

FIRE SAFE SAN MATEO COUNTY

Minutes
October 8, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am by Guido Ciardi. Self introductions were made.

John Sims, Cal Fire, gave an update on fire conditions in Northern California. Fuel moisture is below normal. Recent rains were not sufficient to do much to change anything with the coming of warm dry air and winds. Fire crews should remain alert. Their fire season officially ends on October 31.

Steve Richmond reported the **Crystal Springs Fuel Break** is nearing completion. It should finish within the contract deadline except for pile burning to be done in the wet season.

Denise Enea stated the **Portola Ranch Project** had started. This project is set for 10 crew days with three of the crew days a part of a Fire Safe Grant we awarded last spring. There are a lot of hazard trees because of SOD.

There was a round table discussion regarding the **San Bruno Mountain Community Wildfire Protection Plan**. **Pam Noyer** and **John Sims** led the discussion. With the recent large fire on the mountain there seems to be energy to revisit the plan and open some of the old fire roads for better equipment access during a fire. **County Parks** is currently working with the **City of Brisbane** on a possible project to better protect homes adjacent to the mountain parks. Environmental concerns are always an issue. The Fire Plan, when approved, will be placed in the Habitat Plan for the mountain.

Is it time for Fire Safe to become a non-profit?

The pros and cons of the issue were discussed. It was decided that we will continue with our present set up with an option for change in the future if that would assist in obtaining grants.

AGENCY ROUND TABLE:

Denise Enea, Woodside FPD is working with **Ken Ducker** on the **Palo Alto Fire Management Plan**. They have met to discuss the use of **Ben Lomond Crews** in the **Los Tranco and Visla Verde Communities**. Some of this work would benefit evacuations in case of fire.

Jim Palasi, Belmont/San Carlos F.D. will have a public meeting next week on the San Carlos Twenty Year Master Plan. There is also a public hearing next week regarding Police, Fire and City Parks future.

John Martinez, Cal-Fire – The local **Government Hazard Severity Maps** are about to be sent out from Sacramento. He and **Jose Cruz** will meet with **Brisbane City** to provide them an estimate of crew time on a boundary project next to **San Bruno Mountain County Park**. Parks is willing to assist in this venture. John reported considerable work and many meetings are being conducted in **Santa Cruz County** to address rehab concerns in the fire areas and also flooding and mud flow with winter rains.

Pam Noyer, County Parks, is working with the **City of San Bruno** to address issues of fire equipment access.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Richmond
Fire Safe Coordinator