

BOARD MEETING AGENDA SUBMITTAL

TO: GCSD Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: January 14, 2025

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 3Avi: General Managers Report

Overview

Highlights for the period of January 14, 2025 to February 11th include the following items and a verbal report will be provided.

- Chaired the first CSDA board meeting of the year on January 17, 2025
- Conducted the Tuolumne County Chapter of CSDA meeting on January 13, 2025, which was attended by nearly 20 persons and included discussion with District 4 Supervisor Steve Grierfer
- Attended and presented at a January 24, 2025 forum organized by local FireWise Communities. The intent was to inform our state Senator and Assemblymember of the good work we are doing locally in fuels reduction and making our community firesafe. Also in attendance were representatives from Calfire, USFS, County Firesafe Council and Supervisor Grierfer. The presentation I gave is linked below:



[GCSD Fuels Reduction Projects](#)

[Go to
this Sway](#)

- Attended the County Natural Resources Committee, agenda attached
- Included in this report is a flyer prepared by the Association of California Water Agencies related to water supply for firefighting, to help relieve some misunderstandings caused by the SoCal fires.

TUOLUMNE COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2025 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, February 5, 2025 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 (209)533-5554

Chair/Vice Chair

Supervisor Anaiah Kirk

Supervisor Mike Holland

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 November 6, 2024 (5 minutes)

V. DISCUSSION OF FIRE-HARDENED TRAILS AND VEGETATION MANAGEMENT CORRIDORS

VI. PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES (15 minutes)

VII. COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

a. Staff Reports and Recommendations

i. Pinecrest overuse actions update

ii. USFS Withdrawal of Old Growth Forest Proposal

iii. Sustainable Rural Schools status

iv. Biomass JPA proposal update

v. Recent proposed actions on threatened or endangered species

vi. H.R. - 471 Fix Our Forests Act

b. Committee Member Reports

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Next meeting will be held on March 5, 2025



Tuolumne County Natural Resources Advisory Committee Minutes

For the Meeting on November 6, 2024

2024 Natural Resource Members (or assigned delegates)	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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	A	
Kathleen Haff	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Don Perkins	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Pete Kampa		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Joy Meller		✓	✓	E	✓		E	E		✓	✓	
Dianna Beasley		✓	A	A	A		A	✓		✓	E	
Dick Gaiser	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	A		E	✓	
Chris Trott		✓	✓	E	✓		✓	✓		E	E	
Jim Maddox	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		E	✓		E	✓	
Jim Phelan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	E	
Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E												

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Vice Chair Haff called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. and confirmed a quorum was present.
2. **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice-Chair Kathleen Haff, Eric Hall on behalf of TUD, Pete Kampa, Joy Meller, Dick Gaiser, Jim Phelan, and 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
 - a. Jim Maddox inquired about the status of a spring off Phoenix Lake Road. Maddox Stated that this could be used as a drafting point for fire suppression and still overflow to support wildlife habitat. Eric Hall will inquire and report back.
 - b. MSA Analyst Caitlin Henry reported that work has begun and contract awards for a subset of the SERAL Phase 3 and Rim Fire reforestation projects.
 - c. Sean Hembree announced that Tuolumne County Solid Waste Division is sponsoring a 'Dollar Dump Days' event on November 23, 2024. Flyers were made available.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** In consideration of approving the minutes of the meeting held on August 7, 2024, Pete Kampa made a motion to approve the minutes. Joy Meller seconded the motion. The minutes were approved

unanimously 6-0

5. DISCUSSION OF FIRE-HARDENED TRAILS AND VEGETATION
MANAGEMENT CORRIDORS (Postponed)

6. PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES:

- a. CAL FIRE:
- b. City of Sonora:

7. COMMITTEE BUSINESS:

- a. Staff Reports and Recommendations: Staff Support Sean Hembree reported on the following actions.
 - i. Targeted Grazing Grant and Working Group Update – Hembree reported the ongoing work to develop the grant actions and technical advisory working group to support grazing workforce development.
 - ii. Golden State Natural Resources (GSRN) DEIR – This Draft Environmental Impact Report for GSRN's Forest Resiliency Project is now available
 - iii. AB 2257 update – This legislation was passed into law on August 27th. A letter of support was submitted by the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors at the recommendation of this Committee.
 - iv. Pinecrest overuse tracking update – Ongoing updates for the actions recommended at the October NRC meeting will be tracked at subsequent meetings. All actions are planned for completion prior the Memorial Day, 2025.
- b. Committee Members Reports:
 - i. Pete Kampa (GCSD)
 - ii. Joy Meller (Hetch Hetchy)

8. ADJOURNED: Vice Chair Haff adjourned the meeting at 10:52 A.M.
(The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2024)

Much public comment received against new pellet mill, not on agenda for committee but will be before the BOS soon.

GCSD Report:

- participated in an informational forum held by firewise community organizers and attended by county supervisor Grier, senator and assemblymember, CalFire, USFS, fire safe council. Bus tour
- heard the bad news about the California insurance market

-Nearing completion of acquisition of 40 parcels of land comprising a small portion of the HHRR, extending parallel to hwy 120 from the GCSD office on Ferretti rd, east to hwy 120 on the far end of BOF

- fully accessible paved trail
- serves as emergency ingress/egress bypassing 120 during evacuations, fire protection, etc

Completed a mile long water pipeline serving BOF and including 6 new fire hydrants and 140000 gallons storage
Out to bid on 8000 foot replacement pipeline from BOF to groveland

Wildfires and Water

The Role of California Public Water Agencies

January 2025



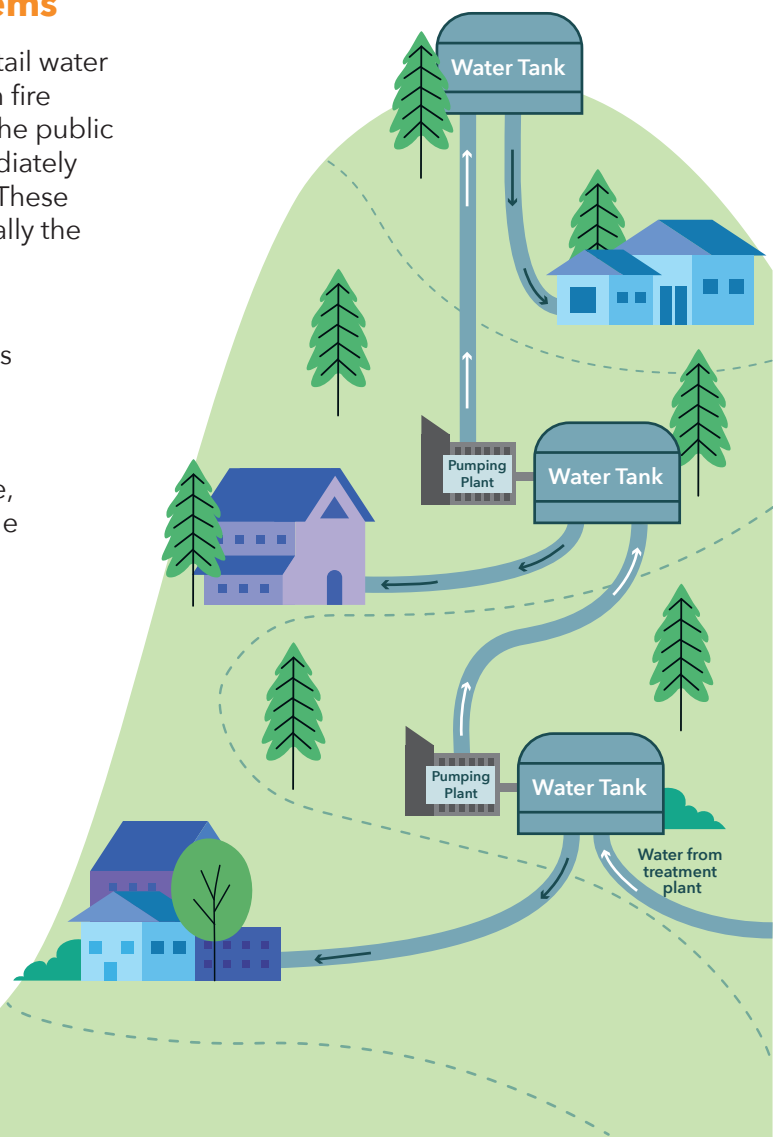
California faces catastrophic climate-driven wildfires, exacerbated by periods of heavy rainfall followed by periods of extreme drought, decades of fire suppression, and historically limited focus on forest health and vegetation management projects. These intense wildfires have devastating impacts on communities that require multifaceted local, statewide, and federal response. Public water agencies serve a critical local government role during these events.

Fire Hydrants and Water Distribution Systems

Public water agencies are responsible for providing critical retail water service to properties across the state, including water to aid in fire suppression. Retail water systems were designed to provide the public with safe and reliable drinking water and to provide an immediately available water service to aid in extinguishing structural fires. These water systems were not designed to combat wildfires, especially the climate-driven wildfires that California experiences today.

Water systems use water pressure created by pump stations and water-storage tanks to move water from lower elevations to higher elevations. These water systems can become overwhelmed when too many fire hydrants are used within the same pressure zone. For a structural fire, there might be three to five fire engines responding to the fire. For a wildfire, there can be hundreds of fire engines hooked up to the same system. The significant drawdown on the system during a wildfire can cause the water pressure to drop, which can affect fire hydrants, particularly those at higher elevations.

Firefighters anticipate this drop in pressure and will adjust their operations as needed. Firefighters can fill large water trucks from hydrants at lower elevations, where there is higher water pressure, and drive the water to higher elevations for use. In addition, fire hydrants are but one tool firefighters use when responding to wildfires. Water agencies also coordinate with firefighters to provide water sources for firefighting helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. Firefighters also utilize other strategies such as creating fuel breaks to contain the fire.



Preparation and Response to Wildfire Events

Public water agencies are making investments to adapt to climate change, including preparing for catastrophic wildfires. Water agencies also take specific actions in response to wildfire events. The investments and activities of each agency will vary based on the needs of that agency and area of the state.

Long-term Planning

As catastrophic wildfires have increased in severity and frequency, water agencies are taking actions to prepare for future wildfire events, such as:

Infrastructure investments:

- › Retention reservoirs or storage tanks
- › Interties between neighboring water agencies
- › Helicopter refilling stations
- › Upsized pipes for water flow
- › Backup power

Emergency preparedness:

- › Emergency response planning and training
- › Coordination and relationship-building with local agencies

Wildfire Mitigation:

- › Forest health and vegetation management projects



Photo courtesy of Crescenta Valley Water District

Emergency Response

When faced with a wildfire event, water agencies take a number of specific actions that might include:

- › Topping off storage tanks and reservoirs
- › Engaging and refueling backup generators to power critical facilities, including pump stations, during electric outages
- › Providing access for firefighting aircraft to refill at reservoirs or other available sources
- › Shutting off service to structures destroyed by fire to aid in pressurizing the system
- › Providing support to affected water agencies through mutual aid assistance
- › Communicating with the local fire departments and other first-responders
- › Communicating with customers and providing resources



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