



Minutes Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 2022, from 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Recording Available: <https://youtu.be/gT1SZyCIEdA>

Welcome/ Agenda: Allison Thomson welcomed attendees and introduced the YWPFSC's new project coordinator, Jannike Allen.

Public Comments:

- Mario Klip shared that he'd only be able to attend for half an hour, so his CDFW report occurred early in the meeting: CDFW has been working on a fire break along Marysville Road, making good progress but having a hard time hiring people to join the crews to do the work. Cal Fire inmate crews are seldom available. The crews will be working on a project in Butte County and then return in a few weeks. Bird surveys are ongoing throughout the process. The fire break should be completed before the end of April. Collaborating with the county to remove trees that need be felled into the road has gone well. CDFW is doing the CEQA to regrade and create a fire break along a gravel road that links to the UC field station near Collins Lake. A map is attached. CDFW is also preparing for drought by planning water management for wildlife.
 - Steve Andrews asked if material along Loma Rica Road will also be treated. Mario responded that they plan to treat some material, and a fire break has already been put in behind some homes in the area. A dozer line is also reinstalled every year in certain spots.
 - Sean Griffis asked if the CEQA will include another road by the one to the UC field station. Mario said that the one Sean mentioned will be included.
- Art Craigmill asked about obtaining shape files for the roads that CDFW is treating. Mario responded that talking further would be good, to make sure that when such shape files are used the public knows these roads are just for emergency access.
- Gabe Foster (Tahoe NF) also reported early, sharing that they recently sent a response to an escaped prescribed fire. Gabe left this meeting early to join a meeting about the move of the district office to Nevada City.
- Rani Issac shared that the Wildfire Mitigation Regulations have been released, see attachments. There will be a meeting the afternoon on April 13th in Oakland. Alternatives are due that day as well, so please send those in writing to attorney Dan Wade.

Special Presentation: Yuba Environmental Science Charter Academy

- Louise Miller, Principal of YES Charter Academy, spoke about current the school which is a free K-8 public school in Oregon House, with each grade focusing on a specific environmental theme. The school plans to add high school grades in the near future. YES collaborates with many local partners, including Blue Forest Conservation who monitors air quality on campus and in other locations around the Foothills. Louise is also a volunteer advisor for YWPFSC's Wildfire Mitigation Review Program, and would like YES students to be able to provide those types of reviews in the future.
- She shared that Earth Day is the biggest event and showcase of the year, and all are invited to attend. Agencies are welcome to have a booth. The event will be held on campus Saturday April 23rd from 10:00am – 2:00pm.
- YES is responding to public desire to have a high school in the foothills, which will serve foothill and valley residents. Forest resiliency work is what is driving the economy in the foothills, and YES wants to build capacity through their school. All high school students will work through 3 career technical education pathways – forestry and natural resources (will take place in the

science courses), entrepreneurship (take place in English courses), and arts, media and entertainment with a focus on visual design. Film making is already a tradition at YES, including fire preparedness public service announcements in collaboration with YWPFSC's Yuba Youth Take Action program.

- The plan is to open 9th and 10th grade in the fall, using portable classrooms added to the existing campus. For a more permanent high school campus, YES's developer is in escrow on a parcel on the corner of Frenchtown Road and Marysville Road.
- Louise shared a video highlighting the school. There will be space for up to 20 freshmen and 20 sophomores starting in the fall, adding space and capacity each year.
- Cathy LeBlanc said that CCP may come and share about their forest biomass facility at Earth Day.
- Beverly said she's thinking about a table to share about wildfire mitigation review, other Fire Safe Council programs, and Oregon Peak Lookout.
- Pamela shared that she is on the board of YES Charter Academy and finds the school uplifting, and encouraged community members to support the expansion and spread the word.
- To find out more about the school, check out their website <https://yescharteracademy.org/yes-highschool/> and to contact Louise Miller email lmiller@yescharteracademy.org

Partner Reports:

- **USFS-Plumas NF** –Erik Apland shared, saying that Jason wanted to be here but is on a field trip. They'd like to do prescribed burning but lower elevation lands are unfortunately too dry to burn right now and upper elevation lands are too covered in snow. However, they've taken the opportunity to do mechanical work lately, including mastication near Forbestown and north of Challenge along La Porte Road. The hope is to go back and burn these masticated areas in a few years.
- **USFS-Tahoe NF** –Gabe Foster shared during public comment
- **Cal Fire** – Jim Mathias from Placer North Division shared about the dry weather. Drought weakened trees were damaged by the December precipitation, causing a lot of fuel to fall into horizontal positioning. There has also been poor humidity and 40-50 days without rain. The fuels are very dry and transitional staffing will likely go up April 11th. Fire Prevention grant applications are received and in review; a push will be put towards funding any Yuba County projects. Make sure your fires are good and out tonight, with a no burn day tomorrow due to an expected wind event.
 - Rani Issac asked about the no burn day and what that includes. Jim said that this doesn't pertain to home heating in your fireplace, just open burning outside.
- **CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife** – Mario Klip shared during public comment.
- **Yuba County Office of Emergency Services (OES)** – John Stone shared that battery backups have been put at Oregon Peak. OES has also applied for a grant to pay for more communication upgrades. The Prepare Fair at the Alcouffe Center is still on for May 19th, 2022 from 5:30-7:30pm. A new planner who has family ties in the valley will be coming on soon.
- **Yuba Water Agency** – JoAnna Lessard shared that there are some upcoming funding opportunities:
 - The Community Economic Resilience Fund from the state will fund watershed development, biomass, etc. However, Yuba County is in the Sacramento region, which has a lot of diverse needs; Upper Yuba County is part of a different region. There needs to be a coordinator for each region.
 - The Cal Fire Business and Workforce Development Grant Program is another program that could link to local forest health work. Private companies can reach out and connect with the IRWM team for help navigating the programs, and incorporate their needs, such

- as for equipment or training, into the IRWM plans.
- The Yuba County Community Impact Grant and Loan Program for cost share for other grants is always open. The planning, implementation, and other non-cost share grant request window is also currently open, but is becoming more competitive, so answer the questions thoroughly. More info at <https://www.yubawater.org/233/Apply-for-a-Grant>
- **Oregon Peak Lookout Tower VIP Program** – Beverly Cameron-Fildes shared that there will be upcoming meetings to continue last year’s progress. New people will be trained starting mid March. An appreciation barbeque occurred, thanks to money from CHY, and was an opportunity to reflect on last year and discuss the new year. Hopefully some fire department cadets from Dobbins-Oregon House will fill in some staffing spaces.
 - Pamela suggested having a gathering for interested new neighbors/ potential volunteers. Cathy and Pamela both know people who would like to find out more. Jim said there will be a pre-season meeting for paperwork and training, but it will be good to make sure people are interested before that. Beverly said that there is a [YouTube video](#) of the Oregon Peak Lookout that is good to show people.
- **Yuba County RCD** – Beverly Cameron-Fildes shared the RCD is continuing to work on the clean-up grant; there is an RCD meeting going on right now.
- **Camptonville Community Partnership** – Cathy LeBlanc shared that she and Allison worked on a PG&E grant to continue the special needs program to treat 20 homes for wildfire mitigation.
 - The biomass facility is adjusting plans to reduce costs, which have skyrocketed since Covid (reducing the scale from 5 MW to 3.5 MW). The plan is still to develop a forest business center, which will be able to use off heat from the facility, but likely no additional electricity will be available to the business campus. They’re hoping to break ground in the next few months. If you’re interested in talking about a co-located business, contact cathy@ccp.org

YWP&FSC Reports:

Outreach-Education Committee (Beverly Cameron-Fildes)

- Address signs are continuing and she’s been working on getting more hose for the tow chain covers.
- The California Fire Safe Council has invited us to a conference about Communications and Outreach strategies at the end of the month.
- Wildfire mitigation review requests have been booming, with 10 occurring since the last meeting. Most are in the Dobbins Oregon House area. Matching funds for home hardening and defensible space programs are now available so volunteers will be talking to homeowners about that when doing mitigation reviews.
- She’s also putting an article a month in the Camptonville Courier, linked to topics presented in the calendar. Please send in photos that may go well in next year’s calendar, especially before and after photos.

Board Report – no report

Executive Director Report (Allison Thomson)

- We submitted a grant proposal to the Cal Fire Fire Prevention Grant Program for extended roadside clearing work on public and private roads in the Dobbins-Oregon House area. We expect to hear back within the next couple months.
- We are considering moving back to in-person/hybrid council meetings. Meeting participants filled out a quick poll asking about when people feel comfortable meeting in person, with a zoom-in option. The board will discuss and we will let everyone know when we plan to move meetings back to the Alcouffe Center.

- The Brownsville and Oregon Ridge Fuelbreaks are well underway. CHY has reported they have 109 acres completed on the Oregon Ridge Fuelbreak and 24.5 acres completed on the Brownsville Fuelbreak. SPI has also completed significant acreage. We are starting to reach out to a few smaller landowners who are within the fuelbreak footprints, and work will begin on their land, as well.
- The Home Hardening and Defensible Space Cost Share Programs are now launched, providing 50% reimbursement up to \$2,000 for eligible activities/ upgrades. Program guidelines and information on how to apply is available on the website under residential programs: www.yubafiresafe.org
- May 7th is National Community Wildfire Preparedness Day, when people are encouraged to take steps to prepare their homes. We're open to ideas about what we might want to do. John Stone said that OES can share on social media.

No Board Meeting this Month

The next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2022 @ 9:30 - 11:00 am

P.O. Box 966 • Marysville, CA 95901 • yubafiresafe.org •  Yuba Fire Safe Council

Public Comment Supplements:

From Rani Issac:

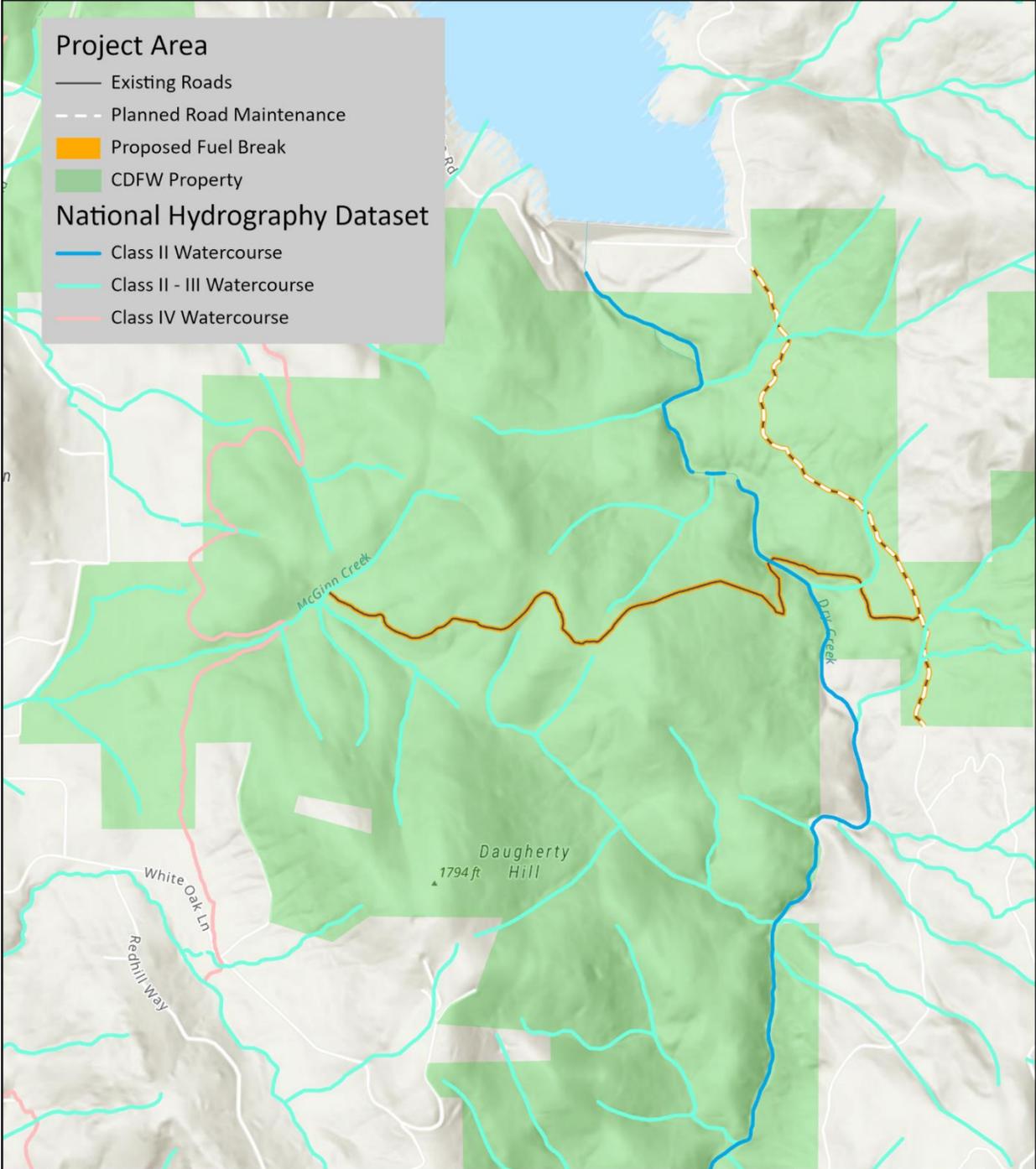
[Attached](#) you will find the notice for the wildfire mitigation regulations and the proposed text of regulations. The public comment period will end on April 13, 2022. Please direct all written, substantive comments to Daniel Wade, Senior Staff Counsel by COB of that day and register for the public hearing with the link in the notice. You may also just make comments orally on the day of the hearing. We welcome your input especially if you have suggested changes to the attached text or alternatives other than the ones already evaluated and rejected in the attached Initial Statement of Reasons.

[Initial Statement of Reasons](#)

[Notice of Proposed Action and Notice of Public Hearing](#)

[Text of Regulation](#)

From Mario Klip:



**DHWA - Collins Dam
Streams and Waterways**

California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA, Esri, CGLAR, USGS, California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, INCREMENT P, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, US Census Bureau, USDA

2022

Coordinate System: WGS 1984 Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere

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