



**Meeting Summary**  
**July 9, 2003**  
**Santa Clara County Parks & Recreation**  
**Field Sports Park**

I. Call to Order: Pat Congdon, 10:00 AM

II. Introductions: Bob MacFarlane (San Jose Conservation Corps).

Opening Remarks: Pat Congdon announced that Kenn Weeks of Uvas Canyon would act as Secretary until such time that the open position was filled by an election through the membership. Kenn Weeks informed the group that he was forming a Volunteer Fire Department with Nik Gluck of the Little Uvas Canyon. Kenn Weeks and Nik Gluck are currently seeking persons to volunteer in both canyons and by linking up with the residents of the Sveadal community at the end of Croy Road in Uvas Canyon.

II. Action Items: Review of Loma Chiquita Fuel Reduction Project

Discussion of the recently completed Loma Chiquita Fuel Reduction project was engaged. Pat Congdon made a presentation with digital photographs that provided an overview of the project.

A brief discussion of the 2002 Croy Fire and its relation to the project was undertaken. The project area lies just west of the fire area so fuel types and age classes are consistent.

Members of the CDF indicated that further efforts of this nature were desirable due to the heavy fuel loads in the general area bounded by Mount Madonna, Uvas Canyon, Little Uvas Canyon and Loma Chiquita Ridge.

Discussion amongst attendees continued with mention made by several that while a success as a pilot project, some resistance by local residents was apparent and that more efforts in recruiting the support of citizenry would be beneficial.

The topic of conducting pre-inspections to evaluate compliance with the California Public Resource Code in the area of such projects would be beneficial to the efforts by advising the home or property owner of their requirements as related to that code.

Focus was placed on the cost effective use of California Youth Authority fire crews as a usable labor force. Some concern was



expressed regarding the actual time on the job each day due to travel time to and from the project site.

Concern was expressed that the cost of this pilot project was high. In the future, actions related to reducing costs such as greater participation by stakeholders, improved communications between contractors and the Fire Safe Council and considerations of travel time and associated cost of fuel to reach project sites will be reviewed.

Additional ideas and comments related to the project were:

- Refined Project Goals and Objectives with better overall definition.
- Applying effective cost controls with additional equipment bid processes.
- Sizing equipment requirements to match individual projects.
- Considering long term contracts under grant funding efforts.
- More efficient outreach to local residents in the area of such projects.
- Improved identification of land types to obtain efficient site maps.
- Applying land types to obtain greater BLM grant funding.
- Applying BLM watershed protection benefits to grant funding efforts.
- Applying overall knowledge from the experience to future such projects.
- Obtaining wider use of waivers from homeowners to avoid potential threats of lawsuits.
- Creation of a 'recipe book' (project benchmarks, milestones, parameters, guidelines, & expectations).
- Create a standard 'post mortem' review by the Fire Safe Council for incorporation into final reports for each project.

#### Fire Safe Council Insurance Update

Pat Congdon discussed efforts to obtain 501-3c non-profit status. To date forms have been sent to the IRS for review and acceptance, Fire Safe Council is waiting for IRS feedback and two potential insurance companies have been identified (Driver-Alliant and Suhr Risk Services).

### III. Old Business:

#### Development of the Fire Safe Council Web Site

Allan Thompson discussed his ongoing efforts to create the website for the Fire Safe Council. He distributed a questionnaire for the attendees to consider and received feedback on web site detail, what content is important, what links to other sites should be embedded,



incorporation of county building code, state CDF resources, etc. and the Mission Statement of the Fire Safe Council.

IV. New Business: No Formal New Business Was Introduced.  
The following items were discussed with no official resolution:

- Future grants and the need for letter writing by citizens to optimize the state and federal grant process.
- The need to be prepared for submission of grant requests for the 2005 operating budget.
- The overall CDF Fire Management Plan and how it affects Santa Clara County.
- Concern regarding the impact of the State of California budget (challenges).
- Where does the Fire Safe Council go in the future (direction).
- Specific cost effective Fire Safe Council giveaways like 'logo buttons'.
- Establishment of booths at county fairs.
- Presentations at rural meetings for greater outreach.

V. Next Meeting: Wednesday August 13, 2003  
Santa Clara County Fire Department Headquarters  
Winchester Boulevard

VI. Meeting Adjourned 12:09 PM

Officers/Directors Present: Pat Congdon, Dan Clark, Allan Thompson

Members and Visitors: Jim Ordons, Joan Loeffler, Harlan Pester, Greg Latronica, Judy Thompson, Gerry Stasko, Eric Wood, Kenn Weeks