



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



February 18th, 2026
3:00-5:00
Virtual & In-Person Meeting

Attend In-Person	Attend Virtually
19888 Church Street, Pine Grove (Behind Pine Grove Park) Volcano Communications Tech Center	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 January Minutes*
3. Introductions
4. Treasurers Report (John)*
5. Project Committee Update (Amanda)
6. Coordinator Report (Amanda)
 - a. CWPP Update
7. Buckhorn Ridge Project Report (Gordon Long)
8. Partner Updates
 - a. Cal Fire
 - b. Amador Fire Protection District
 - c. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
9. Public Comment
10. Other items/adjourn

*Action items
Meeting will be recorded.



AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BOARD MEETING
January 21, 2026 3:00pm



Board Present: John Heissenbuttel (JH), Connie Gonsalves (CG), Frank Leschinsky (FL), Chris Dow (CD – virtual), Susan Peters (SP), Pat Minyard
Richard Yarnell (via John as proxy)

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

Public/Partners Present:

Kayla Dale, Tom Ellison, Ryan Bully, Bob, Ralph, Rich, Greg (Jackson Pine), Jackie Vaughn,

1. Approve/Modify Agenda*

JH motioned to approve; FL seconded; all in favor

2. Approve November Minutes*

FL motioned to approve; JH seconded; all in favor

3. Introductions

General introductions were conducted.

4. Treasurer's Report (John)*

- 2025 year-end bank balance: **\$896,936.32**, considered a healthy balance.
- Dana provided additional financial context:
 - Unrestricted balance: **\$512k**
 - Accounts receivable: **\$225k**
 - Liabilities: **\$76k**
 - Net worth: **\$666k**
 - Reserve fund: **\$350k**, supporting early contractor payments and cash-flow stability during grant delays.
- Income and expenses both tracked close to **82% of budget**.
- John noted: groundwork accounted for **77% of expenses**.
- AW reported several new grants focused on capacity development, contributing to higher staff costs compared to previous years.

a. 2026 Budget Review and Approval*

At the November meeting, the Board reviewed the draft budget. The Projects Committee subsequently reviewed and recommended approval.

JH motioned to approve; FL seconded; all in favor

5. Project Committee Update (Amanda): Brief update provided; no action items recorded.

6. Coordinator Report (Amanda)

a. CWPP Update: General update provided on continuing CWPP progress, see coordinator report.

7. Partner Updates

a. Cal Fire

- Ongoing work on the **Doaks VMP** including mastication and pile burning.
- Continued activity on **Shake Omo** and **Shake Fiddle VMPs**.
- Continued burning at **Mt. Zion**.
- Ongoing planning for the **Pine Acres Fuel Break VMP**.

b. Amador Fire Protection District (AFPD) — Kayla Dale

- Scheduling new evacuation drills for Firewise Communities (FWCs); two in planning.
- FWCs encouraged to reach out if interested in hosting a drill.
- Fire behavior training for FWC leads held last year; planned again this year.
- Email list updated in December.
- AFPD hosted **318 public events**, over half through FWCs.
- **78 property inspections** conducted; 24 resulted in follow-up letters to insurance companies supporting retention or rate reductions.
- AFPD Podcast: **7 episodes** released.
- Townhall season forthcoming; Kayla will send dates to AFSC.
- Frank raised the Matt Girton collaboration; Kayla and Amanda confirmed active involvement.

c. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

Amanda provided a brief comment, no formal update.

8. Public Comment

Amanda provided an update on the **Defensible Space and Chipping Program**.

9. Other Items / Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

AMADOR FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

	2026 Budget		As of Jan 31, 2026
Expenses			
Grants Expenses			
305 AFSC Coordinator	58,960.00	1	5,884.92
306 Finance Manager	22,050.00	2	2,525.07
307 Outreach Coordinator	23,220.00	3	1,384.02
308 Technical Assistance	13,000.00	4	0.00
309 Project Management	128,790.00	5	14,692.66
310 RPF Professional Forester	154,975.00		18,860.25
320 Groundwork Contracted Labor	2,000,675.00		0.00
325 Consulting Services	82,500.00		8,136.20
350 Outreach/Materials/Supplies	31,240.00		1,767.44
Total Grant Expenses	2,515,410.00		53,250.56
Operating Expenses			
311 Bookkeeper (Finance Manager)	18,900.00	6	1,660.32
305-1 AFSC Coordinator	9,600.00	7	0.00
321 State Filing Fees	350.00		0.00
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		0.00
346 Postage	400.00		0.00
350 General Outreach	10,000.00	9	0.00
365 Professional Fees	600.00	10	0.00
365 Telephone	300.00		0.00
370 Mileage	500.00		0.00
Other	0.00		0.00
Total Operating Expenses	50,200.00		1,660.32
Unrestricted Reserves	100,000.00		0.00
Total Expenses	2,665,610.00		54,910.88
 Revenue			
Grants			
BLM Amador County Fire Resiliency	255,390.00		434.85
BLM Rancheria/Thompson Ridge	596,810.00		12,429.95
CAL FIRE Volcano Hills	853,610.00		1,097.00

CFSC Coordinator 25	78,460.00	7,934.26
Community Fuel Break	181,450.00	21,193.38
CAL FIRE CWPP	89,640.00	502.89
PG&E CEMA Program	85,130.00	0.00
SNC County Steward Implementation	284,940.00	3,933.26
SNC RFFCP	89,980.00	4,461.90
SNC Tiger Creek Implementation	0.00	454.94
Indirect/Admin Revenue	205,321.00	4,247.62
Contributions	500.00	0.00
Misc Income	0.00	0.00
Interest Income	100.00	29.75
Total Revenue	2,721,331.00	56,719.80

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 Jan 31, 2026
General Fund	189,203.90	155,124.75
Savings/Reserve Account	350,287.00	350,316.75
PG&E/CWPP	101.50	101.50
Tiger Creek Enhance	100.18	100.18
CFSC Coordinator	149.64	149.64
Tiger Creek Implementation	100.03	100.03
Ingress/Egress	118.36	118.36
AmCo Stewardship	356,575.38	356,605.68
Community Fuel Break	199.25	199.25
Pine Acres Fuel Break	101.08	101.08
Total	896,936.32	862,917.22

Amador Fire Safe Council Grant Snapshot

as of Jan 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	\$ -	\$ 22,132.30	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	\$ 517,080.84	\$ -	\$ 47,186.52	\$ 208,919.16
3	2025 Coordinator (CAFSC)	5/15/25 - 7/31/26	\$ 151,500.00	\$ 137,727.50	\$ 13,772.50	\$ 70,644.91	\$ 22,900.11	\$ -	\$ 80,855.09
4	Tiger Creek Implementation 1200 (SNC)	7/28/2020 - 1/1/2027	\$ 834,126.00	\$ 744,756.00	\$ 89,370.00	\$ 824,951.23	\$ -	\$ 75,071.93	\$ 9,174.77
5	Volcano Hills Community Fuel Break - 5TR23100	12/2/2024 - 3/15/2027	\$ 1,018,204.00	\$ 925,640.00	\$ 92,564.00	\$ 78,775.12	\$ -	\$ 48,029.77	\$ 939,428.88
6	RFFCP 1705 (SNC)	6/17/2024 - 5/31/2027	\$ 213,290.00	\$ 193,900.00	\$ 19,390.00	\$ 71,003.80	\$ -	\$ 26,930.32	\$ 142,286.20
7	AmCo Implementation 1370 (SNC)	8/23/2022 - 1/1/2028	\$ 1,288,444.00	\$ 1,171,313.00	\$ 117,131.00	\$ 990,099.25	\$ 170,054.49	\$ -	\$ 298,344.75
8	Rancheria Thompson Ridge - BLM	9/1/24 - 8/31/28	\$ 778,280.00	\$ 753,320.00	\$ 24,960.00	\$ 90,018.51	\$ -	\$ 46,218.51	\$ 688,261.49
9	County Wide CWPP 5GG23119	11/28/2024 - 3/15/2030	\$ 167,860.00	\$ 152,600.00	\$ 15,260.00	\$ 785.29	\$ -	\$ 785.29	\$ 167,074.71
10	Amador County Fire Resiliency - BLM L25AC00514-00	1/1/26 - 12/31/29	\$ 999,233.00	\$ 936,920.00	\$ 62,313.00	\$ 500.08		\$ 500.08	\$ 998,732.92
	Ingress/Egress - CalFire	Anticipated not Executed	\$ 697,125.00	\$ 633,750.00	\$ 63,375.00				\$ 697,125.00
			\$ 7,094,262.00	\$ 6,510,126.50	\$ 584,135.50	\$ 2,864,059.03	\$ 192,954.60	\$ 266,854.72	\$ 4,230,202.97

*matches Unearned Revenue *Matches Accounts Receivable

Ongoing Projects

Project	Update
Amador County Fire Resiliency Project – New Project	Treatment on BLM/nearby properties treatment, connect to fuel breaks and estimated 230 acres will be treated. Staff and AFSC Projects Committee are working to prioritize treatment areas and projects.
Tiger Creek/Crestview Forest Health	Project is completed; staff is working on closeout documentation and final report.
AmCo Stewardship Forest Health	Received BLM DNA and Decision Record for three parcels to be treated near Buckhorn Ridge unit. Working with SNC for approval of new acres; SNC will conduct CEQA crosswalk.
River Pines Fuel Break Butte Mtn Fuels Reduction Rendic Fuel Break NOE	<p>River Pines Fuel Break: work is completed, signage will be installed ASAP. GL is working on Final Report. GL attended River Pines FWC to give a final report.</p> <p>Butte Mtn: Mastication work completed. Total 58 acres.</p> <p>Rendic: Cultural survey and forester conducted surveys complete, RPF is working on the ERRF. Project will be submitted to ARCD Board for NOE approval in March or April. No funding for implementation.</p>
Volcano Hills Fuel Break	Contracts with Krisman and Tanner have been signed; both contractors are finishing up jobs elsewhere and will start when weather allows. Anticipate that work will be done prior to July 2026.
Community Wildfire Protection Plan	<p>The Working Group Meeting and Steering Committee are holding monthly meetings.</p> <p>Next steps: identify priority focus areas in Vibrant Planet/Planscape; develop Action Plan and Priority Projects. Steering Committee leading drafting; Working Group input.</p> <p>Working Group has requested Quarterly Amador Wildfire Collaborator Group meetings to be hosted and facilitated by AFSC. These meetings will help coordinate existing projects, develop new projects, and serve as a regular meeting to review the CWPP actions.</p> <p>CWPP on track for April 2026 completion. Progress posted on AFSC website with SIG web map.</p> <p>The CWPP website is live and includes information about how to participate in the process, view mapping, and review meeting information. Amador County CWPP - Amador Fire Safe Council</p>
Internal and Countywide Mapping	<p>Contract with Mettja Kuna was approved for 2026.</p> <p>See attached GIS Goals table. Priorities Include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff capacity building (shared layers, Field Maps, Survey123, story maps). 2. Build staff capacity to use and expand AFSC’s collaborative datasets without compromising structure. 3. Public-facing interactive web map of AFSC/ARCD projects (completed, active, planned), continuously updated and integrated with CWPP results.
Maintenance and Monitoring Protocol	GL has participated in SNC/RFFCP Monitoring Protocol Training and the team is working to finalize first draft of protocol to present to the

	AFSC Projects Committee. GL and TB will be attending the SNC facilitated training in April to refine the Monitoring Plan.
AFSC Project Committee	AFSC Project Committee approved two projects that were submitted to the PG&E Fuels Reduction grant program. Upcoming priorities of the Project committee: develop a slate of BLM treatment areas, prioritize projects for upcoming CalFire grant solicitation.
Coordinator Grant	Megan Watts is stepping away for the AFSC/ARCD. Her last day will be February 27 th . The ARCD is working on a vacancy announcement for a full-time Outreach/Admin. Coordinator,

Upcoming Grant Applications

PG&E 2026 Fire Safe Council Fuel Reduction Program. ~\$100k. Application deadline is February 13, 2026, which is ahead of schedule. Staff and Project committee are reviewing the best projects to fit this funding. Looking at smaller community fuel breaks and submitted Ingress/Egress projects.

Project	Project Lead
Jackson Gate/Kennedy Mine Fuel Break - Completed	Gordon Long
Volcano Hills Fuel Break	Todd Bertwell
Rancheria/Thompson Ridge Fuel Break	Gordon Long
AmCo Stewardship Project	Gordon Long
River Pines Fuel Break (Rendic/Butte Mtn) Completed – Final report due March 15th 2026	Gordon Long
Upper Jackson Gate Fuel Break - Completed	Gordon Long
Tiger Creek/Crestview Forest Health - Completed	Gordon Long/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	Gordon Long/Amanda Watson
Projects in Planning/Development Phase	
La Mel Community Fuel Break – planning stages (grant amendment needed)	Gordon Long
Sutter Highlands Community Fuel Break – following up with community on ROEs/getting feedback from CalFire	Todd Bertwell
Sunset Heights – still in determination phase	Todd Bertwell
The Oaks – still in determination phase	Todd Bertwell
Mokelumne Rim Fuel Break – planning stage	Gordon Long
Upper Dry Creek Fuel Break – planning stage	Gordon Long
PG&E Substation Fuels Reduction - submitted to PG&E for funding	Gordon Long
Pine Grove Central Fuel Break – planning stage	Amanda Watson
Pine Grove Ingress/Egress – submitted to PG&E for funding	Todd Bertwell
Ingress/Egress – review has been on hold due to limited grants – some roads incorporated into PG&E grant	Todd Bertwell

Current Grant Applications

Project	Current Grant Application	Amount Requested
Mt. Crossman Community Fuel Break (75 acres)	Submitted to CalFire WP (8/5) – not awarded Submitted to SNC, invited to submit full proposal (7/30) – Recommended for approval- March SNC board agenda	\$390,390
Community Fuel Break Program - Continuation to the planning of community projects.	Submitted as a goal of all community fuel breaks grants (Rendic and Mt. Crossman)	N/A
Continuation of Ingress/Egress Implementation (35 miles)	Submitted to CalFire WP (8/5) – will be direct awarded	\$697,125
Substation Fuels Reduction	Submitted to PG&E (1/12)	\$71,678.75
Pine Grove Ingress/Egress	Submitted to PG&E (1/12)	\$97,589.25

PG&E Grant Application Summaries

Amador Substation Fuel Reduction Project

Total Project Budget: \$71,678.75

Fuel break/Reduction. 19.5 Acres.

This project lies within 500 feet of a PG&E electric asset. This fuels reduction project focuses on conducting fuels reduction field work on private parcels adjacent to two strategically located PG&E utility substations. The Oleta Substation is within the city limits of Plymouth. The Clay Substation is within the city limits of Lone. These substations and adjacent properties are within the Local Responsibility Area. Both substations have significant fuel loads near vital PG&E infrastructure. The fuel loads adjacent to Oleta Substation is comprised of brush (coyotebrush and ceonothus) with an overstory of blue and interior live oaks. The fuel loads next to the Clay Substation is heavy brush (ceonothus, chamise, toyon) with a closed canopy of live oak. Adjacent to the western edge of the Clay site is a commercial propane fuel facility. Both units are within Tier 2 of the HFTD

2026 Pine Grove Ingress & Egress

Total project budget: \$97,589.25.

25 acres. Approximately 5.2 miles total

AFSC proposes to treat roadside vegetative fuels along three road segments: Ridge Road, Sunset Heights and Red Hill Mine Road. First, Ridge Road is a major traffic thoroughfare between Pine Grove and Sutter Creek/Martell. Second, a fire access road and turnaround in the Sunset Heights community connects Bowman and Marc Roads. Third, a secondary evacuation route exists between Red Hill Mine Road and Berry Street, critical for an otherwise single Ingress & Egress neighborhood. A contracted hand crew with chippers would remove shrubs and trees up to 10" DBH and prune remaining trees up to 10 feet above ground within 20 feet of either side of the road. Pine Grove and surrounding neighborhoods are classified under the Tier 1 and Tier 2 High Fire Threat Districts. The proposed road treatments lie within 500 feet of PG&E transmission lines and within 1.5 miles of the 1961 Rancheria fire.

2026 AFSC GIS Support Goals.

Since late 2024, AFSC has benefited from GIS support from our consultant Mettja Kuna to create many of the databases, layouts and processes that will enable AFSC to conduct its work more efficiently and to better communicate its work with strategic partners and the public. All the work she has put in is directly related to project deliverables outlined in AFSC grants, especially CAFSC Coordinator, SNC RFFCP, and BLM CWPP. In 2026, the support needed from Mettja will:

1. Ensure that AFSC staff has the capacity to utilize the foundation that she has already established, leading to improved staff efficiency,
2. Incorporate adjustments to the systems to further tailor them to our specific needs based on staff feedback, and
3. Publish interactive project maps, Story Maps and collaborative databases to better communicate its work to partners, the public and funders, making AFSC more competitive for future funding opportunities.

Priority	Task: Alignment with AFSC GIS Needs Statement	Description	Deliverable	Estimated Hours
High	Support Protocols	Establish a clear process for requesting GIS assistance from Mettja, distinguishing between general troubleshooting and project-specific goals.	Individual support request document and tracking system. Training provided to staff on how to use tracking system.	2
High	Shared Data System Confidence. File Structure & Storage. Map layout & Layer Development.	Build staff capacity to use and expand AFSC's collaborative datasets without compromising structure.	Individual support request tracking system utilized. Support provided to four staff members; questions and answers documented.	15
High	Shared Data System Confidence. Monitoring & Maintenance Integration	Build staff capacity to utilize ArcGIS Field Maps: "Survey Observations" to reduce data conversion/transfer needs when verifying work treated for invoicing and reporting and for Monitoring and Maintenance Integration. Add capacity to record line and polygon features.	Three staff members utilizing ArcGIS Field Maps to efficiently track and verify treatment work and establish monitoring observations.	10

High	External Data Sharing. Attribute Table Consistency	Align project data attribute fields to regional standards: ITTS. https://wildfiretaskforce.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/WFR-TF-Tracking-System-Plan-V1.pdf	Modify AGOL Content Layers: Amador Project Areas, Lines and Sites to match Interagency Treatment Tracking System attribute fields.	8
Medium	Non-Technical Staff Access	Improve accessibility of GIS tools for Admin, ED, and Outreach staff, enabling them to view, create, and manipulate maps without requiring advanced technical skills.	Admin, ED and Outreach staff trained to utilize "experience" webmaps.	6
Medium	External/Public Mapping	Develop maps showcasing completed and in-progress projects for external partners and public audiences, with alignment to CWPP goals and priorities.	Webmap created and published to AFSC webpage.	5
Medium	Attribute Table Consistency	Ensure uniformity in field naming and formatting across datasets to support clean analysis and reduce confusion.	Guidance document created for attribute field filling.	5
Medium	Monitoring & Maintenance Integration	Incorporate ongoing site data—such as field observations, photos, plot records, and survey responses—into project workflows using Field Maps and linked geospatial tools. Establish form fields and database structure compatible with RFFCP monitoring protocol.	Field Maps compatible layer created. Attribute fields based on standardized regional Monitoring protocol	10
High	Story Map Development & Training	Leverage Story Maps for public outreach to showcase project impact, community engagement, and ecological benefits. Provide training for outreach staff to confidently create, update, and publish Story Maps aligned with organizational messaging and CWPP goals.	At least one Story Map created and published to showcase completed AFSC projects.	7

High	File Structure & Storage	Set up a backup on Todd's machine	Backup created. Backup interval and protocol established.	2
Medium	External Data Sharing	Evaluate the potential for shared project and planning layers across AACT group.	Enable shared AFSC/ARCD Project Areas, Lines and Points, viewable by AACT collaborators.	5
Total				75

Total cost of project support: 75 hours x \$125/hr = \$9,375