

Jan 14, 2026

# Amador CWPP: Working Group 5 Meeting

## Summary

The Amador CWPP working group reviewed the agenda, which covered mitigation strategies, action items, and capacity building gaps. Key discussions involved the organization of action items into various categories (e.g., ingress/egress, fuel breaks), the need for a coordinated education and outreach effort, and mechanisms for enhanced interagency collaboration, including the formalization of the fire mitigation group and the establishment of a data hub, while also addressing the complexities of enforcing defensible space on vacant parcels. The group also discussed the Fire Risk Reduction Community List, the capacity needs of Amador Fire Protection District for Firewise community support, and agreed that Amanda Watson would propose distributing the working document to participants to provide feedback and draft goals as "homework" to create a more digestible list of objectives.

## Details

- **Meeting Opening and Introductions** Todd Bertwell opened the fifth working group meeting of the Amador CWPP and started introductions ([00:00:00](#)). Joining from Jackson were Jim Bennett (Ione Fire Department), Dan Epperson (Amador County Board of Supervisors District 2), and Kayla Dale (Amador Fire Protection District). Online participants included Carl Simpson (City Manager, Jackson) Amanda Watson (Executive Director of the Amador Resource Conservation District and Coordinator of the Amador Fire Safe Council) Beth Brenneman (Bureau of Land Management), Christopher Dow (SPI), Chuck Beckman (East Bay MUD), Ian Moore and Nick Miley (Spatial Informatics Group), Richard Sykes (UMRWA), Ryan Pidgeon (Fire Chief, City of Jackson), and Todd Crawford (PG&E) ([00:02:56](#)).

- **Agenda and Mitigation Strategies Review** Ian Moore reviewed the agenda, which included a recap of the last meeting, and a review of mitigation strategies and action items developed so far. They mentioned that the second half of the meeting would focus on adding detail and collecting input from the participants ([00:06:29](#)). Nick Miley added that they would also discuss capacity building gaps ([00:07:52](#)).
- **Treatment Data Compilation and Action Items** Ian Moore noted that compiling treatment data sets was an ongoing effort led by Todd Bertwell, emphasizing that these data inform the CWPP and are valuable for the Fire Safe Council's future planning and coordination ([00:10:19](#)). The group also revisited the development of action items and mitigation strategies, which are being organized into categories such as improving ingress/egress, expanding fuel breaks, defensible space, and capacity/coordination needs ([00:11:32](#)). Ian Moore presented the initial working list organized by goals (e.g., reducing potential for catastrophic wildfire) and objectives, as well as by level: parcel, landscape, and community, to align with plans like the CalFire AEU Strategic Fire Plan and local hazard mitigation plan ([00:14:34](#)).
- **Input on Action Items and Plan Structure** Amanda Watson asked for clarification on how to provide input on the action items ([00:17:55](#)). Todd Bertwell clarified that the goal was to review the structure and categorization, and gather feedback on key actions from the local hazard mitigation plan and the AEU plan ([00:19:24](#)). Todd Bertwell and Ian Moore emphasized that the current list is comprehensive but aims to be narrowed down and consolidated into a more digestible list for the final CWPP ([00:20:58](#)).
- **Education and Outreach Coordination** Starting with the AEU plan's community level actions, the group discussed education and outreach ([00:23:41](#)). Amanda Watson suggested a specific objective of having a coordinated effort in outreach and education, possibly via a committee, to leverage the individual efforts of various groups like OES, the Amador Fire Protection District (AFPD), cities, RCD, and the Fire Safe Council ([00:26:56](#)). Todd Bertwell summarized the objective as coordinating or creating a mechanism to coordinate education outreach activities among participating entities ([00:29:10](#)).
- **Agency Collaboration and Data Hub** Ian Moore brought up the action item concerning collaboration and coordination with other agencies ([00:29:10](#)). Amanda Watson mentioned the Fire Safe Council's annual, informal fire mitigation group meeting and suggested formalizing this group around the CWPP process. She also advocated for identifying mechanisms to streamline

leveraging staff and grant opportunities between organizations like the Fire Safe Council, RCD, and AFPD to fill capacity gaps ([00:30:50](#)). Nick Miley supported this idea and suggested adding a data hub recommendation to the CWPP to ensure common data formats, centralized data location, and systematic long-term planning to avoid duplicating work ([00:32:12](#)).

- **Enforcement of Defensible Space on Vacant Parcels** Amanda Watson raised the topic of enforcement, specifically concerning the defensible space on vacant parcels ([00:34:41](#)). Nick Miley and Todd Bertwell confirmed that this issue was brought up in town hall meetings and is complex due to the legal difficulties of enforcement, especially when liens are involved or owners are absentee ([00:35:54](#)). They noted that the CWPP could address the issue by briefly summarizing it, or including recommendations for further exploration by the board of supervisors or planning department ([00:36:58](#)).
- **Good Neighbor Packet and Absentee Landlords** The group discussed a "good neighbor packet" being developed to encourage neighbors to mitigate vegetation on adjacent properties within 100 ft, with the aim of promoting cooperation and addressing liability concerns ([00:38:12](#)). This effort is also meant to help renters or neighbors contact absentee landlords ([00:39:28](#)). The draft packet is expected to be presented at the next board meeting, and Todd Bertwell offered to share it for inclusion or reference in the CWPP ([00:40:28](#)).
- **Process for Input and Fire Risk Reduction Community List** Ian Moore noted the valuable discussion and suggested that the whole group, especially Todd Bertwell and Amanda Watson, decide on specific topics to prioritize. Amanda Watson proposed distributing the working document for participants to provide feedback and draft goals as "homework," which Ian Moore agreed to follow up on with an email detailing the best way to share the materials and gather input ([00:41:39](#)). Ian Moore then asked about the Fire Risk Reduction Community List, which opens up funding opportunities but currently lists no communities in the county. Amanda Watson believed Amador's communities would qualify and that listing them would enhance grant competitiveness ([00:44:28](#)).
- **Firewise Communities and Amador Fire's Role** Christopher Dow expressed concern that consolidating all Firewise communities under one overarching group might neglect the different priorities across Amador's 40-plus communities, which have individual three-year action plans and annual risk assessments ([00:46:00](#)) ([00:48:35](#)). Amanda Watson clarified her understanding that the Fire Risk Reduction Community List is an identification of risk, not a consolidation of planning practices, and emphasized the importance of

maintaining a single Fire Safe Council ([00:47:32](#)). Kayla Dale noted the benefit of keeping Firewise communities separate to maintain community cohesion and neighborly support ([00:50:37](#)). They also highlighted the importance of fire risk reduction efforts to stabilize or reduce insurance rates for taxpayers ([00:51:35](#)).

- **Amador Fire Firewise Coordinator Capacity** Kayla Dale clarified that Amador Fire is the coordinator for the Firewise communities, not CalFire, and noted that they provide inspections and letters to homeowners to help with insurance claims ([00:52:28](#)). Amanda Watson and Kayla Dale agreed that additional capacity is needed for AFPD to expand and sustain their role in supporting the Firewise communities ([00:53:20](#)). Kayla Dale mentioned current efforts to teach wildfire behavior and other classes to Firewise leads and community members. Ian Moore confirmed that the plan would include recommendations for additional personnel and staffing to help access grant funding ([00:54:43](#)).
- **Closing Remarks and Next Steps** Ian Moore noted that the discussions covered the main AEU community list and confirmed that the group would not recommend an Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resiliency, separate from the Fire Safe Council, as it has caused complications in El Dorado County ([00:56:14](#)). Todd Bertwell closed the meeting by thanking everyone and reiterating that they would send out a request for feedback on a more digestible list of goals, including individual requests on specific items to develop a strong action item list ([00:57:58](#)).
- **Overall Timeline for Project Completion** Ian Moore provided an update on the project's timeline, noting that work will continue over the next month, with more discussion anticipated at the meeting on February 11th. They mentioned that the team is aiming to have a "pretty complete draft" ready in March, followed by review and finalization, with a goal of presenting to the board of supervisors in April. The participants, including Todd Bertwell, Richard Sykes, Nick Miley, and Christopher Dow, acknowledged the update and thanked Ian Moore for the information ([00:59:37](#)).

## Suggested next steps

Ian Moore, Nick Miley, and Todd Bertwell will figure out the best way to share the working list of action items and gather input from the working group members. Ian Moore and Todd Bertwell will follow up with an email to the group with materials and individual requests to review and contribute to the working list of action items.

Ian Moore will send out some follow-up information via email fairly soon.

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