

Placer County Fire Safe Alliance
July 28, 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: Karina Silvas, representing the Sierra Forest Legacy, was introduced by Ryan Bellanca

b) Self-Introductions: George Alves, Placer County Fire Mitigation Coordinator, and Brett Storey, Placer County Office of Emergency Services (OES); Rich Gresham, Ryan Bellanca and Jane Keillor, Placer County Resource Conservation District (Placer County RCD); Ed Crans and Bill McKenzie, CALFIRE; Tyler Harkness, Foresthill Fire Safe Council; Paula Celick, Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council; Karina Silvas, Sierra Forest Legacy; Robin Yonash, Citizen of Colfax.

2. Approval of Minutes: One minor change was made to the minutes. Minutes are available at: <http://www.placerfirealliance.org>

3. Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was approved as submitted. **4.**

4. Public Comment: None

5. Information/Non-Action Items:

a) Sub-committee Update: George Alves reported the “Defensible Space” Sub-committee met several times and he has asked each person to provide names of seniors in the community who need “on the ground assistance.” Four people are on a list and available to perform the tasks.

Tyler Harkness and Ryan Bellanca are working as the “GIS sub-committee” and mapping all available data. All Placer County projects will be completed and maps will be available by the next meeting. Tyler noted he has maps of the waterlines in Foresthill. Ryan is also obtaining information on the Tahoe area. They will try to integrate “Google Earth” in the mapping. Maps will be provided to Fire Chiefs and homeowner information will be kept confidential.

The “Education Committee” has not yet gotten off the ground. Robin Yonash volunteered to contact Joann Drummond to obtain current educational materials and review them.

b) The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan: The plan is being worked on and must be completed by next year. George represents the county at these meetings. Brett said the CWPPs are completed and must next be approved by the Board of Supervisors. The CWPPs will be updated when changes are made and they are counting on the Fire Safe Council to oversee the projects resulting from the CWPPs.

6. Action Items:

a) None

7. Project Updates:

a) I-80 Fire Safe Freeway Project- Rich Gresham believes funding for this project has run out and he will investigate and report back next month.

b) Pending Grant Proposals- Rich reported the RCD and CDF have signed a \$200k contract to continue the Chipper Program. He also noted that some Prop 50 money is also available for projects.

A discussion ensued about finding money to complete projects that are a result of the CWPPs including securing matching funds for the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grants. It was suggested it would be beneficial to have someone trained in grant writing at the fire safe council

level to perform the funds cost study on projects. The County offered to provide training for people who can do the studies at that level. CALFIRE and OES have come up with a process for detailing projects within the grant preparation process that could also prove advantageous.

Ryan discussed the plan for a new “on the ground” fuels prevention crew program to assist senior citizens with defensible space projects. PCRCD will be applying for a grant through the SNC.

c) Biomass Projects Update- Senator Diane Feinstein has endorsed legislation to fund \$1.5 million for a facility at Tahoe although it is not expected to be signed but it could be resubmitted next year. The EPA will allow the county to do two projects in Foresthill. The sites proposed are Burton Fire Department and another at a Sierra Pacific site at Kings Beach. It is possible that schools could also be potential sites. The piping cost is expensive at \$1 million a mile.

d) Legislative Update- A one year gap in receipt of schools money is expected. There will be many reductions in services at the county level with no money available for some continuing projects. The “good news” is that many programs cannot be phased out completely.

Robin reported that SCR80 was amended and has been acknowledged by local councils. She briefly reviewed the current status of some of the measures she has been following.

e) Other- No information.

8. Fire Safe Council Reports:

- *California Fire Safe Council-* Robin said the group will meet in Oakland next Tuesday morning in a closed session but the afternoon session will be open. The Trinity RCD is now represented with one of their own on the California Fire Safe Board.
- *Foresthill/Iowa Hill Fire Safe Council-* Tyler discussed the differences in how local fire safe councils are aligned with their local fire departments.
- *Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council-* The group met last Thursday. Next month they will discuss “Shelter in Place.” A suggestion has been made that they concentrate on EQIP projects in their area. They may hold a “Town Meeting or a Community Day” to share the information with the local citizens.
- *The Greater Auburn Fire Safe Council-* Paula Celick announced their meeting will be held at 4 p.m. today at Auburn City Hall, Room 10. George Alves will attend and share information with the group. They will also be discussing a strategic plan for their council.
- *Fire Safe Council of Nevada County-* No report.

9. Agency and Stakeholder Reports:

- *Placer County OES-* Brett noted HVA took effect for landowners on unimproved land in Tahoe. Bret voiced concerned about funding to support the program. A RFQ is currently out.
- *CDF/CALFIRE-* Ed Crans reported they continue to be extremely busy.
- *USFS-* Jan Cutts is leaving the service to work in Colorado.
- *BLM-* No report
- *Placer County FMC-* No additional information to report.
- *ARWG, RCD-* ARWG will be applying for a grant to demonstrate the correlation of water quality with the devastation of fire damage. The RCD will apply to the U.S. Forest Service for a \$300K grant under Prop 84 for the continuance of the Chipper Program.
- *NRCS-* No report
- *Other:* Karina announced she hopes to get involved in the Iowa Hill/Foresthill Fire Wise Program. She is currently working on Walden Woods and will be providing information on “Fire Wise” practices to local communities.

10. Roundtable: Robin Yonash encouraged participants to go to a UC Berkeley site which is the only place where a homeowner can get an evaluation tailored to his/her home, listing recommended modifications to make a structure fire safe. The URL is: http://firecenter.berkeley.edu/homeassessment/home_assess_intro.html. Other wildfire information and links can be found at the main site, <http://firecenter.berkeley.edu/>.

11. Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 25, 2008 at 10 a.m. at the same location.