



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council  
Executive Committee Meeting  
February 7th, 2024**

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

**Executive Committee Directors Absent:** Nic Elmquist

**Others Present:** A. Parkinson, C. Harris, S. Coffman, J. Tobin, S. Edner, M. Vontillow, T. Adams, P. Seymour

**1. CWPP Interview Question Review**

- a. EC reviewed questions for the upcoming Lompoc CWPP project manager interviews.
  - i. EC agreed more wildland fire related questions would be appropriate for the interview.

**2. Chipping review with changes from last EC meeting**

- a. J. Tobin increased the total amount of chipping days for 2024
- b. J. Tobin Revised the 2024 Schedule
  - i. An additional week was added for Mission Canyon
  - ii. J. Tobin created buffer weeks in between each month.
    1. EC agrees that all of the buffer weeks should be moved to the end of the program to ensure the chipping program does not run behind schedule.
      - a. EC agrees that should a community need extra chipping done after their week is up, J. Tobin has the discretionary power to assign buffer days when and where they are needed.
    2. The FSC will not externally promote the buffer days. This information will remain private so as not to mislead the public or create the expectation that a second round of chipping will come to each neighborhood.



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- a. J. Tobin will have the ability to identify which areas and neighborhoods need a second round of chipping and will assign the buffer days accordingly. If no areas need a second round of chipping then all of the buffer days will be kept at the end of the program.
- c. *Motion to make recommendation to the BOD to approve the 2024 Chipping Schedule & Budget with the changes decided in this Executive Committee Meeting.*
  - i. *Director Cooper firsts, Director Hazard seconds. All in favor.*
- d. Director Cooper requests J. Tobin makes an extra column within the chipping-grant-budget tracker to signify which communities are firewise and which are not. The EC agrees with this recommendation.
- e. Director Hazard recommends J. Tobin loop in D. Mckibbin from County Fire to help identify areas that need tag and trim in the communities.

### **3. Succession planning/update**

- a. Director Hazard's replacement for County fire rep
  - i. The new County Fire Marshal has concerns about joining the FSC as a director if it means he has to become the treasurer.
    1. EC decides to find someone else to become the treasurer in order to secure the new County Fire Marshal on the board.
- b. Director Fawcett's replacement for CSFD rep
  - i. Director Fawcett is stepping down in April.
  - ii. Director Hazard recommends approaching the Wildland Fire Specialist at CSFD instead of the Fire Marshall. The WFS has more time on their hands and will be more likely to join the board whereas the Fire Marshall is stretched thin and has almost no time.
  - iii. President Van Leer will reach out to the Wildland Fire Specialist and introduce the FSC.
- c. Director Varga will no longer be stepping down in May and plans to stay until Jan. 2025
- d. There is opportunity for a Forest Service rep to join the board this year (2024)
  - i. EC will begin outreach to personnel in the FS who might be interested.



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1. Director Hazard recommends reaching out to the head of the fuels department.

**4. In-person finance meeting**

- a. Cash flow analysis document is of main concern.
- b. The week of the Feb board meeting
  - i. Potentially Wednesday the 21st in the later afternoon
  - ii. AMP will follow up with Director Elmquist
  - iii. C. Harris will send out calendar invite

**5. SACRA D-Space Letter**

- a. The law office of Marc Chytilo will donate funds to the FSC for shaded fuel reduction treatment in the San Antonio Creek area.
  - i. The FSC will prioritize the project and have County Fire do the physical work.
- b. *Motion to approve signing the SACRA D-Space letter from the law office of Marc Chytilo.*
  - i. *Director Hazard firsts, Director Vontillow seconds. All in favor.*

**Motions:**

- *Motion to make recommendation to the BOD to approve the 2024 Chipping Schedule & Budget with the changes decided in this Executive Committee Meeting. Director Cooper firsts, Director Hazard seconds. All in favor*
- *Motion to approve signing the SACRA D-Space letter from the law office of Marc Chytilo. Director Hazard firsts, Director Vontillow seconds. All in favor.*

**Minutes Submitted Respectfully:** Charles Harris