



## **BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL**

**TO:** GCSD Board of Directors

**FROM:** Peter Kampa, General Manager

**DATE:** August 13, 2024

**SUBJECT:** Agenda Item 3Av: General Managers Report

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### Overview

Highlights for the period of July 9, 2024, to August 13, 2024, include the following, with additional information provided verbally and in attachments:

- Attended the Rivian grand opening event held by the Chamber of Commerce
- Continued progress toward employee housing, reviewed related reports and conducted property acquisition negotiations
- Continued progress and responses toward extension of the DWR funding agreement for the drought resilience project
- Continued progress toward an agreement amendment with the State Water Board regarding the Sewer Collection System Replacement project, to include additional manhole rehabilitations and coating to prevent corrosion
- Reviewed two excellent consultant proposals for the HHRT design and conducted related background and reference research
- Held a coordination and update meeting with County CAO Riggs covering a variety of topics. We hope to hold these meetings regularly going forward
- Attended a well-coordinated kickoff meeting coordinated by CERT for the rollout of the smoke alarm install project in partnership with Red Cross
- Review of Hetch Hetchy RR Trail Record of Survey and associated legal discussion and direction toward property acquisition
- Interviewed as a special district/CSD subject matter expert for CSDA's ongoing efforts to educate and inform our state legislature
- Attended the County Natural Resources Committee
  - Held significant discussion and secured committee support to oppose CA legislation SB 1255. The committee agenda and ACWA memo on SB 1255 is attached

# TUOLUMNE COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

### 2024 Strategic Priorities

- Support our local water utility partners in their effort to modernize and improve water supply infrastructure and mitigate risk.
- Maintain awareness of pertinent State and Federal legislation regarding natural resources, land use, water, and water rights.
- Maintain awareness of Tuolumne County Federal land use policy, planning, and implementation and provide recommendations and advocacy as appropriate.
- Promote landscape and watershed resilience through innovative solutions and capacity building.

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, August 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM

**Location:** A.N. Francisco Bldg. 48 Yaney Ave. 3rd Floor Committees & Commissions Rm., Sonora, 95370

**Contact:** Sean Hembree at [shembree@co.tuolumne.ca.us](mailto:shembree@co.tuolumne.ca.us) (209)533-5554

#### **Chair/Vice Chair**

*Supervisor Anaiah Kirk*

*Supervisor Kathleen Haff*

#### **Agency Representatives**

*Tuolumne Me Wuk*

*Diana Beasley*

*Chicken Ranch Me Wuk*

*Stephanie Suess*

*Tuolumne Utilities District*

*Don Perkins*

*Groveland CSD*

*Pete Kampa*

*Hetch Hetchy*

*Adam Mazurkiewicz*

*Fish and Game Preserve Fund*

*Jim Maddox*

*Agricultural Advisor*

*Dick Gaiser*

*Tuolumne Co. RCD*

*Jim Phelan*

#### **At Large Member**

*Chris Trott*

#### **Staff**

*County Administrator*

*Tracie Riggs*

*Water & Natural Resource*

*Analyst (CAO)*

*Sean Hembree*

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

#### **II. ROLL CALL (5 minutes)**

*Introductions during roll call*

*Confirm quorum requirements are met (Quorum = 6 members)*

#### **III. PUBLIC FORUM (15 minutes)**

*The public may speak on any item, not on the agenda. No action may be taken by the Committee*

*Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes per person)*

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR MEETING July 3, 2024 (5 minutes)**

#### **V. CONSIDERATION OF LEGISLATIVE COMMENT REGARDING AB 1255**

#### **VI. PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES (15 minutes)**

##### **a. Stanislaus National Forest:**

##### **b. CAL FIRE**

#### **VII. COMMITTEE BUSINESS**

##### **a. Staff Reports and Recommendations**

##### **i. Drought Resilience Plan update**

##### **ii. California Board of Forestry Power Utility Easement update**

##### **b. Committee Member Reports**

*Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)*

#### **VIII. DISCUSSION OF AT-RISK DOMESTIC WATER SYSTEMS**

#### **IX. REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF USDA OLD GROWTH FOREST**

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

*The Next meeting will be held on September 4, 2024*



# Tuolumne County Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes

## For the Meeting on July 3, 2024

<b>2024 Natural Resource Members</b> <i>(or assigned delegates)</i>	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
Anaiah Kirk	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Kathleen Haff	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Don Perkins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Pete Kampa		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Adam Mazurkiewicz		✓	✓	E	✓		E					
Dianna Beasley		✓	A	A	A		A					
Dick Gaiser	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					
Chris Trott		✓	✓	E	✓		✓					
Jim Maddox	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		E					
Jim Phelan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					

Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Kirk called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. and confirmed a quorum was present.
2. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Anaiah Kirk, Vice-Chair Kathleen Haff, Jim Phelan, Dick Gaiser, Don Perkins, Pete Kampa, Chris Trott, Sean Hembree (staff)
3. **PUBLIC FORUM:** The public may speak on any item not on the printed agenda. No action may be taken by the Committee. The amount of time allocated for the public forum is limited to 15 minutes. – None
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on May 1, 2024 Jim Phelan made a motion to approve the minutes. Chris Trott seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously with correction noted.
5. **CONSIDERATION OF A LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BOERE RANCE CONSERVATION EASEMENT:** There was a consensus from the committee to first determine if the Ranch has an active livestock production operation before considering support. Staff Sean Hembree will review and report back.

6. PARTNER AGENCIES UPDATES:

a. USFS – Ben Cossel reported.

i. Sheering Fire: This lightning strike fire started June 25<sup>th</sup>. The fire has now exceeded 300 acres. 25 resources are currently assigned and as of last Sunday, the fire management intent has moved to full suppression status. The fire is burning adjacent to the Quarry Fire and Bone Fire burn scars. There are currently no road closures and containment is expected. No prescribed fire management is planned for this season in the Stanislaus Forest.

ii. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for SERAL is completed.

b. CAL FIRE – Gary Whitson

i. Suspended projects – Due to fire conditions and potential for resource drawdown, all prescribed fire operations are suspended within the unit.

ii. Fuel breaks along the Highway 120 corridor on BLM parcels are still pending approval and delayed due to multiple BLM staffing vacancies. This remains a priority for Unit Forester Whitson

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

a. Staff reports and recommendations: CAO staff Sean Hembree gave update on status of Drought Resilience Plan development including scope and purpose. Hembree gave update on current pending and approved grant proposals submitted by County staff relevant to Natural Resources. Hembree noted reported the SWIFT Coordinator vacancy and gave an update regarding ongoing California Board of Forestry utility easement rule making changes.

b. TUD: Abby Parcon provided an update on active projects and grant applications

c. GCSD: Pete Kampa provided an update of active projects including fuel breaks adjacent to Pine Mountain Lake area, also adjacent to the BLM/CAL FIRE fuel break referenced by CAL FIRE Forester Whitson in his report.

8. DISCUSSION OF USDA PUBLIC COMMENT ON DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR OLD GROTH FOREST:

a. There was a consensus to be wary of centralized management of discrete conditions across all National Forests

b. Ben Cossel stated that the SNF is looking at this but does not expect it to impact projects or management in a meaningful way. Ben will discuss with SNF staff and leadership and report back

9. ADJOURNED: Chair Kirk adjourned the meeting at 11:00 A.M.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 7, 2024.

Tuolumne County  
Administration Center  
2 South Green Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

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Heather Ryan  
Senior Board Clerk of the  
Board Of Supervisors

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE**

David Goldemberg, *First District*  
Kathleen K. Haff, *Fourth District*

Ryan Campbell, *Second District*

Daniel Anaiah Kirk, *Third District*  
Jaron E. Brandon, *Fifth District*

July 24, 2024

California Public Utilities Commission  
ATTN: Commissioner Matthew Baker  
505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102

Sent via electronic mail to [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)

**RE: Rulemaking 24-05-023 to Consider Rules for the Safety, Reliability, and Resiliency of Electrical Distribution Systems**

Dear Commissioner Baker,

On behalf of the County of Tuolumne, we support the opening of this Commission Rulemaking to consider rules for the safety, reliability, and resiliency of electrical distribution systems. Our communities have experienced hardships recovering from catastrophic wildfire events and understand the importance of mitigating the consequences of future risk. However, loss of power *also* poses significant danger to public safety, community health, economic health and personal wellbeing.

We understand the need for PGE to significantly reduce wildfire risk; however, rural communities have seen a dramatic reduction in ***energy reliability*** over the last several years and the situation is ***not a sustainable long-term strategy***. The decline in energy reliability is deeply distressing considering the state's ambitious electrification goals. These electrical outages have impacted our county and community operations in the following ways:

- Rendered business operations in tourist locations such as Columbia State Historic Park, downtown Groveland-Gateway Community to Yosemite National Park, among other locations throughout the County as essentially closed due to the repeated power outages for great lengths of time, especially during the summer months when the heat is often 100 degrees or higher. Huge loss in revenue for business owners and loss of tourist goodwill due to power unreliability.
- On several occasions now, the Sheriff Dispatch for the entire County has been out for various lengths of time. This means a loss of ability for the public to call 911 for any emergency situation during these times. This is definitely a safety and reliability issue!
- Medical and safety issues when the power is out for extended lengths of time, especially for our vulnerable populations. Tuolumne County usually ranks as one of the top 3 counties in the State for the greyest (oldest) by percentage.

There is a tremendous need for PGE to pinpoint problem areas much more quickly when and where the power is shut off, so that restoration of power for all other areas on the same line can be returned in a more expedient manner. Gridscope technology has been a good start. Breaking up miles-long lines into much smaller segments

is still needed. Implementation of wrapped wire or undergrounding projects in problem forested areas is called for where frequent outages occur. For Tuolumne County, this means in Groveland, Columbia and the Phoenix Lake areas. Back-up power availability is needed. Also, the conversion of microgrids originally installed for PSPS events into hubs that can be employed to keep the electricity on in economically dependent business zones is imperative. For Tuolumne County, this means the conversion of the microgrid in the town of Groveland.

Again, we appreciate the Commission's consideration of our experiences and welcome improvements to what has been frustrating and untenable. Californians and residents of Tuolumne County should not have to choose between safety and reliability when it comes to the provision of electrical power.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



David Goldemberg  
Chair, Board of Supervisors  
County of Tuolumne

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of  
Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this  
document has been made.

RACHEL GUMMERSON  
Board Clerk

By: 