**April 11, 2019 Highway 168 Fire Safe Council Meeting Notes**

Introductions

Treasurer’s Report

Bret Rush (Fresno County Supervisor Nathan Magsig’s office)

* POM wonderful has a place to grow saplings and is looking for buyers
* May want to talk to Cal Fire/Placerville nursery and USFS
* Guy Anderson from Cal Fire would be a good person to contact
* There is not a large demand for saplings right now
* Needs to be site specific
* It’s approximately a 1 year process to grow saplings and acquire them through Cal Forest

Cal Fire Update

* Governor Newsome’s 45 Day list projects identified 35 projects statewide. 5 of those projects are in Fresno County. Governor directed Cal Fire to have them completed by January 2020
  1. Beal
     + Reassigned National Guard crews to work on Beal fire break, started last week. 4 captains, 8 fire fighters and about 20 crew members working on the fuel break
  2. Shaver Springs
  3. Musick
  4. Bretz Mill/Rush Creek
  5. Blue Rush
  + CEQA relief
  + Getting land owner agreements
  + Foresters working on CEQA – contractors
  + The guard is working where contractors can’t
  + Rapid and fast pace work on the 5 projects
  + Will work at the lower elevation first then move up as the snow melts
  + Hope to have the projects bid out to contractors by June
  + Approximately 1,000-1,100 acres total
* Finishing Alder Heights pile burning
* Removing logs at Acorn/Sugar Loaf
* Working on Shaver South project
* Vegetation Management Plans
  + Mackenzie Table Mountain (Sierra Foothill Conservancy)
    - 1,060 acre project
    - Creates a buffer for Auberry Rd.
  + Shaver Ranch
    - Waiting for snow to melt before work resumes
  + China Creek (Centerville)
    - Training exercises
    - Approximately 48 acres
  + Half way on Edison VMP – will be working on Ely Mountain area again
* Private burning/Fire permits will be shut down by elevation based on fuel moisture and weather patterns
* PG&E stated that the preventative power shutoffs that only applied to Tier 3 areas (Pine Ridge/Meadow Lakes) will now be moved to Tier 2 which is all SRA territory in Fresno Co.

USFS Update

* Fuels
  + A little behind on burning this year due to furlough and wet weather
  + Pile burning is back logged
  + Looking to burn 3200 acres/piles, but probably won’t hit that target
  + A few piles in Shaver Springs are complete and done with pile burning
  + In the spring, will be working on Virginia under burn, west of Blue Canyon area, will likely be last week of April, first week of May. Will also be training hot shots and burning
    - Approximately 1200 acres
  + In the fall, will finish Virginia and do more burning in the Dinkey area, burning mountain understory and maintenance burns
* Suppression
  + May 14 hot shots on board and in training
  + The helicopter will be in service June 12 and conducting repelling training. A Type 2 helicopter will be available the end of June
  + A dozer is on now and available
  + Engine maintenance issues, hoping to have 5 on this side and 7 on the other side
* Adam Hernandez USFS fuels Division Chief
* Staffing
  + April 22 opening stations in Sand Creek, Coalinga
  + Blasingame, Hurley, Shaver stations already staffed
  + Dozer and 2 tractors are available
  + On April 15 will rehire and train

Fresno County Sheriff’s Office – Not present

CHP – Not present

Fresno County OES

* Working on eliminating tree mortality regulatory constraints
* $4.3 million in CCI grants
* Tree removal on 180 side
* CFIP/EQUIPP taxation
* Huntington Basin – hard to get back into before the rec season, Huntington Lake Road to the Beaver Slide

Fire Safe Council

* Insurance – Reviewing coverage
* Bylaws – amending bylaws
* Scanning documents – scheduling records clean-up day

Round Table

* Shaver Springs HOA – need help and money to finish brushing, hauling off logs
* $30k in personal money spent already
* SCE has been in contact with them and is going to haul off logs cut under their lines
* Per Carolyn Ballard, CCI through local SRCD has received money and may be able to help pay for logging decks. Contact Steve Hayes and/or Craig Jones
* Federal program NRCS and state program CFIP may be used for brush removal, can combine neighbors to get the minimum requirement of acreage

Big Sandy Rancheria

* Working on hazard mitigation plan, pre-mitigation funding
* Home hardening
* Combining with climate mitigation
* Fire Safe Council’s CWPP is available on the website for Big Sandy’s use
* In Boulder Colorado, developing wild fire partners collaborative for home inspections which provides an insurance price break

Next Meeting

* June 13, 2019, 6:00 PM Board Meeting, 6:30 PM Public Meeting at Forest Service office in Prather

**June 13, 2019 Highway 168 Fire Safe Council Meeting Notes**

Board Meeting:

In attendance: Pat Gallegos, Ryan Stewart, Gary Martin and Warren Colbert

Approved 2nd invoice payment to RPF for Shaver West Fuel Break

Discussed Pat staffing the office 1 day/ week. Decided to wait until we see more of a need, perhaps August when work is likely to begin on the Shaver West.

Approved the sale of the FSC pumper that is being stored at the Auberry Nursery.

Request from Sue concerning current 3 separate bank accounts: general, savings and grants. Financial advisor advised to combine into 1. Board voted to get rid of savings (which carried a cost) and retain the grant and general accounts. This keeps grant funding separate in case of audit.

Public Meeting:

CCADT animal rescue discussed locations that animals will be housed during a wildfire or disaster: Large animals will be at the high school, domestic and small animals will be at the middle school. This is subject to change depending on the type and location of the disaster.

Treasurer’s report: Council is solvent in all 3 accounts.

Grants: Shaver West Fuel Break: CEQA documents (arch and bio reports) have been submitted to Cal Fire and are under review. The fuel break boundaries are being flagged. It will be divided into 4 units. Bid packages will be going out to solicit bids as soon as final CEQA/ harvest process is determined through Cal Fire.

To date, no funding has been granted to the FSC from PG&E or SCE.

Next Meeting – August 8, 2019 at Camp Edison, 6:00 PM Board Meeting, 6:30 PM Public Meeting. Hotdogs, Marshmallows, Campfire for roasting and drinks will be provided.