

DRAFT Meeting Summary (*Action Minutes*) DRAFT
Humboldt County Fire Safe Council
September 12, 2005

The sixteenth meeting of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) was held September 12th, 2005, from 1:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M., at the U.S. Forest Service Six Rivers National Forest conference room, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, California. The FSC was appointed by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors to guide preparation and implementation of the County Master Fire Protection Plan (Fire Plan).

Fire Safe Council Members Attending:

Kevin O’Neil, Cal. Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Division Chief-Operations, Humboldt-Del Norte Unit
Kirk Gothier, Humboldt County Community Development Services, Assistant Planning Director
Dave White, Arcata Fire Department Chief and Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association Representative
Lucy Salazar, USFS, Six Rivers National Forest, Fuels Management Specialist & Air Coordinator
Dan Larkin, Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services
Tim Jones, BLM Fire Management Officer
Peter Tittmann, Southern Humboldt Fire Safe Council
Ian Sigman, Honeydew Volunteer Fire Company Chief and Lower Mattole Fire Safe Council
Glenn Ziemer, Humboldt Fire District #1, Fire Chief
Duane Sherman, Hoopa Volunteer Fire Department, Fire Chief
Manny Mello, Northwest Insurance

Fire Safe Council Members Absent:

Will Harling, Orleans/Somes Bar Fire Safe Council and Orleans Fire & Rescue
Debra Lake, Fruitland Volunteer Fire Department, Board Chair
George Duffy Bridgeville, Van Duzen FSC

Public and Agency Representatives Attending:

Cybelle Immitt, Humboldt County Community Development Services, Planning
Hugh Scanlon, CDF, Battalion Chief
Tracy Katelman, ForEverGreen Forestry, California FSC

Agenda Item 1: Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 P.M. by the Fire Safe Council Chair, Kevin O’Neil.

Agenda Item 2. Approval of Minutes from 4/19/05 FSC Meeting

Discussion – Chairman Kevin O’Neil asked if anyone had any corrections or additions in regards to the April action minutes. No one commented.

Action - On a motion from Glenn Ziemer and seconded by Dave White the Council unanimously approved the minutes.

Agenda Item number 4. Title III Grant Awards Report

Discussion – Council members received a report on progress to-date with the Humboldt County Title III grant program. Planning staff invited the Council to provide input on the implementation of the Board of Supervisors approved work plan for the production of the “Collaboration and Capacity Building among the Humboldt County Fire Safe Councils” workshop.

Action – No action was taken on this item.

Agenda Item number 5. Review Draft Master Fire Plan Revisions and Next Steps

Discussion – The master Fire Protection Plan, FSC Draft was reviewed by the members of the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council chapter by chapter and the following changes were requested:

Chapter 1:

1. Revise the map in Figure 1-2 to better differentiate the fire district boundaries from the fire district response areas. Update text to reflect changes to map.
2. Add a reference to where the federal and state response areas are. Refer the reader to Chapter 4, Figure 4.1.
3. Add text about the medical emergency roles of all the responders.

Chapter 2:

1. Confirm that Willow Creek is on the Federal Register as a community at risk and add to the list in Chapter 2.

Chapter 3:

1. Update and clarify fire history map (Figure 3.8). Include fire history data from each year up to 2003.

Chapter 4:

1. Keep pursuing ISO information for each fire department in Humboldt County including mapping data.
2. Make sure to mention that there is an automatic class change to a 10 if the risk is more than 5 road miles away from a recognized fire station. It is anticipated that this will result in a big reclassification change throughout many Humboldt County communities.
3. Make a stronger point that a class 9 or 10 will mean higher insurance premiums and even result in insurance being unavailable.

4. Emphasize the punch-line of the chapter more to drive home the point that support of fire departments could result in better ISO ratings which could result in lower insurance premiums or impact a homeowner's ability to get insured.
5. Make sure all tables in this chapter have a source and a date.
6. Revise text on page 4-10 to read: "*Additionally, federal resources may assist provided resources are staffed and available and there exists a definitive threat to the wildland. However, federal fire stations are un-staffed outside of fire season.*"
7. Add text about why fire departments respond to medical emergencies. Geographic location and response times put them in a good position to respond. They are the closest resource much of the time. They provide basic life support until an ambulance arrives.

Chapter 5:

1. Add statement that this material is a moving target and what is in the chapter represents a snapshot in time. More emphasis needs to be placed on how the information in the chapter was not gathered from a statistical sample.

Chapter 6:

1. 6.6-2 will need to be revised to reflect the requested changes to 8.5-2 in Chapter 8

Chapter 7: No revisions requested.

Chapter 8:

1. There was a mix-up about the reorganization of the Measures. To clarify, there was a mistake in the notes and "8.3 Risk Reduction and Management" only has one measure "8.3-1 Fuel Modification" and "Fire Safe Planning and Hazard Identification" was moved to "8.4 Community Preparedness and Response" as 8.4-3.
2. The language in 8.5-2 was revised at the meeting by Council members; see Attachment 1 to compare the new language with the original.

Action – A motion was made by Tim Jones and seconded by Dan Larkin to approve staff recommendations 3 through 6 contingent upon making the changes requested by the Fire Safe Council at this meeting. The motion was unanimously passed. The recommendations were as follows:

3. Approve the FSC Draft of the MFPP;
4. Direct staff to set up a joint Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association – Humboldt County Fire Safe Council meeting to discuss the FSC Draft MFPP.
5. Direct staff to forward the MFPP to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors (BOS) for review and consideration as part of the County General Plan Update. (*Note: this does not constitute adoption of the MFPP as an element of the General Plan*)
6. Direct staff to request that the BOS sign the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) Certification and Agreement cover page certifying that they agree with the contents of the MFPP and that said Plan:
 - a. Was collaboratively developed;

- b. Identifies and prioritizes areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommends the types and methods of treatment that will protect Humboldt County Communities.; and
- c. Recommends measures to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout Humboldt County.

This action on the part of the BOS will allow the MFPP to be recognized as a CWPP.

Agenda Item 6. Set Next Meeting – Date and Time

Action – The date for the next meeting was set for **Monday, December 5th, 2005** at the U.S. Forest Service Six Rivers National Forest conference room, 1330 Bayshore Way, Eureka, California.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 4:00 P.M.

ATTACHMENT 1

Amended Text:

8.5 Fiscal Issues			
Topic:	FISCAL ISSUES	FSC Goal: <i>Support fire prevention and resource protection efforts of local communities, Fire Safe Councils, special districts with fire safety responsibilities, fire organizations, and Joint Powers Authority (JPA) cooperative services (dispatching, hazmat, training and other cooperative opportunities).</i>	Recommendation: Support reallocation of a portion of Proposition 172 funds to local fire agencies (Recommendation 6.6-2).
Measure	8.5-2 REALLOCATION OF PROPOSITION 172		
Description: This measure supports the reallocation of a portion of Proposition 172 funds to fire related districts.			
<p>Need: The Fire Plan identifies funding to local fire departments as a critical issue. To maintain capable fire protection, it is important to explore all possible funding sources. In 1993, the voters of California passed Proposition 172, the Local Public Safety Protection and Improvement Act of 1993 (Art. XIII, Sec 35, California Constitution), which added an additional ½ cent to the Sales and Use tax to fund public safety (including fire protection). This tax was placed on the ballot by the Governor and the Legislature in an attempt to reduce the impact of the shift of property tax funds from local government to schools that resulted from the implementation of the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). Proposition 172 also created the Public Safety Augmentation Fund. Subsequent laws approved by the Legislature that implemented Proposition 172 (Gov. Code Sec. 30051-30056) included fire protection but did not specifically mention Special Districts providing public safety services as entities eligible to receive allocations from the Public Safety Augmentation Fund, even though Special Districts were affected by the ERAF shifts. To date, Special Districts providing fire protection in Humboldt County have not received Proposition 172 funds.</p> <p>The Humboldt County Fire Chief’s Association has been actively working to include local fire related districts in the allocation of Proposition 172 funds. The California Attorney General’s opinion (Cal. Atty. Gen. Op No. 03-804) states Independent Fire Protection Districts are eligible for this funding. To date, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has chosen not to provide for any Proposition 172 revenue sharing with the Fire Agencies within Humboldt County.</p> <p>Implementation: Beginning in FY 2005-2006, the Humboldt County BOS should make an annual allocation of a portion of the Proposition 172 revenue to Humboldt County Fire Districts. The Working Group referenced in Measure 8.5-1 will continue its evaluation as it relates to Proposition 172 and other funding alternatives.</p>			
Tasks		Implementation Partners	Time Frame*
The Humboldt County BOS allocate a portion of Proposition 172 revenue to Fire Protection Districts.		BOS, HCFCFA, Humboldt County Administrative Office (CAO)	FY 2005-2006
Continue County/Fire District Working Group and coordinate closely with HCFCFA		County Working Group	Continuous until agreement
*As funding and staff are available			

Implementation Measures
FSC Draft Plan

Original Text:

8.5 Fiscal Issues				
Topic:	FISCAL ISSUES	FSC Goal: Support fire prevention and resource protection efforts of local communities, Fire Safe Councils, special districts with fire safety responsibilities, fire organizations, and Joint Powers Authority (JPA) cooperative services (dispatching, hazmat, training and other cooperative opportunities).	Recommendation: Support reallocation of a portion of Proposition 172 funds to local fire agencies and assist with developing and implementing new measures and/or propositions to increase fire protection revenues (Recommendation 6.6-2).	
Measure	8.5-2 REALLOCATION OF PROPOSITION 172			
<p>Description: This measure supports the reallocation of a portion of Proposition 172 funds to fire related districts, as well as the implementation of new measures to increase funding for fire protection.</p> <p>Need: The Fire Plan identifies funding to local fire departments as a critical issue. To maintain capable fire protection, it is important to explore all possible funding sources. In 1993, the voters of California passed Proposition 172, the Local Public Safety Protection and Improvement Act of 1993 (Art. XIII, Sec 35, California Constitution), which added an additional ½ cent to the Sales and Use tax to fund public safety (including fire protection). This tax was placed on the ballot by the Governor and the Legislature in an attempt to reduce the impact of the shift of property tax funds from local government to schools that resulted from the implementation of the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF). Proposition 172 also created the Public Safety Augmentation Fund. Subsequent laws approved by the Legislature that implemented Proposition 172 (Gov. Code Sec. 30051-30056) included fire protection but did not specifically mention Special Districts providing public safety services as entities eligible to receive allocations from the Public Safety Augmentation Fund, even though Special Districts were affected by the ERAF shifts. As a result, Special Districts providing fire protection in Humboldt County do not receive Proposition 172 funds.</p> <p>The Humboldt County Fire Chief’s Association has been actively working to include local fire related districts in the allocation of Proposition 172 funds. However, despite the provisions outlined in California Attorney General’s opinion (Cal. Atty. Gen. Op No. 03-804), the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors have, to date, refused to provide for any Proposition 172 revenue sharing with the Fire Agencies within Humboldt County.</p> <p>Implementation: To accomplish this measure, the Working Group referenced in Measure 8.5-1 will continue its evaluation as it relates to Proposition 172 and other funding alternatives. CDS will seek funding for studies required to support the establishment of new assessments and evaluate the most efficient organizational structure for fire protection in unincorporated lands outside of existing fire related districts; and develop and implement a funding strategy.</p>				
	Tasks	Implementation Partners	Time Frame*	Notes
	Continue County/Fire District Working Group and coordinate closely with HCFCA	County Working Group	Continuous until agreement	
	Coordinate with countywide funding strategy effort	County Working Group CDS	24 months	May require a consultant
	Develop funding strategy	County Working Group	24 months	
	Work with County and Cities to establish new funding sources	County Working Group, CDS, and Cities	24 months	
*As funding and staff are available				

Implementation Measures
FSC Draft Plan