to submit RFPs.
 - c) **Legislative Update-** No new information to report.
 - d) **Other-** The PCRCD has become a clearing house for GIS information from Fresno to the Oregon Boarder, Ryan noted. Brett said there is a current study to look at climate change and its affects. The County is interested in utilizing carbon credits.

8. Fire Safe Council Reports:

- *California Fire Safe Council*- The trademark issue is pending. Joanne met with Senator Aanestad regarding the California Fire Safe Council. Currently, he is considering a bill requiring "Brown Act" type guidelines be implemented for organizations that handle public funds. If you wish to attend the grant workshop at McClellan on December 18, 2008, register at the California Fire Safe Council website.
- *Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council*- Luana Dowling reported three projects are in the works including a 63 acre fuel break, with one in Todd Valley. Letters have been sent to homeowners. The Rooster Ridge Project is in full force encompassing 192 acres. Projects in the CWPP continue including the American River Canyon Rim and Iowa Hill projects. Gary Kirk reported the Monte Verde Homeowners Association is working on fuel breaks. There will be added shaded fuel breaks when reviewing new development plans. Currently the fire district maintains common areas. Other projects include Gas Ridge and the Michigan Bluff area. The Wheeler property owners are interested in creating a "Shelter in Place."
- *Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council*- Karen Calvert reported they wish to expand in the Alta neighborhood. They are seeking funding for their project in the Moody Ridge Area. The bio-box project is completed.
- *The Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council*- No report. George will be meeting with their chair in the near future.
- *Fire Safe Council of Nevada County*- They will begin a project dubbed in the West Truckee/I-80 fuel break. They are looking for funding of the Deer Creek Project. They held an event at Lake Wildwood and it was a success. They have asked for funding assistance from the local fire districts and Nevada County. They are reducing their costs by moving to "free space."

9. Agency and Stakeholder Reports:

- *Placer County OES*- Brett stressed that funding is an issue but he hopes to obtain matching funds for existing programs. Some Prop 40 money is set aside for the Chipper Program but the program will have to be changed and it may not be free in the future. Nevada County uses inmate labor for their projects. The defensible space inspection money is still available. The insurance industry may also be a source of funding for future programs.
- *CDF/CALFIRE*- Insurance companies are giving a 90-day warning for homeowners to clear their land. Bill Mendonca noted that 4291 is only an advisory and not a law so they are waiting for changes to be made. It was suggested that we have someone from the State Insurance Commissioner's Office speak to us. George will contact an Allstate Representative for information. Ed Crans noted a \$13.2 million grant has been approved by the Forest Service but our area will receive a very small amount of that funding.
- *USFS*- They are burning the Sugar Pine under burn. They continue to make new fuel breaks and they have 262 piles to burn, chip or haul away.
- *BLM*- No report
- *Placer County FMC*- No other information.
- *ARWG, RCD*- Rich Gresham reported that Prop 40 funding will be coming to the RCD to disburse to 15 counties in the amount of \$2.7 million. Projects begun in 2007 will be completed in 2010. Ryan reported working with two ROP students on forestry projects.
- *NRCS*- No report.
- *Sierra Forest Legacy- Karina* is working with various home owners in several counties to move into "smoke management" by obtaining more burn days.
- *Other*- None

10. Roundtable: The Bureau of Reclamation will be added to the next agenda.

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2009 at 10 a.m. at the same location.