Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District
Board of Directors - MEETING AGENDA
October 21st, 2026, 5:30 pm

Call to Order

Roll Call: Stuart Crook, Stephen Dietrich, Kirk Ford, Jim Phelan, Mike Sardella, Galen Weston, Gary Whitson

Public Comment

(5 minutes per item maximum) We would like to welcome the members of the public who have taken the time to bring their concerns to this meeting. Any member of the public may address the Board relating to any matter within the Board's jurisdiction. This need not be related to any item on the agenda; however, the Board cannot act on an item unless it was noticed on the agenda.

Business

- Discussion and action related to Minutes for September 2026 Board Meeting.
- Discussion and action related to 2026-01 Approval of Project Specific Analysis and Addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR for Big Hill-Lyons Fuels Management Project.
- Discussion and action related to Letter of Support for Tuolumne County's SERAL Fuel Break Application to Sierra Nevada Conservancy.
- Discussion and action related to TCRCD Grant Program Updates.
    - NRCS Forestry Technical Assistance
    - Forestry and Fuels Reduction Projects
    - Natural and Working Lands Technical Assistance
    - Regional Watershed Projects
    - Pending Project Proposals

Partner Updates

District Manager Update

- Central Sierra Conservation Hub
- Regional RCD updates

Correspondence and Announcements

Other Matters at the Discretion of the Chair

Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact District Manager Lindsay Mattos at (209) 559-9066. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the TCRCD to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting (28CFR35.102-35.104 ADA Title II)

Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District

Board of Directors - MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2026

Call to Order: 5:33 pm

Roll Call: Stephen Dietrich, Kirk Ford, Jim Phelan, Galen Weston, Gary Whitson, Mike Sardella

Guests: Bill Barteau – CALFIRE, Matt Harrision – CALFIRE

Staff: Frank Lewicki, Lindsay Mattos, Tricia Peller

Public Comment: None

Business

· August 2026 Minutes: Motion to approve by director Phelan, second by director Dietrich, director Sardella abstains, motion passed.

· Wildfire 101 Workshops: Discussed by board, bring back draft presentation to board, plan for mid to late spring workshops, motion to approve by director Phelan, second by director Sardella.

· 2026-01 Approval of Project Specific Analysis and Addendum to the CalVTP Program EIR for Big Hill-Lyons Fuels Management Project: Postponed until October Meeting.

· Grant Updates:

F. Lewicki provided updates on Forestry projects, and L. Mattos provided updates on Agriculture projects.

Partner Updates: None.

District Manager Update: L. Mattos provided updates on single source audit for district, Board of Forestry meeting and tour, prevailing wage, meeting with TStan and SJTA, CARCD meeting, annual report for district.

Correspondence and Announcements: None

Other Matters at the Discretion of the Chair: None

Adjournment: 7:10 pm

October 21st, 2026 Resolution No. 2026-01

RESOLUTION OF THE TUOLUMNE COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT ADOPTING THE PROJECT SPECIFIC ANALYSIS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS FOR THE BIG HILL-LYONS FUELS MANAGEMENT PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD), a special district organized under state law, with no enforcement or regulatory functions, works closely with individuals, groups and agencies to enhance the management and sustainable use of natural resources, and;

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors (Board) for the District recognizes the critical need for forest health and fuel reduction projects to protect natural resources, people, and property within Tuolumne County, and;

WHEREAS, the Big Hill-Lyons Fuels Management Project which comprises vegetation management treatments on up to 14,858 acres of land near the communities of Columbia, Sonora and Cedar Ridge in Tuolumne County with the intent to reduce the risk to communities and natural resources in this area by managing the amount and continuity of hazardous vegetative fuels; and

WHEREAS, the California Vegetation Treatment Program Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (CalVTP PEIR) was certified by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection in 2019 consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act to evaluate potential environmental effects of qualifying vegetation treatments to reduce the risk of wildfire in California; and

WHEREAS, the CalVTP PEIR was designed for use by state and local agencies to accelerate vegetation treatment project approvals by finding them to be within the scope of the PEIR; and

WHEREAS, the TCRCD has prepared a Project Specific Analysis for the Big Hill-Lyons Fuels Management Project as supporting information to comply with the CalVTP PEIR;

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District (TCRCD) Board of Directors;

1. The Board of Directors for the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District, based on the evidence presented, both written and oral, hereby adopts the Project Specific Analysis for the Big Hill-Lyons Fuels Management Project; and
2. Adopts the Mitigation, Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Big Hill-Lyons Fuels Management Project; and
3. Approves the Big Hill-Lyons Fuels Management Project.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS DULY AND REGULARILY ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District at a meeting of the Board held on the 21st day of October 2026. Motion by _____ and second by _____.

Motion passed by the following vote: AYES: NOES: ABSTAIN: ABSENT:

Signed by _____ Name/Title: _____
Submitted by: _____

September 18, 2026

To Sierra Nevada Conservancy Representative,

I write on behalf of XXXXX to express our strong support for the **2026 Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) Wildfire and Forest Resilience Directed Grant Program** funding opportunity and, in particular, for Tuolumne County's proposed project to maintain at least 397 and up to 596 acres of fuelbreaks that were created between 2021 and 2023 as part of the USFS large landscape Social and Ecological Resilience Across the Landscape (SERAL) project. These fuelbreaks provided much needed protections to communities throughout Tuolumne County when they were initially created, and necessary maintenance will better ensure that that initial investment will continue to provide those benefits. The proposed project aligns with the SNC's overarching goals of fostering resilient natural places, creating safer communities, and leveraging local economies by creating and maintaining strategic fuelbreaks in critical locations. By maintaining these fuelbreaks, they can continue to provide better community protections, improve ingress and egress for residents and emergency personnel, and remove hazardous ladder fuels to reduce the risk of stand replacing fire.

Highway 108 and its communities of Twain Harte, Cedar Ridge, and Mi-Wuk Village are situated directly southeast of the proposed project and lie within a very high-risk fireshed. The proposed project continues to preserve the character, efficiacy and integrity of landscape scale fuelbreak network the Stanislaus National Forest (STF) has identified as critical on federal land in the SERAL project. Forest management in Tuolumne County requires a community level approach and the partnership between the County and the STF allows for better community hardening in the event of a catastrophic wildfire.

Maintain the fuelbreaks in this location will:

- Mitigate rapidly advancing wildfires toward the Highway 108 corridor,
- Minimize vegetation in critical locations to reduce wildfire intensity and rate of spread,
- Increase public safety by improving ingress and egress for private residents, recreationists, and emergency personnel.

These treatments aim to maintain discontinuity of fuels, improve forest stand resiliency and watershed health, and enhance initial attack options under adverse conditions. Integration of these treatments with the additional work planned in SERAL and SERAL 2.0 will help managers rapidly access, communicate, and implement **risk-informed incident response strategies.**

We are confident maintenance of these fuelbreaks will **enhance the overall resilience** of the Highway 108 corridor, **protect** both public and private resources, and **support** the SNC objectives. We look forward to continued collaboration with SNC, local governments, and stakeholders to ensure timely implementation, rigorous monitoring, and effective use of funds to achieve shared hazardous fuels reduction goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

XXXXX