



# San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council

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## Board of Directors and State Coastal Conservancy Regional Forest and Wildfire Capacity

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

0900-1200 hours

Meeting held at Avila Beach Community Center

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District
David Van Son – Atascadero FD Focus Group	Paul Patti – Paso Robles Focus Group
Chad Pankey – Fifth Supervisorial District	Brendan Cosgrove – Building Industry
Scott Johnson – Citizen at Large	Dan Ponti – Farm Bureau
Dena Paschke – Fire Prev Officers Assoc	Jose Torres – Los Osos Focus Group
Todd Tuggle – City of SLO Focus Group	David Pierson – Cambria Focus Group
Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assoc	James Sasules – First Supervisorial District
Martin Scott – Ranchita Estates Focus Group	Spencer Gordon – ULT RCD
Greg Saenz – PG&E	Bill Cochran – Cattlemen’s Association
Russ Johnson – Lake Naci Focus Group	Matt Mohle – SLO County Parks
Stacy Korsgaden – Insurance Industry	

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Debbie Arnold – County BOS	Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large
Chris Dicus – Cal Poly State University	Tom Peterson – County Fire Chiefs
Garrett Veyna - San Luis Obispo County Fire	Monica Stant - Air Pollution Control District
Bob Neumann – Second Supervisorial Dist.	Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension

### FOCUS GROUP and EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

Baxter Boyington – Toro Creek
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### STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turner – Executive Director	Loree McRoberts – CAL FIRE
Jon Gee – CAL FIRE	Greg Alex – SLO FSC Webmaster

### GUESTS:

Maurica Anderson – Coastal RCD	Paul Lee – CAL FIRE / Pismo Fire
Kelley Abbas – Legislative Assistant	Jessica Lee – Scholarship Awardee
Bill Tietje – UC Coop Extension	Phil Hammer – Central Coast Water Board
Susie Johnson	Scott Hallett – 5 Cities Fire Authority
Scott Jalbert – SLO County OES	Brandon Sanderson – CAL FIRE
Susan Peletz	Alan Peters – Registered Forester
Sophia Marquez – Althouse & Meade	

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Ed Waage at 9:00 a.m. followed by introduction of directors, staff, focus groups and guests.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- July 2024 Board of Directors meeting minutes were presented for approval.
- August 2024 Executive Committee meeting minutes were presented for review.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the July 2024 Board of Directors meeting minutes and accept for review the August 2024 Executive Committee minutes as presented: Pierson Second: Slate**

## **PRESENTATION**

Phil Hammer from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board presented the proposed general order for “Regional Waste Discharge Requirements for Vegetation or Sediment Removal or Management Activities for Fire or Flood Risk Reduction”. Work in LRA areas and waters of the State or riparian corridor will require permitting. The purpose and goals of the permit are to facilitate fire risk reduction work, protect water quality, and focus on larger municipal projects. Any work using heavy equipment will require a permit. As of now, prescribed burning, herbivory, dead tree and debris removal, homeless encampment cleanup and CEQA exempt projects will not require a permit. He urged all interested parties to log on to [waterboards.ca.gov](http://waterboards.ca.gov) to keep apprised of the upcoming presentation of the revised draft for public comment and adoption.

## **MONTHLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

- SLO FSC Operations Account Summary
- 2024 Contract Services Summary
- Abbreviated Bank Statement ending August 31, 2024
- Active Grant Fiscal Summary 2024
- New SLO FSC Foundation checking account and credit card established.
  - Account set up for fundraising Cambria Firemen’s Ball to be held in 2025.
  - After the fundraiser is over, the account will be used for local grants and scholarships.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the financial summaries and grant summaries reports as presented: Slate Second: Korsgaden**

## **ROUNDTABLE**

### Focus Group and Organization Reports:

- Paso Robles Fire and Emergency Services – Althouse & Meade is putting together the 2025 Riverbed Plan.
- Insurance Industry – Fair plan policy submittals is getting overloaded. If and when the insurance market opens up, home hardening will benefit the applicants and policy holders. Cal Poly Humboldt is working on fire risk modeling for the Board of Insurance.
- Avila Valley Focus Group – very supportive of all work being done in area. They support burning hazardous fuel.
- Los Osos Focus Group – August 3 Townhall meeting was a success. Hazardous fuel reduction continues; chipping event scheduled for October 24. New project ideas have been submitted for future funding including the Monarch Grove Eucalyptus trees.
- Cambria Focus Group – Pilot program with Red Cross Disaster Preparedness for 20 homeowners.

- Las Tablas RCD – Rancho Moreno hand crews are piling trimming with hopes to burn in December. Trex burn on October 21 in Harmony headlands (Nature Conservancy). Currently working with the land conservancy.
- Coastal RCD – looking for board members from South County.
- UC Cooperative Extension – Oak Symposium November 24.
- PG&E – Clearing at base of poles has started, 50,000 poles have been identified for clearing.
- Building Industry – Fair hydration station was extremely popular this year. Wildfire home retrofit guide has been uploaded to SLO FSC website.
- SLO County Fire Chiefs – SLO Farmer’s Market will host fire agencies for the burn relay. Anyone wanting to put up a booth be there by 5:00 p.m.
- Fire Prevention Officers – Working as ICC in Santa Maria Riverbed, pushing home hardening and cool roofs.
- Ranchita Focus Group – Toured area with CAL FIRE for update of Sausalito Canyon VMP.
- Lake Nacimiento Focus Group – Home hardening brochures being sent to residents. Primary access road construction starts September 25.
- Atascadero Focus Group – First Fire Wise Community established. Consultations with property owners is continuing.
- San Luis Obispo Focus Group – Received PG&E grant to remove eucalyptus trees above SLO High School. The movie “Elemental” will be playing at the Spanos Theater Cal Poly on October 17, 500 free tickets available.
- Website and social media update – 216 website visits so far this September, with 3,454 year to date. Working with Ladrin to get better mapping installed.

## **FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS**

- **Board of Director Changes:**
  - Karl Tupper from APCD changed assignments and has recommended Dora Drexler replace him.  
**It was moved, seconded, and approved to appoint Dora Drexler as the APCD representative on the SLO FSC Board of Directors: Pierson Second: Korsgaden**
  - Supervisor Jimmy Paulding has selected Fire Chief Scott Hallett to serve as the 4<sup>th</sup> District representative on the SLO FSC Board of Directors.  
**It was moved, seconded, and approved to appoint Scott Hallett as the 4<sup>th</sup> District representative on the SLO FSC Board of Directors: Pierson Second: Slate**
  - Royce Larsen is stepping down from SLO FSC Board of Directors and the UC Cooperative Education has selected Bill Tietje to serve as their representative.  
**It was moved, seconded, and approved to appoint Bill Tietje as the UCCE representative on the SLO FSC Board of Directors: Pierson Second: Korsgaden**
- **Scholarships / Local Grant Updates**

A presentation will be made to the current class of recruits at the Alan Hancock Fire Academy. The meeting will be held Thursday, October 10 at 1:00 p.m. on campus in Lompoc.

- Cal Poly Tech Park office/workspace proposal

A proposal was made to the Executive Committee at the August 2024 meeting to facilitate Cal Poly WUI Fire Institute and SLO County Fire/CAL FIRE Community Risk Reduction staff to share office space in the new Tech Park on the Cal Poly Campus. WUI and SLO County Fire will be lessees and responsible for ongoing leases. SLO FSC may have office space if needed as a sub lessee.

SLO Executive Committee acted on the proposal with a motion to move forward with finalizing details, monies and proposal to lease space at Cal Poly Tech Park II for potential SLO FSC office space use, equipment purchase for WUI Institute and provide up to one year lease funding (if necessary) for SLO County Fire's Community Risk Reduction to enable San Luis Obispo County budget to eventually absorb the costs. This funding is limited to \$100,000 for space rental and \$30,000 equipment purchase. The motion was made by Ed Waage and seconded by Stacy Korsgaden, unanimously approved. The recommendation for Board approval moves forward for vote.

**It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the Cal Poly Tech Park II proposal brought forth by the Executive Committee as presented: Tuggle Second: Slate**

- Cambria CSD Evacuation Outreach and Handout Project

A meeting was held on August 28, 2024, to discuss updating Cambria's evacuation brochure and pre-plan. Since the original funding fell through, SLO FSC assistance has been requested. New Countywide format and information is being explored.

- Fire Prevention Week – SLO Farmers Market Booth October 10, 2024

SLO FSC sponsored booth for City of SLO. Anyone who would like to join and help with public outreach will be welcomed. Exploring the possibility of using the Fire Trailer housed with Paso Robles Emergency Services.

- Avila Valley Community Townhall Meeting October 1, 2024

Baxter Boyington and Felix Camacho are committed to attend this meeting presenting the benefits of a focus group and the projects that can be accomplished.

## **GRANT ACTIVITY UPDATES**

### **Current Grant Activity**

#### **PG&E 2024**

- Toro Creek Fuel Reduction – awarded \$75,000, work complete
- Pecho Valley Road – awarded \$75,000, work complete
- Lizzie Fire project – awarded \$100,000, project to start in October

#### **State FSC County Coordinator Grant**

- Grant performance period extended to December 31, 2024

#### **Monterey Pine Forest Health Grant**

- Awarded \$6.7 million, grant period ends 2030

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- Partners with CAL FIRE (CEQA lead agency), Hearst Ranch, Covell Ranch, Cambria CSD, Fiscalini Ranch and Friends of Fiscalini Ranch
- Contract pending, grantor making last minute budget adjustments
- Engaged Auten Resource Consulting for onsite RPF project management
- Collaborative with RCD grant and CA State Parks projects in North Coast
- Partner kick off meeting week of October 7

**Pending Grant Activity**

- 2023-24 CCI-CAL FIRE Wildlife Prevention Grants \$2,997,334 awarded
  - Modifications needed due to overlap with Forest Health grant award funding for work on Covell Ranch (\$600,000)
  - If our redirection of funds is approved, these projects will be added:
    - Cambria CSD lot clearing
    - Atascadero projects
    - VMP support
    - Increase in French broom removal and chipping
    - Strawberry Canyon grazing will be extended
- SLO County Hazard Fuel Reduction Grant Amendment
  - Rescoping of work to swap projects (Miossi) with a different grant having a longer performance period

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**

- Vice President Ed Waage excused himself from meeting at 11:25 a.m. and Second Vice President David Pierson stepped in.
- Nominations for Board members with expiring seats will be done at the November meeting.
- County funded PIO announced, CAL FIRE Captain Ryan Grebe.
- Cal Poly will be hosting a movie October 17 at Spanos Theater. The movie “Elemental: Reimagine Wildfire” followed by Q&A with experts. A motion was entertained to sponsor the event for \$1,000.

**It was moved, seconded and approved to provide \$1,000 sponsorship to Cal Poly WUI Institute showing of Elemental: Reimagine Wildfire as presented: R. Johnson Second: S. Johnson; unanimously approved**

**NEXT MEETINGS**

**Executive Committee Meeting**

- Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Location: County Government Center

**Board of Directors Meeting**

- Wednesday, November 20, 2024, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Location: TBD

**ADJOURNMENT**

Second Vice President Dave Pierson adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Loree McRoberts*

Recording Secretary