

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
of
THE WEST CONTRA COSTA FIRE SAFE COUNCIL**

The board of directors of The West Contra Costa Fire Safe Council (WCCFSC) held a videoconference meeting via Zoom on **December 18, 2023 at 7:00PM.**

The following directors were in attendance at the meeting and constituted the entire board:

Soheila Bana	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Marilyn Saarni	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Ra Criscitiello	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent
Rebecca Orona	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
Angel Montoya	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent

Present:

AGENDA

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Chuck-full meeting tonight! Please introduce yourselves and optionally provide contact info in Chat! Thank you!

- 10 MIN Announcements & Community Updates
 - 12/20 @ 12-1pm: CA Fire Safe Council Northern/Central CA Regional Coordinators check-in with FSCs; register in advance <https://cafiresafecouncil.org/event/cfsc-northern-california-regional-monthly-meeting/2023-12-20/>
 - Erica Peng - update: "Systems perspective on fire mitigation" from Frank Frievalt, new Director of Cal Poly's WUI FIRE Institute and former Mammoth Fire Chief
 - Anything else
- 5 MIN - Firewise Communities report from Joyce Forte
- 10 MIN - Introducing Richmond's new Office of Emergency Services Manager, Richard Diaz
- 15 MIN - Jon Kaufman will update us on status of the East Bay Hills Wildfire Preparedness & Vegetation Management MOU
- 5 MIN Susan Purcell will tell us about the Soil Food Web and summarize the primary points from its free webinar (1.5 hrs on their YouTube channel) on "Wildfire Remediation: A Permaculture Perspective"; she'll offer additional resources
- 5 MIN Shall we create a study group to review needs for restoration and regeneration post-wildfire in our area? Short discussion.

- 10 MIN Start discussion on—Shall we hold a late Spring Workshop on wildfire preparedness action plans for cities in West Contra Costa? Some ideas:
 - Updating building and fire ordinances in Very High and High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ) to match or exceed CalFire's 2023 standards
 - Provide education about updated ordinances, including recommended fencing types, etc.
 - Addressing highly flammable vegetation within 30 (100?) feet of structures? Ban or require mitigation?
 - Implementing inspection programs with effective followup—how to make them work? Both volunteer with formal reports (but not enforcement) and official fire dept inspection with enforcement
 - How to deal with lack of vegetation management endangering neighboring homes; or maybe avenues for recourse to remove dangerous trees on neighboring properties where owners do not take action? Process that's fair but efficient and not more than 2 months to resolution.
 - Seek solutions to the many barriers property owners, renters face when attempting to home harden and mitigate vegetative fuel loads
 - Bring in a couple of academics to educate us on latest WUI wildfire and ecosystem science
 - What else??
 - Organizers?
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- Seek solutions to the many barriers property owners, renters face when attempting to home harden and mitigate vegetative fuel loads
- Bring in a couple of academics to educate us on latest WUI wildfire and ecosystem science
- What else??



This Eucalyptus globulus planted in the 1870s at Mills College has been properly maintained on an annual basis. It has historical and cultural significance. Mills College has several of these magnificent old trees with diameters 10 feet or more, some in the middle of lawn areas. Proper maintenance includes limbing up (as much as 24 feet on the giant trees), opening structure, stripping loose bark, and removing dead debris on the ground. Note: while young E. globulus are heavy water drinkers, these mature trees are less demanding. It certainly helps to have experienced, skilled arborists!