

FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY
Minutes
September 10, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am by Co-Chair John Sims. Self introductions were made. Attendees: Richm Sampson, Clayton Jolley, John Martinez, John Sims, Cal Fire; Ken Dueker, Palo Alto P.D.; Philippe Cohen Jasper Hidge Biological Preserve, Stanford; Margaret Glomstad, HRD; Pamela Noyer, Pricilla Alvarez, San Mateo Co Dept. of Parks; Brian Malone, Midpen Regional Open Space District; Denise Enea, WFPD/ Guido Ciardi, SFWD and Steve Richmond, Fire Safe Coordinator.

Additions to the Agenda: **Margaret Glomstad** asked if there would be a sponsor training by Cal Fire and CDCR this fall. Richmond will check.

Crystal Springs Fuel Break work has started with good progress on chipping and piling brush for burning this winter. We did receive the full grant dollars this month--\$29,400.

Community Chipping programs: **Denise Enea** reported Woodside's program has been an overwhelming success. Richmond reported the chipping with Middleton Tract Homeowners was going well and they have asked for additional chipping days this fall. **John Martinez** stated the chipper owned by the Santa Cruz County Fire Chiefs has been overwhelmed with requests for community programs.

SMCO Disaster Fair Fire Safe Booth will not be manned this year due to lack of interest.

Ken Dueker, Palo Alto P.D. introduced to the committee the Palo Alto Foothills Fire Management Plan and Asked interested parties to attend an up-coming public hearing. Carol Rice has been contracted to work on the project in education fuel reduction and a regional evacuation plan.

AGENCY ROUNDTABLE:

Clayton Jolly, Coastside FPD is working on revamping the weed abatement program. They had a couple of wildland fires that had potential problems.

Philippe Cohen, Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve said a fire destroyed the Preserve's chipper and started a small vegetation fire as a result. They have not yet conducted an Preserve orientation for engine crews. A pot farm was found on the property. Philippe is looking into Phos Check spraying in the chipping locations.

John Martinez, Cal Fire, is working on a CWPP for the county. He has an outline prepared and will discuss it further with the Fire Safe Committee.

Margaret Glomstad, Highlands Recreation District, has had a difficult time lining up crews for work because of the statewide fire activity.

Pam Noyers, SMCO Parks is working with Brisbane on a joint project. Normal mowing has been scaled back due to fire weather and Spare the Air Days.

Pricilla Alvarez, SMCO Park reports the woman who lost her horse on Oak Trail earlier in the year has donated \$5,000 for base rock and work on Oak Trail.

Brian Malone, MPROS District says there was a small fire near Windy Point. The district sent its water tender to the Castle Fire and helicopter operations were set up on district property. Crews are working on trail projects and are restoring the land on a former Christmas tree farm. The district has four properties they are opening to grazing as a hazard reduction and fuels management project.

Denise Enea, Woodside FPD announced S.O.D. training at Woodside on September 18. Also, their Wildland Inspectors have created a new level of compliance. The district has been receiving questions from homeowners regarding retardant gels and Phos Check.

Guido Ciardi, SFWD – Pot farms have taken time to eradicate. Last year the Summit Water Company General Manager made a complaint to the PUC regarding SFWD work on the Crystal Springs Fuel Break. This year she told Guido she and her staff thought the work was outstanding.. S.O.D. trees are falling and those in creek beds may cause water flow problems. The departments purchased a new chipper that will accommodate 18 inch logs. A new bridge will be constructed over Crystal Springs Reservoir and the dam will be raised eight feet causing the road from Bunker Hill to Skyline, Pohemus will be reduced to one lane during construction.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Richmond, Firesafe Coordinator