



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



October 21st, 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 September Minutes*
3. Introductions
4. Treasurers Report (John)*
5. Coordinator Report (Amanda)
 - a. Rendic Fuel Break Letter of Authorization*
6. Partner Updates
 - a. Cal Fire
 - b. Amador Fire Protection District
 - c. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
 - d. PG&E
 - e. SPI
7. Public Comment
8. Other items/adjourn

*Action items



AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BOARD MEETING
September 16, 2026 3:00pm



Board Present: Pat Minyard (PM), Chris Dow (CD), John Heissenbuttel (JH), Connie Gonsalves (CG), Susan Peters (SP), Frank Leschinski (FL) -- JH serving as Richard Yarnell's proxy

Staff Present: Amanda Watson (AW), Dana Simpson (DS)

Absent: Richard Yarnell

1. Approve/Modify Agenda*

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

2. Approve August Minutes*

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

3. Introductions

4. Treasurer's Report

- JH reported a current bank balance of \$729,482.65.
Overall we are on track for budget, currently over budget on staff but under on fieldwork. We did receive a \$300k check We have an RFP out for an audit - proposals are due Friday

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

5. Coordinator Report (Amanda)

AW reviewed the Coordinator Report included in the Board packet.

6. Partner Updates

a. Cal Fire – no update

b. Amador Fire Protection District (AFPD)

- AFPD has seen an increase in requests for assessments - last month they've done 27
This is just the fire insurance part:
 - Example - \$2,500/year it was about to raise by \$5k, zone 0 changes were made by homeowner and they received a discount of \$5,100.
 - Example: policy was set to be cancelled. Homeowner did a lot of work and were able to avoid the fair plan
 - Willow Creek Road - \$3,500 per year to \$19,500. property inspection, made changes to zone 0, they joined a firewise and AFPD wrote a letter and they received a discount of \$10,000
 - 3Qtr Firewise Forum was held- 36 people attended. Next meeting will be in December
 - AFPD has invited us to their Guns and Hoses event - October 18th at Howard Park
 - 40 Firewise communities, 9 pending, and 5 new ones starting the process

c. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) – no update

d. PG&E – A few fires have started in the region were started near fuel breaks. These fuel breaks slowed the fires down. Thank you for the work the AFSC does to help control fires in the region.

e. Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) – Logging continues, Antelope fuel break continues, prescribed burning will start up when fire season ends. No burning along Shakeridge this year.

7. Public Comment

- No public comment

8. Other Items / Adjournment -- Meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

	2026 Budget		As of Sep 30, 2026
Expenses			
Grants Expenses			
305 AFSC Coordinator	58,960.00	1	50,033.34
306 Finance Manager	22,050.00	2	19,840.06
307 Outreach Coordinator	23,220.00	3	15,046.25
308 Technical Assistance	13,000.00	4	1,852.88
309 Project Management	128,790.00	5	103,925.24
310 RPF Professional Forester/Other	154,975.00		76,207.39
320 Groundwork Contracted Labor	2,000,675.00		966,462.13
325 Consulting Services	82,500.00		56,152.46
350 Outreach/Materials/Supplies	31,240.00		12,400.10
Total Grant Expenses	2,515,410.00		1,301,919.85
Operating Expenses			
311 Bookkeeper (Finance Manager)	18,900.00	6	12,700.87
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	992.02
330 Insurance, D&O	3,000.00		2,825.55
343 Bank Charges	50.00		0.00
345 Office Supplies	1,500.00		354.19
346 Postage	400.00		78.00
350 General Outreach	10,000.00	9	3,060.61
365 Professional Fees	600.00	10	0.00
365 Telephone	300.00		0.00
370 Mileage	500.00		224.30
Other	0.00		40.95
Total Operating Expenses	50,200.00		20,346.49
Unrestricted Reserves	100,000.00		0.00
Total Expenses	2,665,610.00		1,322,266.34

Revenue

Grants

BLM Amador County Fire Resiliency	255,390.00	3,954.25
BLM Rancheria/Thompson Ridge	596,810.00	81,055.49
CalFire Ingress/Egress	0.00	298.29

CAL FIRE Volcano Hills	853,610.00	789,882.99
CFSC Coordinator 25	78,460.00	80,539.98
Community Fuel Break	181,450.00	194,569.53
CAL FIRE CWPP	89,640.00	4,591.05
PG&E CEMA Program	85,130.00	86,062.68
SNC County Steward Implementation	284,940.00	6,629.51
SNC RFFCP	89,980.00	49,558.97
SNC Tiger Creek Implementation	0.00	1,328.23
Indirect/Admin Revenue	205,321.00	123,521.88
Contributions	500.00	91.55
Misc Income	0.00	0.00
Interest Income	100.00	228.92
Total Revenue	2,721,331.00	1,422,313.32

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 Sep 30, 2026
General Fund	189,203.90	215,648.90
Savings/Reserve Account	350,287.00	350,498.25
PG&E/CWPP	101.50	43,513.23
Tiger Creek Enhance	100.18	100.18
CFSC Coordinator	149.64	18,710.94
Tiger Creek Implementation	5100.03	100.03
Ingress/Egress	118.36	118.36
AmCo Stewardship	356,575.38	346,837.99
Community Fuel Break	199.25	199.25
Pine Acres Fuel Break	101.08	101.08
Total	896,936.32	975,828.21

Amador Fire Safe Council Grant Snapshot

as of Aug 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	\$ 67,846.73	\$ -	\$ 32,007.35	\$ 3,832.02
6	Pine Grove Ingress/Egress - PGE	3/27/26 - 11/30/26	\$ 97,589.25	\$ 88,717.50	\$ 8,871.75	\$ 25,756.60	\$ 23,038.03	\$ -	\$ 71,832.65
7	Volcano Hills Community Fuel Break - 5TR23100	12/2/2024 - 3/15/2027	\$ 1,018,204.00	\$ 925,640.00	\$ 92,564.00	\$ 946,439.71	\$ -	\$ 133,221.06	\$ 71,764.29
8	RFFCP 1705 (SNC)	6/17/2024 - 5/31/2027	\$ 213,290.00	\$ 193,900.00	\$ 19,390.00	\$ 121,813.72	\$ -	\$ 29,306.35	\$ 91,476.28
4	2025 Coordinator (CAFSC) - extended	5/15/25 - 10/15/2027	\$ 303,000.00	\$ 275,477.50	\$ 27,522.50	\$ 150,511.18	\$ 988.82	\$ -	\$ 152,488.82
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	\$ 167,206.00	\$ -	\$ 295,378.87
10	Rancheria Thompson Ridge - BLM	9/1/24 - 8/31/28	\$ 778,280.00	\$ 753,320.00	\$ 24,960.00	\$ 159,984.32	\$ -	\$ 4,184.32	\$ 618,295.68
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	\$ 5,282.28	\$ -	\$ 5,282.28	\$ 162,577.72
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	\$ 4,220,639.64	\$ 191,232.85	\$ 208,876.88	\$ 3,541,136.81

*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. Todd Bertwell is taking over as project manager.
AmCo Stewardship Forest Health	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) and CEQA crosswalk is complete. Work is anticipated to start Fall 2026.
Volcano Hills Fuel Break	299 acres of treatment completed, and a few acres of handwork, especially along Charleston Road, are being planned. Planning for Sutter Highlands FB is in progress. Project close-out Town Hall held in October.
PG&E Substation Fuels Reduction	Implementation is complete, CM is working on project signage.
Ingress/Egress Project	CAL FIRE's Pine Grove crews have been working on projects, the current project in Sherwood Forest. CalFire developed a press release celebrating the project.
Mt Crossman Fuel Break	ROEs still missing for the project to move forward. Need to have all ROEs submitted by the end of the month or grant funding may be rescinded. Staff and board members are working with landowner to get ROE signature.
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	All required signatures have been received and final document complete!
Internal and Countywide Mapping	Grant application to BLM for the development of a county-wide mapping database and system not awarded. ACWC had another mapping meeting.
Maintenance and Monitoring Protocol	Draft Monitoring plan has been reviewed internally and will be shared at the upcoming project committee meeting.
Coordinator Grant	The October ACWC meeting was well attended. AFSC/ARCD is moving forward with leading the county-wide mapping system to focus on strategic planning and emergency response. Public outreach components will be a secondary priority.

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	Todd Bertwell/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>	N/A
Upper Dry Creek Fuel Break – planning stage – <i>seeking funding</i>	N/A
Pine Grove Central Fuel Break – planning stage – <i>seeking funding</i>	Amanda Watson
Rendic Community Fuel Break – planning complete – <i>seeking funding</i>	Todd Bertwell
Amador Pines Community Fuel break Complex – planning stage	Todd Bertwell

Current Grant Applications

Amador County Cross-Boundary Wildfire Resilience Nexus Project	Not awarded	
Rendic Community Fuel Break	The Rendic Community Fuel Break is a strategic wildfire resilience project designed to reduce hazardous fuels, moderate extreme fire behavior, and help prevent wind-driven wildfire spread in eastern Amador County. Located east of Drytown on lands owned by the Rendic Family Trust, the project will treat approximately 116 acres within a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone using machine mastication to reduce dense vegetation and create a defensible fuel break. The project will help protect the nearby communities of Drytown, Amador City, and Sutter Creek, including an estimated 2,760 habitable structures located within a three-mile radius. This effort builds upon and complements other landscape-scale fuels reduction projects led by the Amador Fire Safe Council, including the Upper Rancheria, Amador Community, Mitchell Mine, and Pine Acres projects. Implementation is anticipated to begin in January 2028, with mastication activities completed by mid-2028 and all grant activities concluded by February 2029. The project is a collaborative effort involving the Amador Fire Safe Council, Amador Resource Conservation District, Rendic Family Trust, UC Cooperative Extension, and a team of specialized contractors providing forestry, archaeology, GIS, vegetation management, and herbicide application services.	~\$580k Concept Proposal approved – Staff working to submit full application to SNC
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 Break system, ensuring all segments are prepared for future implementation.	\$774,785K; submitted to CalFire WP

	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



Amador Fire Safe Council
P.O. Box 1055, Pine Grove, CA 95665
209-304-2187 www.AmadorFireSafe.org



“The Mission of the Amador County Fire Safe Council is to protect the people of Amador County and their property from the effects of catastrophic wildfire through education, cooperation, innovation and action.”

October 21st 2026
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205
Auburn, CA 95603

SUBJECT: Authorization and Support for the Rendic Fuel Break Project Grant Application

Dear Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Review Committee,

On behalf of the Amador Fire Safe Council (AFSC) Board of Directors, this letter has been approved to by the AFSC Board to support and grant authorization for the proposed Rendic Fuel Break Project grant application.

The AFSC Board fully supports the development and implementation of this important wildfire resilience project and hereby authorizes Amanda Watson, AFSC Coordinator, to lead project development activities, coordinate project planning efforts, engage project partners, and prepare all materials necessary for the successful submission of the grant application.

The Board also authorizes John Heissenbuttel, AFSC Board Treasurer, to act on behalf of the Amador Fire Safe Council in the submission of the grant proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and to negotiate and execute any grant agreements, amendments, and associated documents necessary to secure and administer grant funding should the project be awarded.

The Rendic Fuel Break Project represents an important investment in wildfire risk reduction within Amador County. The proposed project will improve strategic fuel management, enhance firefighter access and suppression opportunities, and help protect residents, critical infrastructure, natural resources, and surrounding communities from the threat of catastrophic wildfire. The project is consistent with AFSC's mission to increase community wildfire resilience through collaborative planning, fuel reduction, and landscape-scale wildfire mitigation efforts.

The AFSC Board is committed to supporting this effort and looks forward to working with the Sierra Nevada Conservancy and local partners to advance the project and its long-term benefits to the region. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Amador Fire Safe Council
www.AmadorFireSafe.org

Proponent: Amador Fire Safe Council Project Name: Rendic Fuel Break
Habitable Structures within 3 miles= 2,760 Structures
Geographic Center of Project: 120° 47' 19"W, 38° 25' 15" N

