

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council Foundation

PMFSC Board meeting April 27, 2024

PMFSC Activity Update for PMVFD: May 4, 2024

Topic	Status
Financial status	<p>FY23 Monthly Financial report: (03/31/24) Total cash/assets \$ 19,053.17 Cash Checking \$ 18,536.90 Unrestricted \$ 16,659.55 Restricted \$ 1877.35 NRP \$ 0 SDRFF \$ Cash Savings Unrestricted \$ 516.27 Restricted \$ 0 Expenses Total \$ 723.56 PMFSC \$ 723.56 Grant funded \$ 0 Revenue Grant funding: \$ 0 Cash advance \$ 0 Indirect/reimbursement \$ 0 Amazon Smile \$ 0 Donations \$ 43.12 Liabilities \$ 1650 (Stumpmasters) Reimbursement/Upcoming Fees/payments: Pd \$500 tax prep 1st installment Current Cash Balance (4/26/24) Total cash \$ 17,446.29 Unrestricted \$ 15,568.94 Restricted \$ 1877.35 Grant deposits \$ 0 Reimbursements due \$ 0 Upcoming expenses \$500 down payment/tax preparer</p>
Insurance	<p>NAIC General liability and D&O policy least expensive. Unanimous vote to accept NAIC and cancel current policy.. Refund~ \$1969 (5 mo, May-Sept)</p>
	<p>No response from CAL FIRE or USFS re PortaPotty location for snow days. ? Readdress next September? Question whether PMVFD or USFS own land where PortaPoyy would be located (i.e. where Conex dumpster are currently located)</p>

CAL Fire	<p>New all wheel drive ambulance arrived yesterday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Station 79 staff doing overtime on ambulance duty. Ambulance staffing is continuum of care, i.e., transport to Palomar Hospital for trauma & specialized care & Temecula Hospital for lower level care. Turnaround time at Palomar Hospital minimum 3 hrs, often longer depending on wait time at Palomar Hospital. -Rincon now has paramedic and ambulance also. -Station 79 staffing: 2 vacancies for the past year. Will get new paramedic engineer in June after his orientation. -County snowplowed front of Station 79 last snowstorm. RC helped clear snow for access to staff quarters behind equipment bay.
SD Cty Fire Protection District (SDCty Fire Authority)	No report
Fire Advisory Board	Next meeting in May.
PMVFD/PMCFA	Need to clarify PMVFD vs. USFS land boundaries bordering Summit Circle east side where Conex and dumpster are located.
USFS	<p>Since January 117 acres burned in Jeff Valley including all piles west of Conifer Rd below Birch Hill.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Contracts out for herbicide (late spring/early summer); cut/pile (summer /fall) -Prescribed Fire: Goose Valley 3 acres; Park Grove 5 acres (4/3/24) -Hoping to burn more in Jeff Valley depending on conditions and to broadcast burn Palomar Divide in Aguanga in next few weeks.
FSCSDC/RCD	<p>FSCSDC: Current programs</p> <p>On Palomar May 13 to May 24 Mon, Tues, Wed for PM site assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Home Defensible space assessment -Chipping 1 month post defensible space assessment -DSAP prpgram available <p>Free fire alarm installation available (Red Cross)</p> <p>RCD grant: SD Cty defensible space grant: Awaiting State funding Healthy Forest II grant to be resubmitted when application period reopens.</p> <p>CWPP update due (YV)</p>
PMPO	<p>Pancake breakfast May 25. -Pancake breakfast: PMPO community member-only event. PMPO newsletter to be published soon.</p> <p>.</p>
CERT	<p>Next training academy is 15 and 22 June (2 Saturdays). On-line modules to complete. More information. BL contact info in the NextDoor posts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Early effort in place host a Saturday event in July to get SDG&E to update us on PSPS plans and implications for residents.
CCPM	No report

<p>Completed grants</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SDG&E (2016) \$2500 for community education projects/workshops 2. SDG&E (2017) \$2500 for community education projects/workshops 3. SDG&E (2018) \$2500 4. USFS/FSCSDC Palomar Fuel Reduction Grant (2017) Final report: Curbside chipping-65 homes; DSAP coast share prepwork-22 homes; dead trees removed-8. WUI workshop held 8/18. 5. NRP (Neighborhood Reinvestment Program) 2017-18: \$10,000-All funds expended for Fire Gel home kits/2 diesel power washers. 6. SDG&E (2019) \$2500 7. NRP (Neighborhood Reinvestment Program) 2018-19 \$48,328 Dumpster weekends (8) 116 land/homeowners/40.2 tons. Chipping (9 days/half days): 42 landowners 8. SDG&E 2020: (\$2500) Community education/fuel reduction. 9. NRP 2020: Neighborhood Reinvestment Program (NRP) 2020 \$25,000) Grant backdated to July 1, 2020. Chipping 12 days; Dumpster 10 weekends; Barricade 1 Home Kit 10. SDRFF2021 (\$2500) Dumpster, insurance, community education 11. CCI (2019-2022) \$169,520 Emergency access/evacuation road improvement (BirchHill/Crestline) 12. SDRFF SAFE (2022) \$12,000 Wildfire Safety community education, defensible space improvement 13. NRP (2022) \$48,827 Defensible space fuel reduction, wildfire risk reduction, evacuation safety End: 09/30/23-Final Report submitted to SD Cty Supervisors 10/26/23. Activities: 12 chipping days @ \$1500; 7 dumpster days @ \$893; Fire Gel: \$22,680; Evacuation signage: \$1877.82 All funds expended
<p>Current grants</p>	<p>CCI CAL FIRE: 5GG22153: (\$149,700) 12/27/2023 - 03/15/2029</p> <p>CEQA (DRG Paul OIman) Service contract: \$20k initially, reduced to \$12.5k. Current CII grant budgeted \$7500 budgeted for CEQA (Previous CII 2019: DRG CEQA cost \$4550) Will need to take additional funds from contractor allotment. 10% limit on moving funds per Cheyenne Borello.</p> <p>After discussion between Paul & Cheyenne Borello (our SD CAL FIRE advisor) & considering similarity to previous CCI Ceqa, will try to keep down to to \$8k. DRG rationale for marked increase in CEQA cost is increased State requirements/involvement with more back & forth paperwork. Increase not related to road length. Recommendation is to do CEQA for all PM roads potentially brushcleared.</p> <p>SDRFF SAFE 2023 (\$10,000) 6/1/23-4/15/24: Fuel reduction (dumpster/chipping), General liability/D&O PMFSC Board insurance.</p> <p>Supported 3/12 dumpsters removing 8.9 tons of debris; 4/11 chipping days producing 540 cubic feet of wood chips and \$1800/\$5417 Board General Liability, D&O insurance</p> <p>Current funds: \$0 (\$1877 will cover invoices for work before end of grant.</p> <p>Final report submitted April 15</p> <p>Ramona Disposal 2023 dumpster price increase: \$693 to \$969 due to increased COL and use for mixed debris (not all green vegetation)</p>
<p>Submitted grants</p>	<p>2024 SDRFF SAFE grant (\$18,814) Requested funds for 6/12 Chipping days , 6/12 Dumpsters, Liability & Accident Insurance</p> <p>Submitted April 26, 2024. Notification end of May</p>
<p>Grants: potential</p>	<p>2024 NRP: summer/fall & 2025 spring funding for chipping, dumpster, dead tree removal, & rock Removal</p> <p>Will be submitted ASAP for 2024 SDRFFF: Chipping, Dumpster, Insurance. Due April 25</p>
<p>Grants: Submitted/Not funded</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SRA Fuel Reduction Grant-2016 \$200,000) for 1) improvement in Crestline/Birch Hill (Borland to Conifer) contingency evacuation route 2) fuel reduction on land outside the 100' defensible space. 2. (CALFIRE) 2017 Cap Trade Fire Prevention program: \$274,086 PMFSC Evacuation Route Improvement/Fuel reduction Project for Crestline, Birch Hill, Observation Point for emergency vehicle access and resident evacuation 3. (CALFIRE) 2018 CA Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grants Program: (18-FP-MVU-2037) Alternate Evacuation route (Crestline/32J/Conifer) submitted Dec 18, 2018. \$409,890 4. (CAL FIRE) CFSC grant-2019: \$96,630. Contract work: \$56,000 total for chipping (\$30,000), dead tree removal (\$15,000) and DSAP (\$10,000). Sponsor: FSCSDC 5. (SDG&E) Hazard Fuels Management Program 2019: (Defensible space/Fuel breaks/Roadside brushclearing) Roadside brushclearing (Crestline to Greenfield Rd/Conifer junction) \$91,212 6. CFSC 2020 (\$22,500) Submitted 6/17/20 for <u>18 days of chipping</u> over 24 months. 100% match with volunteer in-kind work and cash expenditure. Not funded. 7. FSCSDC MiniGrant: (\$4980) Submitted 2020 8. CFSC 2022 (22-SFA): (\$26,200) 2 yr: Fuel reduction (chipping/dumpster) Submitted 2023 9. CA Fire Foundation (\$20,500) 1 yr Chipping & dumpster. Submitted 2023
<p>Community Activities & Workshops</p>	<p>PMPO pancake breakfast: Memorial Day Weekend (May)</p>

Administrative	May 25 monthly meeting canceled. Same day as PMPO Annual breakfast. Next meeting in June.
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Next PMFSC Board Meeting: June 29, 2024 9 AM @ CCPM In-person & ZOOM (4th Saturday)

Addendum (not included in minutes)	<p>Post meeting addendum re 500 kV transmission line:</p> <p>Palomar is the only unburned mountaintop in SoCal; an ecological treasure in the middle of Cleveland National Forest, a premier 4-season recreational destination in SD Cty, home to over 250 people, the site of scientifically critical Cal Tech Palomar Observatory, the home of endangered species (e.g.,Laguna spinner butterfly) and host to thousands of visitors each year.</p> <p>PMFSC will focus on power line wildfire related risk to the above activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Palomar Mountain is designated by the State as a <i>very high fire risk</i> Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) -Extremely low humidity, dry vegetation, very high winds during year-round Santa Anas, make wildfire hazard high to extreme throughout the year. -Wildfires move very rapidly upslope in dry, high wind conditions. Fire historically moved extremely fast up Palomar Mountain on steep South face where multiple deep draws between steep ridges accelerate the speed of advancing fire. - Would SFG&E electively “de-energize” a 500 kV transmission line providing power to a major population center, Los Angeles, during high risk weather conditions on Palomar? -The power line siting along East Grade is downslope and perpendicular to multiple deep draws between steep ridges occurring all along the north side of power line, draws that lead directly up into the Palomar community along the mountain crest. - The Palomar community has only two Cal Fire/County designated Palomar community wildfire evacuation routes, S6/South grade and S7/East Grade, both on the steep southern face of the mountain. There are no other designated contingency or emergency evacuation routes for Palomar. The powerline would run for 11 miles parallel to S7/East Grade and appears to cross S6/SouthGrade (possibly S7/EastGrade?) near the Summit before proceeding westward below State Park Rd. Power line related wildfire along the proposed route would most likely cut off access to at least one and potentially both Palomar evacuation routes. - The power line siting along East Grade Road (S7) is immediately below Crestline/Birch Hill area, the most densely populated part of the Palomar community. The power line site would be a maximum of 1/3 mile below Crestline Rd, the only Crestline/Birch Hill area escape route westward to evacuation routes S6 & S7 at the Summit junction. A power line fire below Crestline/Birch Hill would immediately threaten the most densely populated Palomar community and, reaching Crestline Rd, would block residents’ only access to evacuation routes off the mountain. -In the event of a powerline wildfire originating along the East Grade or State Park, esp. during Santa Ana conditions, it is unlikely there would be sufficient time for resident notification and evacuation before their evacuation route(s) was /were blocked by fire. -A power line wildfire would be devastating to the Palomar community as well as to the ecology of Palomar Mountain and very costly to SD County and the power line operator. -The CAMP FIRE that destroyed the town of Paradise in Northern California and caused 85 residents’ deaths, 70 of whom were sheltering inplace, is an object lesson in the unpredictability of wildfire, speed of wildfire spread, difficulty of timely & accurate evacuation notification-especially in rural areas, and limitation of having only two evacuation routes easily obscured by smoke and/or blocked by cars, debris and fire, especially during high wind, Santa Ana conditions. <p>Reading the Wikipedia Sunrise PowerLink entry is instructive. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunrise_Powerlink</p>
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