



Staff report for meeting date 3/17/2022

Prepared by Rae Bell – *disclaimer: any opinions expressed in this document belong to the author and do not represent the official stance of the district.*

Agenda item 4. a) Correspondence

Incoming: energy audit docs to be filled out, notice of explosives storage (ATF requirement), offer on district's credit card to earn 50% more points for purchases made in April (signed up), letter of appreciation for first responders from the Volunteer Firefighter Alliance, 2021 NFPA survey.

Outgoing: Copy of independent audit for FY 20/21 sent to Sierra County Auditor, completed energy audit docs sent to Ecogreen solutions, audit engagement letter for FY 21/22 sent to Boden Klein and Sneesby, signed PG&E resource center funds agreement with Sierra County mailed to the BOS, Thank you cards to Pam Supporta and Cai Sorlein for submitting firewise hours for Pike

Agenda item 4. b) 5 Board member/Staff reports

- PGE ENERGY AUDIT – We were approached by a representative of the Sierra Business Council in late 2021 about this opportunity to have an outside firm study the district's power usage and look for ways to save money. When I saw the contract I was nervous because it looked like a binding agreement, but I was assured that it is not, it is the "first step" which gives Ecogreen Solutions access to the districts PG&E usage information so that they can complete an analysis. AFTER they complete the analysis they will make a recommendation which will be brought to the board for approval. I sent the paperwork to them on March 1st. Below is their response to my inquiry regarding signing the forms:

"Per James email, the applications are non-binding. In order to receive any financial commitment from PGE towards your project, the utility will require these forms. Through the process the utility also confirms your pay history and usage for a period of time as noted in the Letter or Authorization.

Once we get the reports completed and the financial commitments from PGE you will have all the information needed to present to your board with factual information. In addition we will also be able to provide you with meeting notes, AB4217 paperwork and comparative contracts of other CSD or municipalities that have used the program that you can Piggy Back off of.

Lastly for the program, as the water district pays each and every PGE electric bill, 3-8% of every bill goes towards the PPP (Public Purpose Program) fund. The OBF program is the only way to get access to any of these funds back to the district in the form of an OBF contract.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time,

*Anthony Mitchell
Ecogreen Solutions
Managing Director
Cell 949-702-8431*

The way the program works is IF Ecogreen finds ways to save \$ by switching out equipment, the equipment is paid for from the PPP Fund utilizing the actual power savings, once the

equipment is paid for, the savings will then show up on the district's PG&E bill. In other words: everything is run through PG&E's and Ecogreen's books.

- Money for community resource center in Pike – sent another follow-up email
- Money for community resource center in Alleghany – the signed agreement was mailed to the county after last month's meeting.
- NFIRS (National FIRE Incident Reporting System) NO PROGRESS since last meeting. A related note is that I haven't had time to tally up the 2021 incidents either. Tom Starr used to help with this and I am SWAMPED.
- FORM 700s are due by April 1st

Agenda item 4. b) 6 Firewise Communities – The website pages located at: plioceneridge.org/firewise were recently updated. A mailing was done to 300 property owners and residents within the district.

An informational meeting and potluck is planned for April 9th at Plum Valley. In the event of wet weather it will be moved to station 2 in Alleghany. Any expenses related to this meeting can be billed to the title III money already allocated to Pike and Alleghany firewise communities.

EMAIL BELOW FROM SIERRA COUNTY FIRE SAFE COUNCIL 3/14/2022 The meeting is scheduled for March 26th in Downieville and I hope to attend.

Greetings Firewise groups,

We are reaching out to give you an update on the latest efforts to enhance the Sierra County Fire Safe Council's role in Sierra County's wildfire mitigation efforts, and to request a meeting with all of you as representatives of Sierra County Firewise (and aspiring Firewise) groups to discuss how the Fire Safe Council and Sierra County Firewise groups can collaborate to increase Sierra County's wildfire preparedness.

I have recently assumed the role of County Coordinator for Sierra County and hired Al Petrie, a local resident of Sierra Brooks, as Outreach Specialist. Sierra County was awarded a "County Coordinator" grant through the California Fire Safe Council which provides funding for these positions to support the efforts of the Sierra County Fire Safe Council.

The County Coordinator and Outreach Specialist will assist the Sierra County Fire Safe Council with:

- coalescing the county's various wildfire mitigation groups and stakeholders,
- gathering stakeholder input and facilitating stakeholder group collaboration;
- assessing constraints and needs regarding county-wide wildfire resiliency efforts;
- analyzing existing project implementation mechanisms, and making recommendations to address deficiencies in preparedness and mitigation efforts.
- seeking grant funding to meet identified needs

Stakeholder input will be used to develop a county-wide, multi-year Wildfire Resiliency Program of Work. The Program of Work will provide the Sierra County Fire Safe Council a framework, timeline, and strategic pathway to grow and enhance its role in helping Sierra County stakeholders achieve their wildfire preparedness goals.

One way we'll be collecting stakeholder information is through dissemination of surveys to various stakeholder groups. The first survey will target Sierra County residents to gather information on community wildfire preparedness needs, challenges, and priorities.

We would like to meet with you to provide further information on the County Coordinator grant, to learn about the efforts and goals of your Firewise community, and to get your input on how the Fire Safe Council might be able to assist your Firewise efforts. Additionally, we would like to discuss ways

in which your Firewise group may be able to help us distribute and collect the resident wildfire preparedness surveys.

For your convenience, we can schedule separate meetings for westside groups and eastside groups. Please use the doodle poll below to help us select the best meeting dates and times. If none of the options will work for you, please let us know so we can make other arrangements, we are more than willing to accomodate.

Westside Meeting Doodle Poll (Meeting Location: Downieville):
<https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/9aAlrX9e>

Eastside Meeting Doodle Poll (Meeting Location: Sierraville): <https://doodle.com/meeting/participate/id/vbmjxAd>

Thank you, and please let me know if you have any questions, I look forward to meeting each of you and working closely with the Firewise Communities!
Danielle Bradfield, Sierra County Fire Safe Council Coordinator
(530) 927-7095 (cell)

Agenda item 4. b) 7 Firehouse Projects and ADA compliance –

Planning committee met on 3/12/2022 summary included in meeting docs.

Agenda item 4. b) 8 Pending Grants

- ❖ CDF 50/50 grant for Fiscal year 21/22 – Everything has been ordered
- ❖ CDF 50/50 grant for Fiscal year 22/23 – Deadline to apply is May 4th
- ❖ Homeland Security Grants
 - SIREN FOR STATION 2 IN ALLEGHANY nothing to report
 - LIFT KITS & THERMAL IMAGING CAMERA FOR PIKE FIRE nothing to report

Agenda item 5. a) 5 Title III projects

After last month's meeting I triple confirmed with the County that they don't feel comfortable trying to fund any capital expenditures (such as fire trucks or water tanks) with these funds because of the difficulty in determining the actual benefit (as a percentage of total cost) to Federal Lands.

It does look like fuel reduction in the home ignition zone for firewise communities is an authorized use. See document included in meeting packet. Assuming this is correct, I suggest asking for \$ for actual on-the-ground fuel reduction work in Pike and Alleghany.

It could be handled by the district in a couple of different ways. I verified with the district's insurance company that we COULD use district employees (firefighters and pay them) to do this type of work. OR we could hire licensed and insured individuals/businesses to do the work. Because PRCSD is signed up under the Calif. Uniform Cost Construction accounting acct (CUCCA) we can negotiate contracts without having to go out to bid if they are under \$60,000 we can also use our own workforce for jobs under that amount. The district should expect to pay an on the ground project co-ordinator and an administrator to see the projects through, and that should be included in the funding request.

The money has to be used up by Sept of 2023.