

Palomar Mountain Fire Safe Council Foundation

PMFSC Board meeting June 22,2024

PMFSC Activity Update for PMVFD July 6, 2024

Topic	Status
Financial status	<p>FY23-24 Current Cash Balance (05/31/24) deferred Total cash \$ Unrestricted \$ Restricted \$ 12,000 (SRFF SAFE 2024grant) Grant deposits: \$ 12,000(SRFF SAFE 2024grant) Reimbursements due: \$</p>
Insurance	<p>Previous D&O/Liability insurance cancelled as of 4/30/24. New D&O, liability insurance in force as of 4/30/24. 5 month refund from old policy cancellation pending. Accident insurance (7/1/24-7/1/25) paid 6/17/24 (\$619)</p>
Fundraising/Donations	<p>\$140 from dumpster weekend #1 (June 1) MP/LT will explore annual fundraiser mailing in Aug 2024</p>
CAL Fire	<p>Sta 79 staffing critically impacted with additional of new ambulance responsibilities. Overtime now necessary for all CAL FIRE staff- throughout SD County. Substantial impact on finances and morale.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Experienced paramedic/firefighter, Sam Nunez, formerly @ Deer Springs for many years now at Sta 79 filling vacant position. -Second Captain/ Matt Anderson, from Riverside for Sta 79 arriving soon. -Defensible space inspections not yet started; new procedure, training delayed. -Wildfire season has begun. Many small fires in SD Cty occur daily but are controlled early before escaping due to increased resources/equipment including new Type 1 helicopter that can carry twice as much (2800 gal) water. -New guidelines/ (legislation?) would reduce CAL FIRE work/week hours from 70 to 66 hrs. Forced overtime extends 72 hr work week. Reduction “Contingent on a State Budget Appropriation. the state and union agreed to reduce the CalFire firefighter workweek from 72 hours to 66 hours—a 24hour reduction per 28day pay period. The MOU set this change to take effect on November 1, 2024—notably, after the expiration date of the agreement and subject to an appropriation in the 202425 budget.”
SD Cty Fire Protection District (SDCty Fire Authority)	
Fire Advisory Board	<p>Next meeting in August</p>
USFS	<p>No report</p>
FSCSDC/RCD	<p>Received PMFSC SDRFF grant funding award check/letter at FSC volunteer appreciation luncheon in May.</p> <p>Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) update due this year</p>
PMVFD/PMCFA	
PMPO	<p>PMPO SONGS committee very active. Focusing on increasing public awareness/ testimonials. Letter sent to CPUC outlining reasons why PM route would be detrimental to public good. PMFSC will send letter re potential wildfire risk.</p>
CERT	<p>No report</p>

CCPM	<p>Labor day hoe down planning beginning next month. [post-PMFSC meeeting: MP & YV met potential caterers- Alex Almaraz (cook) and Joe Murphy (cafeteria manager) both experienced, state licensed caterers at Christian Conference Center visit]</p>
All Completed grants	<p>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; 14. Evacuation signage: \$1877.82 14. SDRFF SAFE 2023 (\$10,000) 6/1/23-4/15/24: Fuel reduction (dumpster/chipping), General liability/D&O PMFSC Board insurance. 3 dumpsters, 4 chipping days, liability insurance</p>
	<p>Volunteer hours: Our total annual volunteer hours for board meetings (prep/attendance/ reports for community organizations), workshops, dumpsters, chipping & all grant writing/ administration/supervision/oversight, & fundraiser totaled 939 volunteer hours (valued at \$34,743 @ \$37/hr) last year</p>
Current grants	<p>CCI Fire Prevention 2023-2025 (\$165,520): Grant title: 23 FP MVU 2088_ 5GG22153 <i>Palomar Mountain Emergency Access and Emergency Evacuation Project” Crestline/Birch Hill: Roadside brushclearing & critical infrastructure protection</i> -CEQA DRG Services agreement signed (\$12,552.00) for roads west of Crestline. Paul Olman-DRG forester. DRG will begin report soon. Will need to transfer CCI funds from contractor to pay for CEQA above budgeted CEQA expense (\$7500). -1st qtr CCI report submitted for 1/1/24-3/31/24. Negotiated CEQA Service contract, publicized grant to community via PMPO at annual meeting and in annual newsletter. - Will request funding advance for CEQA & Stumpmaster roadside maintenance in CrestLine/ Birch Hill area which is covered by previous 2020 CEQA and previous owner consents (15’ from edge of road X 3 years) signed in 2022. -RC will meet with Capt Kowalski to review roadside work needed in Crestlinbe/Birch Hill. -Plan this year is up to 20’ clearance from road edge -actual distance to be determined by terrain.</p> <p>SDRFF SAFE 2024 (\$12,000) 6/1/24-4-15/25 Fuel reduction (dumpster/chipping), insurance. -Grant letter specifies \$1800 for liability insurance; \$10,200 for dumpster/chipping -New grant requirements: quarterly reports, high definition pictures of chipping/dumpsters, impact assessments, publicize grant on social media/website -Dumpster #1: June 1 -Dumpster # 2 to be scheduled for July 6</p> <p>RCD: Dead/dying tree removal: Potential start-October 2024 per Stan Hill. Will focus on defensible space. Wil collaborate with SDG&E</p>
2024 Submitted Grants	-

2024 Potential Grants	2024 NRP: summer/fall & 2025 spring funding for chipping, dumpster, dead tree removal, & rock Removal To be submitted
Grants: Submitted/Not funded	<p>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.</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>5. (SDG&E) Hazard Fuels Management Program 2019: (Defensible space/Fuel breaks/Roadside brushclearing) Roadside brushclearing (Crestline to Greenfield Rd/Conifer junction) \$91,212</p> <p>6. CFSC 2020 (\$22,500) Submitted 6/17/20 for 18 days of chipping over 24 months. 100% match with volunteer in-kind work and cash expenditure. Not funded.</p> <p>7. FSCSDC MiniGrant: (\$4980) Submitted 2020</p> <p>8. CFSC 2022 (22-SFA): (\$26,200) 2 yr: Fuel reduction (chipping/dumpster) Submitted 2023</p> <p>9. CA Fire Foundation (\$20,500) 1 yr Chipping & dumpster. Submitted 2023</p>
Community Activities & Workshops	CCPM Hoe Down Labor Day
Other	<p>Community meeting following PMFSC Board Meeting: 500 kV transmission line: 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/ SoCal/nationally, home to over 250 people, the site of scientifically critical Cal Tech Palomar Observatory, home of an endangered species (Laguna spinner butterfly) and host to thousands of visitors each year.</p> <p>PMFSC focus: Potential wildfire risk related to high voltage electrical transmission lines on Palomar Mountain.</p>
Next PMFSC Board Meeting: July 27, 2024 @ 9 AM at PMCC In-person & ZOOM (4th Saturday of the month)	

SONGS 500kV transmission line Wildfire Risk:(Not meeting minutes)

- Palomar Mountain is designated by the State as a *very high fire risk* Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ)
- Extremely low humidity, dry vegetation, high wind during extended periods including summer and fall & 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.
- It is unlikely, even if possible, to electively “de-energize” a 500 kV transmission line providing power to a major population center, Los Angeles, during high risk weather conditions.
- A high voltage power line sited along East Grade near the crest of the mountain is on the southern downslope and perpendicular to multiple deep draws between steep ridges occurring all along the north side of power line, draws leading directly up into the largest Palomar community along the mountain crest.
- The Palomar Mountain has only two Cal Fire/County designated Palomar community wildfire evacuation routes, S6/ South Grade and S7/East Grade for visitors and resident. Both are on the steep southern face of the mountain. There are no other designated contingency or emergency evacuation routes for Palomar. A powerline site running for 11 miles adjacent to S7/East Grade would cross S6/South Grade evacuation routes at the S7/S6 uncton on the Summit near the Post Office & Station 79. Power line related wildfire anywhere along the proposed route would 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 an electrical line fire along the S7 or S6, esp. during year-round Santa Ana conditions, there may not be sufficient time for resident notification and evacuation before their evacuation route(s) was /were blocked by fire. Affected residents would need to shelter in place.

-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 in place, 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.

Reading the Wikipedia Sunrise PowerLink entry is instructive. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunrise_Powerlink