



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council  
Executive Committee Meeting  
December 6, 2023**

**Executive Committee Directors Present:** Paul Van Leer, Victoria Cooper, Rob Hazard

**Executive Committee Directors Absent:** Kevin Varga, Nic Elmquist

**Others Present:** A. Parkinson, P. Seymour, S. Edner

**1. MOU and new employee contract approval**

- Viviana's MOU and Charles' contract will be sent out to be signed by end of the week.

**2. CalFire Wildfire Prevention Grant application**

- So far, we only know of County Fire applying for the same grant. They are asking for \$2.5 million, so as long as no other groups put in a good grant for a big ask we can ask for \$2.5 million for this years funding cycle.
- Planning on asking for funds to do 1 year of chipping in north County, otherwise our current south county and this proposed grant would mean we are constantly managing two different grants for chipping starting and ending at different times. The future plan would be to then apply for a county wide chipping grant in 2025, which would be easier to manage administratively. We also would have a better sense of chipping needs in north county after the first year.
- Tasks we plan on including in the grant:
  - Firewise
  - Home evaluations
  - 50 days of chipping for 1 year
  - Roadside clearing, preliminary estimates are 40 miles/year
  - Community scale defensible space
  - Note, TREX has been excluded from consideration since we would not be able to count the acres treated as part of our reporting since County Fire would be the one to claim those acres.
- Currently we have approx. 40% of the budget dedicated to staff time and benefits. CalFire is really pushing for focusing on acres treated, so they may not like that. See bullet below.



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- We are considering putting in for two CalFire grants: one >\$2 million for hazardous fuel reduction and the other for a planning grant to do 2 CWPPs in north county: Tepusquet and Santa Ynez Valley so we have the funds necessary to take the time to do more strategic planning for future projects in north county. AMP will also explore funding from the federal Community Wildfire Defense Grants and State Coastal Conservancy as potential funding sources since they may be more amenable to doing a CWPP in the way that fits our philosophy, which is to use the opportunity to build long-term lasting relationships with communities.
  - If we do two separate grants, we can split out Kate's and Gustavo's time, so the amount of staff time in the main hazardous fuel reduction grant is reduced.

### **3. Dudek overage on contract**

- Dudek went over budget by approx. \$20,000. In part from them and us, for example we ask for some new treatments to be added. They're going to cover part of the overage, but are asking for us to pay \$11,961.
- Even with this overage we are still within the CalFire budget line item for environmental review.
- Rob recommends we pay them this amount since it was justifiable cost overrun.

### **Motions:**

- Pay Dudek \$11,961 to cover their cost overrun on completing our grazing environmental review document. V. Cooper, R. Hazard seconds, all in favor.

### **General Notes:**

- Matching funds in CalFire grant: if we include matching funds in the grant application budget, we have to include matching funds in the grant reports/invoicing.

**Minutes submitted respectfully:** Anne-Marie Parkinson