

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas Miller, County Executive Officer
By Rui Cunha, Emergency Services Program Manager

DATE: August 22, 2006

SUBJECT: Approve a resolution replacing the Ponderosa Fire Safe Council by establishing the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council and approve and sign the Partnership Agreement.

ACTION REQUESTED

That the Placer County Board of Supervisors:

- Approve a resolution replacing the Ponderosa Fire Safe Council with the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council (PSFSC);
- Approve an increase from 45,000 to 87,500 acres and modify the "new" Council core group membership to accommodate the increased acreage and population;
- Authorize your Chairman to sign the new Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council Partnership Agreement;
- Direct the Clerk of the Board to post vacancies to the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council;

BACKGROUND

The Board of Supervisors formally established the Ponderosa Fire Safe Council (PFSC) on March 8, 2005. The PFSC area currently extends from Meadow Vista to Secret Town and is bordered by the Bear River on the North and the North Fork of the American River on the south, covering approximately 45,000 acres with a population of approximately 15,000.

Meetings of the PFSC and discussions with citizens revealed the communities of Alta and Dutch Flat were unable to maintain a viable Fire Safe Council due to their lack of population base. As a result, there is a desire by those communities to merge with the PFSC.

In addition, a large area to the east of Alta, adjacent to the Federal Wildland Urban Interface, was not originally included within a Fire Safe Council's boundary. The proposed boundary for the PSFSC would correct this deficiency.

As proposed, the new PSFSC will serve approximately 18,000 citizens spread across 87,500 acres.

MEMBERSHIP

Current Appointments:

- ❖ **Placer County Board of Supervisors** - The Board appoints three core group members, all from within District 5, all of whom must reside in or have a business within the Council boundary. The appointments are further apportioned as follows:

- One appointment from the greater Colfax area outside the City of Colfax
- One appointment from the Meadow Vista community
- One appointment from either Clipper Gap, Weimar, Applegate or Eden Valley

- ❖ **City of Colfax**

The Colfax City Council appoints two core group members who reside in or have a business within the Colfax city limits

- ❖ **Fire Agencies**

Currently identified as core group members are the Placer Hills Fire Protection District Chief, the Colfax/Alta CDF Battalion Chief and an optional Colfax Volunteer Fire Department person.

Proposed Appointments (The proposed addition and modification of core group membership reflects the increase in acreage and population served.)

- ❖ **Placer County Board of Supervisors** - Appoint a total of six core group members to the Council for terms of two years. In order to obtain a consistent membership pool it is recommended the initial appointments be staggered, half serving for approximately 1½ years and half serving for approximately 2 ½ years. This will allow for Council continuity and reduce the numbers of appointments required in any given year.

- One member should reside, be a property owner of, or own a business within the boundary of the unincorporated County surrounding the City of Colfax from the northern boundary of the Placer Hills Fire Protection District to Secret Town – term expiration January 31, 2009.
 - One member should reside, or own a business in the Community of Meadow Vista (the area as defined by the Meadow Vista Municipal Advisory Council) – term expiration January 31, 2008
 - Two members should reside, or own a business, in the Placer Hills Fire Protection District outside of Meadow Vista (Weimar, Applegate, Clipper Gap, Heather Glen, Eden Valley, etc.) – one term to expire January 31, 2009 and one term to expire January 31, 2008.
 - Two members should reside, or own a business in the region of the PSFSC area above Secret Town through Emigrant Gap. If possible, one member should be from the area between Secret Town and Alta, and one from the area between Alta and Emigrant Gap – one term to expire January 31, 2009 and one term to expire January 31, 2008.
- ❖ **City of Colfax** - The City of Colfax will appoint only one member, rather than two. The member shall reside in, or own a business within the city limits of Colfax. This change is at the request of the City of Colfax and more accurately reflects population demographics.
- ❖ **Fire Agencies** - Appoint None. Fire Chiefs are already in the review/approval process for any projects identified in the Council's Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

The Colfax Volunteer Fire Department Battalion Chief position is also being deleted for the reasons stated above and at the request of the City of Colfax.

All appointees serve and are reappointed at the discretion of the Placer County Board of Supervisors or the Colfax City Council. Any core group member may end his or her participation in the PSFSC at anytime. In addition, each proposed appointment to the core group will be reviewed and approved by the respective Fire Chief (from Colfax, Placer County Fire or Placer Hills) prior to submission to the Board of Supervisors/Colfax City Council for their approval.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no direct or immediate fiscal impact resulting from this action however, there may be some impact in the future. Many of the grants that fund Fire Safe Council

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Board of Supervisors
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activities have matching requirements, and it should be anticipated that Placer County might be approached for funding assistance in the future. There are no known or anticipated funding requests at this time. This action does not imply support for any future action.

Attachments

Resolution

New Partnership Agreement from the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council

Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council Map Reflecting Changes in Boundaries

Previous Ponderosa Fire Safe Council Partnership Agreement and Map

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of: **A RESOLUTION REPLACING
THE PONDEROSA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BY
ESTABLISHING THE PLACER SIERRA FIRE
SAFE COUNCIL (PSFSC)**

Resol. No: _____

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **AUG 1, 2006** by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest:
Clerk of said Board

WHEREAS, There is a high fire threat to the PSFSC planning area and a need to reduce fuel levels, effectively communicate with area residents about the risks associated with living in a wildland urban interface zone, and inform and motivate them to take action, prior to a wildfire, to protect their homes and property.

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors formally established the Ponderosa Fire Safe Council (PFSC) on March 8, 2005, serving approximately 15,000 citizens, with a 45,000 acre planning area that includes Colfax City and the unincorporated County surrounding it from the northern boundaries of the Placer Hills Fire District up to Secret Town, and the Placer Hills Fire District which covers the communities of Meadow Vista, Weimar, Applegate, Clipper Gap, and Eden Valley; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to expand the boundaries of the PFSC and core group membership to accommodate the incorporation of the communities of Alta, Dutch Flat, Nyack, Emigrant Gap and the eastern portion of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection State Responsibility Area; and

WHEREAS, The new PSFSC will serve 18,000 citizens and have an 87,500 acre planning area that includes: the Placer Hills Fire District, which covers the communities of Meadow Vista, Weimar, Applegate, Clipper Gap, and Eden Valley; Colfax City and the unincorporated County area surrounding it, and the communities of Alta, Dutch Flat, Nyack and Emigrant Gap, and

WHEREAS, The expansion of the PSFSC membership and boundaries will assist fire mitigation planning and implementation in communities that have similar potential for a catastrophic wildfire incident. The

PSFSC will consist of 7 core group members. One seat will be appointed by the City of Colfax and six seats will be appointed by the District 5 Supervisor, subject to confirmation by the Placer County Board of Supervisors. The six County of Placer core group members shall serve and be reappointed at the discretion of the Governing Body of the County of Placer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Placer County, State of California, as follows:

The Board of Supervisors hereby replaces the Ponderosa Fire Safe Council by establishing the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council; and

The Board of Supervisors adopts the above described general boundaries of the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council; and

Six core group members who must reside in or own a business within the PSFSC planning area will be appointed by the District 5 Supervisor, subject to confirmation by the Placer County Board of Supervisors. One appointment should be from the greater Colfax area outside the City of Colfax from the northern boundaries of Placer Hills Fire Protection District to Secret Town/Alpine Meadows Subdivision, one appointment should be from the Meadow Vista community (as defined by the Meadow Vista Municipal Advisory Council), two appointments should be from the Placer Hills Fire Protection District area outside the community of Meadow Vista (Weimar, Applegate, Clipper Gap, or Eden Valley) and, two appointments should be from the area above Secret Town to Emigrant Gap, including the communities of Alta and Dutch Flat. Three of the core group members serve from the date of appointment to January 31, 2008 and three core group members will serve from the date of appointment to January 31, 2009. All future Council appointees will serve for a two-year term.



**PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE COUNTY OF PLACER, CITY OF COLFAX, ALTA
FIRE DISTRICT, PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT,
AND THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND
FIRE PROTECTION
TO
ESTABLISH THE GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES AND
APPOINT MEMBERS TO THE PLACER SIERRA FIRE SAFE
COUNCIL**

Section 1.0 Preamble

This Letter of Agreement, entered into by the County of Placer, City of Colfax, Alta Fire Protection District, Placer Hills Fire Protection District and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, has as its purpose the establishment of geographical boundaries and process for the appointment of members to the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council (“the Council” or PSFSC). Active participation by residents from all areas within the Council’s planning area and the fire services will help ensure that Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) are developed and corresponding projects implemented. The full and aggressive implementation of CWPP projects will increase the effectiveness of professional fire service fire protection activities within the PSFSC area of responsibility.

Section 2.0 Mission Statement

The mission of the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council is to:

1. Educate the public about the risks and responsibilities associated with living in an ever-expanding Wildland Urban Interface Area (WUI) so they take effective action to reduce the risk of loss due to wildfire;
2. Develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (“CWPP”) for those areas covered by the Council;
3. Work with all related governmental agencies, private groups, businesses, and individuals to implement the CWPP projects;
4. Promote fuel reduction programs and other fire safe projects, which will provide a safer environment in the event of wildfires;

5. Actively participate with the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance (“the Alliance”) and the California Fire Safe Council (“the CA FSC”);
6. Produce an annual (calendar year) report of accomplishments to the governing boards; and
7. Actively encourage the public to participate in the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council.

Section 3.0 Geographical Boundaries

The Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council (PSFSC) covers approximately 87,500 acres or 136.7 square miles of Placer County. It extends between the Bear River and the North Fork of the American River north of the southern boundary of the Placer Hills Fire Protection District extended to the North Fork of the American River Canyon up to the section line that runs north-south between sections 31 and 32 of Township 17N, Range 12E just east of Emigrant Gap. (Map attached)

The PSFSC incorporates the City of Colfax, the communities of Meadow Vista, Weimar, Applegate, Clipper Gap, Eden Valley, Cape Horn, Shady Glen, the Alpine Meadows Subdivision, Secret Town, Gold Run, Dutch Flat, Monte Vista, Alta, Blue Canyon, Baxter, and Emigrant Gap. Approximately 18,000 individuals live within the boundaries of PSFSC

Section 4.0 Membership

The Council Core Group shall consist of seven (7) members. All member terms will expire on January 31. For interim appointments: all one (1), and two (2) year terms are to begin February 1st.

The County of Placer (the County) shall appoint six (6) members to the Council for terms of two (2) years.

One member shall reside, be a property owner of, or own a business, within the boundaries of the unincorporated County surrounding the City of Colfax from the northern boundary of the Placer Hills Fire Protection District to Secret Town.

One member shall reside, or own a business, in the Community of

Meadow Vista (the area as defined by the Meadow Vista Municipal Advisory Council).

Two members shall reside, or own a business, in the Placer Hills Fire Protection District (PHFPD) outside of Meadow Vista (Weimar, Applegate, Clipper Gap, Heather Glen, Eden Valley, etc.).

Two members shall reside, or own a business, in the region of the PSFSC area above Secret Town through Emigrant Gap. If possible, one member shall be from the area above Secret Town to Alta, and one from the area above Alta through Emigrant Gap.

The City of Colfax shall appoint one (1) member to the Council for a term of two (2) years. The member shall maintain a primary residence or own a business within the city limits.

For the purposes of initial appointments only, three (3) members of the County shall serve one (1) year terms. Members may be removed and replaced at the discretion of the governing body.

Each of the appointed members is eligible for consideration for reappointment.

Section 5.0 Organization and Duties

The Council will develop bylaws and CWPPs and projects, participate in the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance, and make recommendations to public entities and private organizations responsible for fire mitigation and prevention and carry out all duties necessary to carry out the Council's mission.

The PSFSC will closely coordinate and seek support and approval from all the responsible fire protection entities during all phases of project planning and implementation.

The approval of the Colfax/Alta CDF Battalion Chief, and/or the Placer Hills FPD Fire Chief and/or the Alta FPD Fire Chief, as appropriate, shall be obtained before proceeding with on-the-ground projects, grant applications, or projects within their area of influence and or control.

Section 6.0 Abrogation

Any of the parties may end their participation in the Council at anytime.

Section 7.0 Signatures (see attached for signatures)

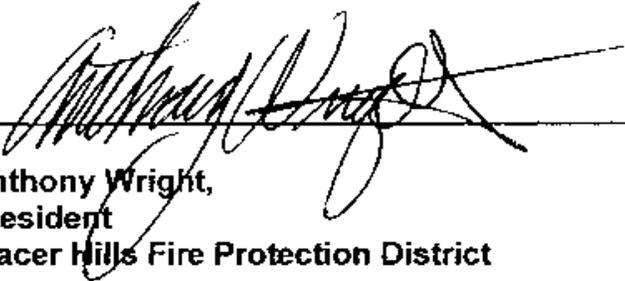
Placer County Board of Supervisors
Colfax City Council
Alta Fire Protection District
Placer Hills Fire District

Signatories to the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council Partnership Agreement

**Bill Santucci
Chairman,
Placer County Board of Supervisors**

Date

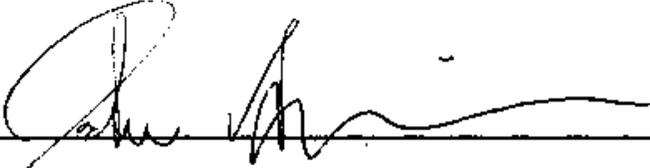
Signatories to the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council Partnership Agreement



Anthony Wright,
President
Placer Hills Fire Protection District

5/17/06
Date

Signatories to the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council Partnership Agreement



**Joshua Alpine,
Mayor
City of Colfax**

5-9-06

Date

Signatories to the Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council Partnership Agreement

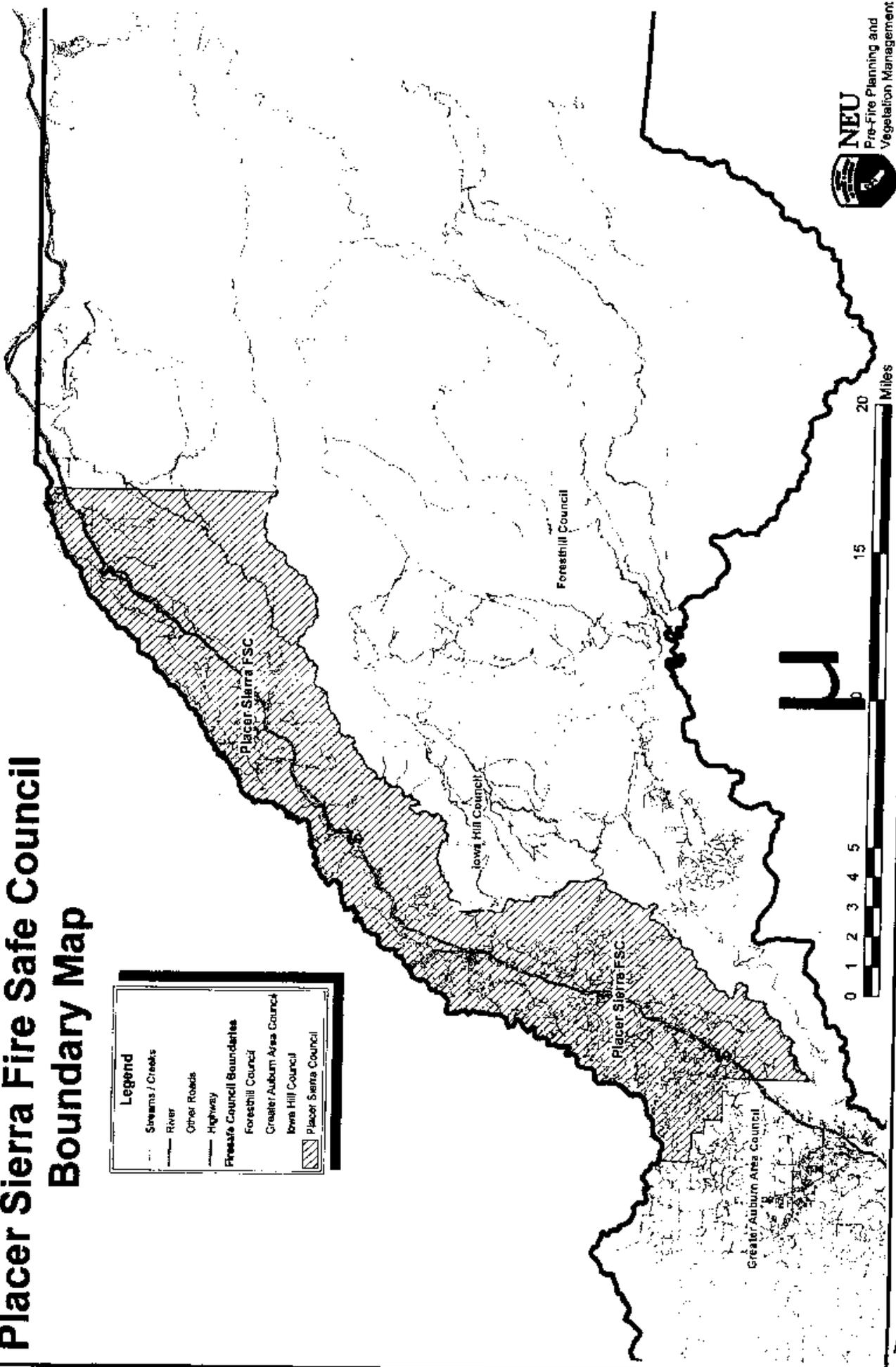
Cam Gillies 6-17-06

**Cam Gillies
Chairman
Alta Fire Protection District**

Date

Placer Sierra Fire Safe Council Boundary Map

Legend	
	Streams / Creeks
	River
	Other Roads
	Highway
Fire Safe Council Boundaries	
	Foresthill Council
	Greater Auburn Area Council
	Lower Hill Council
	Placer Sierra Council



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Partnership Agreement

between the

County of Placer, the City of Colfax
and the Placer Hills Fire Protection District

EMERGENCY SERVICES

to

Appoint Members to The Ponderosa Fire Safe Council Core Group

Statement of Need

The Ponderosa Fire Safe Council (PFSC) covers approximately 40,000 acres or 62.5 square miles. The southwest portion of the PFSC includes the Placer Hills Fire Protection District (PHFPD) and continues from the eastern PHFPD boundary to the North Fork American River Canyon. The northeast portion extends from the Placer Hills Fire FPD northeast boundary to Secret Town Road on the Bear River Side and to River Ridge Road on the North Fork of the American River side. The PFSC incorporates the City of Colfax, the communities of Meadow Vista, Weimar, Applegate, Clipper Gap, and Eden Valley, the Bear River and Rollins Lake Campgrounds, and several Bureau of Land Management (BLM) properties, including the canyon of the North Fork of the American River north of the Iowa Hill Bridge, and a portion of the Auburn State Recreation Area, which is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and leased to California State Parks. Approximately 15,000 people live in this area. There are four schools with a population of over 4,000 students and staff.

The Meadow Vista Municipal Advisory Council and the Weimar-Applegate-Colfax Area Municipal Advisory Council cover the unincorporated area, which is in Placer County Supervisor District 5. The Colfax City Council governs the City of Colfax.

The local professional fire services are the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), the Placer Hills Fire Protection District (PHFPD), and the Colfax Volunteer Fire Department.

The entire region, including the City of Colfax, is rated as Very High Fire Hazard by the CDF.

Wildfire is a constant threat in this area, but the impact of wildfire can be mitigated if appropriate actions are taken in advance, such as creating defensible space around all structures and building shaded fuel breaks. However, without an ongoing public outreach program, many residents and business owners only take action when immediately threatened by a wildfire. This is too late.

Active participation by residents, business owners, and fire services from all areas within the PFSC planning area will help ensure that community fire safe plans and other wildfire mitigation projects are developed and implemented, and are fully integrated with the professional fire services. The full and aggressive implementation of wildfire mitigation activities will save lives, property, and resources in the Ponderosa Fire Safe Council area.

The PFSC acknowledges a partnership with the following entities: the BLM, the USFS, the Placer County Resource Conservation District, the Placer County Water Agency, the Placer County Planning Department, and the Placer County Office of Emergency Services.

Mission and Vision Statements

The vision of the Ponderosa Fire Safe Council is that all homes and businesses in the PFSC area will be able to survive wildfires.

The mission of the Ponderosa Fire Safe Council is to: The Core Group shall develop the Mission Statement, with input from the community.

Membership

The Core Group shall consist of a minimum of 7 members.

The County of Placer Board of Supervisors shall appoint three members to the Council for two-year terms. One member shall maintain a primary residence, or own a business, within the boundaries of the greater Colfax area, but outside the City of Colfax. Another member shall reside, or own a business, in the Community of Meadow Vista, and the third appointee shall reside, or own a business, in the non-Meadow Vista portion of the PHFPD (Weimar, Applegate, Clipper Gap, Heather Glen, Eden Valley, etc.).

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The City of Colfax shall appoint two members to the Council for a two-year term. These members shall maintain a primary residence, or own a business, within the city limits.

For the purposes of initial appointments only, two of the county-appointed members, and one of the Colfax-appointed members, shall serve one (1) year terms. Members appointed by Placer County and Colfax City Council may be removed and replaced at the discretion of the governing body.

In addition, the Colfax/Alta CDF Battalion Chief, or a designated representative, shall have one seat on the Core Group, and the PHFPD Chief, or a designated representative, shall have one seat on the Core Group. At its option, the Colfax Volunteer Fire Department may also have one seat.

All residents, property owners, and business owners in the PFSC area are considered to be non-voting general members, and their participation in wildfire mitigation activities, as well as in the PFSC, is actively encouraged.

Organization and Duties

While working closely with the local fire protection authorities, the Core Group will hold public meetings; encourage the participation of the Ponderosa FSC general membership; develop bylaws (if appropriate); facilitate the development of community fire safe plans and emergency plans, including evacuation plans; participate in the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance; provide information and education services to the general public regarding wildfire safety and mitigation strategies; seek funding for projects as needed; and carry out other duties necessary to fulfill the Ponderosa FSC mission.

The PFSC will closely coordinate and seek support and approval from all the responsible fire protection entities during all phases of project planning and implementation.

Attendance at Core Group meetings by the Fire Chiefs shall be at their individual discretion. The approval of the Colfax/Alta CDF Battalion Chief and/or the Placer Hills FPD Fire Chief, as appropriate, shall be obtained before proceeding with on-the-ground projects, grant applications, or projects which require CDF/PHFPD resources.

A Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected annually for one-year terms.

All members of the Core Group shall actively encourage other residents and business owners to participate in the Ponderosa FSC.

Abrogation

Any of the core group members may end their participation in the Council at anytime.

No Financial or Legal Obligation

None of the members or signatories of the Ponderosa FSC Core Group shall have any financial or legal obligation to the PFSC.

Signatures (see attached for signatures)

Placer County Board of Supervisors
Colfax City Council
Placer Hills Fire Protection District

Signatories to the Ponderosa Fire Safe Council Partnership Agreement

D. H. M. Co. [Signature]

Chairman, Placer County Board of Supervisors

3/8/05
Date

Signatories to the Ponderosa Fire Safe Council Partnership Agreement

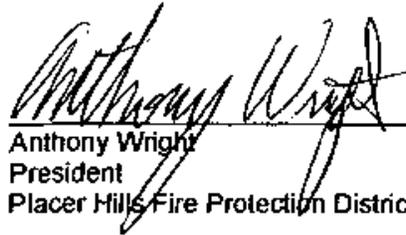


Cassandra Keltams
Mayor
City of Colfax



Date

Signatories to the Ponderosa Fire Safe Council Partnership Agreement



Anthony Wright
President
Placer Hills Fire Protection District

1/5/05
Date

