

Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience Advisory Committee

Organizational Charter

Background

Wildfires continue to increase in frequency and intensity across California, resulting in hundreds of thousands of acres burned and thousands of homes destroyed each year. Following the devastating Caldor Fire in August, 2021, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Administrative Office to form a vegetation management and wildfire resiliency working group to collaborate on lessons learned, define funding streams and initiate a robust, community-based wildfire resiliency and vegetation management program that would accelerate current efforts in El Dorado County on both public and private lands. A working group was established comprised of the Chief Administrative Office, El Dorado County Fire Safe Council, CAL FIRE – Amador El Dorado Unit, USFS – El Dorado National Forest, El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association, El Dorado County Fire Prevention Officers Association and the El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts.

In early 2022, the working group prepared the following recommendations:

- Update the County Strategic Plan to incorporate a theme addressing the need to lead and facilitate the creation and maintenance of fire-adapted communities.
- Establish and implement a strategic wildfire protection strategy for El Dorado County based on an overall assessment of hazard and values at risk. The strategy shall incorporate information already available wherever possible including the SOFAR Stewardship Strategy, Community Wildfire Protection Plans, CAL FIRE Unit Fire Plan, County Hazard Mitigation Plan and General Plan Safety Element.
- Establish a dedicated wildfire preparedness and resilience office within the Chief Administrator's Office to coordinate and prioritize efforts on a countywide level. The Office shall work to prevent duplication of efforts and leverage scarce and limited resources for the highest priority projects.
- Utilize opportunities to align with State and federal strategies including the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, Federal Wildfire Crisis Implementation Plan and California Strategic Fire Plan.
- Establish a broad stakeholder (partners) based organizational structure within defined membership and roles/responsibilities. In addition to the original working

group members, the larger group should include utilities, other county departments, State and federal agencies, NGO's and existing collaboratives such as SOFAR and the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program.

The Board of Supervisors on March 22, 2022 approved the recommendations, including the establishment of the Office of Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience (OWPR) effective July 1, 2022. Following the establishment of the OWPR, the Wildfire Resilience and Vegetation Management Working Group transitioned to a standing Wildfire Preparedness and Resilience Advisory Committee.

Mission Statement

Incorporate the interests and leverage the resources of stakeholders to create a fire adapted and resilient El Dorado County guided by a comprehensive wildfire prevention and preparedness strategy.

Membership

El Dorado County – OWPR
CAL FIRE Amador El Dorado Unit
El Dorado National Forest
El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association
El Dorado County Fire Safe Council
El Dorado County Fire Prevention Officers Association
El Dorado and Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts
Tahoe Fire and Fuels Team

Guiding Principles and Responsibilities

- Participation is voluntary and each agency and organization retains its authorities and responsibilities identified with its own mission.
- Decisions are collaborative and consensus based.

Meetings

Bi-weekly unless otherwise agreed based upon need

Goals

- Develop and implement a comprehensive wildfire prevention and preparedness strategy for El Dorado County in alignment with federal, state, and local initiatives.
- Lead and facilitate the creation and maintenance of fire adapted communities.

- Provide an organizational structure to coordinate funding and project management across agencies and organizations and establish agreed upon priorities based on the countywide risk assessment.
- Develop a coordinated approach to public outreach with consistent messaging across media platforms, agencies, and organizations.
- Develop and maintain a real time integrated data sharing platform.
- Provide technical and policy input and recommendations on local planning and regulatory efforts, including the General Plan Safety Element, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, building standards and vegetation management ordinance.

Objectives

- Convene a working group to identify governing documents and find ways to integrate into a common strategy.
- Develop an annual countywide action plan, including funding sources.
- Develop a coordinated and prioritized set of project criteria.
- Convene entities to determine scope and scale of a comprehensive public outreach strategy and draft an implementation plan.
- Develop and maintain a GIS database library and online web mapping tool to aid in project development and coordination.
- Convene a working group to identify the data to be reported for projects, and the metrics by which progress will be measured.
- Develop a public facing dashboard displaying projects, metrics and progress.
- Convene a working group to review the existing County Vegetation Management Ordinance and make recommendations for changes to implementation strategy and ordinance language, including how to incorporate VRBO properties.

Organizational Structure

The OWPR serves as the Advisory Committee meeting facilitator which includes but is not limited to scheduling meetings, preparing agendas, drafting minutes and disseminating information. The Advisory Committee can form sub-committees/working groups as needed to carry out the identified goals and objectives. The attached organization chart describes the organizational structure, including current working groups and initiatives.

Organization Chart Attached