



Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee MEETING AGENDA February 15, 2023

DATE: February 15, 2023

TIME: 9:30 AM

LOCATION: Mariposa County Fire Department Head Quarters
4802 Highway 140 (Executive Meeting Room)
Mariposa, CA 95338

PLEASE NOTE- This meeting will be at the Mariposa County Fire Department However, it is a hybrid meeting –
Public and MCFAC members may either call-in or attend in person.

Teleconference option available (see below for call in participation information)

Dial in- United States: +1 (786) 535-3211

Access Code: 135-062-653

Members of the public who wish to participate in the meeting are invited to do so by submitting written comments (instructions follow) or by joining the teleconference by:

MCFAC Advisory Committee written commenting processes are as follows

WRITTEN COMMENTS: Written comments may be submitted via U.S. Postal Service, email or may be dropped off at the Planning Department. In your written communication please note in the subject line: Which Advisory Committee you are commenting to and indicate which “PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM #” (insert the item number relevant to your comment) or “PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEM” that you are commenting on.

1) Mail • Send written communication to:

Mariposa County Fire Department
PO Box 2039
Mariposa CA 95338

2) Email • Send an email to the mcfac@mariposacounty.org

3) Drop Off: • Written communication can be dropped off at:

No matter which of these formats you choose to use for written communication (Mail, Email or Drop Off) please know that in order to ensure distribution to the committee prior to their consideration of the agenda, and in order for your written comments to be placed into the record it must be received no later than 8:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Fire Department at 209-966-4330.
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Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee

MEETING AGENDA

February 15, 2023

1. Roll Call

2. **Resolution:** A resolution of the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee proclaiming a local emergency, ratifying the proclamation of a state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020 regarding an outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus (a disease now known as Covid-19), and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee for the period January 18, 2023 to February 15, 2023 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

County Counsel advised us that even with the hybrid style meetings, in person and teleconference, the Committee still needs to adopt the Resolution at the beginning of each meeting in order to be compliant with the Brown Act. The agenda includes the required Resolution.

3. Approval of Minutes: January 18, 2023

4. Public comments

5. Discussion and Possible Action:

- a. Update on County Coordinator Statewide Grant Project
- b. Title-III Funding - accepting funding requests:
 - i. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/states/secure-rural-schools/title-3>

Final CWPP is available here: <http://www.mariposacounty.org/2448/Community-Wildfire-Protection-Plan>

6. Updates, Activity Reports and Future Items

- a. Members
- b. Any future agenda items

7. Adjourn

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in meeting, please contact the Fire Department at 209-966-4330

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-01

Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee

A RESOLUTION OF THE MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROCLAIMING A LOCAL EMERGENCY, RATIFYING THE PROCLAMATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA ON MARCH 4, 2020 REGARDING AN OUTBREAK OF RESPIRATORY ILLNESS DUE TO A NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (A DISEASE NOW KNOWN AS COVID-19), AND AUTHORIZING REMOTE TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF THE MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 15, 2023 TO MARCH 15, 2023 PURSUANT TO BROWN ACT PROVISIONS.

WHEREAS, the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee is committed to preserving and nurturing public access and participation in meetings of the Planning Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS, all meetings of the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee's legislative bodies are open and public, as required by the Ralph M. Brown Act (Cal. Gov. Code 54950 – 54963), so that any member of the public may attend, participate, and watch the District's legislative bodies conduct their business; and

WHEREAS, the Brown Act, Government Code section 54953(e), makes provisions for remote teleconferencing participation in meetings by members of a legislative body, without compliance with the requirements of Government Code section 54953(b)(3), subject to the existence of certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, a required condition is that a state of emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to Government Code section 8625, proclaiming the existence of conditions of disaster or of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the state caused by conditions as described in Government Code section 8558; and

WHEREAS, a proclamation is made when there is an actual incident, threat of disaster, or extreme peril to the safety of persons and property within the jurisdictions that are within the District's boundaries, caused by natural, technological, or human-caused disasters; and

WHEREAS, it is further required that state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, or, the legislative body meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, such conditions now exist, specifically, COVID-19 has spread and is continuing to spread at rates that threaten the capacity of the health care system and the health of the community, and

WHEREAS, in-person meetings that include members Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee as well as members of the public would expose attendees to transmission of COVID-19 in ways that present imminent risks to health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee does hereby find that community transmission of COVID-19 has caused, and will continue to cause, conditions of peril to the safety of persons within the community that are likely to be beyond the control of services, personnel, equipment, and

facilities of the Fire Advisory Committee, and desires to proclaim a local emergency and ratify the proclamation of state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the local emergency, the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee does hereby find that the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee shall conduct their meetings without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of Government Code section 54953, as authorized by subdivision (e) of section 54953, and that such legislative bodies shall comply with the requirements to provide the public with access to the meetings as prescribed in paragraph (2) of subdivision (e) of section 54953; and

WHEREAS, efforts are being made to ensure public access to the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee meetings, including providing public call-in numbers which are part of the meeting packet and public noticing materials.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE MARIPOSA COUNTY FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE DOES HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Recitals. The Recitals set forth above are true and correct and are incorporated into this Resolution by this reference.

Section 2. Proclamation of Local Emergency. The Committee hereby proclaims that a local emergency now exists throughout the community, and that meeting in-person as a committee and with members of the public in attendance would present an imminent risk to the transmission of COVID-19.

Section 3. Ratification of Governor's Proclamation of a State of Emergency. The Committee hereby ratifies the Governor of the State of California's Proclamation of State of Emergency, effective as of its issuance date of March 4, 2020.

Section 4. Remote Teleconference Meetings. The County of Mariposa and legislative bodies of the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee are hereby authorized and directed to take all actions necessary to carry out the intent and purpose of this Resolution including, conducting open and public meetings in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e) and other applicable provisions of the Brown Act.

Section 5. Effective Date of Resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption and shall be effective until the earlier of (i) NOVEMBER 16, 2022, or such time the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee adopts a subsequent resolution in accordance with Government Code section 54953(e)(3) to extend the time during which the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee may continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b) of section 54953.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Mariposa County Fire Planning Advisory Committee this 15TH day of FEBRUARY, 2023 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

MCFAC Meeting, January 18, 2023

- 1. Roll Call:** Michael Seymour, Mike Keyser, Steve Ward, Deron Mills, Russ Marks, Wes Smith, Melinda Barrett, Gary Colliver, Barbara Cone, Tara Fouch-Moore, Glenn Cahill, Raquel Sandoval, Hannah Harrison, Steve Engfer, Pat Laeng
- 2. Resolution:** A resolution of the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee proclaiming a local emergency, ratifying the proclamation of a state of emergency by the Governor of the State of California on March 4, 2020 regarding an outbreak of respiratory illness due to a novel coronavirus(a disease now known as Covid-19), and authorizing remote teleconference meetings of the legislative bodies of the Mariposa County Fire Advisory Committee for the period January 18, 2023 to February 15, 2023 pursuant to Brown Act provisions.

County Counsel advised us that even with the hybrid style meetings, in person and teleconference, the Committee still needs to adopt the Resolution at the beginning of each meeting in order to be compliant with the Brown Act. The agenda includes the required Resolution.

Motion by: Russ Marks. Seconded by: Alison Deak. Approved unanimously

- 3. Approval of Minutes:** December 21, 2022
Motion by: Tara Fouch-Moore. Seconded by Glenn Cahill. Approved unanimously
- 4. Public comments**
No public comment

5. Discussion and Possible Action:

a. MCFAC Officers Election Nominations

Chair: Steve Ward

No nominations. Reelected

Vice chair: Melinda Barrett

Motioned by Gary Colliver. Seconded by Russ Marks. Approved unanimously

Secretary: Alison Deak

Nominated by Tara Fouch-Moore. Seconded by Melinda Barrett. Approved unanimously

b. Update on County Coordinator Statewide Grant Project - awarded

Grant has been awarded to fund Mariposa County Wildfire Mitigation Coordinator for 18 months (including hiring and onboarding). Position expected to be flown by April and filled by early summer. Coordinator will be expected to support Firewise community efforts, MCFAC, grant writing, GIS, Oak Fire recovery and hazard mitigation, and other related efforts.

c. Title-III Funding

Rural Schools Title-III funding is available for fuel reduction projects and search-and-rescue. Nonprofits can apply for up to \$76,000 of available monies by sending requests with a project description and summary of how project is relevant to CWPP to Steve Ward. Steve will try to submit requests to board of supervisors by March for approval. Following submission and prior to approval by the board, there will be a 45-day comment period and the board will review comments.

d. Discussion of proposed updated Fire Severity Zones.

Four members of the public attended the public meeting on January 12th about the proposed fire hazard severity zones (FHSZs) map update. A total of 22 public meetings were held throughout the state last week. Currently the map is in the 45-day comment period closing February 3rd. Comments can be left through the website, telephone, or email. A separate phone line is available for questions. Information about FHSZ map update and how it was created is available here: <https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/wildfire-preparedness/fire-hazard-severity-zones/> Additional information and data can be requested through the website.

Over 50% of previously moderate FHSZs in the 2007 map have been updated from moderate to high or very high in the foothills of Mariposa. They are hazard maps and not supposed to be used by insurance to make decisions. However, elected insurance commissioner Ricardo Lara is concerned that some insurance companies will use map to update rates or drop insurance for homeowners and he wants to know about it. There have been many comments from landowners saying they have been cancelled by insurance companies due to map. Information on how to report changes to insurance based on the map was requested by Melinda and will be shared by Mike Keyser.

DISCUSSION: Individual properties within the FHSZs do not change the overall FHSZ on the map. It is challenging for landowners who are compliant with PRC 4291 and have done fuels reduction work on their properties but do not have this reflected by the maps. FHSZs are required by law and changing this would require legislation. The committee noted that it is misleading that the state is encouraging different treatments but not rewarding those that do the work. The problem is the insurance companies, not the map – the map should help drive restoration, treatments, and grant writing but insurance companies take advantage of the maps. The message should be that we should be doing treatments to save homes, not to save your insurance.

Expected legislation will require insurance companies to do parcel-by-parcel assessment rather than an area assessment such as the FHSZ map and offer homeowners opportunities to upgrade/change their assessment before their

insurance can be dropped or raise the rate of their insurance. Concern was raised that insurance companies are taking action before legislation is passed to drop/raise the rates of customers.

6. Updates & Activity Reports

Mike Keyser. No updates. Cal Fire Grant closes March 15th and Mike has been working with some people to get applications submitted.

Steve Ward. County Fire is continuing to work on getting wildfire mitigation coordinator for county hired. New equipment continues to come in and the county is selling some Type-1 engines. More volunteer applications have been accepted and six new volunteer firefighters will begin training soon (two firefighter and four medical responders).

Barbara Cone. Alta Vista Fuel Break Bid Walk was held on January 13th. Ten contractors were in attendance and Barbara spoke to group about upcoming UCCE workshops and Southern Sierra Miwuk Hand Crews. MCFSC will be putting out email for letters of support to partners for Cal Fire Fire Prevention Grants (Lushmeadows Ladder Fuels Project and Fuels break project). Bullion Ridge Bid is likely going to be delayed due to access.

Melinda Barrett. Erosion control work was stalled due to storms and some work may have been damaged by the storm. Mariposa RCD is hoping to get back out for erosion control work soon. Four projects have been completed. There is currently no way to get additional funding for the project. Mariposa RCD will begin rolling out home hardening soon.

Alison Deak. Pile burning workshop will be held January 31st and post-fire forest management workshop series will begin February 1st. UCCE is continuing to organize pile burning demonstrations following the workshop, likely in Yosemite West or Wawona. UCCE will send out requests for letters of support for Cal Fire Fire Prevention Grant funding the PBA at end of month/beginning of February.

Steve Engfer. No comment

Russ Marks. Damage from storm was mainly due to debris flows and culverts being plugged. The status of the water tanks grant unknown.

Tara Fouch-Moore. Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation is continuing cultural burn program and will be hosting a TEK and cultural burn workshop at the end of the month for tribal members, followed by a cultural burn. Their grant to SNC has been recommended for funding.

Wes Smith. Welcome aboard to Racquel Sandoval. Oak Fire burn scar recovery has been stalled since December 27th due to storms. All home sites are completed; they are sending in samples and there may be a possible rescrap of 30 properties. About 1400 trees are required to be felled in burn scar still but challenges with nesting season soon approaching.

NOI for FEMA grant for \$1.5 million for oak fire post-fire restoration that will expand ability for fuels reduction and recovery on properties. Leftover money can be used for fuel break maintenance. Multiple roads, bridges, and crossings were impacted by flooding but public works did great job of keeping traffic flowing. OES is looking to apply for FEMA funding for disaster assistance related to flooding for \$5.7 million to repair roads and bridges. Initial damage assessments are ongoing for landowners and OES is hoping to get included in federal emergency declaration to open up funding for those impacted by flooding.

Glenn Cahill. Sierra Tel just opened bid for contractor to get “fiber to the home” and construction will begin throughout Mariposa County soon.

Pat Laeng. On Groveland Ranger District, Texas Hill Road up almost to Dogtown Road area has been masticated and from Ponderosa Way to J-132 masticated (150' each side of road). In cooperation with Yosemite National Park, Groveland Ranger District is working to treat the North Merced Area from Pilot Ridge to Soapstone Ridge and from Anderson Valley up to Moss Creek to provide protection for the Merced Grove. Scoping is in progress for the El Portal Forest Restoration Project for fuel breaks along ridges in El Portal to protect Foresta area. Unsure of the impacts of the flooding/snow currently but did have issues with vehicles being stuck. Staffing is expected to be lean for the Stanislaus National Forest and Groveland Ranger District is likely to be down two engines and a 10-person wildland fire use module. Information will be sent to MCFAC about hiring event and applications will be streamlined if they have applied prior to hiring event. HUD work is done on Tuolumne County side and hoping to burn piles on Wagoner Ridge. (Fire Safe Council is 80% done with Wagoner Ridge fuel break project and will complete once dry.)

Mike Seymour. Mike is now the Fuels Battalion Chief for the Mariposa side of Sierra National Forest. Current challenges include getting NEPA in place on Mariposa County side of forest for fuels projects and many specialists have been redirected to deal with emergency Sequoia response. Currently trying to get plan of work in place for repair, recovery, hazard tree removal, etc. Sierra National Forest is still receiving applications for AD crews (have 74 applications but usually need 80). Staffing will include 2 engines out of Jerseydale – one 5-day staffing and one 7-day staffing. The two engines out of Oakhurst are unsure of staffing. There are openings for fuels and specialist positions on the Forest. Damages from Oak Fire caused loss of 25 road to Chowchilla due to washouts. Worman Road also is impassable. Able to pass from Midpines to Plumber creek. Pond at triple Ranch took in a lot of sediment and this is a concern because it is an important water source for fire operations. Sunny North and Sunny South piling has been completed and will burn once access is available. Mike was able to complete the burn plan for piles around Bass Lake. The Bass Lake piles and Nelder Grove project are highest priorities. Fisher spotting in Mariposa Pines may have future impacts in the Jerseydale area. Stations are staffing year-round now and are available for response by request from county.

Deron Mills. Weather enabled PG&E to disable sensitivities on their safety devices on overhead equipment, making system more reliable for customers and will be reevaluating

the criteria for those settings prior to upcoming fire season. PG&E has been engaged in storm response; private utilities have mutual aid and have brought in crews from across state and from Canada. Mariposa County did fare fairly well during storm. PG&E is currently offering first responder workshops about electricity and natural gas safety for public safety agencies.

Gary Colliver. No comment

Hannah Harrison. Merging of CWPP and Firewise assessments is going well, and planning department will send to Steve Ward once ready to go.

Future agenda items – none noted

7. Adjourn

Approved unanimously.

Secure Rural Schools Program - Title III link

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/working-with-us/states/secure-rural-schools/title-3>.

Title III - County Projects

Funds received under Title III are used to:

- carry out activities under the [Firewise](#) Communities program
- reimburse the participating county for search and rescue and other emergency services, including firefighting and law enforcement patrols
- cover training costs and equipment purchases directly related to the emergency service
- develop and carry out community wildfire protection plans.
- provide or expand access to broadband telecommunications services

In years when the Secure Rural Schools Act is reauthorized by Congress, Title III payments are made from the Forest Service to states. States then distribute the payment to all eligible counties.

There is a required 45-day public comment period before using Title III funds. Eligible counties must first publish in a publication of local record a proposal that describes the intended use of the county funds. The county also must submit the proposal to any Resource Advisory Committee for the participating county. Counties are required to certify use of Title III funds.