



Amador Fire Safe Council
PO Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665
www.AmadorFireSafe.org



August 19th, 2026
3:00-5:00
Virtual & In-Person Meeting

Attend In-Person	Attend Virtually
12200 B Airport Road Jackson, CA 95642 Large Conference Room	Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2674846542?pwd=VjlrL25rMGkwY2paMmxhckhKbnJSZz09 Meeting ID: 267 484 6542 Call-In Number: 1(669)900-6833 Code: 2674846542# Passcode: 1055

AGENDA

1. Approve/Modify Agenda*
2. Approve June Minutes*
3. Introductions
4. Treasurers Report (John)*
5. Coordinator Report (Amanda)
 - a. BLM Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance NOFO Application Authorization*
6. CWPP Presentation (Todd Bertwell, AFSC/ARCD Project Manager)
7. Partner Updates
 - a. Cal Fire
 - b. Amador Fire Protection District
 - c. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 - d. PG&E
 - e. SPI
8. Public Comment
9. Other items/adjourn

*Action items



AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BOARD MEETING
June 17, 2026 3:00pm



Board Present: Susan Peters (SP), Connie Gonsalves (CG), John Heissenbuttel (JH), Richard Yarnell (RY), Frank Leschinski (FL)

Staff Present: Amanda Watson (AW), Dana Simpson (DS), Cailin McLaughlin (CM), Todd Bertwell (TB), Gordon Long (GL)

Absent: Pat Minyard (PM), Chris Dow (CD)

1. Approve/Modify Agenda*

SP motioned to approve; FL seconded; all in favor.

2. Approve May Minutes*

JH motioned to approve; SP seconded; all in favor.

3. Introductions

4. Treasurer's Report

- JH reported a current bank balance of \$856,519.84.
- Funds have recently been used to reimburse contractors; however, those funds are expected to be returned to the account along with an additional \$100,000 by the end of the year.

CG motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report; FL seconded; all in favor.

5. Recognition of Amador Fire Safe Council for Non-Profit of the Year – Senator Alvarado-Gil

- Jeff Brown shared that he nominated the AFSC for the award; the AFSC was selected as the recipient.
- Valerie, representing Senator Alvarado-Gil's office, presented a resolution recognizing the AFSC as Non-Profit of the Year.
- CG thanked the Senator's office for the recognition.
- AW acknowledged the many partners whose support and collaboration made the award possible and noted that the recognition reflects the accomplishments of the AFSC and its partners.

6. Coordinator Report (Amanda)

a. Resolution 2026-06-17-01 Mokelumne Rim Fuel Break Project

b. Resolution 2026-06-17-02 Upper Dry Creek Fuel Break Project

c. Resolution 2026-06-17-03 Monitoring & Maintenance Project

d. Letters of Support for Partner Projects

- **Rx Fire & Grazing Pilot**
- **Defensible Space Assistance – Phase 2**
- **Jackson Creek Watershed & Forest Health Phase 2**

AW reviewed the Coordinator Report included in the Board packet AW also requested letters of support for Amador Resource Conservation District projects:

- Amador County Integrated Prescribed Fire and Grazing Pilot
- Defensible Space Assistance Phase 2
- Jackson Creek Forest Health Phase 2
-

SP motioned to approve Resolutions 2026-06-17-01, 2026-06-17-02, and 2026-06-17-03; FL seconded; all in favor.

JH motioned to approve the requested Letters of Support; RY seconded; all in favor.

7 Partner Updates

a. Cal Fire

- Fire season has officially begun.
- The final fire academy for the year is concluding.
- The burn suspension is now in effect for the season.
- Cal Fire has continued conducting prescribed burns while conditions remain favorable and before statewide resource demands increase.
- An effort is underway to extend the fire contingency line on the Tiger Creek footprint through an MOU between Cal Fire and the U.S. Forest Service.

b. Amador Fire Protection District (AFPD)

- The recent Firewise Forum was attended by 22 participants and generated productive discussion regarding future forum topics.
- Kayla has been distributing community signage, including fire engine turnaround and Highway 88 signs, and will provide photos.
- AFPD has launched the "Tend to Defend" campaign, with educational videos being released weekly.

c. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- No representative present.

d. PG&E

- Todd Crawford reported no new updates and reiterated PG&E's support for AFSC efforts.
- GL provided an update on the PG&E Clay Substation Project, noting that the work was completed that day.
- AFSC currently manages two PG&E-funded grants and values PG&E as a strong partner.
- TB reported that Cal Fire crews are currently conducting treatments along Inspiration Drive under the PG&E Ingress/Egress Grant.
- PG&E has introduced a new, smaller grant program that allows for fuels reduction activities and may be well-suited for AFPD projects.

e. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI)

- No representative present.

8. Public Comment

- AW reported that the first meeting of the Amador County Wildfire Collaborative (ACWC) was held successfully.
- Rita Crawford of Dearwood Drive Firewise expressed appreciation to Cal Fire and AFPD for their response to a burn pile that escaped containment and ultimately burned approximately 1.4 acres.

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9. Other Items / Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

	2026 Budget		As of Jul 31, 2026
Expenses			
Grants Expenses			
305 AFSC Coordinator	58,960.00	1	41,877.99
306 Finance Manager	22,050.00	2	17,106.56
307 Outreach Coordinator	23,220.00	3	10,768.00
308 Technical Assistance	13,000.00	4	828.92
309 Project Management	128,790.00	5	91,105.72
310 RPF Professional Forester/Other	154,975.00		75,519.89
320 Groundwork Contracted Labor	2,000,675.00		889,961.48
325 Consulting Services	82,500.00		57,007.91
350 Outreach/Materials/Supplies	31,240.00		10,211.51
Total Grant Expenses	2,515,410.00		1,194,387.98
Operating Expenses			
311 Bookkeeper (Finance Manager)	18,900.00	6	9,789.87
305-1 AFSC Coordinator	9,600.00	7	0.00
321 State Filing Fees	350.00		70.00
325-1 Consultant	5,000.00	8	0.00
330 Insurance, D&O	3,000.00		0.00
343 Bank Charges	50.00		0.00
345 Office Supplies	1,500.00		110.82
346 Postage	400.00		0.00
350 General Outreach	10,000.00	9	2,077.31
365 Professional Fees	600.00	10	0.00
365 Telephone	300.00		0.00
370 Mileage	500.00		495.65
Other	0.00		0.00
Total Operating Expenses	50,200.00		12,543.65
Unrestricted Reserves	100,000.00		0.00
Total Expenses	2,665,610.00		1,206,931.63

Revenue

Grants

BLM Amador County Fire Resiliency	255,390.00	3,954.25
BLM Rancheria/Thompson Ridge	596,810.00	80,807.17
CalFire Ingress/Egress	0.00	298.29

CAL FIRE Volcano Hills	853,610.00	715,063.34
CFSC Coordinator 25	78,460.00	72,838.95
Community Fuel Break	181,450.00	194,569.53
CAL FIRE CWPP	89,640.00	3,740.88
PG&E CEMA Program	85,130.00	76,253.41
SNC County Steward Implementation	284,940.00	6,629.51
SNC RFFCP	89,980.00	36,883.68
SNC Tiger Creek Implementation	0.00	1,328.23
Indirect/Admin Revenue	205,321.00	112,936.34
Contributions	500.00	29.25
Misc Income	0.00	0.00
Interest Income	100.00	175.52
Total Revenue	2,721,331.00	1,305,508.35

1. Assumes 670 hours/year
2. Assumes 315 hours/year
3. Assumes 516 hours/year
4. Assumes 260 hours/year
5. Assumes 2000 hours/year
6. Assumes 270 hours/year (not billable to grants)
7. Assumes 120 hours – if Coordinator doesn't get renewed
8. Consulting expense not billable to grants
9. Outreach that is not directly billable to a specific grant
10. Tax preparation

Amador Fire Safe Council Fund Balances	As of Dec 31, 2025	As of Jul 31, 2026
General Fund	189,203.90	52,865.09
Savings/Reserve Account	350,287.00	250,450.09
PG&E/CWPP	101.50	43,509.55
Tiger Creek Enhance	100.18	100.18
CFSC Coordinator	149.64	18,709.38
Tiger Creek Implementation	100.03	100.03
Ingress/Egress	118.36	118.36
AmCo Stewardship	356,575.38	346,809.01
Community Fuel Break	199.25	199.25
Pine Acres Fuel Break	101.08	101.08
Total	896,936.32	712,962.02

Amador Fire Safe Council Grant Snapshot

as of July 31, 2026

	AFSC	<u>Grant Period</u>	<u>Amount Awarded</u>	<u>Direct Cost</u>	<u>Indirect Cost</u>	<u>Grant Funds Spent to Date</u>	<u>Remaining Advance</u>	<u>Invoiced</u>	<u>Amount remaining</u>
1	Tiger Creek Enhancement 1330 (SNC)	9/13/2021 - 1/1/2026	\$ 220,200.00	\$ 200,200.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 220,200.00	\$ -	\$ -	Grant complete
2	Amador Community Fuel Break Develop Proj (CalFire) 5GG21201	8/4/2022 - 3/15/2026	\$ 726,000.00	\$ 660,000.00	\$ 66,000.00	\$ 699,557.94	\$ -	\$ -	Grant complete
3	Tiger Creek Implementation 1200 (SNC)	7/28/2020 - 1/1/2027	\$ 834,126.00	\$ 744,756.00	\$ 89,370.00	\$ 825,306.51	\$ -	\$ -	Grant complete
5	Amador Substations - PGE	3/27/26 - 11/30/26	\$ 71,678.75	\$ 65,162.50	\$ 6,516.25	\$ 67,239.76	\$ -	\$ 31,400.38	\$ 4,438.99
6	Pine Grove Ingress/Egress - PGE	3/27/26 - 11/30/26	\$ 97,589.25	\$ 88,717.50	\$ 8,871.75	\$ 15,573.38	\$ 33,221.25	\$ -	\$ 82,015.87
7	Volcano Hills Community Fuel Break - 5TR23100	12/2/2024 - 3/15/2027	\$ 1,018,204.00	\$ 925,640.00	\$ 92,564.00	\$ 864,138.10	\$ -	\$ 374,130.65	\$ 154,065.90
8	RFFCP 1705 (SNC)	6/17/2024 - 5/31/2027	\$ 213,290.00	\$ 193,900.00	\$ 19,390.00	\$ 107,733.40	\$ -	\$ 35,946.23	\$ 105,556.60
4	2025 Coordinator (CAFSC) - extended	5/15/25 - 10/15/2027	\$ 303,000.00	\$ 275,477.50	\$ 27,522.50	\$ 142,040.04	\$ 9,459.96	\$ -	\$ 160,959.96
9	AmCo Implementation 1370 (SNC)	8/23/2022 - 1/1/2028	\$ 1,288,444.00	\$ 1,171,313.00	\$ 117,131.00	\$ 993,065.13	\$ 167,064.61	\$ -	\$ 295,378.87
10	Rancheria Thompson Ridge - BLM	9/1/24 - 8/31/28	\$ 778,280.00	\$ 753,320.00	\$ 24,960.00	\$ 159,736.00	\$ -	\$ 3,936.00	\$ 618,544.00
11	Amador County Fire Resiliency - BLM L25AC00514-00	1/1/26 - 12/31/29	\$ 999,233.00	\$ 936,920.00	\$ 62,313.00	\$ 4,547.40		\$ 4,547.40	\$ 994,685.60
12	Ingress/Egress - CalFire	3/25/26 - 2/15/29	\$ 697,125.00	\$ 633,750.00	\$ 63,375.00	\$ 328.12		\$ 328.12	\$ 696,796.88
13	County Wide CWPP 5GG23119	11/28/2024 - 3/15/2030	\$ 167,860.00	\$ 152,600.00	\$ 15,260.00	\$ 4,347.09	\$ -	\$ 4,347.09	\$ 163,512.91
14	Mt Crossman - SNC	Approved - not executed	\$ 382,008.00	\$ 347,280.00	\$ 34,728.00				\$ 382,008.00
			\$ 7,797,038.00	\$ 7,149,036.50	\$ 648,001.50	\$ 4,103,812.87	\$ 209,745.82	\$ 454,635.87	\$ 3,657,963.58

*matches Unearned Revenue

*Matches Accounts Receivable

Ongoing Projects

Project	Update
Amador County Fire Resiliency Project	BLM parcels have been identified within the Dry Creek and Mok. Rim Fuel Breaks. These areas will be treated with these funds. Arch surveys of these sites are the next step. A staff is pursuing additional funding to treat private ground within these fuel break footprints. Two grant applications have been submitted to CalFire for this purpose and staff is pursuing additional BLM funds to expand these fuel breaks onto private ground. Todd Bertwell is taking over as project manager.
AmCo Stewardship Forest Health	Received BLM DNA and Decision Record (NEPA) for three parcels to be treated near Buckhorn Ridge unit. Working with SNC for approval of new acres; SNC will conduct CEQA crosswalk. TB will work with BLM and RPF to identify locations for maintenance e treatment on the AmCo parcels and Tiger Creek fuel break.
Thompson Ridge Fuel Break	BLM DNA and Decision Record (NEPA) is complete and had been submitted SNC for that agency to preform the crosswalk for CEQA. Work is anticipated to start Fall 2026.
Volcano Hills Fuel Break	Both mastication contractors completed their work on 6/25/26, totaling 299 acres of treatment (29 acres above the planned minimum 270). A few acres of handwork, especially along Charleston Road, will be planned and completed before the end of the grant period. AFSC amendment was approved to shift implementation funds toward staff efforts for planning, surveys, and filing a Notice of Exemption for the next priority community fuel break at Sutter Highlands; the first Town Hall meeting took place 7/11/26. Staff are working on a follow-up amendment to allow shifting of funds from handwork to mastication.
PG&E Substation Fuels Reduction	Implementation is complete, CM is working on project signage.
Ingress/Egress Project	Storm response efforts are underway across multiple areas. Work continues in Amador Pines, CAL FIRE's Pine Grove crew began work on June 8, treating approximately 3 miles along Inspiration Drive West and nearby road segments. In Pine Grove, about 1 mile of treatment is planned along Lupe Road and Red Hill Mine Road as a secondary evacuation route through Berry Street. The AFSC Projects Committee selected the contractor to complete this work. Additionally, the Sunset Heights turnaround project (about two-thirds of a mile) has its ROE completed and is ready to be scheduled. In Sherwood Forest, ROEs were mailed to landowners 6/4/26 as part of storm response planning. ROEs were received for 35 of 60 possible parcels, coordination is ongoing with road association.
Mt Crossman Fuel Break	Funding awarded. Staff has developed the new Rights of Entry that meet SNC stipulations and are working with the community to get the new ROEs signed.
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	The project was approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 28. All five cities are expected to approve it with City Council support, though there has been a delay in publishing the final document.
Internal and Countywide Mapping	Contract with Mettja Kuna was approved for 2026. TB is working to engage Mettja on ACWC meeting.
Maintenance and Monitoring Protocol	Staff will re-initiate this project after grant writing is complete.
AFSC Project Committee	N/A

Coordinator Grant	The next ACWC meeting on August 12th a was well attended. AFSC/ARCD will move forward as the lead grant applicant for a county-wide mapping system to focus on strategic planning and emergency response. Public outreach components will be a secondary priority. AW presented to the Board of Supervisors about AFSC Updates on June 23rd.
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Project	Project Lead
Amador County Coordinator	Amanda Watson
Amador County RFFCP	Amanda Watson
Internal Project Mapping system/Community facing map web apps	Todd Bertwell/Amanda Watson
County-wide Collaboration	Amanda Watson
Countywide mapping system	Todd Bertwell/Amanda Watson
County-wide monitoring protocol and maintenance intervals	Gordon Long/Amanda Watson
Volcano Hills Fuel Break	Todd Bertwell
Rancheria/Thompson Ridge Fuel Break	Todd Bertwell
AmCo Stewardship Project	Todd Bertwell
Amador County Fire Resiliency Project	Todd Bertwell/Amanda Watson
County-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) development	Todd Bertwell
Internal Project Mapping system/Community facing map web apps	Todd Bertwell/Amanda Watson
County-wide Collaboration	Amanda Watson
Countywide mapping system	Todd Bertwell/Amanda Watson
County-wide monitoring protocol and maintenance intervals	Todd Bertwell /Amanda Watson
Countywide Ingress/Egress – CalFire - NEW	TBD
Pine Grove Ingress/Egress – PG&E - NEW	Todd Bertwell
Substation Fuels Reduction – PG&E - Completed	N/A
Mt Crossman Fuel Break – SNC - NEW	Todd Bertwell
Projects in Planning/Development Phase	
La Mel Community Fuel Break – planning stages – <i>implementation funded</i>	Tamryn Zahradka
Sutter Highlands Community Fuel Break – <i>planning stage – planning funded</i>	Todd Bertwell
The Oaks – to ARCD as Defensible Space	Todd Bertwell
Mokelumne Rim Fuel Break – planning stage – <i>seeking funding</i>	Gordon Long
Upper Dry Creek Fuel Break – planning stage – <i>seeking funding</i>	Gordon Long
Pine Grove Central Fuel Break – planning stage – <i>seeking funding</i>	Amanda Watson

Current Grant Applications

Amador County Cross-Boundary Wildfire Resilience Nexus Project	See attached memo	~\$1.2 million application to BLM NOFO due August 28 th
Mokelumne Rim Community Fuel Break	The Mokelumne Rim Fuel Break is a strategic project designed to connect several existing fuel breaks, including the Tiger Creek, Doaks Ridge, and Pine Acres fuel breaks, creating a continuous shaded fuel break corridor from Tiger Creek to Highway 49. This grant proposal supports CEQA compliance, environmental surveys, and project development for the full Mokelumne Rim Fuel	\$774,785K; submitted to CalFire WP

	Break system, ensuring all segments are prepared for future implementation. Additionally, the proposal includes on-the-ground treatment for the Tiger Creek to Highway 26 segment (Tiger to Hwy 26 Unit), prioritizing this section for immediate fuels reduction work. This implementation funding will cover work on privately owned land, work on BLM ground will be conducted with federal funds that the AFSC has already acquired. The Tiger to Hwy 26 fuel break includes 112.83 acres of private land across four treatment areas. An additional 110.07 acres of BLM land within the fuel break contribute as match. Total combined project area (grant + BLM match): 222.9 acres. See attached map.	
Upper Dry Creek Community Fuel Break	The Upper Dry Creek Fuel Break Project is a proposed 260+ acre strategic fuel break in northern Amador County aimed at reducing wildfire risk in a high-hazard Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) with limited evacuation routes. The project will connect key transportation corridors, including Shake Ridge Road and Fiddletown Road, while linking to existing and planned fuels reduction efforts to improve landscape-scale resilience across the Dry Creek watershed. Supported by multiple willing landowners and past investments in fuels management, the project will primarily utilize mastication, with limited hand treatments in the riparian corridor. In addition, BLM lands within the project footprint will be incorporated as match, allowing for a larger, more contiguous treatment area and strengthening interagency collaboration. This combined approach will address heavy fuel loads, including dense dead and dying vegetation, and enhance long-term wildfire protection for surrounding communities and critical infrastructure.	\$933,488K; submitted to CalFire WP
Fuel Break Maintenance Strategy & Coordination	Establish a collaborative agreement with Cal Fire AEU to leverage Cal Fire crews during non-fire season to provide fuel break maintenance. AFSC will manage planning, environmental compliance, mapping, treatment layout, landowner access, and grant administration, while on-the-ground maintenance is carried out by Cal Fire crews as availability allows.	\$499,400; submitted to CalFire WP

Date: August 19th 2026

Subject: Request for Authorization to Submit BLM FY26 Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance Grant Application

Recommendation

Staff requests Board authorization for Amanda Watson and John Heissenbuttel to prepare and submit a grant application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) FY26 Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), requesting up to **\$1,200,000**, the maximum award amount available under the funding opportunity.

Background

The Bureau of Land Management recently released its FY26 Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance NOFO. The program supports hazardous fuels reduction, community wildfire planning, wildfire mitigation, Community Wildfire Protection Plan activities, and fuels management projects on both federal and non-federal lands that provide a benefit to BLM and surrounding communities. California-specific priorities include fuels management activities and wildfire planning efforts on federal and non-federal lands. The NOFO provides up to **\$1.2 million per award**, does not require cost share or matching funds, and applications are due **August 28, 2026**.

Proposed Project

Staff proposes submitting a project that would advance wildfire resilience on lands adjacent to BLM-managed properties through a combination of planning, environmental compliance, treatment implementation, and county-wide strategic mapping efforts.

The proposed application would include:

1. CEQA/NEPA Compliance and Fuels Reduction Treatments

Funding would be requested to complete CEQA and NEPA environmental review and implement hazardous fuels reduction treatments on private lands adjacent BLM ground within the Mokelumne Rim Fuel Break.

These projects directly support BLM priorities by reducing wildfire risk on lands adjacent to federal ownership while expanding and strengthening established fuel break systems. The work would create landscape-scale benefits for both public and private lands.

2. Countywide Wildfire Planning and Mapping Initiative

Staff also proposes requesting funding for:

- AFSC staff capacity,
- Consultant services, and
- Technical support

to lead and complete the countywide mapping effort currently being discussed by the Amador County Wildfire Coalition (ACWC).

The mapping effort would identify and prioritize future hazardous fuels reduction projects, support strategic investment decisions, improve partner coordination, and provide a foundation for future grant pursuits.

Project Readiness

AFSC staff have already developed treatment concepts, project areas, and supporting documentation for private-land treatments associated with the Upper Dry Creek and Mokelumne Rim Fuel Breaks through grant applications recently submitted to the CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevention Grant Solicitation. As a result, significant project development work has already been completed.

Staff believes the largest effort associated with this application will be developing the scope, partnerships, and deliverables for the countywide mapping component. However, this element is expected to provide substantial long-term value to wildfire planning and project prioritization efforts throughout Amador County.

Fiscal Impact

The proposed funding request would be up to **\$1,200,000**, the maximum award amount permitted under the NOFO.

Although staff believes it is unlikely that the full amount would be awarded, requesting the maximum amount positions AFSC to receive partial funding and may provide an opportunity for additional funding should BLM make supplemental funds available to successful projects at a later date.

No matching funds are required under this funding opportunity.

Requested Board Action

Motion: Authorize Amanda Watson and John Hiessenbuttel to prepare and submit an application to the Bureau of Land Management FY26 Fuels Management and Community Fire Assistance Program requesting up to \$1,200,000 for CEQA/NEPA compliance, hazardous fuels reduction treatments adjacent to the Upper Dry Creek or Mokelumne Rim Fuel Breaks, and implementation of the ACWC countywide wildfire mapping initiative.

Mokelumne Rim Community Fuel Break Complex
 Treatment Area- 113 Acres Tiger Creek to Highway 26
 CEQA acres Tiger Creek to Highway 49- 589 Acres

