

# AGENDA TRANSMITTAL FORM

To: Board of Supervisors

Date: 08/17/2016

From: John Plasse, Chairman  
(Department Head - please type)

Phone Ext. x470

<input checked="" type="radio"/>	Regular Agenda
<input type="radio"/>	Consent Agenda
<input type="radio"/>	Blue Slip
<input type="radio"/>	Closed Session
Meeting Date Requested:	
<u>08/23/2016</u>	

Department Head Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Title: 2015-2016 Grand Jury Special Investigation Report

Summary: (Provide detailed summary of the purpose of this item; attach additional page if necessary)

**Discussion and possible action relative to the Board of Supervisors response to the 2015-2016 Grand Jury Special Investigation Report.**

Recommendation/Requested Action:

Fiscal Impacts (attach budget transfer form if appropriate)

Staffing Impacts

Is a 4/5ths vote required? Yes  No

Contract Attached:  Yes  No  N/A  
 Resolution Attached:  Yes  No  N/A  
 Ordinance Attached:  Yes  No  N/A

Committee Review? Name \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Request Reviewed by:

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Counsel GG

Auditor \_\_\_\_\_ GSA Director log

CAO [Signature] Risk Management [Signature]

Distribution Instructions: (Inter-Departmental Only, the requesting Department is responsible for distribution outside County Departments)

### FOR CLERK USE ONLY

Meeting Date 8-23-16 Time \_\_\_\_\_ Item # 6

Board Action: Approved Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unanimous Vote: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Noes \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Distributed on \_\_\_\_\_

A new ATF is required from \_\_\_\_\_  
Department \_\_\_\_\_  
For meeting \_\_\_\_\_  
of \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify this is a true and correct copy of action(s) taken and entered into the official records of the Amador County Board of Supervisors.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk or Deputy Board Clerk

# AGENDA TRANSMITTAL FORM

To: Board of Supervisors

Date: 08/17/2016

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<input checked="" type="radio"/> Regular Agenda <input type="radio"/> Consent Agenda <input type="radio"/> Blue Slip <input type="radio"/> Closed Session Meeting Date Requested: <u>08/23/2016</u>
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Department Head Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Title: Application for California Disaster Assistance Act Funding

Summary: (Provide detailed summary of the purpose of this item; attach additional page if necessary)

Discussion and possible action relative to submission of the subject application as it relates to Tree Mortality in Amador County.

Recommendation/Requested Action:

Fiscal Impacts (attach budget transfer form if appropriate)

Staffing Impacts

Is a 4/5ths vote required? Yes  No

Committee Review? Name \_\_\_\_\_ N/A

Committee Recommendation:

Contract Attached:  Yes  No  N/A  
 Resolution Attached:  Yes  No  N/A  
 Ordinance Attached:  Yes  No  N/A

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Request Reviewed by:

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Counsel GC  
 Auditor \_\_\_\_\_ GSA Director HP  
 CAO CP Risk Management AM

Distribution Instructions: (Inter-Departmental Only, the requesting Department is responsible for distribution outside County Departments)

### FOR CLERK USE ONLY

Meeting Date 8-23-16 Time \_\_\_\_\_ Item # 7

Board Action: Approved Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unanimous Vote: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Noes: \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_  
 Absent: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Distributed on _____  Completed by _____	A new ATF is required from _____ Department _____ For meeting _____ of _____	I hereby certify this is a true and correct copy of action(s) taken and entered into the official records of the Amador County Board of Supervisors.  ATTEST: _____ Clerk or Deputy Board Clerk
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Save

Print Form

# COUNTY OF AMADOR

810 COURT STREET \* JACKSON, CA 95642 (209) 223-6470 \* FAX (209) 257-0619



August xx, 2016

David Gillings  
Public Assistance Office  
Public Assistance Division  
California Governor's Office of Emergency Services  
3650 Schriever Avenue  
Mather, CA 95665

RE: Application for CDAA-Tree Mortality

Dear Mr. Gillings,

On February 23, 2016 the Amador County Board of Supervisors proclaimed a Local State of Emergency due to pervasive tree mortality. This proclamation has been renewed every 30 days as required by the California Emergency Services Act, Article 14 8630(c). Of primary concern is public safety, damage to public infrastructure and continuity of essential services (utilities, communications, water, roads) due to falling trees. Second to that is the threat of a large scale wildland fire due to the dead and dying trees that need to be removed.

The Amador County Board of Supervisors is thankful and appreciative for the time taken to listen and respond to the needs of rural counties in the Central Sierras regarding the tree mortality issue. The Governor's Executive Order issued on Friday October 30<sup>th</sup>, approving CDAA, offers local government the opportunity to begin responding to dead and dying trees that threaten the safety of private and public infrastructures in Amador County.

As required, the Board most recently renewed the Local State of Emergency Declaration for pervasive tree mortality on August 9, 2016. Additionally, on August xx, 2016 Chuck Iley, Amador County Administrative Officer, submitted the Cal EMA Project Application California Disaster Assistance Act Program form on behalf of the Amador County Board of Supervisors to begin the process of applying for CDAA funding in relation to the Governor's Proclamation. As requested, an original hardcopy is attached for your records.

Amador County Tree Mortality Core Planning Team has designed a tree mortality response program, taking into consideration all the coordination and partnerships outlined in the Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency dated October 30, 2015. A Tree Mortality Task Force inclusive of Cal Fire, U.S. Forest Service, local public utilities districts, Fire Safe Councils, PG&E, Cal Trans, County Roads and other community partners has been formed and will hold its initial meeting on August 15, 2016.

Amador County appreciates our positive working relationship with Cal OES and we look forward to coordinating resources in response to tree mortality in Amador County. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

John Plasse  
Chairman  
Amador County Board of Supervisors

Cc: Dana Ellis, Cal OES  
Eric Lamoureux, Cal OES



<i>For Internal Use Only</i>	
Cal EMA Application #:	_____
Disaster No #:	_____
DUNS #:	_____

**PROJECT APPLICATION**  
**CALIFORNIA DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM**

**1. APPLICANT'S NAME AND ADDRESS**

APPLICANT: County of Amador  
 ADDRESS: 810 Court Street  
 CITY & ZIP: Jackson, CA 95642  
 PHONE: 209-223-6470

**2. APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED AGENT**  
 (Attach Resolution of Designation unless an accurate "universal" resolution is on file.)

NAME: Chuck Iley  
 TITLE: County Administrative Officer  
 ADDRESS: 810 Court Street  
 CITY & ZIP: Jackson, CA 95642  
 PHONE: 209-223-6490  
 FACSIMILE: 209-257-0619  
 E-MAIL: ciley@amadorgov.org

**3. PROJECT SUMMARY** – Attach a List of Projects as defined in Title 19 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 2970(a)(4).

**ASSURANCES AND AGREEMENTS**

- A. The applicant certifies (to the best of his knowledge and belief) the disaster relief work herein described for which state financial assistance is requested, is eligible in accordance with the criteria contained in the Disaster Assistance Act (Government Code, Section 8680 et seq).
- B. The applicant is the legal entity responsible under law for the performance of the work detailed and accepts such responsibility.
- C. The applicant certifies that the disaster relief work herein described for which state assistance is requested hereunder, does not or will not duplicate benefits received for the same loss from another source.
- D. The applicant certifies that they have undertaken to recover maximum federal participation in funding street and highway project and public facility projects.
- E. The applicant certifies that all information given herein is to the best of its knowledge and belief, true and correct.
- F. The applicant agrees to (1) provide without cost to the state all lands, easements, and rights-of-way necessary for accomplishment of the approved work and  
 (2) The applicant agrees to hold and save the State of California, its officers, agents and employees free from damages due to the approved work.
- G. (1) The applicant agrees to comply with Section 3700 of the Labor Code, which requires every employee to be insured against liability for Workmen's Compensation, or to undertake self insurance in accordance with provisions of the code; and will comply with such provisions before commencing the performance of the work.  
 (2) The applicant agrees to comply with the Fair Practices Act in connection with the performance of work under this agreement wherein it agrees it will not willfully discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, age or national origin; and it agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants for employment are employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, age or national origin, and hereby gives assurance that it will immediately take any measures necessary to effectuate this agreement.



**PROJECT APPLICATION**  
**CALIFORNIA DISASTER ASSISTANCE ACT PROGRAM**

(3) If any real property or structure thereon is provided or improved with the aid of the state financial assistance extended to the applicant, this assurance shall obligate the applicant, or in the case of such property, any transferee for the period during which the provision of similar services or benefits. If any personal property is so provided, this assurance shall obligate the applicant for the period during which it retains ownership or possession of the property. In all other cases, this assurance shall obligate the applicant for the period during which the state financial assistance is extended to it by the agency.

(4) This assurance is given in consideration of, and for the purpose of obtaining any and all state grants, loans, reimbursement, advances, contracts, property, discount, or other state financial assistance extended after the date hereon to the applicant. The applicant recognizes and agrees that such state financial assistance will be extended in reliance on the representations and agreements made in this assurance and that the state shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of this assurance. This assurance is binding on the applicant, its successors, transferees and assignees, and a person or persons whose signatures appear on this form, or is authorized to sign this assurance on behalf of the applicant.

- H. The applicant certifies that all financial assistance received under this application will be, or has been, expended in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. The applicant certifies that any work performed by a state agency at their request shall be agreed upon in writing and be subject to the State Contract Act. The applicant certifies that the work performed, or to be performed, is in accordance with the state and local laws governing the performance of such work.
- I. The applicant certifies compliance with Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) requirements as stated in the California Emergency Services Act, Government Code, Chapter 7 of Division 1 of Title 2, Section 8607.1(e) and CCR Title 19, Sections 2445, 2446, 2447 and 2448.
- J. The applicant certifies that on contracts involving expenditures in excess of \$25,000, it obtained from the contractor a payment bond in accordance with Sections 3247 through 3252 of the Civil Code.
- K. **BY ACCEPTING THESE FUNDS, THE APPLICANT IS NOT FORFEITING ANY RIGHTS WHATSOEVER, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO A FAIR HEARING.**

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**4. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED AGENT**

"I, the official named below, CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY that I am duly authorized by the above named subgrantee to enter into this agreement for and on behalf of the said subgrantee, and by my signature do bind the subgrantee to the terms thereof."

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: County Administrative Officer

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**5. Cal EMA APPROVAL**

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE  
COUNTY OF AMADOR, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

IN THE MATTER OF:

RESOLUTION DECLARING LOCAL STATE  
OF EMERGENCY IN AMADOR COUNTY  
DUE TO PERVASIVE TREE MORTALITY

RESOLUTION NO. 16-021

WHEREAS, On October 20, 2015, Governor Brown of the State of California, issued an Executive Order related to unprecedented tree mortality due to drought conditions, directed state agencies to begin collaborating and partnering with local government to take action to remove dead and dying trees threatening public safety and infrastructure and approved California Disaster Assistance Act funding to assist in these efforts; and

WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 8630 empowers the Board of Supervisors to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property and are or are likely to be beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of this County; and

WHEREAS, On January 17, 2014, Governor Brown proclaimed a Drought State of Emergency as the State is experiencing the most severe drought in history with four years of below average rain and snow; and

WHEREAS, On December 14, 2015, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection issued a news release stating “even with recent rains it will likely take years to slow down the massive tree mortality and bark beetle infestation”; and

WHEREAS, The latest aerial survey estimated that over 29 million trees have died across California as a result of the drought and the effects of bark beetle infestation, up from 3.3 million in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Tree mortality from bark beetle infestation has accelerated over the past few months in Amador County; and

WHEREAS, On July 31, 2015, Governor Brown proclaimed a State of emergency due to a series of wildfires statewide citing drought conditions which have increased the State’s risk of wildfires and caused millions of trees to die; and

WHEREAS, Beginning on September 9, 2015 the Butte Fire in Amador and Calaveras County destroyed 921 structures including; 549 homes, 368 outbuildings, and 4 commercial properties, caused power loss to thousands of homes and business, and thousands of families to evacuate their homes, all resulting in part from dead and dying trees caused by drought conditions; and

WHEREAS, Unless the risks posed by dead, dying and diseased trees are immediately abated, there will remain a significantly increased risk to life and property, and interruption of essential services; and

WHEREAS, The magnitude of the Butte Fire tree mortality and the pervasive tree mortality in other parts of the County represents a threat that is beyond the capacity of the County (public and private)

services, personnel, equipment and facilities and requires coordination and assistance from State and Federal agencies.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Amador County Board of Supervisors do hereby find that the aforesaid conditions of extreme peril warrant and necessitate the proclamation of a local emergency in Amador County and imminent threat of disaster as the result of tree mortality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Amador County Board of Supervisors does hereby establish a tree mortality taskforce and charge it to develop a risk abatement plan, coordinate agency, organization and citizen efforts, seek funding, resolve barriers, and maximize County resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Amador requests the State of California include Amador County in the list of Priority Counties within the California Tree Mortality Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Amador requests the assistance of the State of California in the coordination of resources to assist in the removal of dead and dying trees due to drought and bark beetle infestation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Amador requests the state of California to waive or expedite regulations, permits and permit fees that may hinder response and recovery efforts, make available assistance under the California Disaster Assistance Act or any other state funding, and to expedite access to federal resources and any other appropriate federal disaster relief programs.

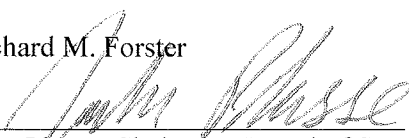
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said local State of Emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Board of Supervisors of Amador, State of California.

The foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors in the County of Amador at a regular meeting thereof, held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2016, by the following vote:

AYES: John Plasse, Louis D. Boitano, Lynn A. Morgan and Brian Oneto

NOES: None

ABSENT: Richard M. Forster

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Plasse, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:  
JENNIFER BURNS, Clerk of the  
Board of Supervisors, Amador County,  
California

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy



## Tree Mortality Hazard Tree Removal Plan

The Amador County Board of Supervisors proclaimed a Local State of Emergency due to drought conditions on February 23, 2016 and will renew it every 30 days as required by the California Emergency Services Act, Article 14 §8630(c). Four years of extreme drought have created cascading effects to the residents of Amador County such as failing wells and pervasive tree mortality. The USFS and CALFIRE estimated there are over 29 million dead trees in California and this number continues to grow.

There are several tools Amador County will employ in approaching removal of hazard trees that threaten public infrastructure and public safety.

### **Core Planning Team – First meeting April 12, 2016.**

Role: Assist in developing operational plans, resource sharing, regulatory oversight and facilitation.

#### *Participants include:*

Amador County Sheriff -OES	Cal OES
Amador County Roads Department	AWA
Cal Fire/AFP	EBMUD
US Forest Service/BLM	NRCS
Amador Fire Safe Council	Cal Am Forestry Team
PG&E	SPI
Cal Trans	AMPINE (Division of Timber
Board of Supervisors representatives	Products)

The Core Planning team will consist of decision makers from each of the agencies and organizations listed above which will allow for the utmost efficiency when creating operational plans county wide.

### **Tree Mortality Task Force**

Role: Forum for information sharing/gathering and coordination of plans and resources. This monthly meeting will create the venue for county, city and special districts to discuss needs, concerns and resources with local, state, and federal regulators as well as the Fire Safe Councils, local forestry professionals, affected businesses, and private tree

removal companies who have the necessary expertise and experience to offer guidance throughout the process.

*Participants include:*

Amador County Ag Commissioner	Licensed Foresters and Arborists
Amador County Roads Department	Licensed Timber Operators
US Forest Service-Amador	Tree Removal Companies
Amador Fire Safe Council	Upcountry Community Council
PG&E	Sierra Pacific Industries
AT&T	AMPINE (Division of Timber Products)
Volcano Communications	U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Cal Trans	Cal OES
Amador County Office of Education/Unified School District	State Parks
Jackson Band of Miwuk Indians	Farm Advisor (UC Davis Cooperative Extension)
CSD representatives	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Smith Grinding Partnership	Amador Water Agency (AWA)
Vicini Green Waste	

**Education & Outreach**

An important role County OES fulfills is education and outreach. With regard to the tree mortality emergency, staff will be meeting with and providing guidance to other local jurisdictions on how to access California Disaster Assistance Act CDAA (e.g. Community Service Districts, School Districts). This process includes:

- ✓ Cover letter
- ✓ Resolution (to designate authorized agent)
- ✓ Resolution (proclaiming a state of emergency)
- ✓ Application
- ✓ Plan development
- ✓ Reimbursement

Presentations will be made to local service clubs seeking assistance on behalf of private landowners.

A multi-jurisdictional webpage will be developed by staff that resides on the County portal dedicated to tree mortality. The types of information available include:

- Current County resolution proclaiming a local state of emergency
- Governor's Executive Order on Tree Mortality and authorizing California Disaster Assistance Act CDAA

- FAQ's
- Informational brochures/handouts
- Links to essential sites
- Contact info
- Current actions
- List of Licensed Timber Operators (Tree Removal Companies)
- List of Licensed Foresters and Arborists

Additional outreach and education will take place utilizing local media outlets such as:

- KVGC 1340 AM & FM
- Amador Ledger Dispatch

Community forums were an effective tool in communicating with residents during past emergencies and will be employed once jurisdictional plans are finalized.

### **Role of all Local Governmental Agencies**

**Each agency must apply for California Disaster Assistance Act CDAA independently of the County** and is responsible to develop its own plans based on what their governing Board desires to accomplish and within their jurisdictional authority. Local governments include County, City, special districts and Tribes. It is important for the Board and the community to understand that the application for CDAA and the way in which each agency implements their plan is between them and Cal OES.

### **Hazard Tree Removal on County Owned and Maintained Properties**

The County of Amador will identify and ~~remove~~ mitigate dead and dying trees due to drought and successful bark beetle infestation. This process will continue as the number of hazard trees increases. Public safety and continuity of essential services (power, water, communications, roads, etc.) are of primary concern. Therefore, County resources will be focused in the following areas:

- Roads
- County Facilities
- Heliports

Amador County will assess all County owned and maintained infrastructure for dead and/or dying trees due to drought and bark beetle infestation within 200 feet of infrastructure. Registered Professional Foresters (and/or licensed Arborists) will inspect trees for successful bark beetle attack and designate trees for ~~removal~~ mitigation. Visually dead trees (brown from top to bottom)

will be marked and pictures taken to document mortality. Photographs will be taken of all dead trees and a GIS mapping system is being developed utilizing GPS locators for each worksite.

The Roads Department is assessing all County roads (with assistance of Licensed Foresters or Arborists) and will prioritize and categorize the roads.

The following are priority areas as identified by the Core Planning Team:

Priority 1 - Identify & Conduct a Focused Inventory of Critical Infrastructure  
(water, power, roads, etc.)

Priority 2 – Identify Available Equipment

Priority 3 – Create a Master Infrastructure List

Priority 4 – Preparation & Pre-Loading CDAA Grant Applications

Future discussion may determine the need for prioritization of subdivisions. An overlay of subdivisions and infrastructure is needed. Only roads in pine belts will be assessed at this time (1,500-6,000 ft. elevation).

### **Private Property**

Hazard trees located on private property, that threaten public Right of Way or within 200' of Public Infrastructure, will be assessed and removed with landowner approval only (Right of Entry Permit attached). By signing the attached permit, landowner allows access and entry to property to the State of California, the County of Amador, and their agents, officials, employees, and/or volunteers, contractors and subcontractors, subject to all license, easements, encumbrances, and claims affecting the Premises. The owner grants County a right-of-entry ("Permit") over the premises for the purpose of inspecting the premises for dead and/or dying trees, testing materials on the Premises, removing and/or clearing trees, hauling and/or disposing of trees, subject to the terms set forth in the Permit. No inspection, removal or clearance of trees will take place until Permit is signed. Owner also agrees and understands the County and/or its agents may sell the felled trees and hereby waives any and all right, actions, claims, in law or equity as to the value of the said trees in exchange for the services provided pursuant to this Permit. The county will not be requesting reimbursement from Cal OES for the removal of trees from private property that do not threaten the public Right of Way or Public Infrastructure.

### **Removal and Disposal of Trees, Slash and Wood Products**

Removal and disposal of wood products is one of the most difficult aspects of the hazard tree removal process as resources are very limited. However, there are several tools available locally to assist in the removal of trees and slash. The following represents a cross section of some resources that are available to Amador County:

- Sierra Pacific Industries
- AMPINE (Division of Timber Products)
- Smith Grinding Partnership
- Licensed Timber Operators (Tree Removal Companies)
- Licensed Foresters and Arborists
- Individual Property Owners

Each has indicated their willingness to become a partner by accepting wood products.

Per the Governor's Executive Order on October 30, 2015, County staff is working with Cal Trans and Cal Fire in identification of equipment such as commercial chippers, masticators, and air curtain burners that can be made available for use. We anticipate Cal Fire will provide a list of locations for storage locations for removed trees and Cal Trans is assessing their needs for woodchips and mulch that can be used locally.

Meetings with local tree removal companies and haulers will be scheduled to determine capacity for potential contracts.

The County is also in discussion with a local company that specializes in all aspects of tree removal, inclusive of consulting on process, site management of sites designated to receive wood product, and rental of equipment.

### **Inmate Crews**

County staff has conferred with Cal Fire representatives and will eventually consider a contract for use of inmate crews. These crews offer a cost effective manner in which to provide labor for removing small trees, limbing trees that have been felled, bucking up logs, debris clean up, and feeding chippers and air curtain burners.

### **Request for Air Curtain Burner & Available Equipment**

County will determine if a request to Cal OES and/or Cal Fire to purchase an Air Curtain Burner to dispose of slash, small trees, limbs, branches, and pine needles is warranted. If it is determined to be necessary, a location will be designated to bring slash and other wood products to the site. Local inmate crews or other personnel will then maintain the site and feed the wood products into the air curtain burner.

A request list of available equipment will be developed under Priority 2 of this Plan. Equipment confirmation may be limited to designated priority counties.

### **Potential Revenues Generated by Wood Product**



Any revenues generated from the sale of wood products salvaged may be used to offset the local match of 25% or to offset the claim to Cal OES for CDAA. As outlined in the Right of Entry Permit, any and all revenues generated from wood product salvaged from private property is waived, by the landowner, in exchange for the services provided pursuant to the Permit signed by the land owner.

***This plan is a living document and will be continually updated by the County, Core Planning Team and other partners.***

***Amador County Hazard Tree Removal DRAFT Plan dated 5/20/2016***

## **AMADOR COUNTY TREE MORTALITY COUNT METHODOLOGY, RESULTS AND MITIGATION COST ESTIMATE**

**Objective of Survey:** Achieve the goal of the Amador County Hazard Tree Removal Plan by estimating the number of dead and dying trees due to drought and beetle infestation capable of damaging County owned and maintained infrastructure.

**Methodology:** As part of the Amador County Tree Mortality Core Planning Team, the CalAm Forestry Team (bios attached) conducted a sample survey in late May through late June 2016 of County owned and maintained roads throughout the elevation range of the beetle infestation (1500'-5500'). Highway 49 served as the westerly boundary of the survey. The target sample was 25% of the 265 miles within the sample area. The final sample size was approximately 32% (86 miles).

The sample process included identifying dead and dying trees adjacent to each road segment, noting number of trees, diameters and locations. Trees adjacent to recent beetle killed trees were individually inspected for beetle infestation. Based on professional experience, trees adjacent to beetle killed trees with significant beetle infestation are dying and were tallied as such. An average number of hazard trees per mile were calculated for each road segment and for the entire sample area.

**Results:** The full results of the survey by road segment are shown in the attached table. The survey indicates that there are currently 12.2 hazard trees per mile of County owned and maintained roads in the range of the beetle infestation. Given that there are 265 miles of such roads, this means an estimate of 3233 trees currently that must be mitigated.

Recognizing the beetle problem is expanding, and based on the recommendation of the CalAm Forestry Team, the Amador Tree Mortality Core Planning Team agreed that a "hazard tree expansion

factor” of 35% be applied to the current estimate. This results in an estimate of 4365 hazard trees in need of mitigation.

In consultation with professional foresters, licensed timber operators, and arborists, the Amador Tree Mortality Core Planning Team agreed on a mitigation cost of \$1200/tree. This means the total estimated cost for mitigation of hazard trees threatening county owned and maintained roads is \$5.2 million.

**Additional Information:** Attached is the full report of the CalAm Forestry Team which includes additional data, information and observations from the survey project.

DATE: June 27, 2016  
TO: Lynn Morgan, Richard Forster  
FROM: CalAm Forestry Team  
CC: Tree Mortality Core Planning Team, John Plasse, Brian Oneto, Louis Boitano,  
Aaron Brusatori  
SUBJ: Amador County Tree Mortality Survey

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The CalAm Forestry Team has been conducting tree mortality surveys adjacent to county roads over the past month. This work is being conducted to assist the County in applying for California Disaster Assistance Act (CDAA) grants. What follows and is attached is intended to help the County develop an estimate of dead/dying trees threatening county assets with associated costs for removal.

CalAm Team work is detailed on the attached map. The map shows all county roads (265 miles east of Hwy 49), those that have been fully surveyed (@ 86 miles), and those with preliminary surveys (@ 20 miles). Fully surveyed means all dead and dying trees capable of reaching the road surface have been documented. Preliminary survey means the roads have been driven for a quick evaluation of the status of tree mortality.

The results of the full survey work (attached) shows that tree mortality ranges from 1.1 trees/mile (Quartz Mt. Road) to 55.5 trees/mile (Buckhorn Ridge Road). The average for the 86 miles fully surveyed is 12.2 trees/mile. If this average was extended over all Amador County roads east of Hwy 49 (265 miles) this would mean there are approximately 3200 trees needing treatment.

#### Observations:

- Significant tree mortality extends to the lowest elevations where pine occurs (~1500' and even lower on north-facing slopes) up to approximately 5500' elevation.
- The vast majority of mortality is Ponderosa Pine; however, mortality in Sugar Pine and Incense Cedar is on the rise.
- A major hatch of bark beetles occurred in late May significantly impacting the Buckhorn Ridge and Lupe Road area. We expect other areas within this elevation belt (2000'-3000' to be similarly impacted)
- PG&E has been aggressively falling the dead and dying trees adjacent to County roads near Hwy 88 in the Pioneer/Buckhorn area (Carson Road to Rabb Park) as virtually all County roads have PG&E power lines close.
- Tree mortality is on the rise throughout the County, so expect more dead trees in areas that have been treated.
- CalAm surveys in Calaveras County show tree mortality at approximately 15 trees/mile (in contrast to 11 trees/mile one month ago). This is more than the  $\approx$  12 trees/mile (in contrast to 8 trees/mile one month ago) in Amador, but is logical since the drought-mortality driven beetle infestation is moving north and east.

#### Summary of findings:

The CalAm Team has surveyed 85.7 miles of the 265 miles of county roads east of Highway 49 (see attached map). This is a sample size of 32%. We have documented 1049 dead and dying trees (see attached table). Based on the sample we project more than 3,200 dead and dying trees

threatening county roads. Our report compares well to the approaches used by other counties and to protocols previously accepted by CalOES (see attached).

Recommendations:

The Amador Tree Mortality Core Planning Team:

- Use this survey to develop the necessary documentation for estimating tree mortality threatening county roads for submission to CalOES for a CDAA grant.
- Agree on an average mitigation cost per tree for estimating the cost of mitigating estimated tree mortality for submission to CalOES for a CDAA grant.
- Consider using a “hazard tree increase factor” of 25%, like Tuolumne County did, to recognize the fact that bark beetles are steadily increasing. Thus, the current estimate of 3,200 hazard trees increases to 4,000 trees.

Once the Core Planning Team has acted on these recommendations, the CalAm Forestry Team would be happy to develop a document to satisfy CalOES CDAA application requirements.

<b>Results of County Roads Survey (May/June 2016)</b>				
<b>Road</b>	<b>Trees</b>	<b>Miles Surveyed</b>	<b>Trees/Mile</b>	
Allan	20.0	0.7	28.6	
Buckhorn Ridge/Sunrise Terrace	272.0	4.9	55.5	
Carson Pass Pines	53.0	3.0	17.7	
Fiddletown	175.0	12.6	13.9	
Hale	72.0	6.1	11.8	
Irishtown	5.0	2.0	2.5	
Lupe Road Area	152.0	3.0	50.7	
Mella	1.0	0.6	1.7	
Oneto	6.0	1.5	4.0	
Peterson Ranch	4.0	0.6	6.7	
Pine Grove-Volcano	24.0	3.1	7.7	
Quartz Mt.	10.0	9.1	1.1	
Rams Horn	39.0	2.9	13.4	
River Pines	37.0	3.4	10.9	
Shake Ridge	62.0	20.5	3.0	
Sutter Creek-Volcano	117.0	11.7	10.0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,049.0</b>	<b>85.7</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>3,233</b>
<b>Estimated Amador hazard trees east of Hwy 49* =</b>				

\*265 miles county roads east of 49 x 12.2 trees/mile

# CalAm Forestry Team

The Team of volunteers integrated in 2014 to provide expertise and effort towards improved land management for the benefit and protection of all in Amador and Calaveras Counties. With a diverse background in natural resources, we have completed, submitted and received multiple grant applications on behalf of public land management agencies, local government, private landowners and not-for-profit entities.

## Biographical Information

### **Core Team Members:**



*John Heissenbuttel, Pine Grove, CA* - A Registered Professional Forester (RPF #1920) and a 1976 Forestry graduate from Humboldt State University. Over the past 35+ years, John has been recognized as an expert on forest management and policy at the local, national and international levels. John was Vice President of Forestry and Wood Products at the American Forest & Paper Association and is a past President of the Society of American Foresters. He is a founder of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative and the Council on Sustainable Biomass Production. In 2010, John received the Sir William Schlich Memorial Medal from the Society of American Foresters for outstanding contributions to the field of forestry and forest policy at the national and international level. John serves as Operations Chair for the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group.



*Pat McGreevy, Glencoe, CA* - Raised in Richmond CA, Pat spent holidays/summers at the family gold mine in Glencoe. After college graduation he pursued a career in research on the epidemiology, immunology and chemotherapy of tropical diseases that included post-doctoral studies at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, research at the Walter Reed Institute of Research in Washington DC and field studies in tropical Tanzania, Borneo, Panama and Brazil. His contributions were often recognized, but his most coveted award was the "Brazilian Army Medal of the Peace Maker", the highest honor bestowed on foreign nationals by the Brazilian Army. In 1994 Pat retired in Glencoe for a life of community service: Little League manager, firefighter/EMT on the Glencoe/Rail Road Flat Fire Department, Commissioner for Calaveras Parks & Recreation, local historian, and member of the Calaveras Consensus Group. Concerned about forest destruction by catastrophic fire and beetle infestation, he has devoted countless hours to forest restoration and community protection. Pat was the 2014 Calaveras Senior Volunteer of the Year.



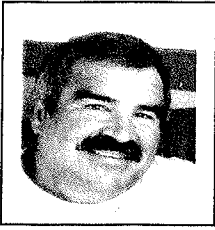
*John Hofmann, Pine Grove, CA* - A forest engineer, 1974 graduate from the University of Idaho, and legislative advocate/analyst, John has worked over 45 years for private industry and county governments, proposing innovative solutions in the field, and to state and federal agencies and legislatures. John is currently a natural resources consultant to the Amador County Board of Supervisors and a member of the planning committee for the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group.



*Jan Bray, Jackson CA* - Graduate of Humboldt State University and CA Registered Professional Forester #2360, Certified Professional in Erosion & Soil Control (CPESC #1095) and retired Peace Officer. Jan worked for the US Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, having retired from public service in 2012. Jan's passion includes faith events and family activities, especially camping, fishing, mission trips and traveling. She volunteers time with children in the Foster Care System, with the A-PAL Humane Society, and with the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group and multiple Fire Safe Councils.



## Contributing Team Members:



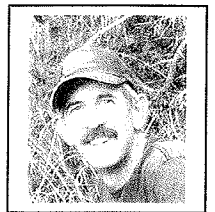
Thomas W. Lowry, Pine Grove, CA - Thomas has been a Registered Professional Forester (RPF # 2092) since July 20, 1982 and has a total of over 40 years of forestry experience. He is currently a consulting forester for Lowry Forestry in Pine Grove, California. As a consultant, Thomas has been involved in all phases of timberland management including preparing Timber Harvest Documents and California Forest Improvement Plans.



Anne Heissenbittel, Pine Grove, CA – Registered Professional Forester (RPF #1894) and Partner, Heissenbittel Natural Resources Consulting. A graduate in Forestry from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1975, Anne has served as Executive Director of the National Association of State Foresters; Legislative Staff for the Committee on Resources, U.S. House of Representatives; forest policy staff at the American Forest & Paper Association in Washington, D.C.; and a field forester in Amador and Calaveras Counties. Anne is a Fellow of the Society of American Foresters, and she volunteers at Chaw'se Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park and as a UCCE Master Gardener.



Paul Maben, West Point, CA – Registered Professional Forester (RPF # 2163), Certified Arborist (WE #4310) and graduate of the University of California, Berkeley in 1979. Paul has worked in the Forest Industry for over 40 years. He has managed Pacific Gas and Electric Company timberlands for 22 years; Vegetation Program Manager in charge of tree pruning and removal along Electric powerlines for 13 years and most recently, Principal Land Consultant in charge of tree removal and pruning on PG&E gas transmission pipelines. Currently a member of the Amador Calaveras Consensus Group. Currently a Director on the Amador Fire Safe Council and past Director and/or volunteer on three other Fire Safe Councils.



Gordon Long, San Andreas, CA - Professional Wildlife Biologist/Manager. Founder and Executive Officer of The CalFauna Foundation, a 501(c) (3) nonprofit corporation based in Calaveras County and President of Multiple Use Managers, Inc., a private wildlife management and outfitting firm established in 1977. Gordon has a BS degree in Environmental and Systematic Biology from Cal Poly, SLO in 1988. Gordon is currently a member of the Calaveras County Fish and Game Commission, the Project Committee of the California Deer Association, and is the western representative for The Wildlife Society's Wildlife and Habitat Restoration Working Group. Gordon has worked extensively across the Western States, consulting with landowners for wildlife habitat improvement. Gordon is also proprietor of a photography business, Long Open Spaces Photography. Gordon is a project leader for Calaveras 4-H.

## CalAmTeam Contact Information

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Anne Heissenbittel	209-296-2250	aeheissenbittel@volcano.net
Paul Maben	530-559-0066	pmmaben@suddenlink.net
Gordon Long	530-604-3588	calfauna@yahoo.com



# AGENDA TRANSMITTAL FORM

To: **Board of Supervisors**

Date: August 16, 2016

From: Patricia M. Lesky

(Department Head - please type)

Phone Ext. 830

Department Head Signature *Patricia M. Lesky*

- Regular Agenda
- Consent Agenda
- Blue Slip
- Closed Session

Meeting Date Requested:

08/23/16

Agenda Title: Presentation of the 2015 Crop and Livestock Report

Summary: (Provide detailed summary of the purpose of this item; attach additional page if necessary)  
See attached report.

Recommendation/Requested Action:

n/a

Fiscal Impacts (attach budget transfer form if appropriate)

n/a

Staffing Impacts

Is a 4/5ths vote required?

Yes

No

Contract Attached:

Yes

No

N/A

Resolution Attached:

Yes

No

N/A

Ordinance Attached

Yes

No

N/A

Committee Review?

N/A

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Request Reviewed by:

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_

Counsel *GB*

Auditor \_\_\_\_\_

GSA Director *Hope*

CAO *ca*

Risk Management *ms*

Distribution Instructions: (Inter-Departmental Only, the requesting Department is responsible for distribution outside County Departments)

### FOR CLERK USE ONLY

Meeting Date 8-23-16

Time \_\_\_\_\_

Item # 8

Board Action: Approved Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unanimous Vote: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Noes: \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Distributed on \_\_\_\_\_

A new ATF is required from \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify this is a true and correct copy of action(s) taken and entered into the official records of the Amador County Board of Supervisors.

Completed by \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_  
For meeting \_\_\_\_\_  
of \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Clerk or Deputy Board Clerk

# AGENDA TRANSMITTAL FORM

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Regular Agenda <input type="radio"/> Consent Agenda <input type="radio"/> Blue Slip <input type="radio"/> Closed Session Meeting Date Requested: <u>08/23/2016</u>
--

To: Board of Supervisors

Date: 08/17/2016

From: John Plasse, Chairman  
 (Department Head - please type)

Phone Ext. x470

Department Head Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Title: High Country Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)

Summary: (Provide detailed summary of the purpose of this item; attach additional page if necessary)

Discussion and possible action relative to the subject plan.

Recommendation/Requested Action:

Fiscal Impacts (attach budget transfer form if appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_ Staffing Impacts \_\_\_\_\_

Is a 4/5ths vote required? Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Contract Attached: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A Resolution Attached: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A Ordinance Attached: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A Comments: _____
Committee Review? Name _____ N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Recommendation: _____	

Request Reviewed by:

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Counsel GC

Auditor \_\_\_\_\_ GSA Director top

CAO OK Risk Management JD

Distribution Instructions: (Inter-Departmental Only, the requesting Department is responsible for distribution outside County Departments)

### FOR CLERK USE ONLY

Meeting Date 8-23-16 Time \_\_\_\_\_ Item # 9

Board Action: Approved Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unanimous Vote: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Noes \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Distributed on _____	A new ATF is required from _____ Department	I hereby certify this is a true and correct copy of action(s) taken and entered into the official records of the Amador County Board of Supervisors.  ATTEST: _____ Clerk or Deputy Board Clerk
Completed by _____	For meeting of _____	



2016

High Country Community  
Wildfire Protection Plan

Amador Fire Safe Council

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# **Chapter 1 - Plan Introduction**

## **Introduction**

This plan is collaboration between several organizations and government agencies. These agencies include the Amador County Board of Supervisors (BOS), Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC), Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI), Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Eldorado National Forest and Amador Ranger District (USFS)

## **High Country Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Goals**

- Identify priority projects to reduce risks and hazards from wildfire while protection conservation values. Goals are to be achieved principally through prioritization and implementation of fuel hazard reduction, community education and fire-suppression projects and activities.
- Provide community priorities for conservation-based fuel reduction on public lands
- Provide conservation-based fire safety educational information to residents of the High Country Planning Unit
- Provide a positive balance among fire prevention, conservation and wildfire protection
- Provide a guidance document for future actions of the AFSC, County of Amador, CAL FIRE, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), PG&E, SPI and local emergency service providers
- Coordinate fire protection strategies and investments across properties and administrative boundaries to achieve landscape-scale fire defense systems
- Integrate private land management goals with community needs and expectations for fire safety
- Create ecologically sustainable biomass utilization and saw log removal projects within High Country Planning Unit
- Provide tools to emergency response agencies that improve response capabilities
- Reduce the potential of large scale damage from the historic large fire scenario in upper Amador County
- Prevent damage to the environment and infrastructure caused by the historic large wildfire scenario<sup>1</sup> in Amador County
- Provide for safe evacuation of citizens during wildfires
- Assist fire and other emergency agencies to respond to emergencies
- Obtain 100% compliance with the defensible space requirements<sup>2</sup>
- Educate the citizens of Amador County about the importance of re-establishing a pre-European forest landscape and its importance on fire safety and forest health
- Allow this document to be written as a Community Wildfire Protection Plan(CWPP) in order to meet the requirements of future National Fire Plans and other government funding sources and to provide community direction for Federal Land Management within the planning area

## **High Country CWPP Objectives**

The objectives for fire safety will drive the development of the assessment and eventual solutions. These objectives reflect the particular characteristics facing Amador County.

- Minimize ignitions – It may seem obvious that unplanned ignitions should be minimized. Numerous ignitions place a strain on firefighting resources, which can lead to high levels of damage because of greater fire area burns.

- Decrease intensity – One factor that disposes structures to fire damage is fire intensity or the amount of heat transferred to the structure. High-intensity fires also are most likely to produce crown fires<sup>3</sup> and torching<sup>4</sup>. Embers created from these crown fires are lofted well ahead of the fire front creating numerous spot fires<sup>5</sup> and they are often the cause of structure burning. The level of fire intensity greatly influences the damage to natural resources. Every ecosystem is adapted to a range of fire intensities; however, most of the Sierra Nevada is characterized by low-intensity fire. Higher intensity fire causes a greater level of damage, such as erosion, degraded water quality, tree mortality, visual blights, and a decline in certain wildfire habitats.
- Decrease damage – Fire is part of the natural ecology of the Sierra Nevada. However, increases in forest fuel accumulations over the last century have led to larger more damaging wildfires. Also with these fuel accumulations has been a steady increase in the number of man-made improvements, including homes in the forests. Wildfire damage to resources, structures and human improvements need to be minimized.
- Increase resiliency-An important objective is to rebound quickly after a wildfire burns through a community. Fires of small size or limited damage support a more rapid recovery. Communities with greater preparation for wildfires (rehearsed evacuations, establish communication protocols, etc.) also have greater resiliency.

## **Introduction to the Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC)**

### **AFSC Background, History and Mission**

The AFSC is a 501c3 non-profit organization that collaborates with agencies, local businesses, community organizations, and property owners of Amador County.

The council's advisors include United States Forest Service (USFS), CAL FIRE, BLM, Amador Resource Conservation District, Amador County BOS, Sierra Nevada Conservancy, and the Sierra Business Council. The council is also assisted by numerous volunteers who help to make this vital organization work the Amador County Residents.

The AFSC is chartered to educate and assist Amador County residents in keeping their properties and Amador County a Fire Safe Community.

Look to the AFSC to:

- Provide educational workshops to teach citizens living in the wildlands how to become a Fire Safe community
- Distribute fire safety materials on fire preparedness and ways to maintain a fire safe home and property such as fire resistant plans and personal home evacuation plans
- Help citizens develop community fire plans
- Help citizens to get involved in short terms action projects to benefit their community through volunteering and/or participation in meetings and special interest groups
- Conduct landscape scale fuel reduction projects (Fuelbreaks) designed to reduce the potential of damage from wildfire. These projects are conducted in cooperation with the fire agencies and land management agencies within the county. These projects are based on priorities established in existing Community Wildfire Protection Plan
- Assist communities to become designed Fire Wise communities

### **AFSC Projects**

In the current fiscal year 2016, AFSC is working on the projects listed below:

- Writing conservation and community wildfire protection plans for two planning units
- Creating safe ingress/safe egress routes on private roads

- Creating fire safety publications and presenting public education workshops and events
- Assisting low-income seniors to comply with defensible space requirements. The Senior Assistance Projects pays for contractors who clear vegetation around qualifying senior citizens homes. The senior citizens are not charged for this service.
- Contracts with various private contractors to chip vegetation removed from private residences. The chipper project provides these services at no cost to the landowner.
- Rehabilitate the Pine Acres Fuelbreak, improve a Fuelbreak in the Mitchell Mine area, and create a small livestock fuel reduction grazing study.

### **AFSC Strategic and/or Future Plans**

The AFSC is constructing wildfire defenses (Fuelbreaks) based on priorities established in the 2005 Amador County CWPP. All work is funded by either state or federal grants. The 2005 plan divided the county into nine planning units. These planning units are ranked as to their relative risk from wildfire. The Council is reviewing each of these units based on their risk. The first two units to be reviewed and updated were the Pioneer/Volcano and Greater Pine Grove Planning Units. This unit is the second most at risk area of the county. This document is the update to the 2005 CWPP as it pertains to the High Country Planning Unit.

The next two units for intense study and planning are the Fiddletown and Sutter Creek/Amador Units. These units represent those areas of the county that are most vulnerable to large wind driven wildfires that historically occur east of Highway 49.

### **Conservation Principles for Wildfire Protection in the Sierra Nevada**

This document is based on the following conservation principles.

“Fire always has been and always will be an ecological force in the Sierra Nevada. Decades of fire suppression have changed this role, allowing stands to thicken and fuels to accumulate, especially in the foothills and lower montane<sup>6</sup> zone, where developments are increasing. We either manage fire and live with fire on our terms or let fire dictate the terms. The choice is ours.”

- Jan W. van Wagtenonk, *Wildfire*  
(2006)

Most Sierra Nevada residents choose to live here because of the natural beauty. What many of us do not realize is that living within these forests and wildlands<sup>7</sup> carries a responsibility. We need to be good stewards of the land, learning to live in balance with the natural world, of which fire is a significant part. This document summarizes what residents can do to co-exist with fire in the Sierra. It will show you how to provide appropriate balance among fire prevention<sup>8</sup>, conservations, and wildfire protection at your Sierra Nevada home. You have chosen to live here, and with your choice comes a stewardship responsibility. For more information on fire safety in general, please contact the AFSC or go to: [www.amadorfiresafe.org](http://www.amadorfiresafe.org); <http://www.fire.ca.gov/index>; [www.fireadapted.org](http://www.fireadapted.org) and follow AFSC on Facebook.

### **Basic Concepts to Remember for Living with Fire in the Sierra Nevada**

Fire is a dynamic element of the Sierra. Property in the planning unit has likely burned before and will burn again. The landscape of today may seem “natural. In fact, it has changed drastically over the last 150 years as a government and private citizens attempted to manage fire and forest growth. In preparing property for fire, residents can help restore it to a more ecologically appropriate state. In doing so, they will learn how to be prepared for wildfire. It is not only possible, it is smart. It is rarely practical to completely “fire proof” a property; however there are steps property owners can take to survive a wildfire. For more information, go to [http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact\\_sheets/live\\_w\\_fire.pdf](http://www.fire.ca.gov/communications/downloads/fact_sheets/live_w_fire.pdf)

One size does not fit all in terms of homeowner fire safety. Every place is unique. Residents should work with the AFSC, their local fire department, Cooperative Extension Agent, a Registered Professional Forester and/or contractors to design the appropriate fire-safe practices and defensible space for their property. For more information, go to [http://www.calfire.ca.gov/communications/communications\\_firesafety\\_100\\_feet](http://www.calfire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_100_feet)

One size does not fit all in terms of homeowner fire safety. Every place is unique. Residents should work with the AFSC<sup>9</sup>, their local fire department, Cooperative Extension Agent<sup>10</sup>, a Registered Professional Forester<sup>11</sup> and/or contractors to design the appropriate fire-safe practices<sup>12</sup> and defensible space<sup>13</sup> for their property. For more information, go to: [http://www.calfire.ca.gov/communications/communications\\_firesafety\\_100feet](http://www.calfire.ca.gov/communications/communications_firesafety_100feet)

Homes and other infrastructure exist within a larger watershed<sup>14</sup>. They are located in the midst of a much larger landscape. Home and business owners should think about where their property is on the slope<sup>15</sup>. Is it on top of a ridge where fire will easily burn toward homes and other structures? Are the slopes steep or gentle? Fire moves quickly in steep slopes, which means that residents may need to treat a larger area to create effective defensible space. What is below and above? What direction or "aspect"<sup>16</sup> does the property face? Generally, south-facing properties are hotter and drier; they can therefore be more susceptible to fire. Are there any natural fire breaks<sup>17</sup> such as streams, rivers, or rocky outcrops where a fire might naturally go out? Do wildlife use or move through the property to get to food, shelter, or water? In what watershed is the property located? Do the roads in and out of the property follow ridges or rivers? Look beyond property lines to under the ecological perspective of the property. For more information go to: [www.audubon.org/bird/at-home/Explore.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at-home/Explore.html)

Fire can behave both predictably and unpredictably. Fire managers can generally predict fire direction and behavior. It will go the way the wind is blowing and burn as much fuel<sup>18</sup> as is available. Predicting the exact time and place where fire will burn is less obvious. As fire moves across the landscape, it can climb up into trees. A key fire safety objective is to prevent that spread. Dead leaves and branches on the ground (surface fuels<sup>19</sup>) act as a wick<sup>20</sup> to move fire horizontally across the land. Shrubs, small trees and live branches (ladder fuels<sup>21</sup>) can carry fire vertically into the larger trees. Too much of these surface and ladder fuels can cause the over story<sup>22</sup> trees to burn up in what is called a "crown fire" – when fire spreads from tree to tree in the forest canopy (or tree tops). One of the main principles in creating defensible space and reducing hazardous fuel conditions is to create physical space between vegetation layers (both vertically and horizontally) so a fire cannot easily climb from the ground into the trees or to homes and other structures. For more information, go to: <http://articles.extension.org/pages/23720/ladder-fuels>

Timing is everything. There are appropriate times for different actions, much as there are different seasons of work in the garden. Defensible space and fuel reduction work needs to occur well before fire season to avoid having sparks from equipment starting fires in dry vegetation. Avoid ground disturbing<sup>23</sup> activities in forest or wildland when the ground is too wet or when birds and animals are nesting. Do not try to do everything at once. Think about fire safety seasonally. Plan activities in the winter and spring; start clearing when the ground begins to dry (when it's not saturated<sup>24</sup>) or when there is snow on the ground. Finish treatments by early summer before the vegetation is dry. Do defensible space maintenance around and inside structures in the fall and burn piles after the rains begin in the winter. For more information, go to [http://firecenter.berkeley.edu/doc/CE\\_homelandscaping.Pdf](http://firecenter.berkeley.edu/doc/CE_homelandscaping.Pdf)

Homes are likely a fuel source. Many Sierra homes are located in places where a fire can start and spread into surrounding vegetation. The more residents prepare their homes and other structures, the less they will have to treat the surrounding vegetation. The biggest improvement residents can make to reduce fire risk is to build or remodel homes and businesses to resist the millions of tiny embers<sup>25</sup> created by ember attack<sup>26</sup> from wildfires. When wildfires burn in extreme conditions they send burning firebrands (embers) ahead of them; these firebrands ignite new fires. Using fire resistant building materials<sup>27</sup> and appropriately designed structures will give you the best chance to survive wildfire. Replace wood shake roofs with fire-resistant materials. An interactive source of information to reduce homeowner risk in the wildland-urban interface is provided by the University of California Center for Fire Research and Outreach; it is called the Fire Information Engine Toolkit. For details on how this web-based program can make better decisions to reduce fire risk go to [firecenter.berkeley.edu/toolkit/homeowners.html](http://firecenter.berkeley.edu/toolkit/homeowners.html) and <http://ucanr.edu/sites/Wildfire/>. Consult local fire agencies or <http://firewise.org/wildfire/preparedness/be-firewise/home-and-landscape.aspx>

When building a new home, homebuilders and property owners should consider slope, aspect, surrounding fuels and potential environmental impacts before deciding where to site the home. This may be more important than the view in the long terms. Talk to the local planning department to learn about local fire-safe building regulation or see <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov> or <http://www.wildlandfires.org> for more information about safe regulations.



Landowners need to know their legal obligations. Learn the legal requirements regarding defensible space and fire-safe building and construction. Discover how to balance these with the ecological needs of the property. See Appendix B Home Safety page 220.

Firefighters need the public's help to protect homes and businesses. Make it safe for them and their equipment to get to and from homes and businesses. Be sure they can find homes and businesses by providing visible road and address signs. Remember that fire-safe landscaping and construction greatly improves firefighters' ability to protect homes. For more information see principle 4C below and [www.livingwithfire.info/beforethefire/accesszone/index.php](http://www.livingwithfire.info/beforethefire/accesszone/index.php)

### **Conservation Principles**

Landowners should consider the conservation principles below as how to approach fire safety and defensible space. It is all about balance. It is possible to have an aesthetically pleasing landscape that is fire-safe, supports local plant and animal species and still provides landowners with privacy and plantings. This document is based on the following conservation principles.

#### **Remember the Vegetation (Native trees and Other Plants)**

- a. Discover and monitor forest and vegetation dynamic changes-  
It is important to plan for the future of the forest. Because citizens are the conservation steward of their land, their work in the forests will be ongoing. Homeowners should watch wild areas on their property and learn from them as they grow and change with the resident's stewardship. It is important to think both in the short terms (what will happen this year) and in the long term (what will happen over time). It is helpful to document those changes as the years go by by keeping notes and records. Learning how to monitor<sup>28</sup> the ecological changes and using that information for adaptive management<sup>29</sup> of wildlands provides landowners with the tools to manage effectively the fire threat. To live safely with wild fire, residents need to take the responsibility to manage, adapt and guide the vegetation around their homes. For more information, go to [http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/publications/pdfs/huntingwildfirehabitat/Landowners\\_Guide/Habitat\\_Mgmt./Planning/Evaluating\\_Land.htm](http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/publications/pdfs/huntingwildfirehabitat/Landowners_Guide/Habitat_Mgmt./Planning/Evaluating_Land.htm).
- b. Act conservatively-  
When manually recreating a more fire-resilient landscape<sup>30</sup> by implementing fuel treatments<sup>31</sup> it is important to apply the general concepts of the precautionary principle<sup>32</sup> while implementing fuel treatments<sup>33</sup> one can always remove more trees and vegetation at a later time, but one cannot immediately replace what has been cut. The vegetation left is ultimately most important. Careful planning will insure the remaining forest stand is healthy and resilient<sup>34</sup>. For more information, go to: [www.mindfully.org/Precaution/Precautionary-Principle-Common-Sense.htm](http://www.mindfully.org/Precaution/Precautionary-Principle-Common-Sense.htm). An exception to this principle occurs when structures are present. Vegetation must be removed to provide defensible space. See Appendix B Section B.1.1.1.4.
- c. Protect native species that share the property-  
Residents can look at the native vegetation around their property or ask local Cooperative Extension Master Gardener's or forestry specialists for help to see what different plants share their home. There may be rare plants. Often rare plants can be protected by providing defensible space (while keeping in mind their needs, such as shade). A good source of information is how these rare plants are being managed by others within the watershed.

Residents should watch for invasive weeds<sup>35</sup>. It is often necessary to follow vegetation treatments with invasive weed removal. Exotic plant species near homes can become invasive and should be avoided, especially those that can spread into adjacent wildland areas. Invasive species can change the fire hazard very quickly and be difficult to manage.

Avoid unnecessarily introducing water into the landscape as water will generally help non-native plants out compete native plants. For more information go to: <http://www.cnps.org>; [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org); [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/weeds\\_common.html](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/weeds_common.html)

- d. Keep the oldest and biggest trees-  
Generally, most of the oldest trees in the forest are no longer present. Landowners with old or very large trees should create defensible space around them to help them survive wildfire. This may include raking away thick duff<sup>36</sup> at the base of the trees. These trees often have thick bark so they are generally fire-resistant (they have evolved with fire). Remove ladder fuels to prevent crowning. At the same time, do not remove all of the small trees in the forest. Small trees are the next generation of large trees. Keep enough regeneration<sup>37</sup>, possibly in small patches to provide for the future forest while still providing adequate space between all the trees. An additional benefit of keeping the biggest trees is that they can break up the wind as it's moving through which can slow down fire spread.

### Remember the Wildlife

- e. Provide local wildlife a place to live-  
Become familiar with the animals sharing the property. Talk to local wildlife experts and/or bird watchers. Learn what wildlife need in terms of shelter, food, water and reproduction. Remember that the property is their home too. Find ways to balance land management activities with their needs and leave some areas untreated<sup>38</sup> for the birds and wildlife using them. Protect them creating defensible space while still considering their needs for cover<sup>39</sup>. Access to food and water should be provided. For more information, go to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/topics/wildlife/>;  
[http://ucanr.edu/sires/mgfesnot/Sustainal=ble\\_Landscape/Create\\_Wildlife\\_Habitat](http://ucanr.edu/sires/mgfesnot/Sustainal=ble_Landscape/Create_Wildlife_Habitat).

Protect and retain trees with nests and cavities, or where obvious wildlife feeding or nesting activities are occurring. Leave some plants that have berries or other fruit or mast<sup>40</sup> used by wildlife. Be especially careful to leave cover around streams, seeps<sup>41</sup> or other wet areas to keep those areas cool and wet; this will provide wildlife the protective cover they need when they are using those places or moving to and from them. Make sure all natural water supplies are clean by keeping any poisons and sediment<sup>42</sup> away from any water that could drain into them. For more information, go to [http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/publications/pdfs/huntingwildlifehabitat/Landowners\\_Guide/Habitat\\_Mgmt/Backyard/Backyard\\_Intro.htm](http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/publications/pdfs/huntingwildlifehabitat/Landowners_Guide/Habitat_Mgmt/Backyard/Backyard_Intro.htm)

- f. Protect future generations of wildlife-  
Find out when local species are nesting and/or breeding and avoid working in and around the wildlands during those times. Learn what kind of habitat local species might use for nesting and breeding, and be sure to protect those areas during management activities. For more information go to [http://www.audubon.org/bird/at\\_home/SafeMisc.html](http://www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/SafeMisc.html)
- g. Value the standing dead trees-  
Standing dead trees or snags<sup>43</sup> are especially important for wildlife. They provide both shelter and food to many birds and other animals. However, they can also be a wildfire hazard if they are near enough to fall on a home or fall and block an evacuation road during a fire. Balance the needs of wildlife with the need for fire safety. For more information go to <http://www.nwf.org/backyard/snags.cfm>
- h. Conserve rare and endangered species-  
One of the bonuses and responsibilities of living in the Sierra Nevada is living with the many rare and endangered species. Residents can find out if there are rare or endangered species in their area by talking to your local Cooperative Extension Agent or Forest Service wildlife biologist. Fuel reduction actions should be planned around the needs of these species. Often by a minor refinement of management activities, such as timing, technique, or extend can protect species while realizing the desired fuel reduction goals. For more information go to [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/t\\_e\\_spp/mammals.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/t_e_spp/mammals.html)

## Remember the Soil

- i. Maintain the life in the soil-  
There may be as much or more activity below the ground on a property as there is above the ground. Keep this in mind in terms of what is done above ground. Talk to a Cooperative Extension Agent or local gardeners to find out what soil types<sup>44</sup> are on a property. Some soil types can tolerate much more disturbance<sup>45</sup> than others can. Minimize activities that could compact<sup>46</sup> flood or poison the soil. The health of the land is directly dependent on the health of the soil. As such, the soil is one of the most valuable assets of any property. For more information go to [http://acmg.ucnr.edu/Growing\\_Your\\_Own\\_Food/Healthy\\_Gardens\\_Grow\\_From\\_Healthy\\_Soil/](http://acmg.ucnr.edu/Growing_Your_Own_Food/Healthy_Gardens_Grow_From_Healthy_Soil/)
  
- j. Ensure that the soil cover is fire safe-  
Replace cover that burns easily (such as dry or dead vegetation) with cover that is less flammable<sup>47</sup> (e.g. gravel, fresh green plants, etc.). The objective is to ensure that when a fire comes through, it is not so hot that it kills the life in the soil. Rather, it should move through without a lot of fuel to consume in its path. For example, a very light layer of pine needles can help with soil erosion (see below) but too much can be a fuel problem. For more information go to [http://www.laspilitas.com/classes/fire\\_burn\\_time.html](http://www.laspilitas.com/classes/fire_burn_time.html)
  
- k. Minimize erosion-  
Protect the soil by keeping it covered. Cover helps to prevent erosion<sup>48</sup> especially on ground that is not flat. Cover keeps the soil in place. Do not let soil move across the property, most importantly not into the streams or other natural water sources. Keep ground-disturbing activities away from unstable<sup>49</sup> areas and riparian<sup>50</sup> areas. Pay special attention on steep slopes. The steeper the slope, the faster the soil can move downhill if it's disturbed. A fire can climb uphill faster under the right (or wrong) conditions. For more information go to <http://ucanr.edu/sites/perpostwildfire/files/2671.pdf>
  
- l. Protect the soil after a fire-  
Soil can be most fragile after a wildfire. This is often exacerbated when winter rains come soon after a fire. The potential for erosion and loss of soil is huge with this combination of conditions. Residents experiencing fire on their property should get cover onto the soil as soon as possible to prevent erosion. Remember, soil is alive so help it grow. For more information go to <http://www.extension.colostate.edu/soil-erosion-control-after-wildlife-6-308>

## Remember the People

- m. Plan actions with neighbors-  
Talk to neighbors. Find out what they are doing on their land. Find ways to cooperate in land management actions. One person's defensible space will likely impact the neighbors' chances of surviving a wildfire and vice-versa. Talk about what to do in an emergency and how to evacuate safely. Attend an Amador Fire Safe Council meeting to learn what resources are available. Meeting dates and contact information are posted online at <http://amadorfiresafe.org>  
  
Help make the community a Fire Wise Community. Coordinated work amongst neighbors' will have a greater impact on everyone's individual fire safety.
  
- n. Find experienced workers and treat them well-  
Forestry workers with chainsaws in hand are the actual decision makers as to what stays or goes, what lives or dies in the forest. If the objective is to reduce fuels while still maintaining ecological integrity and diversity on a site, the workers must have the knowledge and experience to help achieve this. Involve the workforce in the design, planning, and monitoring of projects. Talk to the Amador Fire Safe Council or neighbors and check reference to find reputable contractors. For more information go to <http://bofdta.fire.ca.gov/>

- o. Work with the local fire department-  
Talk to the local firefighters. Find out what they need to safely in and out of a house. Make sure that access roads<sup>51</sup> are safe; maintain fuel treatments along all roads both for firefighter safety in protecting residents' homes and safety in case of evacuation. Have street and address signs visible so out-of-town firefighters can locate the residents they are assigned to protect. Make sure to have a water supply they can find and use. For more information go to <http://www.co.amador.ca.us/servies/fire/amador-fire-protection-authority>

**Introduction to the High Country Planning Unit**

The High Country Planning Unit is located in the eastern end of Amador County (see Executive Summary Plate 2 – High Country base Map). Its eastern boundary is the Alpine County line at Kirkwood. The western boundary follows a north-to-south line at approximately the Dew Drop Fire Station on Highway 88 from the Cosumnes River in the north to the Mokelumne River in the south.

State Highway 88 runs primarily along a ridge and in parts of the planning unit is also the northernmost county line. Several large drainages lie within or adjacent to the planning unit. The effect of these drainages on potential wildfire damage is related to their east/west orientation fuel load, seasonal winds and the historic large fir occurrence.

Much of the western part of the planning unit contains an abundance of forest fuels capable of supporting intense fire behavior including crowning. Most of the structures in the unit are recreational cabins. Many of these structures were constructed before the adoption of modern fire safe building and development standards and would not be permitted today.

This western timber portion is co-mingled with PG&E, SPI and USFS lands and the eastern timber and granite portion is primarily USFS and some PGE&E. Land is devoted to timber production, grazing, recreation, water and electric generation. The entire area is unincorporated.

The County of Amador is currently updating its General Plan (See Plate 1-Hight Country General Pan Zoning). See Chapter 5 for more information on the High Country Planning Unit.

Figure 1. Public Land Managers in the High Country Planning Unit

Agency	Name	Acres
US Bureau of Land Management	The Mother Lode Office	1,533 <sup>52</sup>
US Forest Service El Dorado National Forest	Amador Ranger District	786,994

**High Country Planning Unit Communities at Risk**

On January 4, 2001 for the purposes of the National Fire Plan, the Department of Interior (DOI) published in the Federal Register a “Notice of Urban-Wildland Interface (WUI) Communities within the vicinity of Federal Lands that are at high risk from Wildfire”. In 2001, the DOI added High Country to the list.

After the 2000 fire season, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) working with the California Fire Alliance, developed a list and associated map of communities at risk from wildfire using 1990 Census and United States Geological Survey (USGS) Geographic Names Information System data to identify populated places and CAL FIRE’s Fire and Resource Assessment Program (FRAP) fuel hazard data<sup>53</sup>. This data describes relative risk to areas of significant population density from wildfire by combining residential housing unit density with the proximate fire threat to give a relative measure of the potential loss of structures and threats to public safety from wildfire. CAL FIRE’s designation of the High Country WUI encompasses all of the High Country Planning Unit and thus, no further proposals for areas within the planning unit to be designated as communities at risk are required.

Figure 2. Communities at Risk in the High Country Planning Unit

<b>Community at Risk</b>	<b>Threat Level<sup>54</sup></b>	<b>Federal Adjacency<sup>55</sup></b>	<b>Source of Designation</b>
High Country	3-Very High	✓	California Fire Alliance and CAL FIRE (FRAP)

### **High Country Planning Unit Fire Protection Areas and Agencies**

On land known as a Federal Responsibility Area (FRA), Federal Agencies have primary responsibility for fire protection. FRA is defined based on land ownership. The USFS has responsibility to provide wildland fire protection on all FRA lands in the High Country Planning Unit. This includes the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires. This is accomplished through what is known as the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement or the "4-Party Agreement.

State Responsibility Area (SRA) is defined based on land ownership, population density and land use. CAL FIRE determines SRA lands using guidelines established by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection. CAL FIRE has a legal responsibility to provide wildland fire protection on all SRA lands including the financial responsibility of preventing and suppressing fires. Lands in incorporated cities or surrounded by federal land are excluded from SRA lands. For example, CAL FIRE does not responsibility for densely populate areas or agricultural lands.

Local fire districts are responsible for providing structure protection on SRA lands. They are also responsible for providing all fire protection on Local Responsibility (LRA) lands. LRA lands are not the responsibility of Federal or State Agencies.

*For a map of current FRA, SRA and LRA areas, see Plate 17 Wildland Fire Protection Responsibilities.*

The following fire protection agencies provide fire protection services to residents in the planning area. For more information on these agencies and their services, see Chapter 6.

1. USFS, Amador Ranger District
2. CAL FIRE, Amador~El Dorado Unit
3. Amador Fire Protection District
4. Lockwood Fire Protection District

### **Organization of this Document**

This document is based on the design of the Sierra Nevada Community Conservation and Wildfire Protection Plan (CCWPP) Guidebook. It contains the following sections:

- **Summary and Action Plan – a summary of all the following chapters and the CCWPP Action Plan**

Chapter 1 - Plan Introduction-an introduction to the document, High Country Planning unit and the Amador Fire Safe Council.

Chapter 2 - High Country Planning Unit Fire Safe Planning Process-summarizes the public process used to develop this Fire Plan.

Chapter 3 - Risk Assessment: Identifying and Evaluating Assets at Risk-summarize assets at risk, risk assessment and results.

Chapter 4 - Meeting Your Objectives: High Country Planning Unit Fire Safe Action Plan-identifies actions to reduce risks from wildfire in the High country Planning Unit.

Chapter 5 - Wildfire: Current Environment and Behavior-introduces wildfire concepts and issues in the High Country Planning Unit.

Chapter 6 - Fire Ecology and Management of Sierra Nevada Vegetation Types-summarizes the common Sierra vegetation types found in the High Country Planning Unit, their fire ecology and conservation and fuel management considerations.

Chapter 7 - High Country Planning Unit Features-describes the social, political and community-planning milieu; includes a discussion of land ownership and management.

Chapter 8 – Fire Protection Organizations-summarizes current fire protection resources and issues in the High Country Planning Unit.

Chapter 9 – Facilitating the High Country Planning Unit Fire Safety in the Long Term-outlines a monitoring strategy and long-term steps to maintain and update this plan.

- **Background documents on conservation and wildfire include:**

Appendix A - Conservation Principles for Community Wildfire Protection in California's Sierra Nevada

Appendix B - Wildland Fire Safety at Home is a text document explaining conservation based wildfire safety

Appendix C - Wildland Fuel Hazard Reduction is a text document explaining conservation based methodologies and prescriptions that can be used in the High Country Planning Unit

Appendix D - Defensible Space Guidelines

Appendix E - Glossary

Appendix F - Internet Links

Appendix G - Literature Cited

## **Chapter 2 – High Country Planning Unit Fire Safe Planning Process**

### **High Country CWPP Planning Unit Boundaries**

This Fire Plan covers the entirety of the High Country Planning Unit as identified in the 2005 Amador County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2005). See Executive Summary, Plate 2 – High Country Base Map.

### **Process and Plan Development**

The Amador Fire Safe Council began the process of updating the 2005 Amador County Community Wildfire Protection Fire Plan in 2008. The generic CWPP divides the county into nine planning units. Each planning unit represents a distinct wildfire environment and fire protection problem.

Rather than rewrite the entire plan, the AFSC decided to review and rewrite each planning unit separately starting with the most at risk planning unit. Thus, this process is a partial update of the 2005 generic plan.

In January 2012, a rewrite of the most at risk area Pioneer/Volcano Planning Unit was completed. High Country is the second most at risk area in the county.

While the 2005 plan took a broad countywide view and recommended landscape scale projects designed to reduce damage from large wildfires, this update is focused more locally

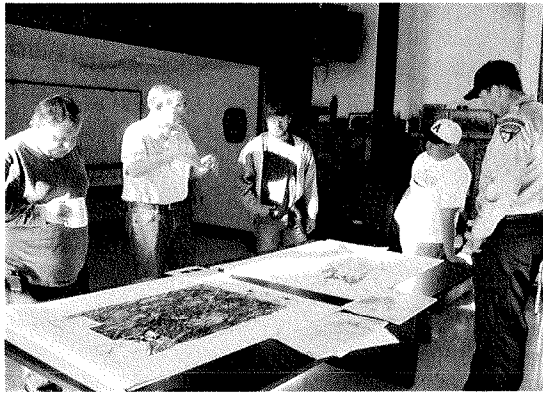


Figure 1 – Working Group Planning Session

Greater emphasis is given to neighborhood and community risks that can be mitigated by an individual property owner, community group, local government agency, non-profit, state agency, corporation or federal agency. Issues like evacuation water supplies, defensible space, local fuel reduction, ingress and egress and signage are at the forefront, while also including large landscape scale projects. The 2005 plan recommendations are included in this plan also with additional large fuel reduction projects identified during the planning process.

The Community Wildfire Planning process is by its very nature a community effort. Great importance is placed on the desire of the community concerning what the plan contains. To facilitate input from the community, the plan writes hold a series of public meetings. Unfortunately, these meetings were poorly attended. However, the core working group and steering committee includes many individuals from within the planning unit.

## **Community Meetings**

### **Initial Meeting**

An initial community meeting will be held in a centrally located place during the summer of 2016. The purpose of the meeting is to introduce interested community and agency members to the High Country Plan project. At this meeting, the working group responsible for preparing the draft plan will be introduced.

One of the goals in developing the High County Fire Plan is to educate residents regarding fire safety and defensible space. Therefore, the planning process is designed to maximize public input.



Community/Neighborhood Meetings

## **Community Outreach**

An outreach effort is made to encourage public participation in these meetings by:

- Providing comment cards for residents and community associations to write comments and suggestion's regarding the plan during the meeting

- All draft documents will be posted on AFSC website
- Draft review will be announced at multiple public meetings through the review period

**Public Comment Process**

In addition to the meetings that generate local data, the public will be provided another opportunity to contribute to this document during the public review of the draft Fire Plan. The draft of the plan will be posted on the AFSC website. A press release to local media outlets will notify stakeholders of the posting, inviting all residents of the study area to comment and make suggestions regarding the plan.

<b>Comments submitted from (Name and Affiliation)</b>	<b>Date Received</b>	<b>Comments</b>

Figure 2. Comments to Public Draft of the High Country Fire Plan

<b>Agency/Stakeholder Group</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Date Invited to Participate</b>
PG&E	Matt Waverly	2014
AFSC	Cathy Koos Breazeal	2011
CAL FIRE (representing local battalion)	Charles Blankenheim, Battalion Chief	2011
CAL FIRE (representing Unit Chief)	Chris, Post, Division Chief	2011
USFS	Paul Leusch, Chief	
Amador County BOS	John Hofmann, Consultant	2011
SPI	Craig Ostergaard	2011

Figure 3. Stakeholder Representatives and Date invited to participate

**Steering Committee**

A Steering Committee was established to oversee development of the Fire Plan and to ensure its compliance as a Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The steering committee included all members of the AFSC and other community members. The purpose of the committee is:

- To provide oversight to the planning process
- To meet the requirements of the CWPP of the National Fire Plan
- To ensure that the Plan meets the needs of all sectors of the High Country Planning Unit in terms of fire safety and prevention



The Steering Committee members represent a broad cross section of interest in Amador County. The committee had access to technical advisers from local government, BLM Management and CAL FIRE. Oversight of the planning process by this committee ensures that the plan meets the applicable parts of the collaboration requirements of a CWPP.

Steering Committee Members:

- Steve Bonner, President
- Rebecca Brown, Vice President
- Jan Bray, Secretary
- John Heissenbuttel, Treasurer
- Connie Gonsalves, Director
- Patrick Minyard, Director
- Richard Yarnell, Vice President
- Paul Maben, Director
- Frank Leschinsky, Director
- Jim Simmons, Retired CAL FIRE Unit Chief, Advisor

The community fire planning process outlined in this chapter was developed by Tracy Katelman, ForEverGreen Forestry [www.forevergreenforestry.com](http://www.forevergreenforestry.com) and the Mattole Restoration Council [www.mattole.org](http://www.mattole.org)

## **Chapter 3 – Risk Assessment**

Two fire analyses are used in this CWPP to establish the overall fire risk. In 2012, the Forest Service and several other agencies assessed the fire risk in the Mokelumne River Watershed as part of a grant-funded Avoided Cost Study. The assessment was a “relative” risk assessment, comparing the risk to other areas within the Mokelumne River Watershed. The highest risk was in the lower elevations, particularly in Calaveras County, where the Butte Fire burned in 2015 and further east in the Watershed below West Point. All other areas in the Watershed were compared to that area and rated the same or less risk. CAL FIRE has maintained a more absolute fire risk assessment for the State which examines a number of factors including slope, topography, vegetation and structures. This CWPP uses the CAL FIRE rating system as the foundation of the risk assessment, using the Avoided Cost Study assessment for confirmation and to consider relative risk for prioritization. It also considers the risk and disruption to lives from evacuations and the potential loss of infrastructure.

### **3 RISK ASSESSMENTS: IDENTIFYING AND EVALUATING ASSETS AT RISK**

*Assets at Risk (also called Values at Risk) are those assets, either natural or manmade, that are at risk from wildfire. The Tables in this chapter evaluate the assets at risk identified during the development of the High Country Planning Unit.*

#### **3.1 STRUCTURES AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT ASSETS**

*The High Country Planning Unit has a mixed zoning consisting of private, industrial timberland; national forest; grazing allotments; recreation; a trans-Sierra highway; numerous smaller roads and spurs; small cabin tract communities; utility transmission lines; a large ski resort; one town; lakes and rivers.*

### 3.2 DESIGNATION OF AT-RISK COMMUNITIES

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act (HFRA) directs Community Wildfire Protection Plans to designate At-Risk Communities. In general, the Act defines At-Risk Communities as a group of homes and other structures with basic infrastructure and services, conducive to a large-scale wildfire which poses a significant threat to human life or property.

### 3.3 DESIGNATION OF WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act encourages the development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans under which communities will designate their Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). HFRA defines a WUI as an area within or adjacent to an at-risk community or evacuation route for an at-risk community. The distance may be defined by miles or geographical features such as a road or ridge top.

### 3.4 MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act encourages fuel reduction projects that protect “municipal water supply systems” including reservoirs, canals, ditches, flumes, laterals, pipes, pipelines, and other surface facilities and systems constructed or installed for the collection, impoundment, storage, transportation, or distribution of drinking water.

## Avoided Cost Study – Relative Fire Analysis

At-Risk Community	Burn Probability	Fire Intensity	Fire Hazard	CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones	Overall Fire Risk
Kirkwood	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Kirkwood Lake	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Silver Lake	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Mud Lake	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
Bear River	East: Very High Northwest: High South: Moderate	Moderate to Very High	Low to High	Very High	Very High
Lumberyard	High	Moderate -High	Low - High	Very High	High
Hams Station	Moderate	Very High	Moderate – High	Very High	Very High
Cooks Station	Moderate	Very High	Moderate – High	Very High	Very High
Dew Drop	Moderate	High	Low - Moderate	Very High	Very High
Tiger Creek	Moderate	High	Moderate	Very High	Very High
Salt Springs	Low to Very High	Low to Very High	Very Low to High	Very High	High
Other At-risk Assets					
Salt Springs State Game Refuge	Low to Very High	Low to Very High	Very Low to High	Very High	High
Miscellaneous Structures	Low to High	Low to Very High	Very Low to Moderate	Very High	Very High

Historical Sites	Very Low	Low	Very Low	Moderate - Very High	Moderate
Primitive Lands	Very High	Low to Very High	Very Low to Very High	Very High	High
Private Forest Lands	High	High	Low to Mod	Very High	Very High
Forest Activities	Low to Very High	Low to Very High	Very Low to High	Very High	Very High

At-Risk Community	Risk and Recommendations	Type and Payment Method	Priority
Kirkwood Community Kirkwood, California	<p><b>Overall Fire Risk Rating:</b> Moderate.</p> <p>CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding this community as moderate fire severity. The forests are relatively open with scattered granite slopes and hilltops. The burn probability, intensity and hazard are low compared to other areas of the CWPP; however, the treatment priority is elevated due to the importance of local communities, historical sites and recreational facilities.</p> <p><b>Protection Measures:</b></p> <p><b>WUI:</b> Establish a WUI zone surrounding the Kirkwood Community, starting from the Carson Spur and running the full length of Thimble Peak Ridge on the West, to Melissa Coray Peak on the South, around Emigrant Lake following the ridge back down to Caples Lake on the East, and on the north from the Caples Lake western dam down Highway 88 to the Carson Spur.</p> <p><b>Major Fuelbreaks: Establish Major Fuelbreaks of 1,000 feet on both sides of ridges.</b></p> <p><b>Evacuation Route:</b> Maintain safe fuel loading along Kirkwood Meadows Drive, East Meadows Drive and Devils Gate Road for a distance of 300 feet from road edge and 1,000 feet from road edge along Highway 88.</p>	Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.	Moderate

Blue Lakes and Caples Lake are located on Highway 88 along the northern boundary of the High Country Planning Unit. The lakes supply water for power production and municipal water supplies to the El Dorado Irrigation District.

**Kirkwood, California 95646,** Population 105; combination of vacation and permanent homes, one gas station, several restaurants, Kirkwood Inn and the historic Kirkwood Inn (Historic Site #40, 1864); all in SRA. This community is geographically located in El Dorado, Alpine and Amador Counties.  
**Kirkwood PUD:** Provides power generation, water, sewer, fire, snow removal.  
**Electric** generation is provided by Salt Springs. 80,000 gallon propane generator.  
**Communications:** Volcano Telephone, underground.  
**Water:** Two 90,000-gallon water tanks; good flow on T riser, ISO rating 4.

**Structure Ignitability Measures:** PRC 4291 is in poor compliance on the Amador County side; address signage is poor or nonexistent; numbering inconsistent (2 digit & 5 digit); firewood stacked against homes; many hydrants painted black.  
**Fire protection & public safety:** Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Protection District, 1 Chief, 10 Volunteers. First Responder Equipment: 2 Type One engines, 1 BLS Ambulance, 1 rescue squad, 1 Zodiac boat, 1 Command vehicle.  
**Potential evacuation:** 100-200 residents and visitors. Develop two year-round evacuation plans- one for the private residences and one for the transient visitor population.

**Kirkwood Mountain Resort,** Division of Vail Resorts, Inc. 1501 Kirkwood Meadows Drive, Kirkwood, CA 95646 Peak overnight population 7,008; combination hotel, duplex, apartments; all in SRA; 350 multi-occupancy dwellings; dining facilities

**Risks:** Year round resort in a horseshoe-shaped bowl; moderate wildland fire risk. Elevation 7,800-9,800 feet, heavy granite and some forest. One way in/one way out. No evacuation plans identified.  
**Potential evacuation:** 6,000 – 7,000 residents and visitors. Develop evacuation plan for permanent and transient population.

**Devil's Gate Cabin Tract.** Highway 88 x Devil's Gate Road 14 Summer cabins; individual propane tanks; cell phone for gate lock; spring-fed water source to tank; one fire stand pipe, untested garden hoses. No address or street signage.

**Risks:** Adjacent to the Spur, against a cliff; one way in, one way out; 8-foot-wide rutted dirt road; no turnaround or hammerhead.  
**Potential evacuations:** 50-75 cabin users. Develop and practice an evacuation plan; create turnaround or hammer-head at ends of road; mark emergency water source and test same. Install street sign at Highway; install reflective address signage at driveway of each cabin.

Kirkwood Lake Community

**Overall Fire Risk Rating:** Moderate  
 CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding this community as moderate fire severity. The forests are relatively open with scattered granite slopes and hilltops. The burn probability, intensity and hazard are low compared to other areas of the CWPP. However, the treatment priority is elevated due to the importance of local communities and recreational facilities.  
**Protection Measures:**  
**WUI:** Establish a WUI zone surrounding the Kirkwood Lake Community from the Thunder Mountain Trailhead on Highway 88, directly north down the point of the mountain to Caples Creek, following Caples Creek east to the Western Caples Dam, back down Highway 88 to the Thunder Mountain Trailhead.  
**Major Fuelbreaks: Establish Major Fuelbreaks of 1000 feet on both sides of ridges.**  
**Evacuation Route:** Maintain safe fuel loading along the Kirkwood Lake Road, for a distance of 300 feet from road edge and 1,000 feet from road edge along Highway 88.

Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.

Moderate

**Kirkwood Lake:**

Kirkwood Lake Drive x Highway 88  
Lake Kirkwood is a small alpine lake in a granite bowl on the north side of Highway 88 just west of Kirkwood at the 7,600-foot elevation. The community consists of 3 areas accessed by a single, poorly paved and gravel road, 1 lane wide in some areas, with occasional turnouts.

**Kirkwood Lake Housing Tract:**

24 summer homes (privately owned structures on USFS leased lots). Some can only be accessed by boat; Built between the 1930's to the 1960s. No address signage. Historic Site# #2009001054.

**USFS Campground:** Operated by Sierra Recreation Managers; 12 fee sites, open seasonally, one landline telephone at campground host site, no evacuation plan

**Two Sentinels Girl Scout Camp:**

Operated by Girl Scout Council, Oakland, CA. Begun in 1936, the camp operates approximately 6 weeks during mid-summer; some permanent structures plus seasonal platform tents; piped water; no electricity; 150 potential campers; evacuation delay 2 hours with on-call bus service; 5-7 vehicles available one-half mile away by foot; no landline telephone, occasional satellite phone present; gathering site designated as Kirkwood fire station. This is a walk-in/walk-out camp, one-fourth mile, no direct vehicle access or by boat.

**Risks:** Limited access road; limited parking; no cell phone access; untested landline phone at USFS campground; girl scout camp is ¼ mile walk-in/out.

**Fire:** SRA protected by both CALFIRE and the USFS; there is some piped water as well as water sourced from the lake. Fire risk is moderate due to the granite; cabins are located in heavily forested areas of Red Fir and Ponderosa pine, Lodge pole pine, Jeffrey pine and white pine.

**Potential evacuations:** 230-240 campers and cabin users. Develop evacuation plans for cabin users and USFS campground. Install reflective address signage at lake edge in front of cabin.

**Two Sentinels Girl Scout Camp** has a well-designed evacuation and emergency response plan, and is inspected annually by the Amador Fire Protection District (AFPD). Annual fuel reduction plan and fire suppression plan in place.

**Silver Lake Community**

**Overall Fire Risk Rating:** Moderate.  
CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding this community as moderate fire severity. The forests are relatively open with scattered granite slopes and hilltops. The burn probability, intensity and hazard are low compared to other areas of the CWPP. However, the treatment priority is elevated due to the importance of local communities, historical sites and recreational facilities.

**Protection Measures:**

**WUI:** Establish a WUI zone surrounding the Silver Lake Community from the Carson Spur on Highway 88, continuing southwestward down Highway 88 to Mud Lake Road, following Mud Lake Road and staying on the ridge past Porthole Gap to Squaw Ridge, heading northeast along Squaw Ridge to Melissa Coray Peak, turning northwest down the ridge past Thimble Peak to the Carson Spur.

**Major Fuelbreaks: Establish Major Fuelbreaks of 1,000 feet on both sides of ridges.**

**Evacuation Route:** Maintain safe fuel loading along the Kit Carson Road, and Plasse Road for a distance of 300 feet from road edge and 1,000 feet from road edge along Highway 88.

Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.

**Moderate**

**Silver Lake** is located on Highway 88 along the northern boundary of the High Country Planning Unit. It supplies municipal water and is associated with the following communities:

**Plasse Resort** 30001 Plasse Road, Kirkwood, CA Pre-settlement summer camp for Great Basin and California tribes, settled by Raymond Plasse in the early 1850s as a ranch and early trading post. Served by a steep, poorly paved road, approximately 16 feet wide, gate at top locked seasonally. Restaurant, bar, store, 5 employee cabins, laundry, separate chapel located across meadow with helistop adjacent to chapel at flag. Boat ramp by chapel; generator electricity only; fair access to lake for suction. Special events every weekend, such as weddings, can increase day use by 200 or more. No evacuation plan; diesel operated well; 1 landline phone in office + 2 pay phones; 2 Volcano Wi-Fi hotspots (at office & A camp); no cell phone reception. Operated under a special use permit administered by the USFS. 6 Campgrounds, 180 sites **Total Horses: 64**

**Risks:** Moderate wildfire risk due to elevation and granite; concentrated higher risk in forested WUI areas

**Potential evacuations:** 600 guests + horses/trailers/vehicles:

- 180 adult campers + unknown number of child campers; 64 horses + trailers
- Potential additional 200 day guests (weddings/events)
- 70 additional chapel guests
- Additional estimated 150 day users /fishing/ boating/hiking

In collaboration with the USFS, develop evacuation plan with two evacuation routes; and prominently display in public use places, trail heads, store, chapel and restrooms. Additionally, issue this evacuation plan to each registered user and event leader.

**Kit Carson Lodge on Silver Lake:** 32161 Kit Carson Road., Kit Carson, CA 95644

North 38.40.11.4 West 120.06.532 restaurant, camp store, laundry, guest cabins open seasonally; approximately 100 guest capacity; pay phone and office phone; propane fuel tank; piped water; Evacuation plan posted in each cabin, garden hoses and fire extinguishers at each cabin; elevation 7,300'

**Risks:** Gate is locked preventing ingress/egress from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m. daily.

**Potential evacuations:** 100 guests + employees.

**Cabin just east of Silver Lake**

**Campground** Highway 88, south side, just east of Silver Lake. Privately controlled by Joses family in conjunction with their grazing allotment on USFS land. No address sign.

**Potential evacuations:**

Seasonal cattle gathering, potentially 700 head, plus horses, dogs, riders, cattle hauling trucks. Install reflective address sign at highway.

**Silver Lake Cabin Tract:** Kit Carson Road and Kit Carson Way, Kirkwood CA 95646 approximately 60 privately owned, lakeshore cabins on USFS leased parcels, built from 1930 to the present day; piped water; propane fuel at each cabin; some telephones; no electricity except generators; elevation 7,300'. Poor or no address signage.

**Risks:** Moderate wildland fire danger due to elevation and less dense forests; poorly maintained road surfaces, primarily single lane

**Potential evacuations:** Potential of 150 – 200 cabin users. Cabin tract association and USFS jointly develop an evacuation plan with east and west escape routes. Install reflective address signage at each driveway.

**Silver Lake Tract – West Side**  
Plasse And West Lake Roads x  
Highway 88, Kirkwood, CA  
North38.38.163 West120.07.302  
Approximately 60 privately owned  
cabins on USFS leased parcels, built  
from the 1930s through present  
times; piped water; propane fuel at  
each cabin; some telephones; no  
electricity except generators;  
elevation 7,300'.

**Structure Ignitability Measures:** Moderate  
wildland fire danger due to elevation, granite and  
less dense forests; poorly maintained road  
surfaces, primarily single lane. West Lake Road  
ends at a 20' hammerhead; many propane tanks  
have zero clearance around trees. Improve  
defensible space around cabins. Install reflective  
address signage at each driveway.

**Potential evacuations:** Potential of 150 – 200  
cabin users. Cabin tract association and USFS  
jointly develop an evacuation plan with east and  
west escape routes.

**Silver Lake West Campground,**  
**owned/ operated by El Dorado**  
**Irrigation District** North side of  
Highway 88, 52 miles east of  
Jackson, CA, just east of Silver Lake  
North38.40.59 West120.07.097

**Risks:** One way in/out narrow loop road; heavily  
forested; moderate/high fire danger.

**Potential evacuations:** Potential of 200-250  
campers with tents, trailers, RVs. Develop  
evacuation plans for east and west escape routes;  
prominently post plan at signboard and restrooms;  
review evacuation plans monthly with  
campground host.

**Silver Lake Campground, owned**  
**by USFS, managed by Sierra**  
**Recreation Managers** South side of  
Highway 88, 52 miles east of  
Jackson, CA, just East of Silver Lake  
North38.41.40.5 West120.07.16.3 -  
62 campsites east of Silver Lake,  
open seasonally, 7,200' elevation,  
single-lane loop road; landline phone  
unknown; campground host

**Risks:** One way in/out narrow loop road; heavily  
forested; moderate/high fire danger.

**Potential evacuations:** Potential of 200-250  
campers with tents, trailers, RVs. Develop  
evacuation plans for east and west escape routes;  
prominently post plan at signboard and restrooms;  
review evacuation plans monthly with  
campground host.

**Camp Silverado** Camp Silverado  
Road at Kit Carson Road, Kirkwood,  
CA Operated for decades by the Mt.  
Diablo Silverado Boy Scout Council  
on a USFS lease, this camp is  
currently closed due to water quality  
and maintenance issues. The USFS  
plans to renovate the camp and re-  
open it as a group campground and  
lodge, rentable to the public.

**Risks:** Very poor access via narrow dirt road;  
dense coniferous forest, but moderate wildland  
fire risk due to granite and elevation.

**Potential evacuations:** Currently this camp is not  
occupied, but when renovated, the USFS should  
develop an evacuation plan.

**Camp Minkalo** At the end of Kit  
Carson Road Originally a Camp Fire  
Girls camp back in the 1950s, it was  
gifted to the Boy Scouts but never  
used due to potable water issues.  
Under USFS direction, the Boy  
Scouts are now demolishing  
buildings and returning to a natural  
forest condition.

**Risks:** Foot access only via narrow dirt road; light  
coniferous forest, with moderate wildland fire risk  
due to granite and elevation.

**Potential evacuations:** Currently this camp is not  
occupied. If ever returned to camp status, camp  
operators and the USFS should develop an  
evacuation plan.

**Stockton Municipal Camp** At the  
end of Plasse Road 640 acres  
located past the Plasse Resort and  
Plasse campgrounds. This camp is  
owned and operated by the City of  
Stockton, a Permittee to USFS.  
Electric source - propane generator;  
spring-fed gravity water tank and  
stand pipes; cotton fire hose; two  
telephone landlines in office; no pay  
phone, no cell service; two exits;  
defensible space raking every  
season. Evacuation plan in place:  
siren; gather in parking lot, crew

**Structure Ignitability Measures:** Situated at the  
end of Plasse road beyond the Plasse resort.  
Some dead/dying trees present. Verify fire fittings  
present on water tanks; test stand pipes. Develop  
a hazard fuel reduction and reforestation plan.

**Potential Evacuations:** 250 campers plus staff  
(up to 90 are children). Prominently display  
evacuation plans. Practice evacuation drill at least  
once during the season.

checks camp and offices simultaneous call 911. Kitchen, bathhouse and dining hall available for sheltering. Additional helistop in meadow. Seasonal, opening mid-June or later.

**Silver Lake Day Use** Highway 88 at Kay's Road. Kit Carson Rd, Plasse Road Once the site of Kay's Resort, this side of Silver Lake has a rich, post-Settlement recreational history reaching back to the early 1860s when log hotels were built in the area, including Wade's Lake House. Today the area is still popular for recreation including hiking, boating, fishing, swimming and picnicking at Sandy Cove, Ferguson Point, the dam area by Kay's, and Oyster Creek, as well as informal recreational sites at various points along the shoreline. Cell phone signal non-existent; 1 pay phone at Kit Carson Lodge.

**Risks:** Due to the elevation and granite outcroppings, wildland fire in this area is a moderate risk.

**Potential evacuations:** Potentially several hundred out-of-area day use visitors; boats, canoes, kayaks, vehicles. El Dorado Irrigation District is to develop evacuation plans for escape routes east and west; post these plans prominently throughout the day-use areas.

**Thunder Mountain Trail Loop and surrounding trails.** Highway 88 just east of the Spur. This is a popular hiking, biking and equestrian trail area just west of The Spur. Heavily used during the season.

**Risks:** Moderate risk for fire.

**Potential evacuations:** Unrecorded numbers of bikers and hikers, as well as horses and riders, vehicles and trailers. USFS count number and type of visitors; install trail sign-in/out register; prominently post evacuation instructions and recommendations for direction of travel.

**Old Emigrant Road**  
State Route 88 at Mud Lake Road 8 miles west of Kirkwood  
Old Emigrant Road begins a long loop around Silver Lake basin, used by thousands between 1848 and 1863, when it was replaced by a route approximating the present highway.

California Historic Site #28; Historical marker and asset; CA Registered Historical Landmark No. 662

**Mud Lake Community**

**Overall Fire Risk Rating:** Moderate.  
CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding this community as moderate fire severity. The forests are relatively open with scattered granite slopes and hilltops. The burn probability, intensity and hazard are low compared to other areas of the CWPP. However, the treatment priority is elevated due to the importance of local communities, historical sites and recreational facilities but tempered by the close proximity to Highway 88.

**Protection Measures:**

**WUI:** Establish a WUI zone surrounding the Mud Lake Community starting from the ridge just East of Mud Lake Road on Highway 88, heading northwest along the ridge around the Tragedy Springs Campground to Maiden's Grave, then heading southeast across Highway 88, following to the confluence of Tragedy Creek and the draw heading west crossing Mud Lake Road to Porthole Gap, following the ridge generally along Mud Lake Road north but staying on the ridge until the ridge connects with Highway 88 just east of the intersection of Highway 88 and Mud Lake Road.

Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.

**Moderate**



**Major Fuelbreaks: Establish Major Fuelbreaks of 1,000 feet on both sides of ridges, include ridges on both sides of Highway 88.**

**Evacuation Route:** Maintain safe fuel loading along Highway 88 for a distance of 1,000 feet from road.

**Tragedy Springs Cabins**

At an elevation of 7,907 feet, a small alpine freshwater spring, meadow and a former pioneer settlement adjacent to Highway 88 approximately two miles west of Silver Lake. It was named for a tragic attack on an advance party of discharged Mormon battalion soldiers searching for a route across the Sierras to return to their families in Salt Lake City. Today at that location is a historic marker, small picnic area and several cabins to the west side; to the east is a quarry.

**Risks:** Minimal fire risks due to elevation, light forest, and granite.

**Potential evacuations:** Less than 10 cabin users. Since Tragedy Springs Road loops onto Highway 88, this area could be used for staging.

**Mud Lake Road Cabin tract 47000** block of Highway 88 west of Silver Lake. Approximately half a dozen privately owned cabins on USFS leased parcels. Poor or no signage for road or address.

**Structure Ignitability Measures:** Moderate fire risk due to elevation and granite. Review cabin propane tank siting. Reflective address signage facing both directions at the edge of driveway, per PRC 4290.

**Potential evacuations:** 12-15 cabin users. Cabin owners should develop a joint evacuation plan.

**Mud Lake Trailhead**

Beyond the cabins is a well-maintained vehicle and trailer parking area for Mud Lake Trail users. Parking area could be used for staging.

**Risks:** Moderate fire risk due to elevation and granite.

**Potential evacuations:** Unknown trail users (equestrian, pedestrian, wheeled).

Evacuation information and routes should be prominently displayed at the trailhead signboard.

**Overall Fire Risk Rating:** Very High.

CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding this community as very high fire severity. The forests range from moderate to dense. The burn probability and intensity is very high on the east side which would threaten the community during a strong wind event and high to the northwest, threatening the community from wind and terrain-driven fires.

**Protection Measures: WUI:** Establish a WUI zone surrounding the Bear River Community from Maiden's Grave on Highway 88, continuing southwestward down Highway 88 to the Bear River Road, turning due south down the draw to Rattlesnake Creek, following Rattlesnake Creek crossing Bear River continuing up the draw crossing Spur 19, following the ridge in a mostly eastward direction to Cole Creek, turning up Cole Creek in a northeastern direction to the ridge just East of Shriner Lake, heading due north through the gap just to the West of Mud Lake and connecting with Tragedy Creek at the junction of the draw that comes down from Porthole Gap, continuing up Tragedy Creek to Highway 88.

**Major Fuelbreaks:** Establish Major Fuelbreaks of 1,000 feet on both sides of ridges include ridges on both sides of Highway 88.

**Evacuation Route:** Maintain safe fuel loading along the Hideout Road, Dufrene Road., Bear River Road, Little Bear River Road No. 1 (8n20), Spur 19, South Bear River Road and the Cole Creek Loop Road. (8n13 & 8n16) for a distance of 300 feet from road edge and 1,000 feet from road

Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.

**Very High**

**Bear River Community**

edge along Highway 88. Open old road along the north side of the lake for visitors using Dufrene Road.

**The Bear River Reservoirs** are located south of Highway 88 and consist of two linked bodies of water, Upper and Lower Bear River Reservoirs surrounded by forest lands. Bear River originates from Mud Lake, travels southwesterly to Upper and Lower Bear Reservoirs, then outlets in the reservoirs and ultimately joins the Mokelumne River west of Salt Springs Reservoir. Bear River provides municipal water to users in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Joaquin, Amador and Calaveras Counties through the Jackson Irrigation District, Amador Water Agency, North San Joaquin Water Conservation District, Woodbridge Irrigation District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, and senior appropriators.

**Bear River Resort,**  
Jon and Janette Frazier  
40800 Highway 88;  
Resort, Trailer Park, Campground and Group campsite  
Privately owned resort on PG&E leased parcel, portions open year round. 155 regular campsites (5 people/site capacity); 60-person group campsite; permanent cabins/trailers. Store, propane, Wi-Fi hotspot; Two-lane paved road in good condition; 5 helispots, planned cattle staging area; standpipe by lake for suction; landline phone in office plus pay phone; diesel generator for power; 8 rental boats and kayaks can be made available for emergency evacuation; fire engine, hoses, 4,500 gallon water tender on site Chaparral Trail (vehicle) runs behind park models.

**Structure Ignitability Measures:** High risk due to surrounding forest and heavy WUI use. Improve defensible space in campground, around park models, clearance/setback for some propane tanks and stove pipes; gasoline tanks. Install reflective signage for campsites and park model cabin/trailers. Maintain well graded gravel (some reference this as "the County road"); existing shaded Fuelbreak between resort and highway.  
**Potential evacuations:** 835 campers; vehicles, trailers; possible 150 day users. Collaborate with PG&E, Amador Office of Emergency Services (OES), and USFS to develop evacuation plan with two escape routes; prominently post in public places and give to each user;

**Bear River Tract Cabins** Pardoes Road approximately 5 miles from the Bear River Resort. 45 privately owned cabins on USFS-leased parcels; built between 1955 and the 1980s; accessible seasonally. Approximately 35 cabins have telephones and 25 have internet access. 2nd way out via Spur 19 to Salt Springs Road.

**Structure Ignitability Measures:** Very high fire risk due to location on ridge top and density of surrounding forests. Additional fuel modification recommended within the Tract common areas and around cabins, to complement work done by USFS around perimeter.  
**Potential evacuations:** 30-40 cabin users. Develop an evacuation plan in collaboration with Amador OES, USFS and cabin tract owners.

**The Hideout**

43300 State Highway 88  
Privately owned event rental lodge located 2 miles off Highway 88 on a gravel road. One-acre lake available for suctioning; meadow and granite areas for shelter-in-place. The owner conducts regular hazardous fuel removal each autumn. Good defensible space surrounding lodge buildings.

**Structure Ignitability Measures:** Low fire risk at immediate site due to granite; higher risk between Highway 88 and site due to heavier forest; narrow gravel road, with several turnouts. Keep access area clear near lake for suction.

**Potential evacuations:** Daytime 200 or more guests; nighttime 40-50 plus additional campers in the meadow. Develop evacuation plan with east and west escape routes; review plan with USFS; prominently post evacuation plans in several languages, include emergency telephone numbers; provide a battery operated radio; review hazards with guests visiting during fire season; During fire season, notify Amador County Sheriff's office when guests are present, to ensure they are included in evacuations.

**Pardoe Point Campground** 2 miles past Bear River Resort. USFS Campground operated by Sierra Recreation Managers, 10 sites, no drinking water; on lake; no evacuation plan in place per onsite campground host.

**Risks:** High risk due to WUI location, heavy forest, poor roads.

**Potential evacuations:** 40 campers  
In collaboration with USFS, develop evacuation plan with two escape routes; display prominently. Post plan throughout the campground.

**South Shore Campground (Bear River)** 8 miles south of Highway 88 on Bear River Road USFS Campground operated by Sierra Recreation Managers, 19 sites, no drinking water; on lake; no evacuation plan yet.

**Risks:** High risk due to WUI location, heavy forest, poor roads.

**Potential evacuations:** 80 campers. In collaboration with USFS, develop evacuation plan with two escape routes; prominently post plan throughout the campground.

**Camp Winton Boy Scouts**

Camp owned by Golden Empire Council, Boy Scouts of America on a 40-acre parcel lease from the USFS. Camp started in 1954 in cooperation with the Winton Lumber Company. 4 buildings plus tents; accessible for campers only by foot (1 mile) or boat; a maintenance road allows emergency access. Camp sessions generally run June through August.

**Risks:** High fire risk due to heavy forest, one-way-in/one-way-out, and high number of minor children present.

**Potential evacuations:** 55 campers/staff

**Camp Ritchie** 40900 Highway 88 Approximately 2.5 miles in on Dufrene Road (8N21) x Highway 88. Seasonal church camp operated by the LDS Church on a PG&E permit. 11 buildings; 15-18 kayaks. A written evacuation plan is posted in the main lodge bulletin board, by the flag pole, and in every cabin. Posting of plan verified during the first week of camp. Gathering and head count drill twice weekly. Two phone systems are present (one landline in lodge and one roving caretaker line); internet in lodge for staff use; one informal cell spot above Dufrene Road; 40-45 minute travel to Bear River Resort. Evacuation planned by privately-owned vehicles, with an alternate of fire trail to the lake (1 motor boat, 6 canoes, 8 kayaks).

**Structure Ignitability Measures:** High fire risk due to WUI, forest cover and drought conditions; 2.5 mile one-and two-lane road compromises primary evacuations and first responder ingress.  
**Potential evacuations:** 200 campers and adults + 20-40 vehicles at any given time during camp season. Collaborate with PG&E, Amador OES and USFS to develop an evacuation plan with two exit routes. If access road unavailable, potential evacuation via lake using Bear River Resort motorized fishing boats.

**Lumberyard Community**

**Overall Fire Risk Rating:** High.

CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding this community as very high fire severity. The forests are mostly dense. The community is at the crest of several canyons which would accelerate a wildfire but close to the highway for quick and easy fire line construction. The burn probability and intensity is high on all sides compared to other areas within the CWPP. Besides important to keeping Highway 88 open, the community is the Hub to two major evacuation routes.

**Protection Measures:**

**WUI:** Establish a WUI zone surrounding the Lumberyard Community beginning at the Mehrten Springs Road (8N23) and Highway 88, traveling down the Mehrten Springs Road crossing Cat Creek Road and staying on the ridge down to the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River, following the river downstream to Shingle Mill Creek, then up Shingle Mill Creek following the South fork past Upper Mud Spring crossing Highway 88 at Panther Ridge, traveling down Panther Ridge dropping down to East Panther Creek at the first fork in the creek and continuing up the hill to Beaver Ridge, traveling northeast up Beaver Ridge turning onto forest road 8N29, following it down to its crossing of Bear River at Henley Canyon, then following Bear River northeasterly to Rattlesnake Creek, up Rattlesnake Creek to Highway 88 and Mehrten Springs.

**Major Fuelbreaks:** Establish Major Fuelbreaks of 1,000 feet on both sides of Major Ridges, including Panther and Beaver ridges.

**Evacuation Route:** Maintain safe fuel loading 1,000 feet from road edge along Highway 88.

Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.

**High**

**The South Fork of the Cosumnes River**

borders the north side of the western end of the High Country Planning Unit. This river supplies municipal water to the communities of River Pines, Plymouth and other communities downstream, as well as ranchers and farmers.

**Lumberyard Fire Station** Highway 88 x Ellis Road Seasonal fire station owned/operated by USFS. Staffed during fire season with 1 wildland engine and generally 1 water tender.

**Structure Ignitability Measures:** Review defensible space around structures annually.  
**Potential evacuations:** 12 USFS employees

**Lumberyard Rest Stop/Picnic Area** Highway 88 x Ellis Road Primitive highway rest stop with vault toilets, picnic tables, small parking area

**Potential evacuations:** 5-10 visitors

**Hams Station Community**

**Overall Fire Risk Rating:** Very High.

CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding this community as very high fire severity. The forests are mostly dense. The community is at the crest of several canyons which would accelerate a wildfire and close the highway. The community is also hub to two major evacuation routes and three major north/south Fuelbreaks. The burn probability is moderate but the intensity is predicted very high compared to other areas

Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.

**Very High**

within the CWPP. A fire of any event would push up the canyons and threaten the community.

**Protection Measures: WUI:** Establish a WUI zone surrounding the Hams Station Community beginning at Highway 88 and Panther Ridge, heading north down Shingle Mill Creek from Upper Mud Spring to the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River, Down the Cosumnes past Twin Gulch to PiPi Creek, turning south to Gold Note Ridge and up Gold Note Ridge to Armstrong Hill crossing Highway 88 at Doaks Ridge, then traveling down Doaks Ridge to 8N75 (Spur 5), to the Panther Creek Road, down the Panther Creek Road to the Panther Ridge and up the Panther Ridge to Highway 88.

**Major Fuelbreaks:** Establish Major Fuelbreaks of 1,000 feet on both sides of Gold Note Ridge, Upper Doaks Ridge, and Panther Ridge.

**Evacuation Route:** Maintain safe fuel loading along the Cat Creek Road, Twin Gulch Road, PiPi Valley Road (North-South Road) and Panther Creek Road for a distance of 300 feet from road edge and 1,000 feet from road edge along Highway 88.

**Hams Station (Historic)** 34950 Highway 88 38.544406°N 120.377471°W at an elevation of 6,000 feet (1,800 m). Built in 1879 as a stage coach stop and toll station along the old Carson Pass Road (now Highway 88). Still in operation as a restaurant and convenience store, it is a known landmark. Adjacent structures/cabins 2.4 acres, owner Thomas Newcomer. Rebuilt/remodeled in 1941.

**Structure Ignitability Measures:** Very high, depending on wind and fire origin; wind-driven fire below site escaped December 2014 and burned one outbuilding. Work with adjacent property owner to reduce fuels downslope from site.

**Potential evacuations:** 10-15 visitors

#### **Pipi CAMP**

Approximately 2 miles off Panther Creek Road on a dirt road. Private camp owned by the West Point Community Covenant Church. No existing evacuation plan. Organized camp held 1 week during July (100 minor children, 25 adults, 15 vehicles) and other activities during the season. No telephone, electricity and minimal running water. This was just below a 40-acre wind-driven, human-caused fire in December 2014. Escape route north to Highway 88 may be cut off, forcing evacuations to the south to Tiger Creek Road.

**Risks:** Very high risk due to large number of campers, heavy forest fuels, dirt road, limited transportation for evacuations.

**Potential evacuations:** 125-150 campers. In collaboration with USFS and CALFIRE, develop an evacuation plan with two escape routes; prominently post this plan throughout the campground; review this plan at the beginning of each camp event and practice on the first day of each camp event with children.

#### **Cooks Station Community**

**Overall Fire Risk Rating:** Very High. CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding this community as very high fire severity. The forests are mostly dense. The community is at the crest of several canyons which would accelerate a wildfire and close the highway. The community is also hub to a major evacuation route and two major north-south Fuelbreaks. The burn probability is moderate but the intensity is very high compared to other areas of the CWPP.

**Protection Measures:**

**WUI:** Establish a WUI zone surrounding the Cooks Station Community beginning at Highway

Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.

**Very High**

88 and Doaks Ridge heading north to Armstrong Hill, turning west down Gold Note Ridge to Sopiago Creek, traveling up Sopiago Creek until it crosses the PiPi Valley Road (North-South Road), travelling up the PiPi Valley Road to Omo Ranch Road and up the Omo Ranch Road to Highway 88, then West on Highway 88 to the ridge between Antelope Creek and Long John Creek, Traveling down that ridge to Spur 2, shifting east along Spur 2 to cross Cooks Ridge and Sweetwater Creek to Spur 4, then down Spur 4 and Spur 4A, crossing the Tiger Creek and Little Tiger Creek to Doaks Ridge, turning north up Doaks Ridge to Highway 88.

**Major Fuelbreaks:** Establish Major Fuelbreaks of 1,000 feet on both sides of the ridge on Gold Note Ridge, Barney Ridge, Cooks Ridge, Upper & Lower Doaks Ridge, and Panther Ridge.

**Evacuation Route:** Maintain safe fuel loading along Spur 3, Spur 4, and Spur 1 (the Salt Springs Road) for a distance of 300 feet from road edge and 1,000 feet from road edge along Highway 88.

**Cooks Station (Historic)** 31950  
 Highway 88 6,000 feet  
 38.526576Nx 120.433256W  
 Built in 1863 as a stage coach stop and toll station along the old Carson Pass road (now Highway 88). Still in operation as a restaurant and convenience store, it is a known landmark for winter chain controls and vehicular accidents. Adjacent structures/cabins. Owner, R & C Brawley. 3.9 acres.

**Risks:** Very high, depending on wind and fire origin

**Potential evacuations:** 10-15 visitors Work with adjacent property owner to reduce fuels downslope from site.

**Dew Drop Community**

**Fire Risk Rating:** Very High. CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding this community as very high fire severity. The forests are mostly dense. The community is at the crest of Antelope Creek and uphill from the Cosumnes River Canyon; slopes would accelerate a wildfire from either north or south-facing slopes and close Highway 88. The community is also a hub of two major north-south Fuelbreaks. The burn probability is moderate but the intensity is very high compared to other areas of the CWPP.

**Protection Measures: WUI:** Establish a WUI zone surrounding the Dew Drop Community from Highway 88 and Omo Ranch Road. to a point dropping straight westward into the South Fork of the Cosumnes River and tying it into the Adjacent WUI in the Pioneer/Volcano CWPP traveling along the Eastern boundary of the Pioneer CWPP WUI to Antelope Creek continuing South to a point directly west of the Confluence of Long John Creek and Mill Creek and then East to the confluence of the Long John Creek and Mill Creek, turning northeast up the ridge between Antelope Creek and Long John Creek to Highway 88 and east along Highway 88 to Omo Ranch Road.

**Major Fuelbreaks:** Establish Major Fuelbreaks of 1,000 feet on both sides of Barney Ridge, Antelope Ridge and Cooks Ridge.

**Evacuation Route:** Maintain safe fuel loading along Spurs 3, 4, 1 (the Salt Springs Road) and the Omo Ranch Road for a distance of 300 feet from road edge and 1,000 feet from road edge along Highway 88.

Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.

**Very High**

**Dew Drop Fire Station**

This fire station is jointly operated by the Eldorado National Forest and CAL FIRE, staffed during the fire season with one state and one federal wildland engine.

**Structure Ignitability Measures:** State and federal fire engines and personnel. Maintain defensible space around the station.

**Potential evacuations:** fire personnel.

**Dew Drop Logging Camp**

A former blacksmith shop, historic buildings still in operation today as a logging camp

**Structure Ignitability Measures:** Logging equipment and historic buildings. Maintain defensible space around the camp.

**Potential Evacuations:** Logging Camp personnel.

**View 88 / 4000 Foot HELISPOT**

This parcel is owned and maintained by the Eldorado National Forest.

Located on the north side of Highway 88 near the 4,000-foot marker. The entrance is shared with gated subdivision, with the unmarked dirt access road turning west immediately before the gate. The access road to the helispot is unmarked and approximately 1/3 mile in length. While the site is open and well maintained, the dirt access road is overgrown and poorly maintained. The concrete landing pad is in good condition; the emergency lighting surrounds are damaged and overgrown with weeds.

**Risks:** Difficulty in locating

**Potential evacuations:** Emergency personnel & patients

- Install reflective directional signs at dirt access road
- improve signage at Highway 88
- annual - clear edges of dirt access road
- Bi-annual inspection of site and emergency light apparatus.

**Sierra Highlands Community**

**Overall Fire Risk Rating:** Very High.

CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding this community as very high fire severity. The forests are mostly dense. This plan is adding the Tiger Creek Powerhouse System to the Sierra Highlands Community, evaluated in the Pioneer/Volcano CCWPP. The Power House system is at the base of several uphill canyons which would act as a chimney should a fire start or pass through the Power House. The area is also hub to a major evacuation route and four major North-South Fuelbreaks. The burn probability is moderate but the intensity is high compared to other areas of the CWPP.

**Protection Measures: WUI:** Extend the Pioneer/Volcano CWPP WUI Eastern boundary along the Tiger Creek Afterbay on the Mokelumne River, up the Mokelumne River to the confluence of Panther Creek, up Beaver Ridge to the Salt Springs Road, then West along the Salt Springs Road until the Boundary of the Pioneer/Volcano CWPP WUI.

**Major Fuelbreaks:** Establish Major Fuelbreaks of 1,000 feet on both sides of Antelope Ridge, Cooks Ridge, Doaks Ridge, Panther Ridge and Beaver Ridge.

**Evacuation Route:** Maintain safe fuel loading along Tiger Creek Road and the Salt Springs Road for a distance of 300 feet from road edge.

Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.

**Very High**

**Tiger Creek Power House, Conference Center, Helipads, Forebay, Penstock and Canal**

Part of the Mokelumne River Canyon municipal water supply and power generation systems, it

**Risks:** The area is a narrow canyon with a frequent fire history, one-way-in, one-way-out.

**Potential evacuation:** 10-20 users can be coordinated along with 20 powerhouse employee evacuations. Develop evacuation plan for recreational users and employees at the Tiger

generates 52.2 megawatts and delivers municipal water for the Central Amador Water Project (CAWP), the Amador Water System (AWS), the PG&E Tiger Creek Powerhouse system and East Bay MUD for over 1.5 million residents of Amador County and the East Bay.

**Tiger Creek Afterbay Day Use**

**Area & Tiger Creek Powerhouse Fishing Access** 28570 Tiger Creek Road, Pioneer, CA

Operated by PG&E, it contains picnic tables, barbecues and toilets.

**Summit Camp, Helipads, Tiger Creek Regulator Reservoir** with access to fishing and picnicking.

Creek facilities. Post signage prominently at all Day Use areas and at the powerhouse.

**Amador Water Agency's Gravity**

**Supply Line** is a 6.6-mile gravity-fed pipeline delivering Mokelumne River water from the Tiger Creek Regulator Reservoir to the Buckhorn Water Treatment Facility and emergency firefighting.

**Salt Springs Community**

**Overall Fire Risk Rating:** Very High.

CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding this community as very high fire severity. The forests are mostly dense brush due to vegetative resprouting following the 2004 Power Fire. The burn probability and intensity is very high on the east side which would threaten the community during a strong wind event and high to the northwest, threatening the community from wind and terrain-driven fires. The community is a mixture of municipal water supplies, power generation, and structures. It is the base of several uphill canyons which would act as a chimney should a fire start or pass through the Power House. The Power House area is also hub to a major evacuation route between Amador and Calaveras County recreational use areas.

**Protection Measures:**

**WUI:** Establish a WUI zone surrounding the Salt Springs Community from the confluence of Mokelumne River and Panther Creek, along the river to the eastern end of Salt Springs Reservoir, generally following the ridge northward to Cole Creek just east of Shriner Lake, traversing westward along Cole Creek, following the ridge crossing Spur 19, the confluence of Rattlesnake and Bear River turning southward down Beaver Ridge to Panther Creek and Mokelumne River Confluence.

**Major Fuelbreaks:** Establish Major Fuelbreaks of 1,000 feet on both sides of Panther Ridge and Beaver Ridge.

**Evacuation Route:** Maintain safe fuel loading along Panther Creek, Ellis Road, Spur 19 the Salt Springs Road and the Moore Creek-Blue Creek Road on the Calaveras side for a distance of 300 feet from road edge.

Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.

**Very High**

**The Salt Springs Reservoir, Power House, Switchyard, Helipad, Penstock and Tiger Creek-Salt Springs Canal, Deer Creek Siphon, and Helipad, Greens**



**Creek Helipad** are on the southern border of the High Country Planning Unit. A short pipeline conveys the water to the 44 megawatt Salt Springs Power House. Some water flows into the Tiger Creek concrete flume where it is conveyed through the conduit, tunnels and siphons and a penstock to other PG&E power houses the Mokelumne River Project.

**Salt Springs Cabins**

7 structures, two 500 Gallon fuel tanks.

**Cole Creek Diversion Dam, Building, Weir M-52, Outbuilding and Access Road and Helipad.**

**Salt Springs Reservoir and Day Use Area** Operated by PG&E with cooperation from USFS. Day use area includes toilets and picnic tables. Area is a trailhead into the Mokelumne Wilderness Area, and a carry-in boat launch for Salt Springs Reservoir. Class V Small water craft recreation (i.e., kayaks and rafts) is also popular on the Mokelumne River.

**Risks:** High fire risk due to adjacent heavy forest and distance to highway. Communications difficult.

**Potential evacuations:** Unknown number of day users and wilderness users. Prominently post signage advising users of fire danger and recommended evacuation routes.

**Moore Creek Campground** USFS campground along the Mokelumne River just west of Salt Springs Reservoir. 8 Sites, no fee, vault toilets, no drinking water; no garbage service. [This site is just outside the High Country Planning Unit, but due to proximity and heavy use, it is included in this plan.]

**Risks:** High risk due to forest fuels and popularity.

**Potential evacuations:** 30-40 campers plus day users. USFS to develop an evacuation plan with two escape routes; prominently post this in multiple places throughout the campground and day use area.

**White Azalea Campground** USFS campground along the Mokelumne River just west of Salt Springs Reservoir. 6 Sites, no fee, vault toilets, no drinking water; no garbage service.

**Risks:** High risk due to forest fuels and popularity.

**Potential evacuations:** 25-30 campers plus day users. USFS to develop an evacuation plan with two escape routes; prominently post this in multiple places throughout the campground and day use area.

**Mokelumne Campground** USFS campground along the Mokelumne River just west of Salt Springs Reservoir. 13 Sites, no fee, vault toilets, no drinking water; no garbage service.

**Risks:** High risk due to forest fuels and popularity.

**Potential evacuations:** 40-50 campers plus day users. USFS to develop an evacuation plan with two escape routes; prominently post this in multiple places throughout the campground and day use area.

**Cole Creek Campground** Approximately 6 miles southwest of Bear River Reservoir on the Cole Creek Road (8N15) "Loop" (midway between Bear and Salt Springs Reservoirs). Very popular dispersed camping area; no water; no garbage service; no fee; minimal agency oversight. Site of several wildland fires in recent years.

**Risks:** High risk due to forest fuels and popularity.

**Potential evacuations:** unknown; potential 10 or more campers. USFS to develop an evacuation plan with two escape routes; prominently post this in multiple places throughout the campground and day use area.

Other Assets at-risk	Risk and Recommendation	Type and Payment Method	Priority
Salt Springs State Game Refuge Area	<p><b>Overall Fire Risk Rating:</b> High. CAL FIRE assesses the forests in the Salt Springs State Game Refuge as very high fire severity. Due to the Power Fire, the Avoided Cost Study rated it much lower. Since both assessments were done, the Power Fire area brush vegetation has grown extensively into a fire hazard. If unchecked, the Game Refuge will be a high fire risk to the Bear River, Lumberyard and Ham's Station communities.</p> <p><b>Protection Measures:</b></p> <p><b>Major Fuelbreaks:</b> Establish major Fuelbreaks of 1,000 feet on both sides Doaks Ridge, Panther Ridge and Beaver Ridge.</p> <p><b>Fuel Management Zones:</b> Establish fuel management zones of reduced fuel loading 2 mile radius surrounding campgrounds and archaeological sites.</p> <p><b>Evacuation Route:</b> Maintain safe fuel loading along Panther Creek Road, Ellis Road, Bear River Road, Spur 19, the Cole Creek loop road and the Salt Springs Road for a distance of 300 feet from road edge. Restore forest road 7N08 on the Calaveras side and maintain safe fuel loading for a distance of 300 feet.</p>	Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.	High
<p><b>Salt Springs State Game Refuge 10826</b> The State Game Refuge is designated from the west USFS boundary, east to the Bear River Road, around the eastern edge of the Cole Creek Loop road and down to the Salt Springs reservoir, south from Highway 88 to the Mokelumne River. Much of the area burned in the 2004 Power Fire and is disposed to re-burn due to dense regrowth of brush species.</p> <p><b>Mokelumne Archaeological Special Interest Area</b></p> <p>The canyon is considered unique because of the extensive archaeological sites in and adjacent to the study area. Cultural analysis indicates the canyon has been occupied by humans for at least 2,000 years and possibly 10,000 years; 114 prehistoric and historic-era sites have been identified. The integrity of the recorded sites is unusually high, and more than half of the sites are either undisturbed or show impacts only from erosion. The sites are believed to represent a rare opportunity to understand the cultural chronology, settlement, and linguistic history of the region.</p>	<p><b>Risks:</b> Reduce competing vegetation and plant trees in a pattern similar to historic-era forests for this area. Apply periodic maintenance.</p>		
Miscellaneous Structures	<p><b>Fire Risk Rating:</b> Very High. CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding the listed miscellaneous structures as very high fire severity. The forests are mostly dense. The maintenance stations are along Highway 88 with differing degrees of fire risk. The associated cattle structures are generally at greater risk.</p>	Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications,	Very High

Other Assets at-risk	Risk and Recommendation	Type and Payment Method	Priority
<p><b>Caltrans Maintenance Stations</b> CALTRANS maintains stations at Mud Springs (between Cooks and Hams Station), Peddler Hill (near Bear River), Milt's Place (near Silver Lake), and Caples Lake (just outside the High Country CWPP)</p>	<p>Some of the structures are historical.</p> <p><b>Protection Measures:</b></p> <p><b>Fuel Management Zones:</b> Establish Fuel Management Zones of reduced fuel loading 2 mile radius surrounding the individual sites.</p> <p><b>Fuelbreaks:</b> Establish Fuelbreaks along major ridges; Cooks Station ridge, Doaks Ridge, Panther Ridge, and Beaver Ridge.</p> <p><b>Evacuation Route:</b> Maintain safe fuel loading along Panther Creek Road, Ellis Road, Bear River Road, Spur 19, the Cole Creek loop road and the Salt Springs Road for a distance of 300 feet from road edge and 1,000 feet along Highway 88.</p> <p><b>Structure Ignitability Measures:</b> CALFIRE inspect each station for enhanced defensible space clearance.</p> <p><b>Potential evacuations:</b> employees at stations. Develop evacuation plan</p>	<p>understory burning, grazing, and pruning.</p>	
<p><b>Cattle Grazers</b> Timber and cattle are the primary agricultural products sourced from the High Country Unit. Cattle are grazed in several legacy allotments on both the Eldorado National Forest and Sierra Pacific Industries ownership. Permittees include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bear River Allotment (ENF &amp; SPI)– Cuneo family, 210 pair</li> <li>• Pardoe Allotment (ENF &amp; SPI)– Busi &amp; Jose – 268 pair</li> <li>• SPI private grazing lease – Busi &amp; Jose -198 pair Allotments with potential impact adjacent to the unit:</li> <li>• Cody Meadow/Schneider cow camp – 350 pair are moved to Martin Meadow in late September, south side Highway 88 near Silver Lake</li> <li>• Corral Flat, Podesta, and Sopiago Springs allotments. Additionally, there are several associated staging areas with corrals, barns, and cabins</li> </ul>	<p><b>RISKS:</b> 650 to 2000 head of cattle</p> <p><b>Potential evacuations:</b> Likely evacuations of 400-600 head may be needed with 24-hour notice; associated ranch personnel, horses, dogs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary corral at quarry landing by Bear River dam</li> <li>• Identify additional temporary evacuation gathering corrals for each allotment</li> <li>• Maintain an emergency contact list of permittees for exigent circumstances</li> <li>• Early notification of fire to permittees</li> <li>• Include permittees in morning briefings at Incident Command Post</li> <li>• Assist permittees in head count documentation</li> <li>• Work with law enforcement to allow permittees access to cattle during road closure</li> <li>• Advise permittees of back-firing operations when at all possible</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Historical Sites</b></p> <p><b>Maiden's Grave</b> Marker on south side of Highway 88 north of Dufrene Rd; actual site on Tragedy Springs Road,</p>	<p><b>Fire Risk Rating:</b> Moderate – Very High CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding these two historic sites as moderate and very high fire severity respectively. The forests are mostly dense, but the sites are just off Highway 88. The sites themselves will not sustain much damage in a wildfire.</p> <p><b>Protection Measures:</b></p> <p><b>Fuel Management Zones:</b> Establish Fuel Management Zones of reduced fuel loading 1 mile radius surrounding individual sites. CA Registered Historical Landmark No. 28</p>	<p>Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.</p>	<p><b>Moderate – Very High</b></p>

Other Assets at-risk	Risk and Recommendation	Type and Payment Method	Priority
<p>California Historic Site #28. Historical site marking the death and burial site of a young settler from Iowa in 1850.</p>			
<p><b>Peddler Hill – Abandoned Ski Resort</b> Overlooking Bear River Reservoir on the north side of Highway 88 along the historic route of the Amador-Carson Valley Wagon Road, later renamed the Alpine State Highway. The site was the Peddler Hill Ski area from 1950 to 1972 and was the furthest plowed point east until Kirkwood Ski Resort opened in 1972. Peddler Hill closed as a ski resort in 1972. Some concrete abutments remain on the site, as well as a large, informal sand and gravel parking area. The site is accessed via a loop road with one end directly across from the entrance to Bear River and the other a short distance east (both unsigned).</p>	<p><b>Risks:</b> This site is frequently used for dispersed camping, mainly by trailers and RVs. Communication is poor; no water supply; road not plowed during winter. <b>Potential evacuations:</b> Potentially 4 - 20 campers during the season. USFS post a sign noting risk, evacuation routes (east and west); and nearest phone/Wi-Fi site at Bear River.</p>		
<p><b>Primitive Lands</b></p>	<p><b>Fire Risk Rating:</b> High. CAL FIRE assesses the forests surrounding this community as Moderate to Very High severity. The USFS designates it as moderate to low hazard zones. <b>Protection Measures:</b> <b>Fuel Management Zones:</b> Establish Fuel Management Zones of reduced fuel loading 2 mile distance from the boundary of the land designation. <b>Fuelbreaks:</b> Establish a Fuelbreak on Beaver Ridge. <b>Evacuation Route:</b> Maintain safe fuel loading along Ellis Road, Spur 19, and the Cole Creek loop Road and the Salt Springs Road for a distance of 300 feet from road edge and 1,000 feet along Highway 88.</p>	<p>Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, Herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.</p>	<p><b>Moderate- Very High</b></p>
<p><b>Mokelumne Wilderness</b> 105,165 acres located east of Bear River Reservoirs to the crest of the central Sierra Nevada within the Stanislaus, Eldorado, and Toiyabe National Forests. Campfires are prohibited above 8000 feet elevation, in the Carson Pass Management Area, North Fork Mokelumne River Canyon along Salt Springs Reservoir and Blue Hole Trail; Day use groups limited to 12; overnight groups limited to 8.</p>	<p><b>Risks:</b> Due to elevation and granite, wildfire risks are moderate; most common cause of wildfire is lightning and humans. <b>Potential evacuations:</b> Potential day users: 350. Potential overnight users: 200 USFS advise day and overnight users of risk and recommended evacuation routes.</p>		

Other Assets at-risk	Risk and Recommendation	Type and Payment Method	Priority
<p><b>Roadless Area</b> National Forest lands situated to the northeast of Bear River Reservoir to the eastern County line, from Highway 88 to the wilderness boundary and 133 acres around Salt Springs. Part of the area allows construction and reconstruction of roads, and part does not.</p>	<p><b>Risks:</b> Due to elevation and granite, wildfire risks are moderate in the east and transition to very high in the western parts; most common cause of wildfire is lightning and humans. <b>Potential evacuations:</b> Potential day users: 90. Potential overnight users: 60 USFS advise day and overnight users of risk and recommended evacuation routes.</p>		
<p><b>Private Forest Lands</b></p>	<p><b>Overall Fire Risk Rating:</b> Very High. CAL FIRE assesses the forests on most of these private lands as very high fire severity. The forests are mostly dense. The lands include several canyons and draws which would accelerate a wildfire and close the highway. These private lands also include major evacuation routes and major north-south Fuelbreaks. <b>Protection Measures:</b> <b>Fuelbreaks:</b> Establish Fuelbreaks along major ridges; Cooks Station ridge, Doaks Ridge, Panther Ridge, and Beaver Ridge. <b>Evacuation Route:</b> Maintain safe fuel loading along Cooks Ridge Road (Spur 3) Panther Creek Road, Ellis Road, Spur 19 and the Salt Springs Road for a distance of 300 feet from road edge and 1,000 feet along Highway 88.</p>	<p>Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.</p>	<p><b>Very High</b></p>
<p><b>Sierra Pacific Industries Timberlands</b></p>	<p><b>Risks:</b> <b>Potential Evacuations:</b> <b>Recommendations:</b></p>		
<p><b>Private Inholdings T9 R16 Sec 14,15,16, 21 22, 23</b> These parcels are listed as vacant and/or timberland production zone</p>			
<p><b>Forest Activities</b></p>	<p><b>Overall Fire Risk Rating:</b> Very High. CAL FIRE assesses the forests where most of the listed activities occur as very high fire severity. OHV use and disperse camping also occur in moderate fire severity zones. The forests are mostly moderate to dense. The scenic view is why many engage in the forest activities which would be severely curtailed for a period of time in the event of a wildfire. <b>Protection Measures:</b> <b>Fuelbreaks:</b> Establish Fuelbreaks along major ridges; Cooks Station ridge, Doaks Ridge, Panther Ridge, and Beaver Ridge. <b>Evacuation Route:</b> Maintain safe fuel loading along Panther Creek Road, Ellis Road, Bear River Road, Spur 19, the Cole Creek loop Road and the Salt Springs Road for a distance of 300 feet from road edge and 1,000 feet along Highway 88.</p>	<p>Mechanical thinning (commercial and pre-commercial), mastication, tractor pile and burn, hand pile and burn, hand chipping, herbicide applications, understory burning, grazing, and pruning.</p>	<p><b>High</b></p>
<p><b>Hunters</b> Hunting is allowed, with permission and within regulation, on private and federal lands within the High</p>	<p><b>Risks:</b> Unknown number of hunters in dispersed camping areas; inexperienced campers with campfires</p>		

Other Assets at-risk	Risk and Recommendation	Type and Payment Method	Priority
Country Unit outside the game refuge.	<b>Potential evacuations:</b> Unknown number – possibly several hundred <input type="checkbox"/> develop and distribute wildfire awareness publications to hunters <input type="checkbox"/> Strict enforcement of campfire regulations during hunting season		
<b>Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Use</b> Allowed on designated roads within the ENF. Dispersed camping is allowed. Numerous private land holdings allowed OHV use.	<b>Risks:</b> No permits required, therefore unknown number of OHV riders at any given time; dispersed camping increased potential for escaped campfires. USFS use social media and flyers to educate public on safe OHV behavior, importance of spark arresters, and fire weather awareness. <b>Potential evacuations:</b> Unknown		
<b>Firewood Gathering</b> In the El Dorado National Forest, Limit 2 cords; Numerous private land holdings also allow firewood gathering.	<b>Risks:</b> Permits are not dated for specific gathering date; therefore, unknown number of gatherers at any given time. USFS use social media and flyers to educate public on safe wood gathering behavior and fire weather awareness. <b>Potential evacuations:</b> unknown		
<b>Dispersed Camping – El Dorado National Forest</b> Visitors can camp nearly anywhere on the National Forest unless specifically prohibited.	<b>Risks:</b> Unknown number of campers, peak on holiday weekends; unsafe or illegal use of campfires or stoves. USFS use social media and flyers to educate public on safe dispersed camping behavior and fire weather awareness. <b>Potential evacuations:</b> unknown		
<b>Forest Products Foraging</b> Miscellaneous forest products are often foraged by the public. Christmas tree permits are not issued.	<b>Risks:</b> Unknown number of foragers, seasonal USFS uses social media and flyers to educate public on safe foraging and fire weather awareness. <b>Potential evacuations:</b> Unknown		

## Chapter 4 – Meeting Your Objectives

### Action Plan

The High Country CWPP adopts the concept of a Cooperative Fire Defense System which is a series of fuel management zones on federal and/or private forest lands. Significant fuel reduction projects, undertaken by government and/or private interests will guide the construction and maintenance of the Cooperative Fire Defense System.

### Existing Projects

All existing projects within the High Country CWPP planning area will need recurring fuels reduction maintenance activities over time. Various types of fuels reduction maintenance activities should occur on existing projects. These include mastication, tractor pile and burning, hand pile and burning, biomass and saw log harvesting, commercial and pre-commercial thinning, herbicide application, understory burning, grazing, and pruning. Priority for funding and maintenance of existing High Country CWPP fuels reduction projects should be based on objective criteria. This includes, but is not limited to:

Proximity and relationship to identified WUI areas and their corresponding ingress and egress routes.

Proximity and relationship to public safety and public utility infrastructure. WUI and public infrastructure immediately threatened by identified areas of increased tree mortality. Project ability to enhance fuels reduction on a landscape scale.

**Proposed Projects**

Detailed work specifications and environmental protection mitigations for each fuels reduction project will be developed at project level prior to implementation on the ground.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Communities and Assets At Risk Protected</b>	<b>Agency/Landowner</b>	<b>Type and Payment Method</b>	<b>Index</b>
Antelope FB Southern Extension	Dew Drop Sierra Highlands	SPI and Small Private Landowners - SPI's southern boundary, tying into Rabb Park subdivision, other small private landowners and Tiger Creek.	Some mechanical such as: mastication saw log and biomass thinning. Mostly hand pile burning and understory burning.	A
Antelope FB New Ridge Northern Extension	Dew Drop Sierra Highlands	SPI and small private landowners Extending north from Rhodes, Lawton's through SPI to Highway 88.	Mechanical commercial thinning, mastication, tractor pile and burn, chipping. Also non-mechanical such as hand pile and burn, herbicide, understory burning, grazing and pruning.	B
Cook FB Northern Extension	Cooks Station Dew Drop Sierra Highlands Private Forestlands	SPI, south of Highway 88	Mechanical commercial thinning, mastication, tractor pile and burn, hipping. Also non-mechanical such as hand pile and burn, herbicide, understory burning, grazing and pruning.	C
Tiger Creek Coop, AWA Gravity Supply Line	Sierra Highlands	USFS, SPI, BLM, PG&E, Mill Creek small private landowners and Amador Water Agency	Northern edge suitable for mechanical commercial thinning, mastication, tractor pile and burn, chipping. Remainder suitable for non-mechanical such as hand pile and burn, herbicide, understory burning, and pruning.	D
Doaks FB Extension	Hams Station Cooks Station Sierra Highlands Salt Springs State Game Miscellaneous Structures Private Forestlands Forests Activities	SPI – widen existing Fuelbreak	Mechanical commercial thinning, mastication, tractor pile and burn, chipping. Also non-mechanical such as hand pile and burn, herbicide, understory burning, grazing and pruning.	E
Doaks VMP	Hams Station Cooks Station Sierra Highlands Salt Springs State Game Miscellaneous Structures Private Forestlands Forests Activities	SPI and PG&E Signed CAL FIRE Vegetation Management Plan connects Cooks Fuelbreak and Doaks Fuelbreak.	Mechanical commercial thinning and biomass (previously completed). Additional treatments of understory burning, mastication, tractor and hand pile and burn, herbicides, grazing, and pruning.	F

Highway 88 Fuelbreak, including the entire USFS View 88 sale	Kirkwood Kirkwood Lake Silver Lake Mud Lake Bear River Hams Station Cooks Station Dew Drop Miscellaneous Structures Historical Sites Primitive Lands Private Forest Lands	Dew Drop, SPI, USFS, Cooks Station and Hams Station	Mechanical commercial thinning and biomass (mostly previously completed). Additional treatments of understory burning, mastication, chipping, hand pile and burn, herbicides, grazing, and pruning.	G
East West Panther, including USFS Panther Fuels Reduction Project	Lumberyard Hams Station	USFS, SPI, Gladden's, Oneto's, and other small private landowners	Mechanical commercial thinning, mastication, chipping, tractor and hand pile and burn, understory burning, herbicides, grazing, and pruning.	H
Salt Fire One and Power Fire Connect	Salt Springs SS State Game Refuge Forests Activities	SPI and USFS PG&E power lines run through the project area. The majority of National Forest lands are within the perimeter of the Power Fire.	Mechanical commercial thinning Additional treatments of understory burning, mastication, tractor and hand pile and burn, herbicides, grazing, and pruning	I
Panther FB Southern Extension	Lumberyard Hams Station	PG&E and SPI Provides a fuelbreak East Panther Creek Northeast to the Power Fire	Mechanical fuels reduction and commercial thinning, especially on the ridge. Also understory burning, mastication, chipping, tractor and hand pile and burn, herbicides, grazing, and pruning.	J
North Beaver Ridge FB Extension	Lumberyard Hams Station	SPI Extends from the Power Fire north to the USFS Mokie Bear Fuels Reduction project along Ellis Road	Mechanical fuels reduction and commercial thinning. Also understory burning, mastication, chipping, tractor and hand pile and burn, herbicides, grazing, and pruning.	K
Henley FB Northern Extension	Bear River Lumberyard Hams Station Salt Springs SS State Game Refuge Forests Activities	SPI Extends from the Power Fire west to the USFS Mokie Bear fuels reduction project along Ellis Road.	Mechanical fuels reduction and commercial thinning. Also understory burning, mastication, chipping, tractor and hand pile and burn, herbicides, grazing, and pruning.	L
Power Fire USFS Power Fire Restoration 1 & 2.	Bear River Lumberyard Hams Station Salt Springs SS State Game Refuge Forests Activities	USFS, SPI, Oneto's, small private landowners, PG&E power lines, flume, and infrastructure. Plantations, roads and ridges	Pre-commercial thin all plantations (SPI has completed thinning on all its plantations except for the Bear River Tract). Use understory burning, mastication, chipping, tractor and hand pile and burn, herbicides, grazing, and pruning.	M
Oski Bear	Bear River Lumberyard	USFS near Bear River	Understory burning, hand/machine pile burning.	O
Silver Creek	Silver Lake Mud Lake	USFS in and around the east and south Silver Lake recreational areas and recreational tracks.	Burning hand and mechanical piles.	P



## Reference Notes

1. Foehn wind driven wildfires
2. Public resourced Code 4291
3. Crown Fire: A fire that spreads from treetop to treetop and is characteristic of hot fires and dry conditions. Crown fires are generally more complex to control than fires on the surface.
4. Torching: A rapid and intense burning of a single or small group of trees/shrubs causing the upward movement of fire: a.k.a. flare-up
5. Sport Fire-A smaller fire outside the boundary of the main fire, started by airborne sparks or embers
6. Montane: A mountainous region of moist cool upland slopes that occurs below the tree line and is predominately composed of evergreen trees. It is also described as the lower vegetation exist on mountains that is composed of montane plants and animals
7. Wildland: An area of land that is uncultivated and relatively free of human interference. Plants and animals exist in a natural state, thus wildlands help to maintain biodiversity and to reserve other natural value.
8. Fire Prevention: Actions taken by homeowners and community members to lessen wildfires and damage caused by wildfires. Includes reduction, enforcement and land management practices.
9. Fire Safe Council: Public and private organizations that comprise a council intended to minimize the potential for wildfire damage to communities and homeowners, while also protecting the health of natural resources. Goals are achieved by distributing fire prevention materials, organizing fire safety programs, implementing fuel reduction projects and more.
10. Extension Agent: An employee from the government or a university who provides information to rural communities about agriculture land management and/or resource management. In California, the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) provides this service. For more information on UCCE, go to [www.ucanr.org](http://www.ucanr.org)
11. Registered Professional Forester (RPF): A person licensed in California to manage state or private forestlands and advise landowners on management of their forests. For more information, go to [www.bof.fire.ca.gov/licensing/licensing\\_current\\_doc.asp](http://www.bof.fire.ca.gov/licensing/licensing_current_doc.asp)
12. Fore Safe Practices: Activities such as creating defensible space, firebreaks, access to your home, fire-resistant landscapes, changes to your home in terms of material and design, etc. that make your home/property safer in wildfire situations.
13. Defensible Space: An area around a home/structure that has been cleared of flammable materials to act as a barrier between wildfires and property, thereby decreasing the risk of damage or loss. This space is now defined as 100 feet around a structure in California
14. Watershed: All of the land that drains water runoff into a specific body of water. Watersheds may be referred to as drainage areas or drainage basins. Ridges of higher elevation usually form the boundaries between watersheds by directing the water to one side of the ridge or the other. The water then flows to the low point of the watershed.
15. Slope: A percentage or degree change in elevation over a defined distance that measures the steepness of a landscape.
16. Aspect: The direction that a slope faces – north, south, east, west, etc.
17. Firebreak: A strip of land that has been cleared of vegetation to help slow or stop the spread of wildfire. It may be a road, trail or path cleared of vegetation or other burnable materials. A firebreak could also be a stream.
18. Fuel: All burnable materials including but not limited to living or dead vegetation, structures and chemicals that feed a fire.
19. Surface Fuels: Materials on the ground like needles or low-growing shrubs that provide the fuel for fires to spread on the ground. Surface fuels are generally considered all fuels within six feet of the ground
20. Wick: A combustible material that allows fire to travel along a confined path to larger fuel sources. An example would be a wooden fence connected to your home.
21. Ladder Fuels: Materials such as shrubs or small trees connecting the ground to the tree canopy of uppermost vegetation layer. In forest, this allow fires to climb upward into trees
22. Overstory: The topmost trees in a forest which compose the upper canopy layer; compared to the understory, which is the lower woody or herbaceous layer underneath treetops.
23. Ground-Disturbing Activities: Actions that interrupt the natural condition of the ground, such as digging and compaction from heavy equipment.
24. Saturated: the broad meaning is "full". Saturated soil refers to the point at which the soil is so full of water that no more water can get into (be absorbed by) the soil and therefore must run off.
25. Embers: Small glowing or smoldering pieces of wood or other organic debris, often dispersed ahead of a fire, also known as firebrands.
26. Ember Attack: Embers blown by the wind during a firestorm that accumulates at intersections between horizontal or vertical members on the outside of your house, igniting debris and combustible materials. Embers can also enter into openings (e.g. attic vent and other wall openings) igniting debris on the inside of your home.

27. Fire-Resistant Building Materials: Materials used in the construction of a house that are resistant to ignition when exposed to radiant heat or flames. Examples include clay tile roofs, metals roofs and stucco siding.
28. Monitor: To watch, keep track of, or check regularly for changes, in this case, to the environment.
29. Adaptive Management: An approach to managing the environment/property that is based on a "learn by doing" technique that adjusts to changing conditions. Adjustments in management change over time as new information is learned.
30. Fire-Resilient Landscape: A natural landscape featuring plants that have adapted to local wildlife conditions, or a domestic outdoor space where appropriate actions have been taken to make it less vulnerable to wildfire and certainly less prone to causing one.
31. Fuel Treatments: The act of removing burnable materials to lower the risk of fires igniting and to lessen the likelihood of damage to property and communities. Treatments may include creating a defensible space, developing fuelbreaks, initiating prescribed burns and thinning vegetation.
32. Precautionary Principle: A concept that promotes a cautious approach to development and managing the environment when information is uncertain or unreliable. Erring on the side of caution and conservation is encouraged, along with a "Better safe than sorry" attitude.
33. Fuel Treatments: The act of removing burnable materials to lower the risk of fires igniting and to lessen the likelihood of damage to property and communities. Treatments may include creating a defensible space, developing fuelbreaks, initiating prescribed burns and thinning vegetation.
34. Resilient, Resiliency: The ability of an ecosystem to return to its balanced state after a disturbance.
35. Invasive Weeds: Undesirable plants that are not native and have been introduced to an area by humans. These plants generally have not natural enemies and are able to spread rapidly throughout the new locations. Some examples include Himalayan Blackberries, English Ivy and Scotch Broom.
36. Duff: A layer on the forest floor that is made up of decomposing organic matter such as leaves, needles and small branches.
37. Regeneration: The renewal of trees or forests by planting seedlings or the direct seeding by humans, wind, birds, or animals after large disturbances like fire. "Regeneration" also refers to the young trees that were naturally seeded or planted.
38. Untreated: Not altered from a natural or original state; unprocessed, e.g. no fuel reduction or defensible space activities.
39. Cover: Any plants or organic matter that hold soil in place or grown over and created shade that provide wildlife with an area to reproduce and find protection from predators and weather.
40. Mast: Nuts or fruits of trees and shrubs such as acorns, walnuts, or berries that collect on the forest floor and are a food source for animals.
41. Seep: An area where water rises from an underground source to the surface and creates a wet area.
42. Sediment: Particles of topsoil, sand and minerals that comes from soil erosion or decomposing plants and animals. Wind, water and ice carry these particles; when the sediment collect in waterways, it can destroy fish and wildfire habitat
43. Snag: A standing dead tree that has usually lost most of its branches. Snags offer essential food and cover for a host of wildlife species.
44. Soil Type: Refers to the different combinations of soil particles and soil composition. Soil can vary greatly within short distances.
45. Disturbance: various activities that disrupt the normal state of the soil such as digging, erosion, compaction by heavy equipment, etc.
46. Compact: To pack closely or tightly together, as in the fragments of soil being compacted from heavy equipment, thereby limiting an ability of oxygen or water to pass freely.
47. Flammable: A quality of a substance that makes it likely to catch fire, be easily ignited, burn quickly and/or have a fast rate of spreading flames.
48. Erosion: the removal of soil over time by weather, wind and/or water such as rain or water runoff from roads.
49. Unstable: Land that is lacking stability or liable to change with activity, such as in the case of steep slopes or crumbly soils.
50. Riparian: A strip of land along the bank of a natural freshwater stream, river, creek or lake that provides vast diversity and productive of plants and animals.
51. Access Roads: Roads that allow entrance into and out of a property.
52. BLM lands in and immediately adjacent to the High Country Planning Unit
53. California Fire Alliance: "Communities at Risk History"  
[http://www.calfirealliance.org/communities\\_at\\_risk/communities\\_at\\_risk\\_history](http://www.calfirealliance.org/communities_at_risk/communities_at_risk_history)
54. The Thread Level Code designates a community's fire threat level with 1 indicating the least threat and 3 indicating the highest thread.
55. Lands adjacent to federal lands are indicated as such with a mark in this column

# AGENDA TRANSMITTAL FORM

To: Board of Supervisors

Date: 08/17/2016

From: John Plasse, Chairman  
(Department Head - please type)

Phone Ext. x470

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Regular Agenda <input type="radio"/> Consent Agenda <input type="radio"/> Blue Slip <input type="radio"/> Closed Session Meeting Date Requested: <u>08/23/2016</u>
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Department Head Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Title: Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program

Summary: (Provide detailed summary of the purpose of this item; attach additional page if necessary)  
Discussion and possible action relative to the subject Program.

Recommendation/Requested Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Fiscal Impacts (attach budget transfer form if appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_ Staffing Impacts \_\_\_\_\_

Is a 4/5ths vote required? Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Contract Attached: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A Resolution Attached: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A Ordinance Attached: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A Comments: _____
Committee Review? Name _____ N/A <input type="checkbox"/> Committee Recommendation: _____	

Request Reviewed by:

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Counsel GG

Auditor [Signature] GSA Director [Signature]

CAO [Signature] Risk Management [Signature]

Distribution Instructions: (Inter-Departmental Only, the requesting Department is responsible for distribution outside County Departments)

\_\_\_\_\_

### FOR CLERK USE ONLY

Meeting Date 8-23-16 Time \_\_\_\_\_ Item # 10

Board Action: Approved Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unanimous Vote: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Noes \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_

Absent: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Distributed on _____ Completed by _____	A new ATF is required from _____ Department _____ For meeting _____ of _____	I hereby certify this is a true and correct copy of action(s) taken and entered into the official records of the Amador County Board of Supervisors. ATTEST: _____ Clerk or Deputy Board Clerk
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# AMADOR COUNTY TREASURER - TAX COLLECTOR

810 COURT STREET, JACKSON, CA 95642-2132  
MICHAEL E. RYAN, TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR

TELEPHONE : (209)223-6364  
FAX: (209)223-6251



## MEMORANDUM

TO : MR. JOHN PLASSE, CHAIRMAN, AMADOR COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 : MR. CHUCK ILEY, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
 FROM : <sup>mar</sup> MICHAEL E. RYAN, TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR  
 DATE : AUGUST 4, 2016  
 RE : RECOMMENDATION REGARDING PACE PROGRAM

=====

On July 19, 2016, I received an email from Chuck Iley, Amador County CAO, stating that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors had asked for recommendations from myself, as County Treasurer/Tax Collector, and from County Auditor Tacy Oneto Rouen, regarding the PACE Program.

As I responded to Mr. Iley by email on this same date, I still have the same concerns about PACE as I did when this subject was last discussed with the Board of Supervisors (June 9, 2015).

To refresh your memory, I have three main areas of concern with the PACE Programs: (1) That the programs rely on repayment of private company loans through collection on the County Tax Roll; (2) The lack of oversight, the lack of disclosure, and the lack of consumer protections typically provided with these loans; and, (3) The fact that PACE loans, once placed on the County Tax Roll, acquire the same lien priority as County taxes, effectively giving PACE loans legal priority over other types of loans, even pre-existing real estate loans.

As stated above, PACE loan payments are collected as direct charges on the County Tax Roll. This is the only instance of which I am aware, where the County Tax Roll is used to collect, apportion, and remit funds for a private company (as is most often the case with PACE loans). As you are aware, the City of Lone (and, I believe, the City of Jackson) have already passed PACE resolutions (without requesting any input from this office, I might add). I took the liberty of researching the County Recorder's records and found one (there are others) Notice of Special Tax Lien that was recently recorded evidencing a PACE loan on a residential property in Lone. According to this recorded document, the PACE

assessment on this particular property has the potential to raise the annual property taxes owed from approximately \$2,300.00 (2015-16 taxes), to nearly \$8,400.00, which is a very substantial increase. From my limited inquiry, these types of potential increases appear to be common. Are taxpayers appropriately advised of this? These large assessments raise another serious concern. There is a very real possibility that the County Tax Collector will be required to eventually sell property with PACE loans at tax sale to collect delinquent property taxes. The Tax Collector would then be required to establish a minimum bid that would include the PACE loan amounts due. If the Tax Collector is unable to sell a parcel due to a resulting high minimum bid, the minimum bid would have to be reduced to a point where the property would sell. Would any shortage that existed have to be covered by the County's Tax Loss Reserve Fund?

I recently attended the annual conference of the California Association of County Treasurers and Tax Collectors. One of the items on the Agenda pertained to PACE Programs. Almost universally, concerns were expressed by county tax collectors as to the lack of oversight, the lack of required disclosure, and the lack of consumer protections available with PACE loans. As further evidence of these types of concerns, I refer to a June 9, 2016 Statement presented to a California State Assembly Committee by Alfred M. Pollard, General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA) (copy enclosed). Mr. Pollard states that "the (PACE) programs in California and elsewhere look principally to the value of the property to support a loan, rather than the ability of a homeowner to repay, as was mandated in the Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010". This statement, by itself, is very disconcerting. But he further states that "consumer protections are narrow-generally limited to basic underwriting for a loan such as that a borrower must not have filed for bankruptcy, not be behind on a mortgage or been delinquent on property taxes. Beyond that, it is up to localities to determine what protections to afford consumers. Even where protections exist, they are not uniform and have no enforcement agency behind them." Mr. Pollard goes on to state that "PACE programs fundamentally do not have comprehensive regulatory supervision. PACE programs have no required uniformity. PACE programs in many, but not all, instances are administered by third parties that do not follow the same consumer protection requirements applicable to residential mortgage lenders." A small number of larger counties, such as Los Angeles County, have instituted their own PACE programs in an attempt to alleviate some of these concerns and to provide additional consumer protection disclosures for PACE loans (see copy of LA County PACE insert enclosed).

A third area of concern is the so-called "super priority" of the PACE loans. FHFA also spoke to this matter in the Statement to the California Assembly Committee. "FHFA has made it clear that the FHLBanks should undertake such actions as they deem appropriate to protect collateral they acquire and that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac should neither purchase nor refinance mortgages with PACE loans attached." Essentially, this means that if a property owner with a PACE loan refinances his or her property, or sells the property, lenders or prospective buyers may require that the PACE loan be paid in full. Furthermore, entering into a PACE loan without the consent of an existing lender may be considered an event of default which could result in a demand for full payment of an existing residential mortgage or a cause for foreclosure of that mortgage.

Several of these concerns were expressed in a recent (July 15, 2016) article published in the Amador Ledger Dispatch (see copy enclosed).

Given these concerns, and potentially others, I cannot, in good conscience, recommend that the Amador County Board of Supervisors authorize a PACE program for Amador County, as such programs presently exist. I believe that other, less concerning, types of financing currently exist which allow homeowners to make energy efficient improvements, such as solar installations, to their property.

STATEMENT

before  
the  
California Legislature  
Assembly Banking and Finance Committee and Assembly Local Government Committee

Keeping Up with PACE:  
A Joint Oversight Hearing on Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)  
Programs

Alfred M. Pollard  
General Counsel  
Federal Housing Finance Agency

June 9, 2016

expressed concerns with the PACE model as the financing mechanism for lending programs. As conservator for the Enterprises, FHFA has stated it cannot support first-lien PACE programs for Enterprise participation and I hope these remarks assist in understanding why that remains FHFA's position.

### **Energy Efficiency Financing**

FHFA supports energy efficiency efforts by homeowners and home purchasers. Later in an attachment to this presentation, I address, in detail, FHFA's efforts and those of the entities the Agency regulates that support energy efficiency improvements and energy efficiency financing.

As noted, the topic is what methods should be employed to finance retrofitting a home with energy efficient products, with a primary, though not exclusive, focus on solar products. PACE initiatives contemplate state legislation to authorize counties and municipalities to administer programs to finance homeowner retrofits. By working through the counties, PACE programs seek to secure a first-lien position for their loans as this would prove attractive to investors. With a few exceptions, counties and cities that have undertaken PACE programs engage outside firms to administer them.

The programs in California and elsewhere look principally to the value of property to support a loan, rather than the ability of a homeowner to repay, as was mandated in the Dodd Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010. The focus on ability to repay, by no means a new concept, aimed to correct the asset-based lending that contributed to the financial crisis that began in 2007. In addition to undertaking asset-based lending, the counties or municipalities may charge up to 10 percent for administrative fees and other charges are imposed by administrators; these numbers are generally well beyond what a second-lien mortgage loan would contemplate. Total authorized amounts for loans vary by state from 10 percent or more of assessed home values.



Freddie Mac must remain in first-lien position, meaning that they have first priority in receiving the proceeds from selling a house in foreclosure. As a result, any lien from a loan added after origination should not be able to jump in line ahead of a Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac mortgage to collect the proceeds of the sale of a foreclosed property.

In brief, Enterprise programs support the ability of a borrower to purchase a home and the Enterprise mortgage is recorded first in time. A PACE loan is only available to someone who owns a home. In the vast majority of cases that ownership is obtained by a mortgage loan in which a lender has placed hundreds of thousands of dollars at risk. Accordingly, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, when they purchase loans, require at all times that they remain in a first-lien position. Also, the congressional charters for the Enterprises require that the borrower have at least 20 percent equity in a home or an approved form of credit enhancement, such as mortgage insurance, to address the risk of nonpayment. A PACE loan can erode— partially or completely— that 20 percent equity cushion.

PACE is a lending program created to attract investors to provide funds for loans for energy retrofits. Unlike normal home improvement financing, the PACE program seeks to secure a first lien on property for a loan through a governmental property tax lien. The financing concept is simple— if a residential property has to lose 90 percent of its value before a PACE lender incurs a loss, the investor has a very attractive investment opportunity. However, that opportunity comes at the expense of existing lien holders, who unexpectedly bear a new risk of loss, and, in some instances, to the disadvantage of consumers.

PACE programs transfer risk. PACE programs fundamentally do not have comprehensive regulatory supervision. PACE programs have no required uniformity. PACE programs in many, but not all, instances are administered by third parties that do not follow the same consumer protection requirements applicable to residential mortgage lenders.

## ATTACHMENT

### Energy Efficiency Efforts FHFA, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac

The following information summarizes efforts by FHFA and Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to facilitate financing of energy efficient energy products:

#### 1. *2016 Scorecard for Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and Common Securitization Solutions*

FHFA annually provides a Scorecard of its expectations for Enterprise performance on a range of products and other priorities during the conservatorships. At the end of each year, FHFA reviews achievements in line with the Scorecard.

In its Scorecard for 2016, FHFA has called upon the Enterprises to “Evaluate options that would enable greater liquidity for Enterprise financing of energy or water efficiency investments in single-family and multifamily properties.” This supports expansion of efforts for energy retrofit lending.

#### 2. *Proposed Duty to Serve Rule*

On December 18, 2015, in the *Federal Register*, FHFA proposed a new Duty to Serve rule. The comment period closed on this proposed rule in March and FHFA is reviewing comments. Duty to serve refers to a statutory requirement that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac provide services for moderate, low- and very low-income communities. As part of the rulemaking, FHFA proposed for public comment an approach to preserving affordable housing that would include “... (3) Energy efficiency improvements on existing single-family, first-lien properties, provided that there are verifiable, reliable projections or expectations that the improvements financed by the loan will reduce energy and water consumption by the homeowner or tenant...” See FHFA, Proposed Rule, *Enterprises Duty to Serve Underserved Markets*, 80 FR 79181 [based on 12 USC 4564; proposed rule at 12 CFR 1282 (energy efficiency proposal at section 12 CFR 1282.34 (d)(3); 80 FR 79200-202)].

FHFA is reviewing the comments on the proposed rule and I cannot predict a final outcome. However, I can report that we did receive a good range of input on the questions raised regarding the energy efficiency proposal.

#### 3. *Enterprise Programs*

In addition to working on new approaches under the Scorecard and proposed Duty to Serve regulation, both Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae have active programs relating to energy efficiency and conservation improvements for single-family homes. A few of the existing and potential programs are listed below. Clear benefits of these programs include: that they are uniform in nature (including flexibility to meet certain local conditions); that they are underwritten to protect consumers and reduce risks to the Enterprises; and, that they are overseen by a federal regulator with examination and enforcement authorities.

- (D) work with a consortium of nationally-active solar panel leasing companies to revise Fannie Mae standards to better accommodate mortgage lending to consumers who wish to lease, rather than purchase, solar power equipment for use at their home.

Fannie Mae will continue to consider additions to HomeStyle Energy® and to undertake projects with lenders to improve home energy efficiency data that may be useful to homeowners and home purchasers, mortgage lenders, real estate professionals and appraisers, and homebuyers in order to enhance underwriting and data reliability.

**JOSEPH KELLY  
TREASURER AND TAX COLLECTOR  
County of Los Angeles**

**P.O. Box 512102, Los Angeles, CA 90051-0102**

**FOR ASSISTANCE CALL 1(213) 974-2111 OR 1(888) 807-2111, ON THE WEB AT [lacountypropertytax.com](http://lacountypropertytax.com)**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING DIRECT ASSESSMENTS FOR  
PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (PACE) PROGRAMS**

Si desea obtener información adicional sobre este aviso o si necesita la información traducida en español, por favor llame al 1(213) 974-2111.

PACE programs, under state law, allow local governments, state agencies, or inter-jurisdictional authorities to fund, through the issuance of bonds, the up-front cost of installing energy improvements on commercial and residential properties. Qualified property owners repay the bonds through direct assessments on their annual property tax bill. Some examples of qualifying projects include high efficiency air conditioners and heating systems, windows, cool roofs, insulation, rooftop solar panels, and smart irrigation systems.

The PACE direct assessments are different from the majority of assessments (e.g., library, flood control or solid waste) in the following ways:

- Participation in a PACE program is voluntary and is not required pursuant to any government program or initiative.
- The Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) are the owners of a majority of all home mortgages. Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are government-sponsored enterprises established to facilitate a more efficient national mortgage market for home mortgages. These agencies have previously stated that they would not purchase home mortgages with PACE assessments. If a property owner with a PACE assessment refinances his or her mortgage or sells the property, lenders or prospective buyers may require that the assessment be paid in full as part of the refinancing or sale transaction.
- Property owners should consult with their lender(s) or mortgage servicer(s) prior to entering into an assessment contract. Entering into an assessment contract without the consent of an existing lender(s) or mortgage servicer(s) may constitute an event of default under such agreements or security instruments. Defaulting under an existing mortgage agreement or security instrument could have serious consequences to property owners, which could include demand for payment in full or foreclosure.
- Property owners must keep property taxes current. If you have a PACE assessment and you become delinquent on your property taxes, your PACE assessment is also delinquent. Under the terms and conditions of a PACE financing, the holders of the PACE bonds have the right to initiate a judicial foreclosure process against the property to recover ANY delinquent PACE assessment, which could result in the loss of your property.
- The PACE bond investors DO NOT have to honor an Installment Plan of Redemption, as allowed under the California Revenue and Taxation Code, to repay defaulted taxes over a five-year period.
- If you pay your property taxes through your lender or mortgage servicer, you may need to contact your lender or mortgage servicer to adjust your impound amount and ensure that sufficient funds are available to cover the annual PACE assessment.
- If you have been approved for PACE financing and execute an assessment contract, the annual assessment payments will appear under the Direct Assessment Section of your property tax bill. Some examples of how the assessment will appear are WRCOG Hero, LACEP RES PACE, LACEP RES 2016, LACEP COMM or California Hero to name a few. If you have a specific question in regards to your direct assessment, please refer to the telephone number found on your Annual Property Tax Bill.

For more information about the Los Angeles County PACE program, please visit [www.lapace.org](http://www.lapace.org).



**CaliforniaFIRST**  
EFFICIENCY FINANCING

## Do PACE loans pose risks to lenders?

By JERRY BUDRICK

Local real estate agent Sarah Zulim, of Sierra Gold Real Estate, in Plymouth, has unearthed some hidden dangers to homeowners interested in participating in the federally managed Property Assessed Clean Energy loan program.

Zulim, who recently finished her third term as president of the Amador County Association of Realtors, warns loan-seekers of the little-noted fact that PACE loans assume first position, which means the loan amounts must be paid back before lending institutions that hold what they believed to be "first mortgages" on financed properties are paid.

According to its supporters at pacenation.us, "PACE is a simple and effective way to finance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation upgrades to buildings. PACE can pay for new heating and cooling systems, lighting improvements, solar panels, water pumps, insulation, and more for almost any property - homes, commercial, industrial, non-profit, and agricultural.

"Property owners across the US are using PACE because it saves them money and makes their buildings more valuable. PACE pays for 100% of a project's costs and is repaid for up to 20 years with an assessment added to the property's tax bill. PACE financing stays with the building upon sale and is easy to share with tenants. State and local governments sponsor PACE financing to create jobs, promote economic development, and protect the environment."

However, in recent testimony before the California legislature, the

Federal Housing Finance Agency stated that it cannot support first-lien property-assessed clean energy programs for participation by Government-Sponsored Enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. PACE programs — which currently operate in 30 states — allow municipalities to provide financing for energy-efficient retrofitting through property tax assessment, which gives the liens so-called super-priority over the first-lien mortgage holder.

FHFA pointed out that the PACE programs principally take property value into consideration to support a loan, rather than the homeowner's ability to repay, and that the loans have no enforcement agency behind them to ensure consumer protection standards. Given that, and the excessive risk posed by the "super-lien" status of PACE liens, FHFA has previously warned that the GSEs cannot buy mortgages on homes with first-lien PACE loans attached to them.

"Super-priority liens ahead of GSE loans transfer undue risk and only true second-lien status avoids this problem," FHFA said. "Permitting a hidden or future lien to defeat or impair recourse to collateral — the basis for secured lending — has market implications."

ABA and other housing groups have previously expressed similar concerns about the risks that the PACE program and other attempts to place super-priority liens could have on consumers and the housing market overall.

To read FHFA's testimony in its entirety, visit [fhfa.gov/Media/PublicAffairs/PublicAffairsDocuments/PACEStatementCalifAssembly\\_testimony\\_FINAL692016.pdf](http://fhfa.gov/Media/PublicAffairs/PublicAffairsDocuments/PACEStatementCalifAssembly_testimony_FINAL692016.pdf).

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# AGENDA TRANSMITTAL FORM

To: Board of Supervisors  
 Date: 08/17/2016

From: Jennifer Burns, Clerk of the Board Phone Ext. x470  
 (Department Head - please type)

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Regular Agenda <input type="radio"/> Consent Agenda <input type="radio"/> Blue Slip <input type="radio"/> Closed Session Meeting Date Requested: <u>08/23/2016</u>
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Department Head Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Title: Minutes

Summary: (Provide detailed summary of the purpose of this item; attach additional page if necessary)  
Review and approval of the August 9, 2016 Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes.

Recommendation/Requested Action: \_\_\_\_\_

Fiscal Impacts (attach budget transfer form if appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_ Staffing Impacts \_\_\_\_\_

Is a 4/5ths vote required? Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>	Contract Attached: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A Resolution Attached: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A Ordinance Attached: <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> N/A Comments: _____
Committee Review? <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
Name _____ Committee Recommendation: _____	

Request Reviewed by:

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ Counsel Go  
 Auditor \_\_\_\_\_ GSA Director Hop  
 CAO 2 Risk Management [Signature]

Distribution Instructions: (Inter-Departmental Only, the requesting Department is responsible for distribution outside County Departments)

### FOR CLERK USE ONLY

Meeting Date 8-23-16 Time \_\_\_\_\_ Item # 11

Board Action: Approved Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unanimous Vote: Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Ayes: \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Noes \_\_\_\_\_ Resolution \_\_\_\_\_ Ordinance \_\_\_\_\_  
 Absent: \_\_\_\_\_ Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Distributed on _____ Completed by _____	A new ATF is required from _____ Department _____ For meeting _____ of _____	I hereby certify this is a true and correct copy of action(s) taken and entered into the official records of the Amador County Board of Supervisors.  ATTEST: _____ Clerk or Deputy Board Clerk
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**Amador County Board of Supervisors**  
**ACTION MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING**

**DATE:** Tuesday, August 9, 2016  
**TIME:** 8:30 a.m.  
**LOCATION:** County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Amador met at the County Administration Center, 810 Court Street, Jackson, California, on the above date pursuant to adjournment, and the following proceedings were had, to wit:

**Present on Roll Call:**

John Plasse, Chairman, District I  
Richard M. Forster, Supervisor, District II  
Lynn A. Morgan, Supervisor, District III  
Brian Oneto, Supervisor, District V

**Absent:** Louis D. Boitano, Vice-Chairman, District IV (Planned Vacation)

**Staff:** Gregory Gillott, County Counsel  
Jennifer Burns, Clerk of the Board

NOTE: These minutes remain in *Draft* form until approved by Minute Order at the next regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors. Any packets prepared by County Staff are hereby incorporated into these minutes by reference as though set forth in full. Any staff report, recommended findings, mitigation measures, conditions, or recommendations which are referred to by Board members in their decisions which are contained in the staff reports are part of these minutes by reference only. Any written material, petitions, packets, or comments received at the hearing also become a part of these minutes by reference.

**CLOSED SESSION** may be called for labor negotiations (pursuant to Government Code §54957.6), personnel matters (pursuant to Government Code §54957), real estate negotiations/acquisitions (pursuant to Government Code §54956.8), and/or pending or potential litigation (pursuant to Government Code §54956.9). **At 8:30 a.m., the Board convened into closed session.**

**REGULAR SESSION:** At 9:00 a.m., the Board reconvened into regular session. Chairman Plasse reported the following issues were reviewed in closed session:

**Conference with County Counsel - Existing Litigation** {Government Code 54956.9(d)(1)}:  
Citizens for Smart Development in Amador County, et al v County of Amador, et al; Amador County Superior Court, Case No. 15CV9374

**ACTION:** Direction and update given.

**Confer with County Counsel-Initiate Litigation** {Government Code 54956.9 (d)(4)}  
One Case

**ACTION:** Direction and update given.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman Plasse led the Board and the public in the *Pledge of Allegiance*

**AGENDA:** Approval of agenda for this date; any and all off-agenda items must be approved by the Board (pursuant to §54954.2 of the Government Code.)

**ACTION:** Direction given pursuant to the following motion.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Supervisor Forster, seconded by Supervisor Morgan and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as presented.

**Absent:** Supervisor Boitano

**PUBLIC MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:** Discussion items only, no action to be taken. Any person may address the Board at this time upon any subject within the jurisdiction of the Amador County Board of Supervisors; however, any matter that requires action may be referred to staff and/or Committee for a report and recommendation for possible action at a subsequent Board meeting. Please note - there is a three (3) minute limit per person.

**Amador County Museum:** Ms. Judy Jebian, Museum Manager, took this time to provide the Board with the Amador County Historical Society/Museum Annual Report covering the period of July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016. A complete copy of this report is incorporated in full in the Board packet for today's date. In summary, some items she mentioned were:

- The Museum hosted over 1,400 visitors in the last year that have been very pleased with the collections and displays at the Museum.
- Volunteers logged over 2000 hours and completed projects including, but not limited to, installation of a new ADA bathroom, repairs and restoration to the Mining Model and new heating and AC system. with grants and donations from the City of Jackson and Spinetta winery. She also noted the County undertook the removal of the big cedar tree that threatened the cottage on the side nearest the Mining Model.



- Photographing and digitizing the inventory of artifacts inside the Brown House to be proved to Amador County General Services.
- Continued work towards rededication and hanging of the Bi-Centennial quilts in the County Building.

Ms. Jebian concluded by stating the Historical Society intends to continue its mission to preserve and protect things to which the County can justly point as being central to the history of Amador County. The Amador County Museum continues to be a magnet for tourists, local families, school and learning disabled groups.

**Child Support Awareness Month:** Ms. Mary Gray, Central Sierra Child Support, took this time to announce that August is Child Support Awareness Month and explained some of the roles the Central Sierra Child Support Agency as it relates to assisting parents, grandparents and other family members in obtaining financial support for raising children.

**California Fair Plan:** Supervisor Plasse took this time to provide information relative to a recent seminar he attended regarding the California Fair Plan. He stated the California Fair Plan is an association of all state insurers who bound together to form an Association and each company contributes monetarily based on a market share within the State of California. Currently there are nine companies within the State that are part of the Association, however any insurance agent can write a policy under the California Fair Plan. The California Fair Plan was established in 1968 after the Watts riots and became available statewide in 2001. The “mission statement” of the California Fair Plan is that the applicant cannot be denied coverage, the insurance agent must write the policy and it will not be non-renewed due to location or risk. The only restriction is a policy cannot be written for a property that has known marijuana grow. It should be noted the California Fair Plan does not offer policies that cover liability, theft or water damage, Supervisor Plasse said it was recommended that property owners taking advantage of a California Fair Plan for property damage concerns also carry a Does Not Include (DIC) supplemental policy to cover those damages. Supervisor Plasse stated currently approximately 200 property owners in the incorporated and unincorporated areas of Amador County have policies with the California Fair plan and the average annual premium is \$1,012.00.00.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Items listed on the consent agenda (see attached) are considered routine and may be enacted by one motion. Any item may be removed for discussion and made a part of the regular agenda at the request of a Board member(s).

Chairman Plasse advised the following items will be pulled from the Consent Agenda for today's date for discussion.

**Transportation and Public Works:** Approval of a resolution delegating authority of endorsement to the Chair or Community Development Director for all Program Supplement Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements, Fund Transfer Agreements and/or any amendments thereto with Caltrans.

**ACTION:** Direction given pursuant to the following motion.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Supervisor Oneto, seconded by Supervisor Forster and unanimously carried to approve the adoption of a resolution delegating authority of endorsement to the County Administrative Officer and the Community Development Director.

**Absent:** Supervisor Boitano

**Amador County Transportation Commission:** Approval to appoint the following individuals to serve on the ACTC Pedestrian and Bicycle Update Ad-Hoc Committee:

- Ms. Brenda Walker (Upcountry)
- Mr. William Tanner (Foothill Representative)

Mr. Gary Reinoehl addressed the Board and stated he has some concern relative to the process of appointing members to Committees. It was decided that the procedure will be brought to a future Administrative Committee for further discussion and possible recommendation.

**ACTION:** Direction given pursuant to the following motion.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Supervisor Forster, seconded by Supervisor Morgan and unanimously carried to approve the following individuals to serve on the ACTC Pedestrian and Bicycle Update and Ad-Hoc Committee:

**Absent:** Supervisor Boitano

- Ms. Brenda Walker (Upcountry)
- Mr. William Tanner (Foothill Representative)

At this time the following motion was made to approve the Consent Agenda with the above items omitted.

**ACTION:** Direction given pursuant to the following motion.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Supervisor Forster, seconded by Supervisor Morgan and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda as amended above.

**Absent:** Supervisor Boitano

**Chairman Plasse announced the Board will be recessing for lunch at approximately 12:30 p.m. today and reconvening as the In-Home Supportive Services Board of Governor's at 1:15 p.m. The Board of Supervisors will convene and take up the remaining matters on its agenda at approximately 1:30 pm.**

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

**Wood Angels Program:** Presentation by Ms. Nancy Fort (or her representative), relative to the Wood Angels Program formed by volunteers to assist those in need with firewood for the winter months.

Ms. Nancy Fort addressed the Board and summarized the Wood Angels Program by stating Wood Angels was formed in 2007 by a small group of volunteers who wanted to help keep seniors, veterans, disabled citizens and those facing difficult financial situations supplied with firewood at no cost during the winter months. Unfortunately, Ms. Fort explained, funds to keep this program functioning are depleting quickly and they have recently been faced with repairs to the truck they use to deliver wood around Amador County and in to Calaveras County on some occasions. She continued by stating Wood Angels received a small grant for “Top Cops” in 2015 and has received donations from private parties but additional funds are needed to keep the program in operation for the upcoming winter. Ms. Fort also stated they are also in need of volunteers and encouraged anyone interested to call her at 209-295-4876 for more information. She also noted Wood Angels is happy to remove trees from private property if citizens would like to donate and it should be noted the organization received IRS 501(3) (c) status in October 2015. Ms. Fort stated the reason she is before the Board today is to request any type of funding that the Board may feel comfortable with, whether it be utilizing their discretionary funds or private donations if preferred.

Discussion ensued with the Board recognizing the value in this program and offering to help offset the costs. Board Members advised they will evaluate their discretionary fund balances and contribute individually to Wood Angels, via Nancy Fort, if they are able to do so. Supervisors Plasse and Forster also mentioned they have trees on their private properties that they are more than willing to donate. In addition, Supervisor Oneto and Plasse mentioned possibly donating trees that are on county owned property in the Wicklow Way area, but will have to look into what will be required as far as insurance requirements etc. before allowing Wood Angels on the property. Supervisor Morgan advised she will be donating privately but will also look into a discretionary account donation.

**ACTION:    None. Presentation only.**

**Amador County Recreation Agency:** Discussion and possible action regarding the Draft ACRA Master Plan and Nexus.

Ms. Carolyn Fregulia, ACRA Executive Director and Mr. Wayne Garibaldi, City of Jackson ACRA representative, took this time to review the preliminary park impact fee programs and the Draft ACRA Master Plan and Nexus. A complete copy of the Power Point presentation is incorporated in full in the Board packet for today’s date.

Ms. Fregulia identified the following tentative “next step” dates to move toward implementation of a new fee program:

- August 20, 2016-Final Comments on Studies due.
- August 31, 2016-Studies Finalized.
- September 14, 2016-ACRA Board considers approval of Studies.
- Nov./Dec. 2016-City Councils and County Board of Supervisors public hearings and adoption of their new respective fee programs.

- Implementation of new fee programs.

Discussion ensued with the following action being taken.

**ACTION:** None. Presentation only.

**\*\*10:30 A.M.\*\***

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**Surveying Department:** Discussion and possible action relative to a public hearing to consider a request for an abandonment of a ten foot (10') wide public utility easement and a Certificate of Merger from Jeffrey L. Page and Jeff Page. The merger consists of merging Lot 18 and Lot 19, as shown and delineated on "Subdivision Map No. 54 of Tiger Creek Estates" and recorded in Book 7 of Subdivision Maps, at pages 10 and 11, Records of Amador County, California. The centerline of the public utility easement being abandoned is located along the line common to Lot 18 and 19. The Property is located on the southerly side of Stephanie Way, approximately 800 feet easterly of the junction with Tiger Creek Road, in the Buckhorn area. Assessor Parcel No.'s 33-290-025 and 33-290-026.

Mr. Steve Zanetta, County Surveyor, addressed the Board and summarized the staff report relative to this matter as incorporated in full in the Board packet for today's date.

Chairman Plasse opened the public hearing at this time. Hearing no comment the following actions were taken.

**ACTION #1:** Public Hearing closed pursuant to the following motion.

**MOTION #1:** It was moved by Supervisor Forster, seconded by Supervisor Oneto and unanimously carried to close the public hearing.

**Absent:** Supervisor Boitano

**ACTION #2:** Direction given pursuant to the following motion.

**MOTION #2:** It was moved by Supervisor Forster, seconded by Supervisor Oneto and unanimously carried to approve the request for a Certificate of Merger and abandonment of a Public Utility Easement for Jeffrey L. Page and Jeff Page.

**Absent:** Supervisor Boitano

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-093**

Resolution approving abandonment of a Public Utility Easement for Jeffrey L. Page and Jeff Page

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-094**

Resolution issuing Certificate of Merger to Jeffrey L. Page and Jeff Page

**Surveying Department:** Discussion and possible action relative to a public hearing to consider a request a request for a Certificate of Merger from Alan D. Black, a.k.a. Alan Black. The Merger consists of Lot 15 and Lot 16, as shown and delineated on the “Plat of River Pines Subdivision No. 3”, recorded in Book 1 of Maps and Plats, at page 13, in the Records of Amador County. The Property is located on the southerly side of Pine Trail, approximately 150 feet westerly of the southerly junction with Shenandoah Road, in the River Pines area. Assessor Parcel No.’s 14-075-002 and 14-075-003.

Mr. Steve Zanetta, County Surveyor, addressed the Board and reviewed the staff report as incorporated in full in the Board packet for today’s date.

Chairman Plasse opened the public hearing at this time. Hearing no comment the following actions were taken.

**ACTION #1: Public hearing closed pursuant to the following motion.**

**MOTION #1: It was moved by Supervisor Forster, seconded by Supervisor Morgan to close the public hearing.**

**Absent: Supervisor Boitano**

**ACTION #2: Direction given pursuant to the following motion.**

**MOTION #2: It was moved by Supervisor Oneto, seconded by Supervisor Forster to approve the request for a Certificate of Merger for Alan D. Black, a.k.a. Alan Black.**

**Absent: Supervisor Boitano**

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-095**

Resolution issuing Certificate of Merger to Alan D. Black A.K.A. Alan Black

**General Services Administration:** Discussion and possible action relative to presentation of a progress report for the Jail Project and providing a Notice to Proceed to Nacht & Lewis for the schematic design phase, information and funding.

Mr. Jon Hopkins, General Services Director and Mr. Eric Fadness, Project Architect provided a report relative to progress and information regarding the jail expansion and requested Board direction relative to the following action items.

Discussion ensued with the following actions being taken.

**ACTION: Direction given pursuant to the following motion.**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Supervisor Forster, seconded by Supervisor Morgan and unanimously carried to approve the amendment to Appendix B (Nacht and Lewis Amendment)

**Absent:** Supervisor Boitano

Further discussion ensued with the following actions being taken.

**ACTION:** Direction given pursuant to the following motion.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Supervisor Oneto, seconded by Supervisor Morgan and unanimously carried to authorize the General Services Director to provide the written Notice to Proceed for Phase 3 Schematic Design; and authorize the General Services Director and Sheriff to make decisions during phase development periods (i.e. design direction, functional and operational decisions, etc.).

**Absent:** Supervisor Boitano

**Thomas A. Newcomer dba: Hams Station (APN 024-020-001):** Discussion and possible action relative to status of compliance regarding the October 27, 2015 Order for Administrative Abatement of Violations for the subject property.

Mr. Mike Israel, Environmental Health Director, addressed the Board and summarized this matter by stating on October 27, 2016, the Board upheld the recommendation of the Administrative Abatement Hearing Board and ordered that Ham's Station be closed until such time that specific items were brought into compliance with regard to fire prevention, the retail food facility, and the public water system. He stated at this time the fire suppression system and food facility requirements have been met and Mr. Newcomer has obtained bids for needed repairs to the water system. However, Mr. Newcomer does not have the financial capability to fund the repairs at this time. Therefore, Mr. Newcomer is requesting a loan from the Public Health and Safety Grant and Loan Program-CDBG in the amount of approximately \$5,000.00.

The following individuals spoke relative to this matter:

Ms. Michelle Opalenik, Environmental Health Department, requested if a loan was granted that the Environmental Health Department be authorized to review the bid from the contractor to ensure that the work they will provide will meet all of the requirements of the Environmental Health Department.

Mr. Thomas Newcomer, Ham's Station Owner, advised he feels confident he can make payments of \$1,000.00 per month in repayment of a loan and will present the bid to the Environmental Health Department for review before executing a contract.

Further discussion ensued with direction being given to the County Administrative Officer and the Auditor to work out loan terms and conditions and establish a payment schedule to be presented to Mr. Newcomer. In addition it was recommended that a contract be drafted between the County and the Contractor for work to be performed. Mr. Newcomer was also advised that after a contract has been drafted and executed and his water sample can be determined to be satisfactory by the Environmental Health Department, and any pro-rated outstanding fees are paid, the Board authorizes reopening of his business while repairs to the water system are taking place.

After further discussion the following action resulted.

**ACTION:** Direction given pursuant to the following motion.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Supervisor Morgan, seconded by Supervisor Oneto, and unanimously carried to offer to Mr. Thomas Newcomer the ability to draw funds from the Public Health and Safety Grant and Loan Program-CDBG for purposes of funding water improvements necessary to come into compliance with Environmental Health regulations. The loan term shall not exceed five years and will include recommended monthly payments of \$1,000.00 per month; further terms of the loan will be identified and drafted by the County Administrative Officer and the Auditor.

**Absent:** Supervisor Boitano

**RECESS:** At 12:35 p.m., Chairman Plasse recessed the meeting until 1:15 p.m., at which time the Board convenes as the In-Home Supportive Services Board of Governors. The following closed session matters were heard during this recess.

**CLOSED SESSION** may be called for labor negotiations (pursuant to Government Code §54957.6), personnel matters (pursuant to Government Code §54957), real estate negotiations/acquisitions (pursuant to Government Code §54956.8), and/or pending or potential litigation (pursuant to Government Code §54956.9). **At 12:55 p.m., the Board convened into closed session. The following matters were heard.**

**Conference with Labor Negotiators:** Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6. County Negotiator: Greg Gillott, County Counsel, Chuck Iley, County Administrative Officer, Judy Dias, Human Resources Director and Darrell P. Murray, IEDA. Employee Organization: All Units

**ACTION:** Direction given to staff.

**Confidential Minutes:** Review and approval of the confidential minutes for July 26, 2016.

**ACTION:** Direction given pursuant to the following motion.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Supervisor Forster, seconded by Supervisor Oneto and unanimously carried to approve the confidential minutes for July 26, 2016.

**Conference with County Counsel - Existing Litigation {Government Code 54956.9(d)(1)}:**

County of Amador v. Kenneth L. Salazar, Secretary of the Interior; et al: In the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, Case No. 1:05-CV-00658 (RWR)

**ACTION: No Update.**

County of Amador v. The United States Department of the Interior; United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. Case No. 2:12-CV-01710-JAM-CKD

**ACTION: No Update.**

**Conference with County Counsel** – Anticipated Litigation {Government Code 54956.9(d) (2)}

Buena Vista Rancheria

**ACTION: Update given.**

**REGULAR SESSION: At 1:15 p.m., the Board reconvened into regular session. Chairman Plasse reported the above items were reviewed in closed session. And immediately convened into the IHSS Board of Governors Meeting.**

**REGULAR SESSION: At approximately 1:30 p.m., the Board convened into regular session and the following matters were heard:**

**Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems-Local Agency Management Plan:** Discussion and possible action regarding a proposed Local Agency Management Plan consisting of a draft ordinance and regulations reviewed and agreed upon by Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board staff.

**The following section shall be deleted entirely.**

**14.12.130 Land divisions**

~~The Department shall consult the regional board on any land development project which will generate sewage that has the potential to significantly impact water quality despite proposed mitigation.~~

**The following sections shall be amended as shown.**

**14.12.090 Operating permit issuance**

A. It may ~~shall~~ be a violation of this chapter to operate any OWTS for which an operating permit is required without a valid operating permit.

**14.12.190 Penalties**



- A. Any owner that causes an OWTS to be constructed without the required construction permit in order to avoid costs shall may be subject to payment of all application, site investigation, plan review and permit fees at twice the normal established rate in effect at the time that corrective action is taken.
- B. Anyone violating the provisions of this chapter and regulations adopted pursuant to this chapter shall may be liable for all investigation, abatement and enforcement costs incurred by the County.
- C. Any person found guilty in a court of law of violating the provisions of this chapter may shall Be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof may shall-be punished by a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars, or by the imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

**Additions to the Draft Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Regulations shall be made as follows.**

### **LAND DEVELOPMENT**

**A. General Requirements for Land Divisions Proposing Individual OWTS**

- 1. The Department shall not recommend for approval any parcel proposed to be created by land division which requires site modification to create a site compliant with conditions required for OWTS approved for land division unless the site modification has been constructed and demonstrated to be effective prior to recordation of a final map creating that parcel.

Discussion ensued with the following action being taken.

**ACTION: Direction given to staff to make the suggested amendments and bring back to the Board at a future meeting to waive the reading and schedule for adoption after the Regional Water Quality Control Board accepts the Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems-Local Agency Management Plan.**

**Bunker Hill Road Bridge Replacement-full Road Closure:** Discussion and possible action relative to full road closure for Bunker Hill Road for eight (8) weeks between mid-August and mid-October 2016.

Mr. Aaron Brusatori, Community Development Director, addressed the Board and stated the Department of Transportation and Public Works would like the Board to authorize a full road closure of 8 weeks, to facilitate the replacement of the Bunker Hill Bridge. He stated he, along

with contactor Wayne Vinciguerra approached every home in the Bunker Hill area to discuss the full road closure. Of the 12 homes in the neighborhood, contact was made with nine residents personally and two were subsequently contacted by phone. He stated eleven residents indicated support of the idea and accepted the inconvenience associated with driving around the closed road section.

Discussion ensued with the following action being taken.

**ACTION:** Direction given pursuant to the following motion.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Supervisor Oneto, seconded by Supervisor Morgan and unanimously carried to approve the road closure for Bunker Hill Road for eight (8) weeks between mid-August and mid-October 2016.

**Absent:** Supervisor Boitano

**Amador Water Agency:** Discussion and possible action relative to a letter of support from the Board of Supervisors regarding a grant/loan application from the California Energy Commission (CEC) for a small hydroelectric generator project in the Ione area.

Mr. Damon Wyckoff, Operations Manager, Amador Water Agency, addressed the Board and summarized this request by stating the proposed project should offset power costs and benefit AWA customers.

Discussion ensued with the following action being taken.

**ACTION:** Direction given pursuant to the following motion.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Supervisor Forster, seconded by Supervisor Morgan, and unanimously carried to approve the Chairman's signature on a letter of support regarding a grant/loan application from the California Energy Commission (CEC) for a small hydroelectric generator project in the Ione area.

**Absent:** Supervisor Boitano

**Forest Planning and Early Adopter Forests:** Discussion and possible action relative to potential comments on the Draft EIS for the Sequoia, Sierra and Inyo National Forests.

**ACTION:** Direction given to Supervisor Oneto to research this issue further, draft comments relative to the Draft EIS and bring back to the Board for consideration at a future meeting if time constraints can be met.

**Minutes:** Review and possible approval of the July 26, 2016 Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes.

**ACTION:** Direction given pursuant to the following motion.

**MOTION:** It was moved by Supervisor Oneto, seconded by Supervisor Forster

**and unanimously carried to approve the July 26, 2016 Board of Supervisors Meeting Minutes with minor corrections.**

**Absent: Supervisor Boitano**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Until Tuesday, August 23, 2016, at 8:30 a.m.

**AMADOR COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**CONSENT MINUTES**

**August 9, 2016**

NOTE: Items listed on the consent agenda are considered routine and may be enacted by one motion. Any item may be removed for discussion and possible action, and made a part of the regular agenda at the request of a Board member(s).

1. **BUDGET MATTERS**            **None**

2. **TAX MATTERS**            **None**

3. **RESOLUTIONS**

- A. **Board of Supervisors:** Approval of a resolution declaring Local State of Emergency due to pervasive tree mortality. (Original resolution was adopted on February 23, 2016) **(Resolution #16-089)**
- B. **Building Department:** Approval of a resolution authorizing recordation of Agreement to Limit Uses of Agricultural Structure for Michael F. Collier for Building Permit AG01034 (APN 014-150-038-000). **(Resolution #16-090)**
- C. **Surveyor:** Approval of a resolution issuing two Certificates of Compliance to Edward J. Peters and Laura J. Peters in the Pine Grove area (APN 030-080-128 and 030-080-132). **(Resolution #16-091)**
- D. ~~**Transportation and Public Works:** Approval of a resolution delegating authority of endorsement to the Chair or Community Development Director for all Program Supplement Agreements, Fund Exchange Agreements, Fund Transfer Agreements and/or any amendments thereto with Caltrans. Pulled for discussion. **(Resolution #16-092)**~~

4. **AGREEMENTS**

- A. **Behavioral Health:** Approval of an agreement with First 5 Amador to provide outreach and engagement services to children aged 0-5 years and their families/caretakers for FY 16-17.

5. **ORDINANCES**            **None**

6. **MISCELLANEOUS APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

- A. ~~**Amador County Transportation Commission:** Approval to appoint the following individuals to serve on the ACTC Pedestrian and Bicycle Update Ad Hoc Committee:
  - Ms. Brenda Walker (Upcountry)
  - Mr. William Tanner (Foothill Representative) Pulled for discussion~~

7. **MISCELLANEOUS**

- A. **Human Resources:** Approval to make classification changes in the Transportation and Public Works Department, creating a position for Assistant in Civil Engineering I.
- B. **General Services Administration:** Approval to dispense with the formal bidding procedures and authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a Purchase Order to a Livescan equipment vendor with the best value contract awarded by either the State of California or Federal Government in an amount not to exceed \$35,000.00 for the Sheriff's Office.

8. **GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Memorandum from the Building Department relative to a recap of activity for the year to date.
- B. Memorandum from the Environmental Health Department relative to a recap of activity for the month of July, 2016.
- C. Auditor's check register dated July 19, 2016 totaling \$1,538,742.42
- D. Auditor's check register dated July 27, 2016 totaling \$647,526.97
- E. Auditor's Check register dated August 2, 2016 totaling \$222,191.12
- F. Commendation to Transportation and Public Works by Leonis Fermoen thanking the road crew for removing dead and dying trees from Meadowbrook Drive.
- G. Fish and Game Commission Notice of 90-day extension of Emergency Closure of Recreational Dungeness Crab and Rock Crab Fisheries due to elevated levels of Domoic Acid.
- H. East Bay MUD's Urban Water Management Plan 2015 and Water Shortage Contingency Plan Update.
- I. Amador Senior Center August 2016 newsletter.

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John Plasse, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:  
JENNIFER BURNS, Clerk of the  
Board of Supervisors, Amador County,  
California

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**Staff Contacts: Chuck Iley, County Administrative Officer**  
**Jennifer Burns, Clerk of the Board**  
**Sharon Murphy, Deputy Board Clerk II**  
**810 Court Street, Jackson, California 95642**  
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