MEETING NOTES | FIRE RESILIENT MADERA WORKSHOP
Madera Strategic Wildfire Mitigation Project

September 10, 2019 | 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM
Oakhurst Library Oakhurst, CA

Attendees

Justine Reynolds, YSRCDC
Robert Hopkins, YSRCDC
Melinda Barrett
Dave Briley
Ashley Nebek Burns
Conan Cocallas
Brittany Dyer – American Forests
April Hopkins
Pat Johnson
Douglas Lagen
Peter Leiman
Robert Macaulay
David McDonald
Gary Murphy
Ron Murray
Lisa Peters
Karen Shiery
Burt Stalter - SNF
Stan Sutton
Loretta Sutton
Yvonne Sweat
Ariel Thornburg
Kim Wells
Tom Wheeler – Madera County Supervisor

Action Items

• Develop proposal for coordinating Firewise communities in Madera County – Justine/Robert
• Compile feedback from participants – Robert
• Create layered map utilizing GIS to plot priority areas identified by participants – Justine

Summary

Facilitator Introduction – Justine gave an introduction reviewed the agenda and set the workshop ground rules.

Project Presentation – Robert gave the audience some background on the Madera Strategic Wildfire Mitigation project and Fire Resilient Madera Workshops.

Q&A – There was a short question and answer session before starting with the mapping portion of the workshop. Questions topics included evacuation routes, fuel breaks vs fire breaks, the duration of the project, maintaining older fuel breaks and plans for future maintenance, flexibility of the currently planned project, tourist advisories in the event of wildfire and specific fuel breaks near communities.
**Mapping Session** – Participants with the guidance from Justine and Robert worked as groups to identify areas of interest on the maps provided. The session was very positive and groups worked well together.

**Vision and Goals Session** – The room was divided into two groups. Justine and Robert took notes as participants discussed what a fire resilient Madera County would look like. This session was very engaged and a lot of input was received. The responses were then shared at the end of the session.

**Feedback** – Participants were asked to fill out feedback forms and forms were then collected.

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**Mapping Session**

Three groups worked together with the guidance of Justine and Robert to identify priority areas on maps provided. There was a lot of discussion and some participants marked the maps with their input. Map #2 showed interest in the North Goat Mtn project area and the community of Mudge Ranch off Rd 420. Map #3 identifies the Chepo Saddle area and a section of forest service land between Rd 274 and Rd 432 in the Bass Lake area as priorities. Map #4 expressed interest in the Thornberry Mtn project area. Map #1 was unused.

**Vision and Goals Session**

During the vision and goals session, the room was divided into two groups. Robert and Justine took notes for the groups as they discussed what a fire resilient Madera County would look like. Justine and Robert provided guidance and utilized the questionnaire found on the reverse side of the agenda. The groups were highly engaged and provided a wealth of input:

- Proactive fuel reduction measures
  - Fire Management Zones
  - Prescribed burning
    - Mosaic low-intensity burns
    - Roadside burns
    - Burning on large Ranches
  - Clearance around homes
    - Clearance enforcement above 1,000ft
    - Extend clearance 100ft across property lines
    - Code enforcement
  - Zoning
    - Restricting construction in certain areas due to high wildfire risk
- Maintenance program of existing fuel breaks
- Establish designated shelter in place locations within communities
- Treating Ingress/Egress routes

- Community Organization
  - Firewise Communities
    - Establishment of communities
    - Coordination between communities
• Firewise coordination training and community leaders
  o Evacuation planning
    ▪ Plan for each community
    ▪ Community fire drills
  o Senior Citizens
    ▪ Evacuation plan
    ▪ Fuel reduction program
    ▪ Wood program

• Funding
  o Grant writing
  o Outreach to inform communities of available funding
  o Rebates for water tanks
  o Tax measures
    ▪ Special district to perform fuel reduction
    ▪ Sales tax increase for fuel reduction

• Resources
  o Equipment
    ▪ Wood chippers for community use
    ▪ Air curtain burner
  o Community water tanks for fire protection
  o Volunteers to inform public of fire dangers

• Education
  o Fire modeling video and graphics
  o Fuel Break and prescribed burning awareness
  o Videos of wildfire
    ▪ Flying embers
    ▪ Local examples
  o School curriculum for children

Feedback
At the end of the workshop participants filled out feedback forms. Nearly all feedback provided was positive and constructive. We received 10 feedback forms with the following comments:

• Session #1
  o Mapping session was helpful.
  o Include work planned by Cal Fire as well as Forest Service to show how projects are tying in together.
  o Show historical fires on maps.
  o More maps!

• Session #2
  o Good brainstorming
  o Excellent/ Great ideas
- Great Session, group effort

**Is there any information that you would like us to provide at a future workshop that would help you with decision making?**

- Zoning (as it pertains to planning communities in wildfire prone areas).
- Presentation on fuel breaks showing the various types. Show before and after of logging.
- Information on Firewise communities.

**General Comments**

- Have Cal Fire, Forest Service and other agencies represented at the workshop to field questions.
- A positive event with good dialogue.
- Great use of time.
- Great Meeting.