



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Firesafe Council  
Board of Directors' Meeting  
March 28, 2024**

Directors Present: Paul Van Leer, Victoria Cooper, Nic Elmquist, Scott Coffman, Selden Edner, Rob Hazard, Mark Vontillow, Kim Pananides, Ted Adams, Kevin Varga, John Ahlman, Supv. Joan Hartmann

Directors Absent: Max Moritz, Phil Seymour

26 Attendees (Total)

Meeting has a quorum as identified in Article IV. Section 9 of the [Bylaws](#)

Call to Order

09:00 AM- P. Van Leer calls the meeting to order and confirms quorum

Minutes

Previous minutes approved over email and are available on the website: [Meetings | Santa Barbara Firesafe Council \(sbfiresafecouncil.org\)](#)

Treasurer's Report

- Kevin shares screen and walks through page 1, explaining each project funding source.
- Cal Fire RWMP Grant closed on March 15, 2024. SBCFSC was successful in expending \$631,000 of the \$686,000 awarded funds at the end of February.
- Moore Foundation Grant was recently awarded and the \$375,000 has been received.
- This months Quick Books reports are slightly off due to accounting service transition.
- New CPA will help conduct a "pre-audit" in 2024 to prepare for a more formal audit in 2025.
- Discussion and recommendation to differentiate between "payroll" and "program expenses" on the pie chart because most of the payroll is for staff working on specific programs.

Meeting Follows Agenda:

1. Executive Committee (P. Van Leer and A. Parkinson)
  - Bi-weekly EC meeting is open to all Directors and minutes are posted on webpage: <https://sbfiresafecouncil.org/meetings/>
  - Changed RWMP Committee to "Program Committee" to provide time for new program development.

- Will discuss adding a “Closed Session” option for BOD meetings to deliberate sensitive topics, if needed.
  - Staff was not in attendance due to a conference, so AMP provided brief update on each of the programs.
  - All pertinent documents are available on Google Docs here: [Annual Planning Folder - 2024](#)
2. Prescribed Grazing (R. Hazard)
    - R. Hazard and J. Tobin are still working on finalizing the permits for the portions of the Prescribed Herbivory Project that fall within the Coastal Zone.
    - Planning and coordination with landowners is currently occurring as we approach spring grazing season.
  3. Neighborhood Chipping (N. Elmquist)
    - Montecito chipping began on March 4<sup>th</sup>, with two weeks being implemented thus far.
    - A total of 55 participants with 62 tons of material chipped and delivered to Agrichip for recycling.
    - The Santa Barbara portion of the chipping program will begin April 1<sup>st</sup> in Paradise Canyon.
    - More information about the program is available on the website - <https://sbfiresafecouncil.org/communitychipping/>
  4. OEM Update (K. Hubbard)
    - Evacuation software recommendation is going to the Board of Supervisors for approval in April.
    - Hoping to implement portions of the software this fire season.
    - Learn more about the software online [HERE](#).
    - OEM is preparing to transition from storm season to wildfire season preparedness, including Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) season.
    - The County recently received a hydrogen-solar trailer and will be receiving an additional solar trailer that can be rolled out to the community to charge devices (i.e. medical equipment) during times of power outages.

#### Motions:

1. Motion to support the Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TRES) in Santa Barbara in 2024. (Director Cooper, Director Hartmann, all in favor)
2. Motion to transition bookkeeping services from Accountability Plus to Embrace Financial for a six-month contract for \$2,500/month. (Director Hartmann, Director Coffman, all in favor)
3. Motion to approve the committee members recommended by the Executive Committee. Committee details available [HERE](#) (Director Hazard, Director Hartmann, all in favor)
4. Motion to approve Fred Tan as an interim Director to represent Santa Barbara County Fire. (Director Hartmann, Director Vontillow, all in favor)

#### Action Items:

1. None noted

#### Next Meeting Agenda Items:

1. AOP/CC Hiring Update
2. Committee Updates
3. 2024 Budget Approval

4. Chipping Project Update
5. Herbivory Update
6. Grant Updates

Board Adjourned at 10:00 AM

Guest Presentation:

Frank Frievault – Director, WUI Institute, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Disrupting the Conflagration Loss Sequence (<https://sbfiresafecouncil.org/frank-frievault/>)

Future Meeting Schedule and Guest Speakers:

1. April 25<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting
2. May 23<sup>rd</sup> – General Membership Meeting - Annual Board Election (in-person)
3. June 27<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting
4. July 25<sup>th</sup> – Board and General Membership Meeting
5. August 22<sup>nd</sup> – Board Meeting
6. September 26<sup>th</sup> – Board and General Membership Meeting
7. October 24<sup>th</sup> – Board Meeting
8. November 21<sup>st</sup> – Board and General Membership Meeting

Minutes respectfully submitted: Nic Elmquist (3.29.24)



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Meeting Agenda: Thursday – March 28, 2024**  
**Board Business: 9:00 am – 10:00 am**  
**General Membership/Guest Presentation: 10:00 am – 11:30 am**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87349118036>

**Meeting ID: 873 4911 8036**

**Dial in: +1 669 900 6833**

**BOARD MEETING:**

- 0900 - 0905:** Establish Quorum (P. Van Leer)
- 0905 – 0915:** Treasurer Update (K. Varga)
- 0915 – 0925:** Executive Committee Update (P. Van Leer)  
Minutes available <https://sbfiresafecouncil.org/meetings/>
- 0925 – 0940:** Executive Director Updates (Anne-Marie Parkinson)  
**Motions:** SBCFSC supporting SB TREX; Embrace Financial replacing Accountability Plus for bookkeeping services; Approve EC recommended Committee Members
- 0940 – 0945** Project updates provided in Agenda Package, Staff not in attendance due to conference (R. Hazard – Grazing, N. Elmquist – Chipping)
- 0945 - 0950** Introduce Fred Tan, Santa Barbara County Fire Marshal (R. Hazard)
- 0950 - 1000** Agency Updates
- 1000 – 1045:** Guest Presentation – Frank Frievalt, WUI Institute – Cal Poly SLO  
Presentation: *Disrupting the Conflagration Loss Sequence*
- 1045 – 1130:** Q & A, Discussion

**2024 Meeting Schedule Posted:** <https://sbfiresafecouncil.org/meetings/>

**Next Scheduled Meeting (Board): Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at 0900**

## **SBCFSC 2024 Tasks and Committees**

*“We can do anything, but we can’t do everything.”*

### **Goal 1: Increase fire prevention awareness and actions implemented by individuals and communities to reduce loss of life, property damage and impacts to natural resources from wildland fires.**

- Host a spring Evacuation Preparedness Workshop (South County), a Fall Prescribed Fire Workshop (North County), and an initial Lompoc CWPP Meeting
- Continue to improve website and host at least 5 guest presentations for the Speaker Series
- Translate the home hardening online portal text and videos to Spanish
- Continue to develop new educational material to support outreach efforts (i.e. videos, interactive maps)
- Increase Firewise certified communities from 12 - 22
- Continue implementing the South Coast Prescribed Herbivory Project and treat ? acres
- Continue Community Chipping Program, expanding it to include 35 neighborhoods, 1400 participants and removing 800+ tons of vegetation in 2024
- Increase completed Defensible Space Surveys from 150 to 250 and begin using the software Fire Aside in 2024
- Continue to support, both fiscally and with content, the Community Alert Radio Program as it transitions to a podcast
- Continue to strengthen relationship with local universities, seek opportunities for collaboration (i.e. UCSB Wildfire Prevention and Policy Lecture Series and Wildfire Resilience Initiative). Seek avenues to incorporate research into outreach efforts (i.e. Moritz Lab flammability tests)
- Seek partnerships (i.e. Cachuma Resource Conservation District and Bucket Brigade) and establish a program to provide support during post-wildfire disaster efforts and resiliency activities

### **Goal 2: Encourage local and regional land use planning efforts that increase the protection of life, property, and natural resources from the risks of wildland fire.**

- Provide representation at pertinent local organizational meetings (i.e. LPF Stakeholders, Cachuma Resource Conservation District, California FSC)
- Support local planning efforts (i.e. SB 9, Fire Code Ordinances, Regional Housing Needs Allocation EIR, etc.) as it relates to wildfire prevention and mitigation within the County

### **Goal 3: Develop sufficient financial and administrative resources such as staff, volunteers, and sustainable funding to carry out the SBCFSC Mission.**

- Hire a project manager to begin planning/implementation of the Comprehensive Wildfire Education Program
- Hire a CWPP project manager to begin planning/implementation of the Lompoc CWPP and overseeing the Defensible Space Grant
- Develop an organizational structure to create efficiency and increase capacity
- Create a 3-5 year financial plan to provide sustainable funding for the organizational structure identified above
- Seek partnerships to diversify funding sources (i.e. Moore Foundation)
- Hire a contractor to conduct a “pre-audit” of the organizations financial records
- Biannual newsletter, quarterly updates, and routine educational emails to membership

- Increase paying membership from 20 to 50 due paying members
- Develop a communication plan
- Improve staff and new BOD onboarding process to include a more complete understanding of the organization's goals, priorities, and processes
- Organize the Google Docs filing system to ensure all BOD can efficiently find needed information
- Utilize the County Coordinator position to expand relationships, funding sources, and capacity

**Goal 4: Develop a Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program (RWMP) that will result in county-wide community, landscape, and built environment resilience.**

- Refine the Landscape and Building domains
- Use lessons learned to develop a framework to clearly explain the RWMP so that it can be replicated
- Continue planning for SBCFSC to take over the RWMP and expand the program to encompass the entire county by 2025

**2024 Identified Committees:**

1. Executive Committee – P. Van Leer, K. Varga, N. Elmquist, V. Cooper, R. Hazard
2. Finance Committee – Executive Director, Executive Committee
3. Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program – A. Parkinson, M. Moritz, R. Hazard, K. Varga, V. Cooper, N. Elmquist
4. Membership Management – C. Harris, N. Elmquist, V. Cooper, A. Parkinson, Executive Director
5. Event Planning Committee – A. Parkinson (Lead), C. Harris, K. Varga, K. Pananides
6. Newsletter – C. Harris, A. Parkinson, V. Cooper, N. Elmquist
7. LPF Stakeholder Meetings – S. Coffman, T. Adams, A. Marie Parkinson

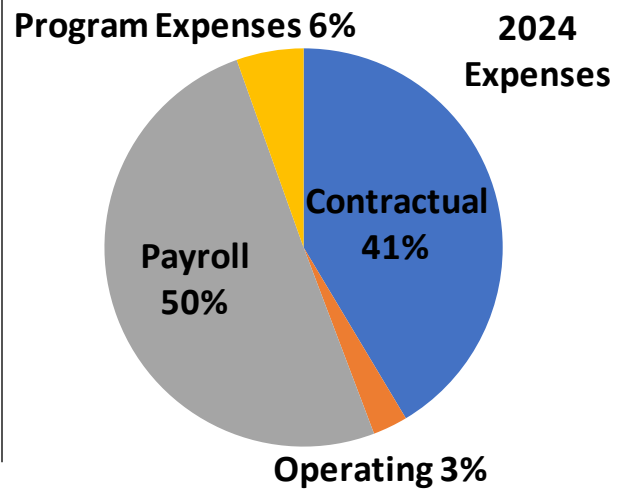
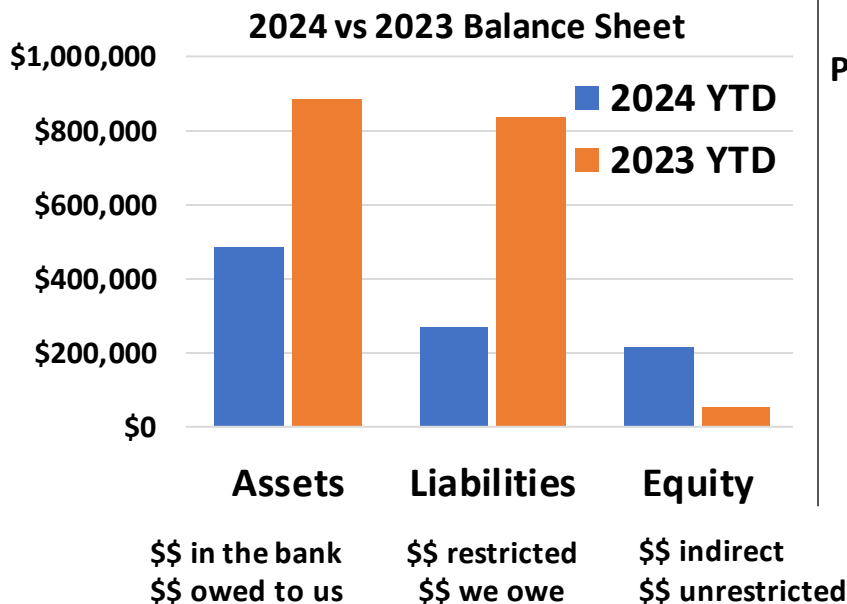


### March 2024 – Treasurer Report

Prepared by: Kevin Varga – Treasurer – kvarga@ucsb.edu

Fund sources	Timeline	Total budget	Expended	In the bank
CALFIRE - RWMP	Dec 2021 - Mar 2024	\$686,094	\$631,203	(\$100,314)
CFSC - County Coord	Feb 2023 - July 2024	\$175,000	\$79,436	\$8,064
NFWF - RWMP	Jan 2021 - Oct 2024	\$550,000	\$371,279	(\$18,715)
CFSC - Def Space	Oct 2023 - Dec 2024	\$468,000	\$0	\$0
Moore – RWMP	Feb 2024 - Feb 2025	\$375,000	\$0	\$375,000
SCC - Capacity	Feb 2023 - June 2025	\$370,000	\$136,344	(\$96,108)
CALFIRE - Chipping	Sep 2022 - Mar 2026	\$2,037,939	\$556,461	\$233,946
CALFIRE - Herbivory	Sep 2022 - Mar 2026	\$1,948,552	\$523,657	(\$55,360)
SCE – RWMP	Jan 2024 – Aug 2027	\$575,000	\$0	\$105,000
CALFIRE – Lompoc	Oct 2023 – Mar 2029	\$341,443	\$0	\$0
CALFIRE – Education	Oct 2023 – Mar 2029	\$1,564,226	\$0	\$0

CA Fire Safe Council (CFSC); National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF); Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E); Southern CA Edison (SCE); State Coastal Conservancy (SCC)



**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As of February 29, 2024**

	<b>Total</b>	
	<b>As of Feb 29, 2024</b>	<b>As of Feb 28, 2023</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Bank Accounts</b>		
1010 U.S. Bank Checking	882.26	795,950.54
1020 Chase Bank - Operating Acct	241,463.08	-3.42
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 242,345.34</b>	<b>\$ 795,947.12</b>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>		
1200 Accounts Receivable	229,752.07	84,716.72
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$ 229,752.07</b>	<b>\$ 84,716.72</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>		
1110 Prepaid Expenses	6,899.98	
1499 Undeposited Funds	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 6,899.98</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$ 478,997.39</b>	<b>\$ 880,663.84</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
1310 Website	8,000.00	7,650.00
1390 Accumulated Depreciation	-1,233.00	-1,233.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$ 6,767.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,417.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 485,764.39</b>	<b>\$ 887,080.84</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
<b>Accounts Payable</b>		
2000 Accounts Payable (A/P)	6,595.24	14,627.52
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$ 6,595.24</b>	<b>\$ 14,627.52</b>
<b>Credit Cards</b>		
2100 Chase Credit Card	3,687.53	
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<b>\$ 3,687.53</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>Other Current Liabilities</b>		
2200 CDTFA Payable	6.03	6.03
Sales Tax Paid	-6.03	-6.03
<b>Total 2200 CDTFA Payable</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
2400 Payroll Liabilities	0.00	0.00
2400-01 CA PIT / SDI	0.00	
2400-02 CA SUI / ETT	1,205.76	
2400-031 Direct Deposit Payable-1	0.00	



2400-04 Federal Taxes (941/943/944)	0.00	
2400-05 Federal Unemployment (940)	0.00	
2400-06 Garnishment (FTB)	-140.00	
2400-07 Accrued Payroll	0.00	
2400-08 Health Reim Clearing	-512.50	
<b>Total 2400 Payroll Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 553.26</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>2500 Advances from Funders</b>		
2500-01 Advance from CAFSC CC	11,336.90	
2500-02 Advance from Cal Fire Chipping	246,265.67	368,163.18
2500-03 Advance from Cal Fire Herbivory	-179.47	392,000.00
2500-04 Advance from Cal Fire RWMP	0.00	0.00
2500-05 Advance from Gaviota CWPP	0.00	0.00
2500-06 Advance from NFWF	0.00	59,616.38
<b>Total 2500 Advances from Funders</b>	<b>\$ 257,423.10</b>	<b>\$ 819,779.56</b>
Loan - Paul Van Leer	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 257,976.36</b>	<b>\$ 819,779.56</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 268,259.13</b>	<b>\$ 834,407.08</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 268,259.13</b>	<b>\$ 834,407.08</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
3900 Retained Earnings	278,877.62	50,503.52
Unrestricted Funds 2005-2016	0.00	0.00
Net Revenue	-61,372.36	2,170.24
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$ 217,505.26</b>	<b>\$ 52,673.76</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$ 485,764.39</b>	<b>\$ 887,080.84</b>

Thursday, Mar 21, 2024 03:04:06 PM GMT-7 - Accrual Basis

**Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council**  
**Statement of Activity**  
**February 2024**

	Total	
	Feb 2024	Jan - Feb, 2024 (YTD)
<b>Revenue</b>		
4000 Contributions and Grants		
4010 Contract Income		130,675.20
<b>Total 4000 Contributions and Grants</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>	<b>\$ 130,675.20</b>
4100 Earned Income		
4110 Membership Dues	25.00	25.00
<b>Total 4100 Earned Income</b>	<b>\$ 25.00</b>	<b>\$ 25.00</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 25.00</b>	<b>\$ 130,700.20</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 25.00</b>	<b>\$ 130,700.20</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
6100 Contract Services	1,907.12	1,907.12
6100-02 Professional Personnel	9,028.45	76,568.45
<b>Total 6100 Contract Services</b>	<b>\$ 10,935.57</b>	<b>\$ 78,475.57</b>
6200 Payroll Expenses		
6210 Wages	40,360.00	81,287.85
6220 Payroll Taxes	3,237.28	7,657.87
6230 Health Benefit	2,307.72	6,153.92
6240 Workers Comp Insurance		211.87
<b>Total 6200 Payroll Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 45,905.00</b>	<b>\$ 95,311.51</b>
6300 Operating Costs		
6320 Dues & Subscriptions	12.00	92.98
6350 Office Supplies	3,366.08	3,452.39
6355 Phone	125.00	225.00
6375 Travel		629.25
6380 Travel Meals		682.52
6390 Fees		
6390-01 Bank & Credit Card Fees		21.00
6390-02 Payroll Processing Fees	128.00	256.00
<b>Total 6390 Fees</b>	<b>\$ 128.00</b>	<b>\$ 277.00</b>
<b>Total 6300 Operating Costs</b>	<b>\$ 3,631.08</b>	<b>\$ 5,359.14</b>
6400 Program Expenses		
6400-01 Events	684.47	988.12
6400-02 Program Materials	9,375.24	9,375.24
6400-03 Donation	-25.00	-25.00
<b>Total 6400 Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 10,034.71</b>	<b>\$ 10,338.36</b>
Promotional Meals		682.52

Special Event Expense		562.46		562.46
Uncategorized Expenditure				2,500.00
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>71,068.82</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>193,229.56</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>-\$</b>	<b>71,043.82</b>	<b>-\$</b>	<b>62,529.36</b>
Other Revenue				
8020 Refund		1,157.00		1,157.00
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,157.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,157.00</b>
<b>Net Other Revenue</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,157.00</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,157.00</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>-\$</b>	<b>69,886.82</b>	<b>-\$</b>	<b>61,372.36</b>

Thursday, Mar 21, 2024 03:17:59 PM GMT-7 - Accrual Basis



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## March 2024 - RWMP Update

**Prepared by:** Kate Furlong - Community Resilience Domain Lead  
[kfurlong@sbfiresafecouncil.org](mailto:kfurlong@sbfiresafecouncil.org)

**Project Summary:** The [Regional Wildfire Mitigation Program](#) provides a holistic solution to wildfire mitigation through increasing resilience in three domains: landscape, built environment, and community. The SBFSC leads the community domain and works with communities to help them build strong networks so they can increase their capacity to prepare, respond, and recover from wildfires. Main avenues to achieve this include: Firewise USA, focus groups, community events, education, home evaluations, and mapping vulnerable communities.

**Updates:** 13 community meetings with 183 participants and 17 Home Hardening Assessments since last report (38 total in 2024)

### Firewise

- **Summary:** The SBFSC is working with communities to create sustainable communities that continue to work to make their community more resilient to wildfire. Firewise is a grassroots program that empowers communities to work together to mitigate their collective wildfire risk. To learn more, please email [kfurlong@sbfiresafecouncil.org](mailto:kfurlong@sbfiresafecouncil.org)
- There are currently **14** Firewise Communities in Good Standing in Santa Barbara County
- West Camino Cielo and MCA-Montrose Place finally received their approval and Firewise USA Certification!
- EH-Coronado Circle submitted their application. CalFire is reviewing
- CalFire replaced their previous reviewer and hired two new reviewers, they have completed their training and have been addressing the extensive backlog
- Jonata Springs Ranch Firewise application workshop was held at Kim's home on 2/16. They are finalizing the community review of their 3-Year Action Plan and should be submitting shortly.
- EH-Eucalyptus Knolls HOA has started the process, we conducted their Risk Assessment with Montecito Fire Department representatives Nic Elmquist and Maeve Juarez
- The home evaluations requests continue on a weekly basis

### Focus groups

- **Summary:** SBFSC hosted focus groups with underserved and socially vulnerable populations to better understand the barriers these communities face that reduce or prevent participation in wildfire support programs.
- Trace has been working on the analysis of the findings made during the focus groups. We were unable to reconnect with our Focus Group Facilitator so are working on other work arounds to complete the analysis.
- Working with CEC to discuss our Solution Matching efforts where we match the community concern with an existing or potential program offered in the area.



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### Miscellaneous

- Gustavo met with the Alisos Elementary School Principal in Carpinteria to discuss a Spanish outreach program and introduced the SB County Fire Safe Council to this parents on March 15, 2024 at 6:00pm.
- Gustavo has also coordinated with Saint Joseph Catholic Church the follow up workshops for 2024. Fire extinguisher training to be held in April.
- Working with the other RMWP Domain Leads to align our studies and create a cohesive report.
- All work has been completed for the CalFire RWMP grant and we will complete the closeout by the due date of 4/15/24. Other RWMP work will continue through the support of NFWF grant funding and other potential funding sources (Moore Foundation).
- Ethan has been working on the short retrofit instructional videos with Gustavo (English and Spanish) and created shortened clips that Charles has been utilizing on our social media outlets.
- Ethan is working on producing a film that tells the story of all three domains and how our programs work in tandem to make these domains more resilient to wildfire
- Gustavo has been meeting with Viviana Marsano on a weekly basis to finalize the portal translation



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## March 28, 2024- SBCFSC SB South Coast Herbivory Program Update

Prepared by: Jessie Tobin - Project Manager  
[jtobin@sbfiresafecouncil.org](mailto:jtobin@sbfiresafecouncil.org)

**Project Summary:** The SB South Coast Herbivory Project will implement 3000 acres of fuel reduction through the use of prescribed herbivory (sheep, goats) to reduce fuel loads in a cost effective and ecologically sound manner. The project includes 26 prescribed herbivory fuel treatments located along the south coast of Santa Barbara County (SBC). The fuel treatments are strategically located adjacent to critical transportation corridors and WUI areas. The project goal is to reduce fuel loading to mitigate the potential for high intensity wildfire and reduce the potential for wildfire ignitions. There are over 17,800 habitable structures within the high fire hazard area of the PIZ that will potentially benefit from these proposed fuel treatments. This project is funded by a grant as part of CalFire's Climate Investment Program totaling \$1,948,551.55

### Updates:

- Project assignments have been provided to Grazing contractors and stakeholder outreach is underway to determine schedule and timing of grazing.
- Grazing is slated to start as early as April 1st (still to be determined) with treatments including Las Flores/Coral Canyon and San Roque.
- Jessie is executing contracts on a per project basis beginning with the treatments noted above.
- Jessie will be communicating with Paula Lopez to advertise the grazing program once a suitable/publically accessible treatment starts.
- Anne-Marie was successful in providing additional grazing funds for us via the SCE grant, this will likely be applied to the Camino Cielo Fuel Break treatment, Jessie is in communication with Nicole Molinari of the Forest Service to discuss the project and potential timeline.



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## March 28, 2024-SBCFSC Community Chipping Program Update

Prepared by: Jessie Tobin - Project Manager  
[jtobin@sbfiresafecouncil.org](mailto:jtobin@sbfiresafecouncil.org)

**Project Summary:** The Community Chipping Program will provide residents in 26 communities located within the high fire severity zones of coastal Santa Barbara County, a total of 5,908 residents and 32,661 acres, with the support to create and maintain defensible space and community access by providing free curbside chipping services and tagging and trimming activities to improve ingress and egress throughout neighborhoods. SBCFSC is taking a holistic approach to home hardening and defensible space creation through education and encouraging residents to register for home assessments to improve programmatic impact. This project is funded by a grant as part of CalFire's Climate Investment Program totaling \$2,037,939.00

### Updates:

- Montecito Chipping is underway and early totals include 22.35 Tons of vegetation removed.
- South County Chipping will begin on April 1st with community outreach underway via site visits/postcards/email
- Submitted budget modification to allow for Flyers under our Supplies category
- Evaluating Tag and Trim needs in each community
- Early visits to Paradise Road community show we will have ample participation in the area
- Chipping maps are prepared and will be utilized with the Avenza app for documentation purposes and assisting in guiding crews
- Jessie has been providing Charles with project photos to assist in his marketing and social media efforts



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## March 28, 2024- SBCFSC Defensible Space Update

**Prepared by:** Jessie Tobin - Project Manager and Anne-Marie Parkinson - Executive Director  
[jtobin@sbfiresafecouncil.org](mailto:jtobin@sbfiresafecouncil.org) ; [aparkinson@sbfiresafecouncil.org](mailto:aparkinson@sbfiresafecouncil.org)

**California Conservation Corp Project Summary:** The California Conservation Corps (CCC's) based in San Luis Obispo and Camrillo have provided the SBCFSC with over 1,000 hours of free staff time to support fuel reduction project work in 2024 through the use of GGRF (Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds). The purpose of this funding is to support training and development of Corps members while executing project work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and continue efforts to assist priority populations (disadvantaged, low income) by addressing community needs and reducing fire risk.

**California Fire Safe Council Project Summary:** The California Fire Safe Council has awarded the SBCFSC funding to support the implementation of our Defensible Space Program. The objective of the Defensible Space Assistance Grant Program is to assist vulnerable populations (i.e., low-income, disabled, senior/elderly, disadvantaged), in High and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, with defensible space treatment on their property.

### California Conservation Corps Updates:

- Purisima Ridge Project work is complete, over 14 acres of the Purisima Ridge fuel break was treated via bucking downed trees and removing seedlings that had sprung up following the rains
- Additional work hours were provided by the CCC's and were utilized in Orcutt to complete 5 acres of brush clearing, chipping and weed eating around structures and 2 RAWS sites
- A big thank you to Ann Marx and Jason Sweet of the SBCFD for facilitating this work and meeting with crews to execute the treatments.
- Jessie is currently working on providing closing documents to the CCC's to complete the project.





Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

### **California Fire Safe Council Project Summary:**

- The Defensible Space Assistance program is being shared by staff with community members and applications are being distributed
- At this time we have 13 applicants
- Jessie is actively monitoring application submissions and communicating with community members on application timeline and questions.