Amador County Wildfire Collaborators (ACWC)

GIS Working Group Meeting Summary Report

Meeting Date: November 19, 2026
Meeting Type: GIS Working Group
Duration: 1 hour, 4 minutes

Executive Summary

The inaugural GIS Working Group meeting of the Amador County Wildfire Collaborators (ACWC) established a shared vision for the development of a collaborative GIS platform supporting wildfire resilience, fuels treatment coordination, infrastructure planning, and grant funding efforts across Amador County. Participants reviewed platform objectives, identified existing and prospective data contributors, discussed data governance and standardization approaches, evaluated platform functionality, and established next steps for continued development.

A strong consensus emerged around using the platform as a planning and collaboration tool rather than an operational emergency response system. The group also agreed that displaying planned and proposed treatment projects represents one of the platform's greatest values, as this information is generally unavailable through existing statewide treatment-tracking systems.

The current version of the Amador County CWPP Map Viewer is accessible via the Amador Fire Safe Council website > Planning and Preparedness > CWPP. Publicly accessible layers are visible, while confidential critical infrastructure layers are hidden.

Attendance

Participant	Organization / Role
Todd Bertwell	Amador Fire Safe Council / Amador Resource Conservation District (Project Manager)
Mike Boyce	CAL FIRE, South Division
Kevin Rooney	Amador County GIS Coordinator

Aaron Watkins	Amador Fire Protection District, Battalion Chief
Laura Spellman	CAL FIRE Amador-El Dorado Unit, Research Data Specialist
Chris Dow	Sierra Pacific Industries, South Sierra Vegetation Management
James Thornock	U.S. Forest Service, El Dorado National Forest, South Zone Division Chief
Lucas Carthew	Amador Water Agency, Assistant Engineer
Mettja Kuna	Geo Geospatial, GIS Consultant for AFSC & ARCD
Jeff White	Amador County Information Technology Director
Yi-Liang Kao	Caltrans Vegetation Management
Todd Crawford	PG&E Public Safety Specialist
Matthew Girton	Amador County Office of Emergency Services (OES) Coordinator

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Meeting Purpose

The working group was convened to establish the framework for a countywide GIS platform that will support collaborative wildfire mitigation efforts, coordinate fuels management activities, improve awareness of critical infrastructure, and strengthen regional planning efforts. The meeting focused on defining platform objectives, identifying data contributors, discussing data management approaches, and outlining future development needs.

Agreed Platform Objectives

Following review and discussion, participants generally agreed on three primary objectives for the collaborative GIS platform.

1. Wildfire Planning and Resilience

The platform will support wildfire protection and resiliency planning by serving as a shared spatial planning tool for:

- Strategic fuels reduction projects
- Critical asset protection
- Suppression infrastructure improvements
- Landscape-scale project coordination

Participants agreed this objective is achievable with currently engaged partners and existing data sources.

2. Project Funding and Grant Support

The platform will help participating organizations attract investment and grant funding by demonstrating a coordinated, countywide approach to wildfire resilience. By displaying ongoing and planned projects across ownership boundaries, partners can communicate a shared vision for wildfire risk reduction and strengthen competitive funding applications.

3. Emergency Response Support – not a focus of this collaborative platform

The group discussed a longer-term objective of providing information useful to wildfire response operations. While participants acknowledged the potential value of current fuels treatment, critical asset, and suppression infrastructure information, operational agencies indicated that additional leadership and guidance would be required to make the platform useful for emergency response functions.

Fire agency representatives emphasized that existing operational mapping systems already provide much of the information needed during incidents and that duplication of those systems should be avoided. [11192026 G...genda.docx | Word], [ACWC GIS W...cript.docx | Word]

Data Contributors and Data Sources

Treatment Data

The group reviewed the primary treatment datasets currently available or proposed for inclusion in the platform.

Interagency Treatment Tracking System (ITTS)

The GIS platform is utilizing live ITTS data feeds rather than static snapshots. Participants noted that the integrated ITTS information was more comprehensive and current than expected and contains significantly more treatment information than the public-facing ITTS website displays.

Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI)

Chris Dow explained that SPI treatment information reflected through ITTS is generally about one year behind actual field implementation due to reporting and processing timelines.

U.S. Forest Service

James Thornock explained that Forest Service treatment data is uploaded annually into the FACTS system and is generally updated at the beginning of each fiscal year. He agreed to investigate whether additional information from FACTS could be integrated into the collaborative platform.

CAL FIRE / CalMapper

Laura Spellman advised that the current CalMapper dataset displayed within the platform only reflects data through approximately July of the current year. Updated datasets will be provided as newer versions become available.

Local Planned and Proposed Projects

Participants recognized that the platform's greatest unique value may be its ability to display planned and proposed projects, which are generally absent from statewide treatment tracking systems.

Current contributors of planned and proposed treatment data include:

- Amador Fire Safe Council
- Amador Resource Conservation District
- Caltrans
- PG&E
- East Bay Municipal Utility District

These datasets will improve project coordination, reduce duplication of effort, and encourage alignment of treatments across property boundaries and jurisdictions.

Critical Infrastructure and Asset Mapping

The platform also includes infrastructure and asset layers intended to support planning and situational awareness.

Current or potential contributors include:

- PG&E
- Amador Water Agency
- Volcano Communications
- Other communications providers
- Amador County OES
- Public infrastructure datasets
- Water infrastructure and hydrants
- Transportation networks and roads

Participants agreed that the geographic location of these features is generally more important than maintaining extensive attribute information.

Hydrant Data

Lucas Carthew confirmed that the Amador Water Agency has already provided updated hydrant data. Annual updates will be feasible moving forward.

Road Data

Mettja Kuna confirmed that road information is currently linked directly to Amador County GIS services through a live service feed, enabling automatic updates as county datasets are maintained.

Additional Recommended Layers

The group identified potential additional datasets to strengthen the platform, including:

- One-way-in/one-way-out communities
- Subdivision review layers
- Water access points
- Additional suppression infrastructure

A publicly available CAL FIRE subdivision review layer was identified for future inclusion.

Discussion: Fire Hazard Severity Mapping

A significant discussion occurred regarding the relationship between fuels treatment projects and CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) maps.

Participants noted that:

- Large-scale treatment projects are often not reflected in hazard severity designations.
- Property owners and agencies are investing substantial resources into fuels reduction and maintenance.
- Insurance companies frequently rely on FHSZ maps when evaluating risk.
- Existing hazard severity mapping appears to reflect long-term and worst-case vegetation conditions rather than current treatment status.

While participants expressed interest in continued dialogue around this issue, the group agreed that updating or influencing hazard severity mapping falls outside the immediate scope of the GIS platform initiative.

Platform Design and Data Management

Review of Other Jurisdictions

Examples from Calaveras County and Butte County were reviewed to demonstrate possible future enhancements, including:

- Improved public-facing user interfaces
- Enhanced map tools and dashboards
- Layer filtering and reporting tools
- Standardized data submission processes
- Contributor portals

These examples will help inform future development of the Amador County platform.

Data Standardization Options

The group considered two primary approaches for managing contributed GIS data.

Option 1: Standardized Data Schema

All contributors would submit data in a consistent format with identical attribute structures.

Advantages

- Easier integration
- Consistent reporting
- More efficient analysis

Disadvantages

- Requires contributors to modify existing systems
- May discourage participation

Option 2: Contributor-Specific Schemas

Contributors maintain their existing data structures while providing a small number of required fields.

Advantages

- Lower burden on contributors
- Greater flexibility
- Easier participation

Disadvantages

- Requires central translation and management of submitted datasets

Based on experience with other multi-agency GIS collaborations, Mettja Kuna recommended the second approach, noting that agencies generally prefer to maintain their existing data structures. The group expressed support for minimizing barriers to participation.

Security and Access Considerations

Participants discussed public access and security requirements for the GIS platform.

Key points included:

- Most planning information should remain publicly accessible.

- Certain critical-asset layers may require restricted access.
- Operational pre-attack maps should remain separate from the collaborative platform.
- Fire agencies already possess operational mapping systems and do not anticipate relying on this platform for incident command functions.

The platform's primary role will remain planning, coordination, and public collaboration rather than emergency operations.

Action Items

Action Item	Responsible Party
Investigate potential integration of Forest Service FACTS data	James Thornock
Provide updated CalMapper datasets when available	Laura Spellman
Add subdivision review layer to the GIS platform	Mettja Kuna
Integrate updated hydrant dataset	Mettja Kuna / Todd Bertwell
Develop and present functional and aesthetic platform improvements	Mettja Kuna / Todd Bertwell
Establish contributor update procedures and schedules	GIS Working Group
Continue identifying treatment and asset data contributors	GIS Working Group

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Next Meeting

The GIS Working Group agreed to continue reporting progress to the full Amador County Wildfire Collaborators group at the December 9, 2026 meeting and tentatively scheduled the next GIS Working Group meeting for **January 14, 2027**, subject to confirmation.

Conclusion

The GIS Working Group successfully established a common vision, clarified platform objectives, identified key data sources, and outlined a practical strategy for future development. The meeting demonstrated strong participation from local, state, federal, utility, and nonprofit partners and reinforced broad support for a collaborative GIS platform that enhances wildfire planning, project coordination, and regional resilience across Amador County.