

ACWC Meeting Summary

October 14, 2026 | Approx. 54 minutes

Attendance

Amador County

- Dan Epperson – District 2 Supervisor
- Jeff White – IT director
- Kevin Rooney - GIS Coordinator/Cadastral Mapper/Auditor Appraiser
- Sgt. Matthew Girton – Office of Emergency Services coordinator
- Barry Clark – Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

AFSC / ARCD

- John Heissenbuttel, AFSC Board Treasurer, RPF
- Frank Leschinsky, AFSC Board, Volcano Communications
- Steve Cannon, ARCD Board President, Consulting RPF
- Amanda Watson, ARCD Executive Director, AFSC Coordinator
- Todd Bertwell, ARCD / AFSC Forestry Project Manager
- Cailin McLaughlin, ARCD / AFSC Project Manager & Outreach Coordinator

CAL FIRE

- Mike Boyce, AEU Battalion Chief, South Division and Pine Grove Camp

Amador Fire Protection District

- Kayla Dale, Public Information Officer

City of Lone Fire Department

- Jim Bennet, Engineer

Caltrans

- Yi-Liang Kao, D10-Stockton Branch Chief - Vegetation Management Program
- Michael Casas

Amador Water Agency

- Rick Ferreira, Operations and Engineering Manager

PG&E

- Todd Crawford, Public Safety Specialist
- Wes Whited, Natural Resources Management

1. GIS Platform Access, Licensing, and Security

- County hosting may reduce costs if partner agencies can use existing county GIS licenses.
- A license does not automatically grant access; the platform owner must still share the appropriate layers and permissions.
- Review current licenses, user allocations, hosting options, and any additional licenses needed.
- Agencies raised the need to maintain appropriate security controls before sharing sensitive infrastructure information.
- Outreach to communications providers—including Comcast, AT&T, and newer providers—was suggested because their facilities may be important during wildfire incidents.

2. Proposed GIS Data Categories

- Baseline geographic data: roads, streams, parcels, topography, and jurisdiction boundaries.
- CWPP outputs: analyses and products updated periodically as Community Wildfire Protection Plans are refreshed.
- Critical assets: locations of infrastructure that partners consider important for planning and incident awareness.
- Fuel treatments: initial treatments and maintenance work, with ongoing updates expected.
- Treatment records should use consistent attributes so data from different agencies can be displayed and compared.

3. Fuel-Treatment Data Standards

- Develop a common data structure with contributing agencies before collecting and displaying treatment data at scale.
- Potential attributes discussed included treatment type, completion date, organization responsible, and maintenance history.
- Examples of treatment types included hand thinning, shaded fuel breaks, and mechanical mastication.
- Consider integrating existing Cal Mapper and Interagency Treatment Tracking System (ITTS) information, then supplementing it with more detailed or more frequently updated local data.
- The smaller GIS working group is expected to help define the standard; no final standard was adopted during this meeting.

4. Critical Infrastructure and Data Sharing

- Participants discussed whether asset data needs a common structure or whether points, lines, and polygons showing critical locations would be sufficient initially.
- The immediate priority is to know where important assets are; the group may not need detailed asset descriptions in every case.
- PG&E noted that public GIS layers include electrical distribution and transmission infrastructure and distribution substations.
- Additional PG&E information may require cybersecurity review; hydroelectric assets and battery energy storage locations were mentioned as possible topics for further review.
- Data contributions are voluntary. Each agency will decide what information it is comfortable sharing.
- Current contacts for communications providers may need to be identified or refreshed.

5. Private and Firewise Community Fuel Treatments

- Participants emphasized that private landowners and Firewise communities have completed substantial fuel-reduction work that may not appear in current treatment maps.
- Mapping this work could improve strategic planning and incident awareness and recognize community investment.
- Key challenge: confirming the treatment's location, scope, date, and whether it remains effective after time passes or ownership changes.
- Ideas included timestamping treatments, using review or expiration intervals, and revalidating areas through inspections or other checks.
- Possible collection methods included GPS track logs from phones, surveys, Firewise community input, and future use of satellite imagery.
- A submission and validation process would be needed. The discussion treated private contributions as valuable but potentially a later phase because of added complexity.

6. Planned Projects and Project Coordination

- Participants supported considering whether the platform could show planned projects and their status.
- Mapping planned work could help identify opportunities to connect projects, prioritize treatments, and support grant applications.
- Cross-boundary coordination was encouraged so work on one parcel or right-of-way is not undermined by untreated adjacent areas.
- CAL FIRE mentioned work in or around Amador Pines, Sherwood Forest, Shake-Omo, Pine Acres, Doak Ridge/Tiger Creek, Brickyard, Rancho Arroyo Seco, and Fiddletown.
- Caltrans plans to use Survey123 to document upcoming contract work and is considering documenting maintenance activities as well.

7. Invasive Plants and Joint Funding Opportunities

- Tree of Heaven and other invasive plants were raised as concerns that can overlap with fuel-reduction work.
- Participants noted that invasive plants may regrow or spread from adjacent properties, making coordinated, area-wide treatment more effective.
- The group discussed finding existing GIS layers or requesting shareable location data from organizations that may already maintain it.
- It remains open whether invasive-plant coordination should be handled through the GIS working group or another existing effort.
- Combined funding opportunities could potentially address multiple needs—for example, fuel reduction and invasive-plant treatment in the same area.

8. Working Group, Follow-Up, and Next Meeting

- Todd Bertwell offered to convene a smaller GIS working group of data contributors and relevant technical staff.
- The working group would review existing layers, recommend treatment-data attributes, consider platform structure and functionality, and identify missing stakeholders.
- An initial working session toward the beginning of November was discussed, with a goal of bringing direction or progress to the next full meeting.
- Follow-up: review hosting and licensing; develop treatment-data standards; identify shareable infrastructure layers; explore a future process for validating private treatments; and consider planned-project and invasive-plant layers.
- The next bimonthly meeting was proposed for Wednesday, December 9, 2026, at the same time and place. The transcript does not record a formal vote.

9. Other Updates

- Fire Safe Council planned to send letters of support for the Rendic fuel break funding application to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy.
- Cal Fire reported continued fuel-reduction and ingress/egress work, including projects completed in the Amador Pines area and additional projects underway or planned in several locations.

- Participants highlighted the value of sharing information and coordinating treatment methods and timing among agencies, communities, and adjacent landowners.

Note: This bullet-point summary reflects the meeting transcript. Proposed ideas are not presented as formally approved decisions unless the transcript clearly indicates that status.