



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

**Santa Barbara County Firesafe Council
Board of Directors' Meeting
April 25th, 2024**

Directors Present: Paul Van Leer, Scott Coffman, Mark Vontillow, Phil Seymour, Dan Fawcett, Kim Pananides, Ted Adams, Kevin Varga, John Ahlman, Joan Hartman, Rob Hazard, Max Moritz, Ted Adams

Directors Absent: Selden Edner, Nic Elmquist, Victoria Cooper

28 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

- Director Varga discusses the current status of FSC grants.
 - Cal fire RWMP
 - Closed in mid March. The FSC was able to spend the whole grant on track (683k).
 - NFWF RWMP
 - FSC is still waiting on funds to be transferred.
 - CFSC Dspace
 - Funds from this grant will be coming along soon, the FSC will most likely see them in the bank by mid march.
 - RWMP Expansion
 - The FSC has just began to spend these funds
 - County Coordinator
 - K. Furlong has just put in a request for an advance
- Director Varga explained the new pie chart he created to better show where the funds are going.

Meeting Follows Agenda:

1. Executive Committee Updates (P. Van Leer)
 - The EC recently made a motion to set aside funds for bio monitoring at the Baron Ranch grazing site.

- The FSC will need to move out of the Direct Relief warehouse and find a new spot by the beginning of June.
 - There is potential for the FSC to move into the Red Cross building in Santa Barbara or the County Fire HQ. If neither of these options work then at the very least the FSC needs to rent a storage space to keep equipment at until a new office space is found.
 - The EC has discussed prioritizing running the Defensible Space Assistance Program and hiring a project coordinator asap. At this time the Lompoc CWPP can be a secondary focus in order to ensure the Dspace program is run effectively.
 - *Motion to approve the Board Member ballot for 2024/2025*
 - *Director Coffman firsts, Director Hazard seconds. All in favor.*
2. Executive Director Update (A. Parkinson)
- Anne-Marie, Director Moritz, and Director Hazard have been at the Moore conference all week.
 - Summary of the conference
 - The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation is funding about 30 different groups from the west coast of North America (Alaska, British Columbia, Western U.S.)
 - Within the larger group there is a subset of groups called ‘Sparks’. The FSC is one of them. These are organizations that the foundation sees as pilot programs. They are funding them, and their projects, in order for other organizations to model and implement similar programs.
3. Communication Coordinator Update (C. Harris)
- Membership Committee progress
 - The committee wants to create a sponsorship program to better fit and attract large donors.
 - The sponsorship program would be made into a tiered system to reflect the amount that donors have given (bronze, silver, gold). The different classes of sponsor would receive different benefits from the FSC.
 - Although the sponsorship program would be similar to the membership program, the FSC would keep the membership program in place as it is stated in the bylaws.
 - The committee plans on creating a small event at the end of the year to thank donors.
 - This would be a member only event held at either a brewery or restaurant. FSC Board members and staff would be present and the FSC would buy the first round of beverages for the donors.
 - Wildfire Evacuation and Survival Event
 - C. Harris outlined the structure of the event and the work that staff / partners have done so far.
 - Next week the FSC will begin a much larger push on promotion via several different channels (Noozhawk, Independent, community contacts, constant contacts, radio, etc..)
4. Prescribed Grazing, Community Chipping, Defensible Space Update (J. Tobin – Project Manager)
- Grazing has just been completed at San Roque ranch and the herd was transitioned to the Trout Club
 - Grazing at the Tea Gardens in Montecito is set to start this weekend.
 - The Baron Ranch graze has been pushed back by a week.
 - Defensible Space Assistance Program
 - The FSC does not yet have an active project manager for the program.

- There are currently 19 qualified applicants seeking support assistance.
 - J. Tobin has been responsible for reaching out to the applicants and providing them with a timeline and details about the program.
 - Director Seymour asks about the limitations of the grant in regards to the work the FSC can and cannot do.
 - The FSC can do any type of vegetative clearing within 100ft except for live tree removal. The only work the FSC can do on a home is vent retrofitting.
 - Director Vontillow notes the city has 5 different fire severity zones that differ on the 100ft norm of defensible space. Whoever is hired as a manager will need to coordinate with him and Mike Lopez to ensure the FSC follows city code.
5. Firewise Community Domain Update (K. Furlong – Project Manager)
- There are now 15 Firewise communities in the county, the newest being Coronado Circle on Eucalyptus Hill.
 - Jonata Springs is applying to become Firewise certified soon.
 - G. Agredano held a fire extinguisher training at Saint Joseph’s church in Carpinteria over the weekend.
 - There were 25 attendees ranging from 9 yo-83 yo.
 - Board members discuss the need for the FSC to own a burn pan for fire extinguisher training rather than borrowing from Rick Joy.
 - The Firewise Leadership meeting was held on Tuesday night. 21 members attended.
6. Agency updates
- County Fire
 - D. Mckibbin
 - SB County has reported more acres of fuel reduction than the other 6 contract counties in the state combined.
 - Director Hartmann suggests coordinating with AMP to create a presentation with this data to bring to the Board of Supervisors
 - F. Tan
 - County Fire will be focusing on defensible space work and road side clearance until fall.
 - During the later half of fall County Fire will focus on prescribed fire activity specifically the Sedgwick and Tepusquet projects
 - The regional dispatch center is going to be complete in late June or early July
 - Currently looking into a large building in Buellton to move the HQ.
 - The Solvang office expansion will be done within the next three weeks.
 - There will be extra cubicle space for FSC.
 - Fire hazard severity zone state maps were adopted on April 1st and can be downloaded as shape files.
 - Director Hartmann (SB county)
 - The county is currently in negotiations to acquire the Mariposa Reina property on the Gaviota Coast.
 - City Fire
 - Director Vontillow
 - The vegetation fuels crew is back on and doing defensible space work around town.

- They have sheep grazing Elings park which will be transitioned to other parcels throughout the coming months.

7. Community Updates

- The Trout Club is very happy with the grazing and chipping programs. They want to have a second round of chipping in early summer if possible.
- Members from the Trout Club are very interested in supporting the creation of a County Fire Station at the top of the pass.
- A community member from the Eucalyptus Hill area asks if there is any way to put grant money towards removing hazardous trees in their neighborhood.
 - The community can work with City fire to write this into a grant.
 - If they can show the trees will have an impact on evacuation routes then it is possible to write it into a grant.
- Hollister Ranch is starting chipping on May 13th and they are having a Firewise community day on July 20th.

Motions:

1. Motion to approve the Board Member ballot for 2024/2025
 - a. Director Coffman first, Director Hazard seconds. All in favor.

Board Adjourned at 10:55 AM

Guest Presentation:

N/A

Future Meeting Schedule and Guest Speakers:

1. May 23rd – General Membership Meeting - Annual Board Election (in-person)
 - Andrew Plantinga will present on Wildfire and Insurance
2. June 27th – Board Meeting
3. July 25th – Board and General Membership Meeting
 - Brent Woodsworth will present on Community Brigades
4. August 22nd – Board Meeting
5. September 26th – Board and General Membership Meeting
6. October 24th – Board Meeting
7. November 21st – Board and General Membership Meeting

Minutes respectfully submitted: Charles Harris (4.25.24)



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

Meeting Agenda: Thursday – April 25, 2024
Board Business: 9:00 am – 11:00 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/>
Motion to approve Director Ballot
- 0925 – 0935:** Executive Director / Hiring / Grant Updates (AMP)
- 0935 – 0945:** Communication Coordinator Update (C. Harris)
- 0945 – 1000:** Grazing, Chipping, Defensible Space Project Update (J. Tobin – Project Manager)
- 1000 – 1020:** Firewise/Community Domain Update (K. Furlong – Project Manager)
- 1020 – 1035:** Agency Updates
- 1035 – 1100:** Community Updates / Round-Table

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

Next Scheduled Meeting (Board/General): Thursday, May 23rd, in person 5:30 pm, Direct Relief



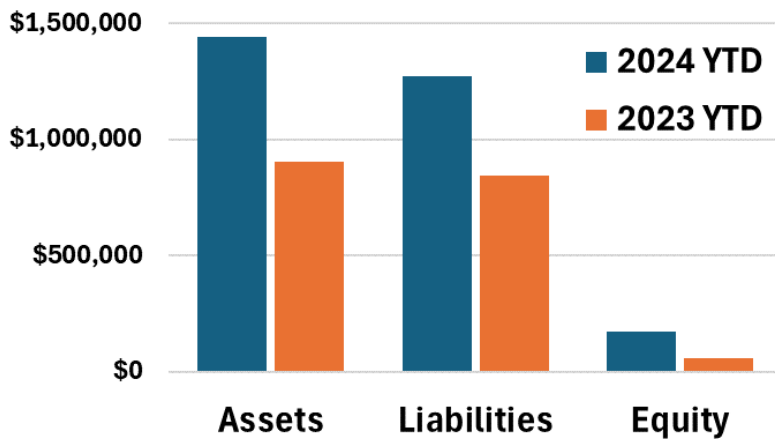
April 2024 – Treasurer Report

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	\$683,926	(\$103,088)
CFSC - County Coord	Feb 2023 - July 2024	\$175,000	\$79,015	\$8,064
NFWF - RWMP	Jan 2021 - Oct 2024	\$550,000	\$373,186	(\$18,394)
CFSC - Def Space	Oct 2023 - Dec 2024	\$468,000	\$0	\$0
Moore – RWMP	Feb 2024 - Feb 2025	\$375,000	\$4,563	\$370,437
SCC - Capacity	Feb 2023 - June 2025	\$370,000	\$132,845	(\$96,107)
CALFIRE - Chipping	Sep 2022 - Mar 2026	\$2,037,939	\$595,015	\$373,766
CALFIRE - Herbivory	Sep 2022 - Mar 2026	\$1,948,552	\$532,405	\$456,983
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)

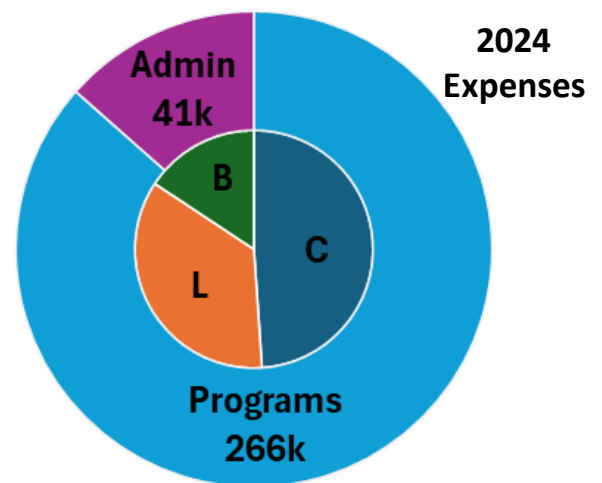
2024 vs 2023 Balance Sheet



\$\$ in the bank
\$\$ owed to us

\$\$ restricted
\$\$ we owe

\$\$ indirect
\$\$ unrestricted



Inner circle = Program Expenses
(C)ommunity, (L)andscape, (B)uilt

Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council
Statement of Financial Position
As of March 31, 2024

	Total	
	As of Mar 31, 2024	As of Mar 31, 2023
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
1010 U.S. Bank Checking	-1,790.17	732,598.74
1020 Chase Bank - Operating Acct	997,511.81	-3.42
1030 Montecito Bank & Trust	5,000.30	
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 1,000,721.94	\$ 732,595.32
Accounts Receivable		
1200 Accounts Receivable	427,336.41	164,527.41
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 427,336.41	\$ 164,527.41
Other Current Assets		
1110 Prepaid Expenses	6,688.11	
1499 Undeposited Funds	0.00	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 6,688.11	\$ 0.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 1,434,746.46	\$ 897,122.73
Fixed Assets		
1310 Website	8,330.00	7,650.00
1390 Accumulated Depreciation	-1,233.00	-1,233.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 7,097.00	\$ 6,417.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 1,441,843.46	\$ 903,539.73
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
2000 Accounts Payable (A/P)	49,696.87	59,347.33
Total Accounts Payable	\$ 49,696.87	\$ 59,347.33
Credit Cards		
2100 Chase Credit Card	7,573.82	
Total Credit Cards	\$ 7,573.82	\$ 0.00
Other Current Liabilities		
2200 CDTFA Payable	6.03	6.03
Sales Tax Paid	-6.03	-6.03
Total 2200 CDTFA Payable	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
2400 Payroll Liabilities	0.00	0.00

2400-01 CA PIT / SDI	0.00	
2400-02 CA SUI / ETT	1,239.68	
2400-031 Direct Deposit Payable-1	0.00	
2400-04 Federal Taxes (941/943/944)	0.00	
2400-05 Federal Unemployment (940)	0.00	0.00
2400-06 Garnishment (FTB)	140.00	
2400-07 Accrued Payroll	0.00	
2400-08 Health Reim Clearing	-816.81	
Total 2400 Payroll Liabilities	\$ 562.87	\$ 0.00
2500 Advances from Funders		
2500-01 Advance from CAFSC CC	8,064.10	
2500-02 Advance from Cal Fire Chipping	373,766.32	355,406.98
2500-03 Advance from Cal Fire Herbivory	456,983.25	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	39,270.36
2500-07 Advance from Moore Foundation	375,000.00	
Total 2500 Advances from Funders	\$ 1,213,813.67	\$ 786,677.34
Direct Deposit Payable	0.00	
Loan - Paul Van Leer	0.00	0.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 1,214,376.54	\$ 786,677.34
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 1,271,647.23	\$ 846,024.67
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,271,647.23	\$ 846,024.67
Equity		
3900 Retained Earnings	277,103.61	50,503.52
Unrestricted Funds 2005-2016	0.00	0.00
Net Revenue	-106,907.38	7,011.54
Total Equity	\$ 170,196.23	\$ 57,515.06
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 1,441,843.46	\$ 903,539.73

Friday, Apr 19, 2024 06:26:14 AM GMT-7 - Accrual Basis

Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council
Statement of Activity
March 2024

	Total	
	Mar 2024	Jan - Mar, 2024 (YTD)
Revenue		
4000 Contributions and Grants		
4010 Contract Income	2,904.27	203,871.45
4020 General Contributions	2,750.00	2,775.00
Total 4000 Contributions and Grants	\$ 5,654.27	\$ 206,646.45
4100 Earned Income		
4110 Membership Dues		25.00
Total 4100 Earned Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 25.00
Uncategorized Revenue		494.94
Total Revenue	\$ 5,654.27	\$ 207,166.39
Gross Profit	\$ 5,654.27	\$ 207,166.39
Expenditures		
6100 Contract Services		
6100-01 Accounting Services		1,524.45
6100-02 Professional Personnel	59,660.00	138,135.57
Total 6100 Contract Services	\$ 62,298.52	\$ 142,298.54
6200 Payroll Expenses		
6210 Wages	40,363.40	121,651.25
6220 Payroll Taxes	3,298.24	10,956.12
6230 Health Benefit	2,307.72	8,461.64
6240 Workers Comp Insurance		423.73
Total 6200 Payroll Expenses	\$ 45,969.36	\$ 141,492.74
6300 Operating Costs		
6320 Dues & Subscriptions		92.98
6350 Office Supplies	62.35	3,514.74
6355 Phone	125.00	350.00
6375 Travel	4,656.31	5,285.56
6380 Travel Meals	125.21	807.73
6390 Fees		
6390-01 Bank & Credit Card Fees		21.00
6390-02 Payroll Processing Fees	128.00	384.00
Total 6390 Fees	\$ 128.00	\$ 405.00
Total 6300 Operating Costs	\$ 5,096.87	\$ 10,456.01
6400 Program Expenses		

6400-01 Events			988.12
6400-02 Program Materials	1,857.50		11,232.74
6400-05 Employee Education	2,175.00		2,175.00
Membership Expenses	150.00		150.00
Total 6400 Program Expenses	\$ 4,182.50	\$	14,545.86
Promotional Meals			682.52
Special Event Expense	2,692.94		3,255.40
Uncategorized Expenditure			2,500.00
Total Expenditures	\$ 120,240.19	\$	315,231.07
Net Operating Revenue	-\$114,585.92	-\$	108,064.68
Other Revenue			
8010 Interest	0.30		0.30
8020 Refund			1,157.00
Total Other Revenue	\$ 0.30	\$	1,157.30
Net Other Revenue	\$ 0.30	\$	1,157.30
Net Revenue	-\$114,585.62	-\$	106,907.38

Friday, Apr 19, 2024 06:27:11 AM GMT-7 - Accrual Basis



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April 25, 2024- SBCFSC SB South Coast Herbivory Program Update

Prepared by: Jessie Tobin - Project Manager
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:

- Grazing had begun at the San Roque treatment site beginning on April 1st. To date we have grazed 25 acres and have an expected end date of 4/19/24.
- The Montecito Tea Garden graze is set to begin on 4/25/24.
- The Baron Ranch graze is set to begin on 4/22/24 but is still TBD based on current herd movement through other existing treatments not hosted by the SBCFSC.
- The Las Flores/Coral Canyon treatments are expected to begin at the beginning of May but are also TBD based on herd movement through other existing treatments not hosted by the SBCFSC.



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

April 25, 2024 -SBCFSC Community Chipping Program Update

Prepared by: Jessie Tobin - Project Manager
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 Neighborhood Chipping has been producing a lot of material and has had high participation even with the rains.
- The most recent data for Montecito includes:
 - Lower Romero Neighborhood producing 42 tons of Chipped material.
 - Upper Romero Neighborhood produced 26.35 tons of Chipped material.
- South County Chipping has seen lower participation in some areas due to rain but community enthusiasm for the program is very evident.
- The most recent data for South County Communities include:
 - Paradise road producing 14.7 tons of Chipped material
 - Trout Club producing 6 tons of Chipped material
 - Rosario Park producing 3.75 tons of Chipped material
- Marborg roll off data has yet to be provided and will increase tonnage of the communities noted above for both Montecito and South County.
- West Camino Cielo/San Marcos and Painted Cave communities are starting on April 22nd and it is anticipated that we will have very high participation.
- Mailers will be going out May 1st to communities participating in Chipping in June/July.



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

April 25, 2024- SBCFSC Defensible Space Update

Prepared by: Jessie Tobin - Project Manager and Anne-Marie Parkinson - Executive Director
jtobin@sbfiresafecouncil.org ; aparkinson@sbfiresafecouncil.org

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 Fire Safe Council Project Summary:

- The Defensible Space Assistance program implementation has been delayed as we are looking to hire a new staff member for this work.
- Applicants to the program have been informed of project delays and will be provided updates as we progress.
- At this time we have roughly 19 applicants, with a great number of applicants being from the Paradise Road community.
- Jessie is actively monitoring application submissions and communicating with community members on application timeline and questions.
- AMP is actively working on getting Fireside set up so the new staff member can more quickly be trained and get the program started.
- CIMWI will be a prime candidate for Defensible Space Assistance, need assistance with brush clearing and removing excess foliage around buildings/structures



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

April 2024 - RWMP Update

Prepared by: Kate Furlong - Community Resilience Domain Lead
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: 7 community meetings with 64 participants and 14 Home Hardening Assessments since last report (52 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
- There are currently **15** Firewise Communities in Good Standing in Santa Barbara County
- EH-Coronada Circle is the newest community to be awarded their Firewise USA Certification
- Jonata Springs Ranch Firewise application is ready to submit
- EH-Eucalyptus Hill Drive Risk Assessment complete and 3-Year Action plan draft started
- Introductory meeting hosted for MCA-Foothill Road (boundary tbd)
- Introductory meeting hosted for MCA-Palomino (Palomino Rd & Palomino Ridge)
- The Biannual Firewise Leadership meeting for the Spring will be held 4/23 at Direct Relief
- Conducting Home Evaluations in Jonata Springs Ranch in Buellton
- 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 preparing Toolkit materials and drafting the Report for the findings from the Focus Groups. This will then be used to create a Beta Practitioners Guide that we would like to test before mass distribution to ensure that the components flow smoothly.
- The Focus Group Facilitator is now contracted with CEC and will be contributing to the Focus Group Report to provide their methodology and experience conducting the Focus Group.



Promoting Wildfire Safety Through Education and Action

Miscellaneous

- During the Focus Groups, participants expressed their interest in learning how to properly utilize a fire extinguisher. To help meet this need, Gustavo provided a Fire extinguisher training at Saint Joseph Catholic Church
- During the fire extinguisher exercise/workshop 5 Fire Extinguisher and multi-purpose tools were given to the attendees.
- We have developed a Home Hardening Portal in Spanish with the help of Gustavo and a contracted Translator and will be adding a button at the top of our webpage for ease of access
- CalFire RWMP grant closeout has been submitted
- RWMP work will continue through the support of NFWF grant funding and other potential funding sources (Moore Foundation).
- CFSC County Coordinator funding request has been processed and we should be getting payment around the end of the month.
 - They are going through a transition period with their grants clearinghouse manager moving on so that could cause a delay
- Working with the other RMWP Domain Leads to align our studies and create a cohesive report. Incorporating Community Assessments with the Firewise Communities to learn more information about Built Environment components and experiences from residents.