



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
September 22, 2026 –9 am
Greater Valley CCC Facility (14993 Camage Ave, Sonora)

Call to Order: Opening of Meeting.

Roll Call: OFFICERS: Gary Sanchez (President), Chuck Sloan (Vice President), Chrystal Aceves (Treasurer), Dore Bietz (Recording Secretary)

DIRECTORS: Karen Caldwell, Eileen Carlen, Jerry McGowan, Joe Milani

STAFF: Albert Alt (Executive Director)

Introductions: President to call for introductions

Standing Reports: See attached written reports

- A. Presidents report
- B. Treasurers report
- C. Executive Directors report and project update

Committee/Meeting Updates: ie. County Fire Advisory, SWIFT, YSS, Firewise

Discussion: Partner and cooperator information and reports

Business/Action items:

- A. Minutes from August 2026
- B. Executive Director evaluation process
- C. Committee and assignments

Break

Information items:

- A. Annual Operating Budget – draft
- B. Council and Collaborator meetings – design and content of meeting
- C. COCO deliverables update
- D. Business Meetings – format
- E. California Fire Foundation grant discussion
- F. Audit RFP update
- G. Updates on Wood Wise and BLM permit process
- H. Holiday party

Adjournment:

Executive Session (if necessary): Immediately following Board Meeting.



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
September 22, 2026 –9 am
Greater Valley CCC Facility (14993 Camage Ave, Sonora)

2026 Meeting Calendar:

Tuesday September 22, 2026

Tuesday October 27, 2026

Tuesday November 17, 2026

Tuesday December 8, 2026 **

*Board meetings are the 4th Tuesdays of the month. All meetings at 9:00 am. Executive sessions or special meetings may be scheduled at different times.

** December meeting is not on schedule with 4th Tuesday of the month due to holidays



Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
September 22, 2026 –9 am
Greater Valley CCC Facility (14993 Camage Ave, Sonora)

Tuolumne Fire Safe Council Ad-hoc Members

Agency Liaisons:

Ryan Campbell, Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors

Sean Hembree, Tuolumne County

City of Sonora, Brittan Gregory

Greg Cox, PG&E

USFS/STF

Jorge Pacheco, BLM

Frank Lewicki, NRCS Affiliate/TCRCD Forester

Ann Segerstrom, City of Sonora

Michael Pickard, SNC

Lindsay Mattos, SWIFT

Fire Agency Advisors:

Gary Carlson, Sonora City Fire Department

Diana Beasley, Tuolumne Rancheria FD

Roger Peterson, Cal-Fire TCU

Bill Barteau, Cal-Fire TCU

Matt Harrison, Cal-Fire TCU

Nathan Gorham, Tuolumne County Fire

Neil Gamez, Tuolumne County Fire Chiefs Association

Aimee New, Chicken Ranch Fire

Tuolumne Fire Safe Council Projects

Project No.	Description
177	Firewise Communities/TuCARE
180	120/Groveland Area Maintenance (work completed)
182	Dragoon Gulch
183	Bellevue/Kewin Mills
184	Tuolumne Area Fuels Reduction
190	County Coordinator

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

Agenda Item: Information Only, no Action Required

Purpose

To provide the Board with updates regarding Board leadership, financial activity, organizational operations, and current project activities.

Background

The following reports will be provided to the Board for information and discussion:

- **President's Report** – Update on Board leadership, governance, Board activities, and other matters within the President's purview.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Update on the organization's financial position, financial activity, budget status, and other financial matters.
- **Executive Director's Report** – Update on organizational operations, grant administration, administration, partnerships, staffing, and other activities managed by the Executive Director.
- **Project Report** – Update on current and completed projects, including project status, accomplishments, expenditures, schedules, contractor activity, grant deliverables, and significant project issues.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Recommended Action

Information Only

September 2026 President's Report

- **8/19/26 (64 minutes) Phone call with ED, Al Alt,** discussed TFSC Board interactions, Internal Governance Risk, and Conflict Resolution. Bookkeeping and Finance – Check-Writing Cadence, Operational Control, and Audit Preparation. Technical and Logistics Coordination – Finalizing President's Report, Outlook and Calendar Management, and bringing board members on board with the use of Outlook as the email platform. These are the discussion areas, but the conversations remain private.
- **8/25/26 Regular TFSC Board Meeting (5 hours) 8:00 AM:** Attended Executive Committee Meeting in preparation for the regular 9:00 AM Board Meeting and the subsequent Executive Session Meeting immediately following. See minutes in board meeting packet.
- **8/26/26 (48 minutes) Fire Safety Advisory Council Meeting:**

The meeting focused on strategically coordinating fire response, public information infrastructure, and restructuring for Tuolumne County and emergency service partners.

Public Information and Mapping Infrastructure:

The Consumer Insurance Office is transitioning to a new digital system designed to provide public education and real-time zone adjustments for media and residents. The platform will be accessible via a dedicated website, a new mobile app, and integration with existing tools like Watch Me, Watch Duty, and Base Scrub apps. Staff training begins in September, with a “go-live” target for October 2026. The goal is to ensure the public is fully informed about fire zones and insurance adjustments before major incidents occur.

There was a fire response debrief for the Dove (7/26) and Court (7/27) Fires in Sonora. Within 12 minutes of the initial Dove Fire report, officials issued a full evacuation order. Red Cross shelters and animal evacuation centers were established within hours despite more than 8000 residents refusing to leave.

Resource Coordination: The Emergency Operations Center (EOC) successfully integrated resources from the Sheriff's Department, City Fire, Fish and Game, Forest Service, and Alpine Deputies, to name a few.

Notification Systems: During the incident, 29,000 notices were sent, with 6,000 residences confirming receipt.

Governance and Strategic Planning:

A proposal was made to adopt a quarterly meeting schedule for greater efficiency, with interim meetings held as needed upon request. The board will decide on the schedule at its next meeting.

Vegetation Management: The group highlighted the importance of finding funding for enforcement and management of Defensible Space to reduce flame lengths from 4ft to 5ft down to 2.5ft.

ISO Review: An ISO review of the community started in February and is ongoing, focusing on data collection for water delivery and Emergency Dispatch Plans (EDP).

OES and Red Cross: Discussion regarding sheltering opportunities and education outreach through university partnerships.

Fire Safety Office: The program is moving forward, focusing on education and outreach to help the community work more effectively.

Department of Interior: A shift in strategy was noted to fight off-property fires and ensure broader regional protection.

- **8/27/26 (96 minutes) Phone meeting with ED, Al Alt.** This phone call is private. In general terms, we discussed internal governance issues and friction among board members, professional conduct, operational inefficiencies, the ED Evaluation process, September meeting preparation, and field tours for board members.
- **9/3/26 (76 Minutes) A phone call with ED, Al Alt.** This call addressed concerns about committee members meeting deliverables to stay on schedule, as discussed in the 8/25/26 regular board meeting, and managing grant-funded deliverables. We discussed the need to find additional grant funding beyond the COCO grant to bridge the gap until CalFire or FEMA grant cycles open. The phone conversation ended with Director Al Alt and me agreeing on the Center Post strategy and establishing a solid foundation before expanding.
- **9/8/26 (1 Hour) Convened a Zoom meeting** with Al, Dore, Karen, and me. This meeting addressed the strategic management of the COCO Grant, board governance boundaries, and potential partnerships with the Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD).

Strategic Operations and Governance: The discussion focused on reinforcing the distinction between oversight and operational execution. The group affirmed that the

ED, Al Alt, is the FSC quarterback and is responsible for implementing the playbook as defined by the board.

Jami's Contract Restructuring: Jami's role shifted from developing project proposals to an hourly contract focused on requirements development. The change was intended to: 1) preserve the original scope of the COCO grant deliverables; 2) help TFSC meet the requirement to spend 40% of the initial grant advance by September 14; and 3) compensate Jami for the substantial time already spent gathering requirements.

TUD Partnership: TUD has proposed a partnership where the TSFC would act as a de facto contractor. TUD would secure grants for watershed protection and infrastructure but use the council for procurement, contractor selection, and administrative fulfillment.

Grant Compliance: The California FireSafe Council has provided written approval to use hourly contracts for requirements development, giving the program flexibility during its "ground-up" phase.

Collaborator Forum: The upcoming collaborator meetings will be used as a sounding board for deliverables such as the CWPP and GIS mapping, ensuring stakeholder input is incorporated into the grant products.

End (8/26/26-9/12/26) Submitted 9/14/26

Respectfully, GES President

FSC Financial Actions September 1-17, 2026:

Reconciled accounts from August 31, 2026 bank statements: Council Checking, Council Savings, 177 Firewise, 179 D-Space, 180 Groveland, 182 Dragoon Gulch, 183 Kewin Mill/Bellevue, 184 Tuolumne Area, 190 COCO Grant.

Council Expenses (9/1-17/26)

- WebDancers (Content Mgmt + Annual website maintenance), Microsoft Office monthly subscription, Payroll, Garmin software, BOX subscription – Total payout \$6,946.09

177-Firewise

- River Dr Firewise Committee
- Transferred \$2,000 from 177 Firewise Savings to Council Checking
- NOTE: Treasurer Report balance reflects \$300 opening from Council funds, plus interest earned

179-Defensible Space

- Paid invoices; Jerry McGowan, Scott Fremd, Alec Lane
- Transferred \$3,169.38 from 179 Defensible Space Savings to Council Checking

180-Groveland

- Paid (from Council Savings) invoice: Alec Lane
- Transferred \$185.76 from Council Savings to Council Checking (pending Advance)
- NOTE: Pending Advance - Funds to date to be reimbursed to Council Savings \$185.76

182-Dragoon Gulch

- No request for invoice payments
- Transferred \$5,444.98 from 182 Dragoon Savings to Council Checking Inv #5GG23223/8 reconciliation

183-Kewin Mill/Bellview

- Paid invoices; Alec Lane, Jerry McGowan
- Transferred \$600.00 from 183 Savings to Council Checking

184-Tuolumne Area Project

- Paid (from Council Savings) invoices; Stephen Johnson, Jami Wolf
- Transferred \$1,120.00 from Council Savings to Council Checking (pending Advance)
- NOTE: Pending Advance - Funds to date to be reimbursed to Council Checking \$4,800.
- NOTE: Pending Advance - Funds to date to be reimbursed to Council Savings \$1,120.

190-COCO Grant

- Paid invoice; Jami Wolf
- Transferred \$1,388.00 from 190 Savings to Council Checking

TREASURER REPORT JULY 2026

TFSC Account Balances as of September 16, 2026			
Council Checking	\$46,626.33		
Council Savings	\$251,027.75		
177 Firewise	\$33,947.51		
179 Defensible Space	\$101,524.04		
180 Groveland	\$300.05		
182 Dragoon	\$117,885.09		
183 Kewin Mills	\$176,441.28		
184 Tuolumne Area Proj	\$300.01	Pending Advance: Reimbursement to Council Checking \$4,800	Pending Advance: Reimbursement to Council Savings \$1,120
190 COCO Grant	\$10,522.56		
TOTAL	\$738,574.62		
CLOSED PROJECTS:			
175 Big Hill Maint.			
176 Summerville			
Respectfully Submitted by: Chrystal Aceves, Council Treasurer			

Executive Director's Report

Tuolumne Fire Safe Council

Board of Directors Meeting – September 2026

Overview

September was a productive month for the Tuolumne Fire Safe Council as the organization continued to strengthen its operational capacity while advancing wildfire mitigation projects throughout Tuolumne County. Efforts focused on grant administration, organizational development, financial stewardship, partnership expansion, and positioning the Council for future funding opportunities.

County Coordinator

County Coordinator annual meeting/training (attendance required) October 26 and 27th in Sacramento, CA.

Qualified Entities (Task 14) scheduled for November 9th and 10th in

Attended County Coordinator monthly meetings and open office hours. Attended GIS office hours to learn more about that deliverable. Coordinated effort with CFSC regarding contract(s) to develop deliverable proposals and worked with CFSC regarding percentage of audit that may be direct cost to the COCO grant rather than entirely funded out of indirect.

Task 3: Contribute to GIS Networking Portal: Attended GIS training with CFSC and began developing of information required for GIS portal.

Task 4: Firewise Workshops: Worked with potential contractor to develop contract to meet deliverables. Reviewed proposal and in the process of reworking the proposal document.

Task 5: Engage workforce and career development programs: Meetings with Columbia College and consortium for career pathways and internships.

Fuels Reduction Projects

Continued implementation and oversight of active hazardous fuels reduction projects throughout Tuolumne County (see September 2026) Project Report for project-specific updates).

Submitted reimbursement requests, advance requests, and required grant reporting in accordance with grant agreement deadlines. (Reference Treasurers Report).

Continued monitoring project budgets, contractor performance, and compliance requirements to ensure timely project delivery.

Grant Administration and Funding

Continued development of future funding opportunities to support fuels reduction, community wildfire preparedness, workforce development, and organizational sustainability.

Organizational Operations

Policies and Governance

Continued implementation of Board-approved governance and financial policies to strengthen accountability and organizational effectiveness and audit readiness.

Distributed independent audit RFP to vendors, posted on website and direct emailed 18 potential auditors.

Financial Management

Continued monitoring organizational cash flow, grant budgets, and reimbursement schedules. Made request to CalFIRE Southern Region Grants for Advance Extension for Kewin Mills.

Coordinated regularly with the Treasurer regarding financial reporting, project budgets, and implementation of internal controls.

Continued implementation of standardized processes for tracking restricted funds, grant expenditures, and TuCARE program distributions.

Partnerships and Community Engagement

The Council continues to strengthen relationships with key partners, including:

- Tuolumne County
- CAL FIRE
- City of Sonora
- Columbia College
- Mother Lode Job Training Center
- Tuolumne Resource Conservation District
- SWIFT
- Community organizations and Fire Safe Councils
- Tuolumne Utilities District

Staff also continued discussions with local agencies and stakeholders regarding collaborative wildfire mitigation projects, workforce development opportunities, and community education initiatives.

Challenges and Opportunities

Advance funding remains an important tool for maintaining project momentum while minimizing the impact of reimbursement delays.

Looking Ahead

Over the coming month, staff will focus on:

- Advancing active fuels reduction projects.
- Executing and initiating the County Coordinator Grant.
- Continuing implementation of audit readiness activities.
- Pursuing additional grant opportunities and strategic partnerships.
- Preparing for upcoming grant reporting and reimbursement cycles.
- Annual/Organizational budget development – Draft for consideration on Sept agenda.
- Next round of strategic planning

Closing

I appreciate the continued support and guidance of the Board of Directors. The dedication of our staff, contractors, volunteers, and partner organizations continues to strengthen the Tuolumne Fire Safe Council's ability to reduce wildfire risk and build more resilient communities throughout Tuolumne County.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert G. Alt

Executive Director

Tuolumne Fire Safe Council



Tuolumne Fire Safe Council – Executive Director’s Project Report: September, 2026

Albert Alt, Executive Director

Active Projects:

Project	Update
Wildfire County Coordinator Grant (COCO)	Program implementation and prioritizing deliverables, working to get contracts in place to meet deliverables and attending required meetings. Update on agenda for discussion.
Defensible Space (Fremd, McGowan, Lane)	Lower 108 Unit treatment completed with approximately 15 properties completed. Project managers are in process of evaluating the next treatment unit. Grant is near fully expended with more properties on the approved list of treatment that funding allows. Grant budget has funding for approximately 15-20 more property treatments, depending on cost per specific property. Project managers are considering options for treatments to stay within remaining grant budget.
Groveland/120 Area (Lane)	Project budget has approximately \$98,000 remaining and grant performance end date of 04/2027. Project has remaining funds. Grant will be kept open through the winter for potential additional treatment opportunities.



Dragoon Gulch (Lane)	Treatment of the original grant agreement has been completed, all invoices to TRCD and Left Coast have been distributed. Additional treatment area approved on Stockton Rd., impacted by Dove Fire. Examining additional area to utilize remaining budget. Invoice submitted to CalFIRE for work completed prior to Dove Fire. CalFIRE Southern Grants allowing TFSC to keep Advance funds on account for 6 months to find new treatment area.
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Cont page 2 Kewin Mills (McGowan/Lane)	Project managers selected, Jerry McGowan and Alec Lane, contracts executed. Issues with CEQA boundary and flagging not being in place given that several months have passed since boundary was flagged. PM Lane and Westside reflagged CEQA boundaries week of 9/7. Project boundaries will be flagged in coming weeks. RFP in draft form in review by Project Managers was expected release in September, with CEQA and project boundaries being resolved, RFP is expected to be released in October. Grant has Advance that was required to be expended by November 15. Due to project transition from RCD to TFSC and reflagging, Advance will not be expended within CalFIRE timelines. Advance extension has been requested and is under consideration by Southern Region Grants.
Tuolumne Area (Johnson/Wolf)	CEQA and mapping completed for project area and submitted for public comment. Awaiting approval and submission to Statewide Clearinghouse (SCH) for CEQA. Draft treatment RFP in process.

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

Agenda Item: Approval of Board Minutes

Purpose

To provide the Board an opportunity to review and approve the minutes of the previous Board meeting.

Background

The minutes of the previous Board meeting are provided for the Board's review and consideration. The minutes are intended to accurately document the proceedings, discussions, and actions taken by the Board at the prior meeting.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Recommended Action

Approve the minutes as presented, or with amendments as identified by the Board.

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda August 25, 2026 – 9:00 am

Greater Valley CCC Facility (14993 Camage Ave, Sonora)

Call to Order: 9:00 am

Roll Call: OFFICERS – Sanchez (President), Sloan (VP), Aceves (Treasurer), Bietz (Secretary)

DIRECTORS – Caldwell, Carlen, McGowan, Milani

STAFF – Al Alt – Executive Director

Absent: none

Guests/Collaborators/Project Managers Present: Chief Britton Gregory (Sonora City Fire), Scott Fremd, Alec Lane, Bill Barteau (CAL FIRE), Roger Petersen (CAL FIRE), Adam Freese, Amanda Freese, Stephen Johnson, Jami Wolf

Call to Order: President Gary Sanchez called the meeting to order at approximately 9:02 a.m. A quorum was established. Roll call was conducted and board members, staff, partners, and members of the public introduced themselves. Written reports were distributed in advance of the meeting.

Standing Reports: Presidents Report, Treasurers Report and Executive Directors Report were all provided in writing and included in agenda packet.

Presidents Report: Indicated report was in package.

Treasurers Report: Aceves Treasurer gave report and indicated written report was in agenda packet. Discussion of TuCARE funds and balance. Board confirmed no Council funds are authorized for TuCARE expenditures.

Executive Directors Report: Alt stated SWIFT tour was highlighted. Groveland work was shown. Loss 30 acres in Stockton Road due to the Dove Fire. Discussion will be held between TFSC and CAL FIRE.

Committee/Meeting updates:

Tuolumne County Fire Safety Advisory Committee - President Sanchez noted County Fire Safety Advisory Committee was cancelled but this Weds will be quarterly meeting.

SWIFT - ED Alt provided an update regarding SWIFT field trip looking at different projects. Roger Petersen mentioned the VMP's that CAL FIRE is conducting. Director Milani mentioned the strategic importance of fuel breaks being conducting in that area. Great opportunity to see some other work being done.

YSS Update from Jerry, starting to look at potential changes, County has determined that Tuolumne River Trust cannot be the fiduciary pass through. The Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors will be addressing issue at future BOS mtg.

Firewise - Caldwell provided update on Firewise. Several calls from interested folks. Willow Springs have submitted an application (would make it 26 in County), another application from area within Strawberry. Alec is temporary for Morningstar applicants. Several applications in process. Discussed TucCare funding availability and how we will have to change who gets what, make more competitive. Crystal wanted to clarify that the balance shown in the report is not accurate as to what is available due to interest and cost to Council.

Discussion – Partner and cooperator information and reports

CAL FIRE (Petersen) spoke about recent grants and next steps, mentioned that DOVE Fire had some good work completed prior to and attributed to success. Projects that had dozer lines etc. gave access for on ground firefighting.

Sonora City Fire Chief Gregroy spoke about FEMA and Dove Fire process.

Adam Freese spoke about Tuolumne Fuels Reduction Project CEQA, just need to complete Native American consultation piece. Estimate 30-day turnaround after turning in completed request. ED Alt spoke about TUD support on the project.

Business/Action items:

A. July meeting minutes passed unanimously. Chuck moved to approve, second by McGowan Allin favor, no nays, no abstentions. Motion approved.

B. Audit RFP Update. Workgroup were assigned Dore, Crystal, Chuck provided update and ED Alt created the final document for Board approval. Chuck moved to approve the, second by McGowan. All in favor, no nays, no abstentions. Motion approved.

ED Alt reminded the Board of the dates and short timeframe. It is not a budgeted item, a small portion can be taken out of the County Coordinator grant but remaining will have to come out of the Council general fund. Sanchez encouraged all Board members to be familiar so that we can meet the timeframes. Must be completed by March to meet COCO Grant requirements. Gary, Chuck and Dore to be the RFP's reviewers, rank and then submit to ED Alt for tally.

D. Executive Director evaluation forms and process. Update on the process that produced recommended for Board approval. Sloan stated that he would like to have three members review the input from each of the Board members. Caldwell asked for clarification that

each Board member fills out form, the three then identified would provide the final evaluation. Bietz moved to approve the Executive Director Evaluation, second by Chuck. All in favor, no nays, no abstentions. Motion approved.

Discussion – Chuck and Jerry will work to bring back process once evaluations submitted.

F. Bureau of Land Management Land Use Permit. ED Alt updated on agenda packet item and made recommendation. Discussion of liability concerns, cost to TFSC and the industry standard.

Dore moved to approve authorization to secure the BLM land use permit associated with Wise Woodworks and authorize the Executive Director to:

1. Secure the required BLM land use permit;
2. Recover applicable permit costs and Executive Director time and effort;
3. Implement appropriate risk management measures; and
4. Establish proposed dates for review of the facility.

Discussion – Caldwell would like to offer services in kind and that we visit monthly and have some recognition for TFSC. Talked about the history of site and program. Duration of permit time was discussed likely 3 or 5 years. ED Alt will bring back.

Motion Seconded by Chuck. All in favor, no nays, no abstentions. Motion approved.

Break - none

Information Items (No Action):

A. Board Committees/meeting assignments. Discussion of the putting together a list of those meetings out in the community that would need representation.

B. Audit readiness Checklist Status – ED Alt updated on the checklist and that one of the items we still need action on is a Budget. He will bring back to Board next meeting. Discussion was had about status and how far back they will want to look.

Meeting Adjourned: 10:22 AM

Executive Committee Meeting: Executive Committee called to order at 10:37am

Board discussed governance items. No action taken.

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: August 25, 2026

Agenda Item: Action Required

Purpose

To establish a formal annual evaluation process for the Executive Director, including evaluation chair, Board responsibilities, and participation in evaluation process.

Background

Vice President Sloan and Director McGowan were assigned as the committee to finalize a recommendation for the process to be utilized for the Executive Director's annual evaluation. The evaluation forms were adopted by the Board in the August meeting. The recommended process and timeline for this evaluation is provided for consideration.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Recommended Action

Information Only

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EVALUATION BOARD PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Vice President is the Exec Committee designee – The board will appoint a workgroup to work with VP – Recommended workgroup composition for this evaluation cycle: Vice President and two Board member(s). For this evaluation cycle, it is recommended that the Vice President, Director McGowan and one additional appointed Director serve as the evaluation committee.

The VP will distribute evaluation forms to the Board of Directors. Board of Directors will complete the evaluation form and send it back to the Vice President by the specified date.

during the September meeting. The evaluations must be returned to the VP by October 5th. No late evaluations will be accepted!

Vice President will collect evaluations, tabulate score averages, and develop themes from comments.

Strengths – coalesce positive comments to main themes

Areas for Development – coalesce comments for improvement to main themes

Vice President will draft Executive Director evaluation for review by the Board of Directors.

Vice President distributes draft to Board for review and feedback on the draft evaluation.

Vice President and evaluation committee will consider Board input for incorporation in the final evaluation.

Vice President, distributes updated draft to Board of Directors until consensus is met on final evaluation.

Once consensus is met on evaluation document, Vice President will schedule a vote to adopt the evaluation. The vote can be completed electronically via email or via Zoom conference. Board will vote and adopt the evaluation, Vice President will record the vote with relation to “aye” and “nay” and record the vote count.

Executive Committee will meet with and provide adopted evaluation to Executive Director.

Timeline for 2026 Evaluation:

Tuesday September 22nd board meeting: Board approval of evaluation process.

Tuesday September 29th Vice President to distribute evaluation form.

By Monday October 5th No later than 10/5, all evaluations returned to Vice President and evaluation committee to compile scores/averages and comments into draft evaluation. Submissions after 10/5 will not be included in draft evaluation.

By Friday October 9th Vice President will distribute the draft evaluation for feedback.

By Friday October 16th Board will provide feedback of the evaluation to Evaluation Committee.

October 19th thru October 23 Evaluation Committee will finalize the evaluation, incorporating Board feedback. Vice President will send the final to the board for adoption electronically by votes yay or nay and record electronically.

October 27th The executive committee to provide evaluation to the ED in executive session after the board meeting.

This process is recommended for the initial evaluation cycle, the 2026 annual evaluation. It is recommended that, once the evaluation process is completed, the Board evaluate the process for recommended improvements to the evaluation cycle for the 2027 annual evaluation.

Additionally, distinct from the Executive Director Evaluation process, it is recommended that the Board consider development of a Board evaluation process of their own, given that the Board will have served as a policy/governance board for a year since the hire of the Executive Director.

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

Agenda Item: Information Item: Collaborator Meeting Inventory and Board Assignments

Purpose

To establish an inventory of recurring and anticipated collaborator meetings and determine which meetings require participation by the Board, Board members, and/or the Executive Director.

Background

The Tuolumne Fire Safe Council participates in a variety of meetings with community organizations, governmental agencies, fire agencies, grant partners, stakeholders, and other collaborators. As the organization's activities and partnerships continue to expand, it is important to maintain a clear understanding of these meetings and ensure that TFSC is appropriately represented.

Board and Executive Director will develop an inventory of collaborator meetings, including the meeting purpose, organization or agency, frequency, anticipated dates, and the type of TFSC participation that may be appropriate.

The Board will review the inventory and identify meetings where:

- Board representation is appropriate or necessary;
- A specific Board member should be assigned based on the subject matter or relationship;
- The Executive Director should participate;
- Both a Board representative and the Executive Director should participate; or
- Staff participation is sufficient.

Assignments will be documented and periodically updated as meetings, organizational priorities, and Board availability change.

Fiscal Impact

Minimal anticipated, potentially Director and Executive Director mileage, where consistent with policy. Participation in meetings will generally be incorporated into existing Board and staff responsibilities.

Recommendation

Approve the development of a collaborator meeting inventory and establish Board assignments for meetings identified as requiring Board representation.

Organization	Board Assignee
SWIFT	
YSS	
TUCARE	
TC Fire Safety Committee	
TC Natural Resources Committee	
WRAP	
CALFIRE Regional Coordinators Meetings	
CA Firewise Coordinators Meetings	
UC Davis Center for Community & Citizen Science	
LWV Fire Interest Group	
Climate and Wildfire Institute	
Prescribed Burn Association (PBA)	
CA Wildfire & Forest Resilience Task Force	
2023 CWPP Steering Group	
2023 CWPP Key Stakeholders	
Sonora Area Foundation	

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

Agenda Item: Operating Budget and Unfunded Liabilities

Purpose

To provide the Board with background information regarding the operating budget and identified unfunded liabilities.

Background

The draft operating budget reflects the Council's anticipated revenues and expenditures, for illustrative purposes, from July 1 through December 31. Council's fiscal year is January 1 through December 31. It is recommended that the Board review the draft budget, provide recommendations for changes and review an updated draft budget at the October meeting.

Fiscal Impact

None for this discussion. The purpose of this item is to provide the Board with a draft budget for input and improvement in anticipation of preparation of the 2027 annual budget.

Recommended Action

Information Only

Tuolumne Fire Safe Council**DRAFT****Proposed Revenue & Organizational Overhead Budget**

**July 1 - December 31

Proposed Revenue Budget

Revenue Source	Total Revenue	Note #
County Coordinator Grant	\$12,421.94	1
CAL FIRE Grants	\$42,330.02	2
Other Government Grants		
Foundation Grants		
Contributions / Donations	\$50.00	
Interest / Other Income	\$20.00	
Total Proposed Revenue	\$54,821.96	

Revenue notes:

1.

Indirect revenue is available to support organizational overhead. Direct revenue is not included in overhead funding unless the applicable funding agreement specifically allows.

2

Estimated revenue based on total indirect remaining divided by the total months anticipated to completion.

Proposed Organizational Overhead Expenses

Organizational Overhead	Budget	Note #
Executive Director	\$11,027.13	1
Administrative Support	-	
Finance / Bookkeeping	\$6,300.00	2
Audit	\$15,000.00 **	
Legal		
Insurance / D&O	\$1,930.00	
Technology / Software	\$1,200.00	
Website	\$1,200.00	
Professional Services		
Board Expenses	\$2,500.00	
Mileage / Travel	\$400.00	

Training / Conferences	
Communications / Outreach	
Governmental charges	\$750.00
Total Organizational Overhead	\$39,557.13

Expenditure notes:

1.	ED cost includes all expenses related to payroll including employer share of taxes attributable to indirect costs. Assumed at 15%.
2	Estimated based on NTE costs in contract assuming all costs are indirect.

Overhead Funding Summary

Revenue Available for Overhead	\$54,821.96	
Total Organizational Overhead	\$39,557.13	
Annual Reserve Funding	\$5,000.00	1
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	\$10,264.82	

Summary notes:

1.	Board to determine funding amount for reserve.
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Tuolumne Fire Safe Council

Proposed Reserves & Unfunded Liabilities

Potential Unfunded Liabilities / Reserve Targets

Potential Unfunded Liability / Reserve	Purpose / Notes	Proposed Reserve Amount
Insurance deductibles		\$2,000.00
Uninsured claims/losses		\$5,000.00
Accrued vacation/PTO	Maximum accrual currently estimated at three	\$15,000.00
Environmental penalties	Placeholder based on prior exposure; Board may	\$15,000.00
Disallowed grant costs	Board to determine reserve amount.	TBD
Grant closeout obligations	Board to determine reserve amount.	TBD
Contractual obligations/commitments	Board to determine reserve amount.	TBD
Legal claims and related costs	Board to determine reserve amount.	TBD
Other governmental assessments	Board to determine reserve amount.	TBD
	Financial flexibility for temporary revenue	
Economic Uncertainty Reserve	shortfalls or unexpected increases in ordinary	TBD
Current Quantified Reserve Target		\$37,000.00

Board Discussion

The Board may establish reserve targets for each identified exposure based on organizational risk, available unrestricted funds, and the anticipated cost of the underlying obligation. The quantified amounts shown above

Budget Treatment

Annual reserve funding can be included in the operating budget as an amount set aside toward unfunded liabilities. The reserve schedule separately shows the target amounts and funds actually designated or held for

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

Agenda Item: Information Only, no Action Required

Purpose

To provide the Board an opportunity for discussion regarding Council and/or Collaborators meetings.

Background

At the August meeting, the Board assigned Directors Bietz, Caldwell, and Carlen as a work group to develop recommendations regarding Council and/or Collaborators meetings. The work group has provided materials for discussion and consideration, with the intent of providing a structured forum for discussion and coordination among key partners, focused on alignment with the Tuolumne Fire Safe Council's mission, the COCO, and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). The meeting outline includes discussion regarding invitees, meeting content, frequency, location, initial scheduling, desired areas of focus, and responsibility for coordinating, organizing, and facilitating future meetings.

Fiscal Impact

None for this discussion. Potential future costs may include meeting locations and other logistical expenses.

Recommended Action

Information Only

Council Collaborators Meeting Outline

- Purpose and Background
 - Alignment with TFSC Mission, COCO and CWPP
- Meeting logistics
 - Invitees, content, occurrence, location
- Discussion and Direction
 - Meeting frequency
 - Set location or rotate
 - When to schedule first meeting.
 - What do you want us to cover?
 - Who will coordinate/organize/facilitate?

Council and Collaborators Meeting Outline

September 22, 2026 - **DRAFT DISCUSSION**

TFSC Purpose

The Tuolumne Fire Safe Council is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization composed of individuals, governmental agencies, public and private businesses that share a common interest in preventing and reducing loss from wildfires.

Our Mission - The primary Mission of this Corporation shall be focused within Tuolumne County to help protect the citizens, property, and natural resources from the effects of catastrophic wild land fires.

1. Educate the public about fire threat and fire prevention measures;
2. Serve community and neighborhood fire safety needs;
3. Coordinate a Fire Plan, with the cooperation of local fire agencies;
4. Improve circulation for evacuation;
5. Reduce the potential for fire loss damage;
6. Improve fire safety by reducing dangerous fuel load;
7. Reduce vegetation waste stream to landfills;
8. Promote a healthy forest;
9. Improve air and water quality;
10. Secure grant funding for fuel reduction projects.

The mission will be accomplished through interagency and neighborhood coordination, along with a strong public and private partnership focusing on public education, exchanging of information, and fostering fire prevention and fire safety to make homes, neighborhoods and communities fire safe within Tuolumne County.

TFSC Board Direction

The TFSC Board has had discussion and given directions to a sub-committee to design and develop a proposal creating Council Collaborators meetings that meet regularly with defined participants and agenda items to meet the mission of the organization. This draft outline for Board discussion as to the Who will be invited (identify all partners), What is it that we will cover agenda and topics), When these are held (quarterly or every other month or monthly) and Where (location same or rotating).

WHY ARE HAVING A COUNCIL COOPERATIVE MEETING?

- Meet TFSC Mission intent:
 - Educate the public about fire threat and fire prevention measures to inform of projects, information exchange, relationship building, and identify opportunities for collaboration.
- Meet COCO Scope of Work deliverables:
 - Engage a broad and diverse set of mitigation entities within the county, including nontraditional and historically excluded organization, in countywide meetings and forums with a focus on wildfire resilience, outreach, planning and/or implementation.
 - Expanded participation and meaningful engagement of a broad and diverse range of wildfire resilience stakeholders in countywide planning, outreach, coordination, and implementation efforts. Through intentional outreach and inclusive engagement strategies, the County Coordinator will increase participation from both traditional wildfire mitigation partners and historically underrepresented or non-traditional organizations, including community-based organizations, tribes, educational institutions, public health organizations, social service providers, business groups, faith based organizations, workforce development entities, and representatives of vulnerable and underserved populations.
 - Foster subregional County Coordinator forums and collaboratives.
 - Establishment of collaborative networks that strengthen communication, coordination, and shared problem-solving among neighboring jurisdictions and wildfire resilience partners. These forums will provide opportunities for stakeholders facing similar wildfire risks, geographic conditions, and implementation challenges to exchange information, share best practices, identify common priorities, and develop collaborative solutions.
 - Participate in efforts to socialize completed CWPPs and project prioritization across the county, including with mitigation partners and the public.
 - Outreach and engagement efforts will increase awareness, understanding, and support for completed CWPPs and prioritized wildfire mitigation projects, resulting in stronger partnerships, greater public participation, improved coordination among stakeholders, and accelerated implementation of community wildfire resilience initiatives throughout the county.

- Meet CWPP 6.8 PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS
 - Public education and outreach to promote and increase wildfire awareness, action and mitigation activities.
 - Educate the public on how to mitigate wildfire hazards and risks, as well as appropriately preparing and responding to wildfires.

WHO WILL BE INVITED?

- Partners, federal, state, local and tribal entities, non-profits and community groups.
- Public (residents and local businesses)

WHAT WILL WE COVER? (Content/Purpose of Meeting)

- TFSC General Updates including projects
- Education exchange...what is everyone working on
- Highlight partner agency – one or two per meeting. Give them heads up so they can do video or ppt or boards etc.
- Grant Opportunities – bring grant opportunities forward
- Guest speaker(s) on set topic (Home Hardening, Firewise, Defensible space, Insurance
- Other topics?

WHEN and HOW OFTEN DO WE MEET?

- How often do we want these?
 - Monthly?
 - Quarterly?

WHERE WILL WE MEET? Stay in same place or move meeting around throughout county?

- Tuolumne
 - CRC
 - Black Oak Resort
- Groveland
 - CRC
- Jamestown
 - Chicken Ranch Resort
- Sonora
 - Committee and Commissions Room – 48 Yaney (free)
 - USFS Greenly RD Conference room – (free)
 - Motherlode Fairgrounds – Need AV

Discussion and Direction by Board and Cooperating Partners:

- Meeting frequency
 - Monthly or Quarterly
- Location
 - Set place or rotate
- Start date
 - November? And then begin schedule in January?
- What do you want us to cover? Content.
- Who is going coordinate/organize/facilitate?
 - Staff, Board members, project managers, volunteers?

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

Agenda Item: County Coordinator Deliverables/Tasks

Purpose

To provide the Board an opportunity for discussion regarding the County Coordinator program deliverables and tasks.

Background

The County Coordinator Program Extension Scope of Work establishes 15 deliverables focused on countywide wildfire resilience coordination, stakeholder engagement, community outreach, CWPP development and planning, workforce development, education, project prioritization, and coordination with CAL FIRE, County partners, and other wildfire resilience organizations. The purpose of this item is to discuss updates, approach for some deliverables and completion of deliverables.

Fiscal Impact

None for this discussion. The deliverables are part of the County Coordinator Program scope of work.

Recommended Action

Information Only

Program Extension Scope of Work

Task #	Activity	Timeline	Responsible Party	Expected Outcome/Result
1	Develop a plan in partnership with Cal Fire unit to regularly engage and convene key community wildfire resilience stakeholders.	07/01/2026-12/30/2026	County Coordinator	A formalized stakeholder engagement and coordination plan developed in partnership with the CAL FIRE Tuolumne-Calaveras Unit that establishes a consistent framework for communication, collaboration, and collective action among wildfire resilience partners throughout Tuolumne County, aligning local activities with the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan.
2	Create and support Public Outreach Committee	on-going	Coordinator/Contract	Establishment and ongoing support of a Public Outreach Committee that serves as a collaborative forum for coordinating wildfire resilience messaging, outreach strategies, educational campaigns, and community engagement efforts throughout Tuolumne County.
3	Continue to contribute to the CFSC GIS Networking Portal	on-going	Contract	By maintaining current project information, mapping wildfire mitigation activities, and sharing relevant spatial data, the County Coordinator will support data-driven planning, project prioritization, and coordination among local, regional, and state stakeholders.
4	Provide for Firewise or Firewise communities and integrate multi-disciplinary perspectives that couple training on required actions with research related to update of such actions.	07/01/2026-10/15/2026	Contract	Firewise USA® leaders, residents, and community stakeholders will gain increased knowledge, skills, and capacity to implement effective wildfire risk reduction measures through workshops that combine Firewise program requirements with the latest wildfire science, mitigation research, and best management practices. By integrating multidisciplinary perspectives from fire agencies, forestry professionals, researchers, emergency managers, insurance representatives, land-use

planners, and wildfire resilience practitioners, participants will develop a more comprehensive understanding of wildfire risk and the actions necessary to create and maintain fire-adapted communities.

5	Collaborate with CAL FIRE Unit and Contract County Fire Planning staff to support development of a statewide CWPP boundary and attribute database by identifying existing CWPPs within the county and confirming the availability of associated spatial or descriptive planning area information.	07/01/2026-10/15/2027	Coordinator/Contract	Collaboration with CAL FIRE Unit and County Fire Planning staff will result in the identification, verification, and documentation of county CWPP boundaries and associated planning information, contributing to the development of a comprehensive statewide CWPP database that supports wildfire mitigation planning, funding prioritization, and long-term community resilience efforts.
6	Engage a broad and diverse set of mitigation entities within the county, including non-traditional and historically excluded organization, in countywide meetings and forums with a focus on wildfire resilience, outreach, planning and/or implementation.	07/01/2025-10/15/2027	Coordinator/contract	Expanded participation and meaningful engagement of a broad and diverse range of wildfire resilience stakeholders in countywide planning, outreach, coordination, and implementation efforts. Through intentional outreach and inclusive engagement strategies, the County Coordinator will increase participation from both traditional wildfire mitigation partners and historically underrepresented or non-traditional organizations, including community-based organizations, tribes, educational institutions, public health organizations, social service providers, business groups, faith-based organizations, workforce development entities, and representatives of vulnerable and underserved populations.
7	Foster subregional County Coordinator forums and collaboratives.	07/01/2026-10/15/2027	Coordinator	Establishment of collaborative networks that strengthen communication, coordination, and shared problem-solving among neighboring jurisdictions and wildfire resilience partners. These forums will provide opportunities for stakeholders facing similar wildfire risks, geographic conditions, and implementation

				challenges to exchange information, share best practices, identify common priorities, and develop collaborative solutions.
8	Present project scope of work, deliverables, and impact to other implementation partners (e.g., Fire Protection Districts, Resource Conservation Districts, UC Cooperative Extension, Land Trusts, etc).	07/01/206-10/15/2027	Coordinator/contract	Increased understanding, engagement, and collaboration among wildfire resilience implementation partners through clear communication of the County Coordinator Program's scope of work, deliverables, priorities, and anticipated impacts.
9	Initiate or continue development or revision of a CWPP in coordination with other key planning efforts (e.g., the RFFC's Regional Priority Plan, FEMA's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, etc) and in conjunction with the CWPP Toolkit-aligned preliminary operational plan (see b).	07/01/2026-10/15/2027	Coordinator	A current, actionable, and broadly supported Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that reflects local wildfire risk, community priorities, and the latest guidance and best practices for wildfire resilience planning. Through coordination with local, regional, state, tribal, and federal partners, the CWPP development or revision process will align wildfire mitigation priorities with complementary planning efforts, including the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity (RFFC) Regional Priority Plan, FEMA Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, evacuation planning initiatives, forest health strategies, and other relevant resilience and emergency management plans.
10	Engage in workforce and career development programs to build a local, professional pipeline for wildfire resilience.	07/01/2026-10/15/2027	Coordinator	A stronger and more sustainable local workforce pipeline to support wildfire resilience, forest health, emergency preparedness, and community risk reduction efforts throughout Tuolumne County. Through engagement with K–12 schools, colleges, universities, workforce development boards, conservation corps programs, Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, fire agencies, and natural resource organizations, the County Coordinator will help connect students and job seekers with educational, training, and career opportunities in wildfire-related fields.

11	Support school/collegiate programming to integrate community wildfire resilience messaging into classrooms and curricula.	07/01/2026-10/15/2026	Coordinator	Increased integration of community wildfire resilience education into learning environments, resulting in greater awareness, knowledge, and engagement among students, educators, and families. By supporting educational programming that incorporates wildfire preparedness, forest health, defensible space, home hardening, emergency readiness, and natural resource stewardship into classroom instruction and extracurricular activities, the County Coordinator will help build a culture of wildfire resilience across generations.
12	Participate in efforts to socialize completed CWPPs and project prioritization across the county, including with mitigation partners and the public.	07/01/2026-10/15/2026	Coordinator/contract	Outreach and engagement efforts will increase awareness, understanding, and support for completed CWPPs and prioritized wildfire mitigation projects, resulting in stronger partnerships, greater public participation, improved coordination among stakeholders, and accelerated implementation of community wildfire resilience initiatives throughout the county.
13	Present project scope of work, deliverables, and impact to the county's Board of Supervisors to ensure that county leadership is informed and can effectively keep the County Coordinator tied into the county's priorities and plans.	07/01/2026-10/15/2026	Coordinator	Regular presentations to the Board of Supervisors will ensure county leadership remains informed of project activities, deliverables, and community impacts, resulting in stronger alignment between County Coordinator efforts and county priorities, improved interagency coordination, enhanced accountability, and greater support for wildfire resilience and risk-reduction initiatives.
14	Attend at least one (1) Qualified Entities Training hosted by Cal Fire.	07/01/2026-10/15/2026	Coordinator	Enhanced local capacity to navigate and leverage CAL FIRE Qualified Entity authorities and processes, resulting in improved project implementation readiness, increased stakeholder awareness, and expanded opportunities for wildfire mitigation activities within the county.
15	Host one (1) county-level training on the CWPP Toolkit for	07/01/2026-10/15/2026	Coordinator/contractor	Local, state, federal, tribal, nonprofit, and community stakeholders are equipped with a

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

Agenda Item: Information Only, no Action Required

Purpose

To provide the Board opportunity for discussion for future Board of Directors business meetings.

Background

Discussion and consideration of conducting regular Board of Directors business meetings monthly via Zoom. The discussion will provide an opportunity for the Board to consider the benefits, logistics, and appropriateness of conducting regular business meetings through a virtual format, in concert with the addition of Council meetings.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Recommended Action

Information Only

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

Agenda Item: Information

Purpose

To provide the Board an opportunity to consider development of a County-Wide Community Outreach and Education Program for a Proposition 4 Wildfire Prevention & Firefighter Safety Grant application.

Background

In previous Board meetings, the Board discussed the California Fire Foundations Prop 4 grants. The Prop 4 grant has four priorities, two aligned with the Council's mission, Public Education and Outreach and Fuels Management. Directors Bietz and Caldwell volunteered to draft a recommendation for submission of a Public Education and Outreach grant. Details of there recommendation are provided for discussion.

Fiscal Impact

None.

Recommended Action

Provide direction to develop a budget and draft a grant application once the grant program opens.

Proposition 4 Wildfire Prevention & Firefighter Safety Grant Program



- Awards up to \$1,000,000
- Funding Categories include Public Education & Outreach –
 - Support campaigns and programs that engage communities in reducing risk and preparing for fire seasons
- Aligns with TFSC Mission, COCO Grant and CWPP
- **Sub-Committee Recommendation**
 - Development and implementation of a County-Wide Community Outreach and Education Program
 - Direction to create budget and draft grant application once open

CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION PROPOSITION 4 GRANT

September 22, 2026 - **DRAFT DISCUSSION**

Grant Application Proposal: The California Fire Foundation (CFF) is pleased to announce the Proposition 4 Wildfire Prevention & Firefighter Safety Grant Program, funded through the voter-approved \$10 billion Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act. These grants are designed to strengthen firefighter safety, enhance community preparedness, and support proactive wildfire prevention at the local level. Proposition 4 funding provides critical resources to ensure those closest to the work have the tools, equipment, and support they need to protect lives, property, and natural landscapes.

Funding Categories

The California Fire Foundation supports projects that actively address disaster preparedness and/or prevention needs, which protect and enhance the public's safety or the safety of California's firefighters and other first responders, including:

- 1. Firefighter Health & Safety:** Grants in this category focus on protecting firefighters' physical, mental, and behavioral health. Examples include:
 - Cancer prevention, research, and treatment initiatives
 - Mental and behavioral health programs
 - Peer support and resilience programs for firefighters and their families
 - Physical therapy recovery equipment (saunas, cold plunge)
- 2. Specialized Firefighting Equipment:** Grants in this category will support equipment that directly protects firefighter health and strengthens emergency response capacity. Examples include:
 - Turnout gear, radios, extractors, decontamination equipment, and emergency fire shelters
 - Water Cisterns
 - Drones and UTVs
- 3. Vegetation and Fuels Management:** Grants in this category will support disaster mitigation and fuel reduction projects. Examples include:
 - Regional Fuel Breaks
 - Hazardous Vegetation Removal
 - Chipping and Clearing Operations
 - Creating Defensible Space at Community Scale
- 4. Public Education & Outreach:** Grants in this category will support campaigns and programs that engage communities in reducing risk and preparing for fire seasons. Examples include:

- Statewide or local disaster preparedness and safety campaigns
- Community Fire Readiness Workshops

Funding Guidelines

- Grant awards may be available for up to \$1,000,000 depending on project scope and impact
- Eligible entities include nonprofit organizations.
- Matching funds are not required.
- Grant will be announced (open) Fall 2026

Grant Application Proposal

Community collaboration and engagement is central to any effective emergency preparedness program. The challenge for Tuolumne County and our communities is how to engage the “whole” community to effect change at the individual and community levels in a locally relevant and sustainable way.

Grant funding category connection to TFSC:

- Meet TFSC Mission intent:
 - Educate the public about fire threat and fire prevention measures to inform of projects, information exchange, relationship building, and identify opportunities for collaboration through interagency and neighborhood coordination, along with a strong public and private partnership focusing on public education, exchanging of information, and fostering fire prevention and fire safety to make homes, neighborhoods and communities fire safe within Tuolumne County.
- Aligning with COCO Scope of Work
 - Support Public Outreach Committee that serves as a collaborative forum for coordinating wildfire resilience messaging, outreach strategies, educational campaigns, and community engagement efforts throughout Tuolumne County
 - Support efforts to implement completed CWPPs and project prioritization across the county, including with mitigation partners and the public through outreach and engagement efforts to increase awareness, understanding, and support for completed CWPPs and prioritized wildfire mitigation projects, resulting in stronger partnerships, greater public participation, improved coordination among stakeholders, and accelerated implementation of community wildfire resilience initiatives throughout the county.
- Align Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Public Education and Awareness:
 - Public education and outreach to promote and increase wildfire awareness, action and mitigation activities.
 - Educate the public on how to mitigate wildfire hazards and risks, as well as appropriately preparing and responding to wildfires.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Public Education and outreach are at the core of creating and maintaining healthy and productive Fire Adapted Communities (FAC) while reducing Wildfire Risk in the county. Communicating accurate and timely information before, during and after a wildfire is challenging in the current environment of unconnected and uncoordinated outreach and educational activities across the County. Each entity involved in fire education offers quality information but is often primarily focused on a specific interest or mission aspect. We often attend the same events and or lack funding and resources to attend venues. This fractured approach results in inefficiencies, inconsistency in messaging, limited vulnerable population exposures and missed opportunities to combine, enhance and expand educational messaging that actively address disaster preparedness and/or prevention needs.

Tuolumne County is comprised of both Tier 2 and Tier 3 High Fire Risk areas. There is no single coordinated mechanism within the county for Public Education and Outreach to engage communities in reducing risk and preparing for fire seasons. While we do have active education occurring through the TFSC, Firewise communities, CAL FIRE Prevention Program, County, and Federal agencies other service/non-profit organizations, there is no cohesive and planned educational strategy at a Countywide scale in place.

The TFSC is poised to serve as the collaboration and coordination point for a comprehensive strategic Public Outreach and Education Program. The goal is to improve knowledge and understanding of the many factors that influence wildfire behavior and how we can learn to live with wildfire through adaptation and participation of all.

Application outline: Proposing the development and implementation of a County-Wide Community Outreach and Education Program to include the following:

- Creating a 3-year collaborative Outreach and Education Action Plan/Strategy. Components to include:
 - Objectives (What do we want to achieve?)
 - Strategies (How will we achieve our objectives?)
 - Actions (What actions will we take to achieve our strategy?)
 - Target audiences and opportunities, identification of vulnerable communities
 - Key messaging
 - Marketing, Branding, Media, etc.
 - Timeline and Budget
- Conduct Community Exercises and workshops.
 - Create portable components for Wildfire Go Game (UC Davis model) and conduct community evacuation table-top workshops throughout the county.
 - Provide education and awareness materials and activities on best practices for defensible space and home hardening.

- Support campaigns and programs that engage communities in reducing risk and preparing for wildland fire season.
- Encourage disaster preparedness and safety by providing information and materials.
- Establish “Recognition” program for Fire Resistant Landscaping examples. 2 categories: residential and businesses. Annual winner/recognition/award.
- Host annual “Living with Fire” Symposium and/or County Wide Wildfire Preparedness Town Hall that brings industry experts and resources for wildfire risk reduction and preparedness.
- Create video(s) series for training and education that would be accessible to residents and visitors. Examples: how to create a go bag, how to sign up for emergency alerts, affordable home hardening, evacuation, fire resistance landscaping, etc. This could be placed on Access Tuolumne, shown on Cable 8 or even at Pinecrest Theater in summer? Would also live on TFSC webpage.
- Develop outreach materials and implement strategies for educating visitors and/or tourists on Willand Fire Risk and Wildfire Preparedness. Currently there is little outreach to the millions of visitors every year during our highest Wildfire season.....education materials disseminated, working with hotels, campsites resorts, organization camps, casinos, etc....Opportunity to create education mini talks at area resorts? Include materials in multiple languages for foreign visitors.
- Participation at public outreach at various events throughout the year include Home and Garden, Tribal Safety Fair, Firewise Meetings, HOA Meetings, Motherlode Fair, 49er Festival etc. Costs include entry fees, travel per diem, swag, printing, admin costs.
- Develop and print educational materials (brochures, flyers, posters, signage, etc.). Examples: Firewise Community Program and TFSC Brochure reprints, new: Wildfire resistant landscaping plants, Zone 0, ember ignition prevention, etc. Include materials in multiple languages for foreign visitors.

Funding from this grant would enable the planning and implementation of a coordinated and collaborative Outreach and Education program that will influence actions of residents and visitors to Tuolumne County through increased knowledge, awareness and participation in wildland fire risk reduction actions.

A collaboratively developed, coordinated and implemented Wildfire Public Outreach and Education strategy is consistent with the goals and objectives of the TFSC and the 2023 CWPP for Tuolumne County. It also complements and cross implements actions funded through the 2026 COCO grant.

Recommendation: Discussion of project proposal and direction to develop budget to submit application for Public Education & Outreach funding category for the California Fire Foundation Proposition 4 Grant.

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

Agenda Item: Information Only, no Action Required

Purpose

To provide the Board with updates regarding Independent Audit RFP.

Background

Staff will provide an update on the Independent Audit Services RFP process, including the status of the solicitation, proposal timeline, and next steps toward selection of an independent audit firm. The RFP was issued August 28, 2026, with proposals due September 25, 2026.

RFP Timeline:

- RFP Issued: August 28, 2026
- Questions Due: September 11, 2026
- TFSC Responses Issued: September 18, 2026
- Proposals Due: September 25, 2026
- Proposal Evaluation: October 2–9, 2026
- Interviews, if necessary: October 12–16, 2026
- Recommendation to Board: October 20, 2026
- Board Approval: October 27, 2026
- Engagement Letter Executed: October 29, 2026
- Preliminary Planning: November 2, 2026
- Draft Financial Statements: December 2026
- Management Review: January 2027
- Final Audit: February 1, 2027
- Board Presentation: February 23, 2027

Fiscal Impact

None.

Recommended Action

Information Only

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

Agenda Item: Information Item: BLM Land Use Permit Update

To provide the Board with an update regarding the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land use permit.

Background

At the August 25, 2026 Board meeting, the Board considered authorization to secure a BLM land use permit associated with Wise Woodworks. Wise Woodworks operates a facility on BLM-managed property that provides green waste disposal services to Tuolumne County residents.

This item is to update the Board on the discussions with Wise Woodworks regarding the permit process.

Fiscal Impact

None at this time.

Recommended Action

Information only. No Board action is requested.

TUOLUMNE FIRE SAFE COUNCIL

Board Agenda Item Cover Sheet

Meeting Date: September 22, 2026

Agenda Item: Information Only, no Action Required

Purpose

To provide the Board opportunity for discussion for having a Holiday Party in 2026.

Background

Discussion and consideration of holding an annual holiday party for Board members, staff, and volunteers. The discussion will provide an opportunity to consider the purpose, format, timing, and potential costs associated with the event.

Fiscal Impact

None for discussion. Potential costs associated with Holiday Party.

Recommended Action

Information Only