



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council  
Executive Committee Meeting  
February 21st, 2024**

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

**Executive Committee Directors Absent:** Victoria Cooper, Nic Elmquist

**Others Present:** A. Parkinson, C. Harris, J. Tobin, K. Pananides, K. Furlong, S. Coffman

**1. Quarterly Finance Review**

**a. Grazing Updates**

- i. The grazers for this year (2024) have submitted higher cost per acre estimates than what was expected.
  1. The FSC will need to graze less because it costs more.
  2. The current schedule and budget leaves little funds for grazing in 2025.
    - a. J. Tobin presents two options to the EC for the 2024 grazing schedule and budget.
      - i. Option 1 has more treatment sites overall, has more treatment sites that were grazed in 2023, and will cost about 36% more than Option 2.
      - ii. Option 2 has less treatment sites, only 2 treatment sites that were grazed in 2023, and will cost 36% less than Option 1.
    - b. The EC favors option two as it will save time and money
- ii. The San Marcos Foothills will likely be one of the only sites that is re-grazed year after year because it is of vital importance as a fuel break for Santa Barbara. (the other treatment sites are subject to change with each year)
- iii. The Coastal Commission Development project will make it difficult to graze some of the treatment sites that are on the proposed 2024 schedule.
- iv. The grazing program will likely not be able to make grant deliverables in 2024 due to price per acre.
- v. The FSC needs to acquire an encroachment permit from Goleta in order to expand the grazing program within the city. This will allow the FSC to graze vulnerable and important parcels within the city.



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- vi. The SCE RWMP grant allows for a small amount of funds to be allocated towards grazing. If J. Tobin identifies a small parcel that is of high importance; these funds can be used to graze it.
- vii. AMP requests that J. Tobin has a solidified schedule and budget to propose to the BOD by the March meeting.
- b. Grant Budgets
  - i. CalFire Lompoc CWPP
    - 1. The FSC needs to reassess the amount asked for in the first advance of this grant. If the FSC does not spend all of the first advance by the deadline then CalFire will be less likely to give secondary advances when they are first requested.
  - ii. CFSC Defensible Space
    - 1. This grant is in good standing and is going to give the FSC quarterly advances throughout the year.
  - iii. SCC Wildfire Resilience
    - 1. AMP expects to get a check from this grant in April. It is currently behind on payments to the FSC.
  - iv. CA FSC (NFWF) RWMP
    - 1. The FCS is not expecting to receive the next advance from this grant until April or May.
    - 2. The FSC is on track to spend out salary funds.
    - 3. There is currently a small surplus of supply funds that is on track to be spent by the grants end date.
  - v. CA FSC County Coordinator
    - 1. This grant will be providing an extension for the FSC.
    - 2. The FSC can expend up to 80% of the first advance before requesting a second advance.
  - vi. CFSC Defensible Space
    - 1. The FSC is approved for a first advance, but the CA state fire safe council is waiting for CalFire to give the final OK before sending it.
  - vii. SCE RWMP
    - 1. The FSC has yet to get approval for a first advance on this grant.
    - 2. A couple of small things to note with this grant:
      - a. There are extra funds for the chipping program.
      - b. There are extra funds for defensible space crews.



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- c. Cash Flow Analysis
  - i. We should not run into any cash flow issues this year, even when being conservative with CalFire being slow with grant reimbursements and not paying contractors large lump sums in advance.
  - ii. J. Tobin received approval from CalFire for the 2024 grazing invoices.
  - iii. The FSC should not need to use any discretionary funds for salary this year.
- d. Update from CPA
  - i. The new CPA suggests that the FSC does not necessarily need to do a pre-audit for the 2023 tax year.
  - ii. The CPA recommends that the FSC create a Financial Policy and Procedure guide which documents items such as who has access to debit cards, bank accounts, who is responsible for budgeting, etc.
  - iii. After the CPA submits FSC 2023 taxes he would like to have a review our takes and then in late 2024 discuss a plan for an audit in 2025

**Motions:** [none]

**Minutes Submitted Respectfully:** Charles Harris