

**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 **June 3, 2024 at 7:00PM.**

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

Soheila Bana	[X] Present	[ ] Absent
Marilyn Saarni	[X] Present	[ ] Absent
Ra Criscitiello	[X] Present	[ ] Absent
Rebecca Orona	[X] Present	[ ] Absent

Present: Joyce, Rocky Saunders, Joe Grupalo, Sue N., Volker, Stewart Winchester

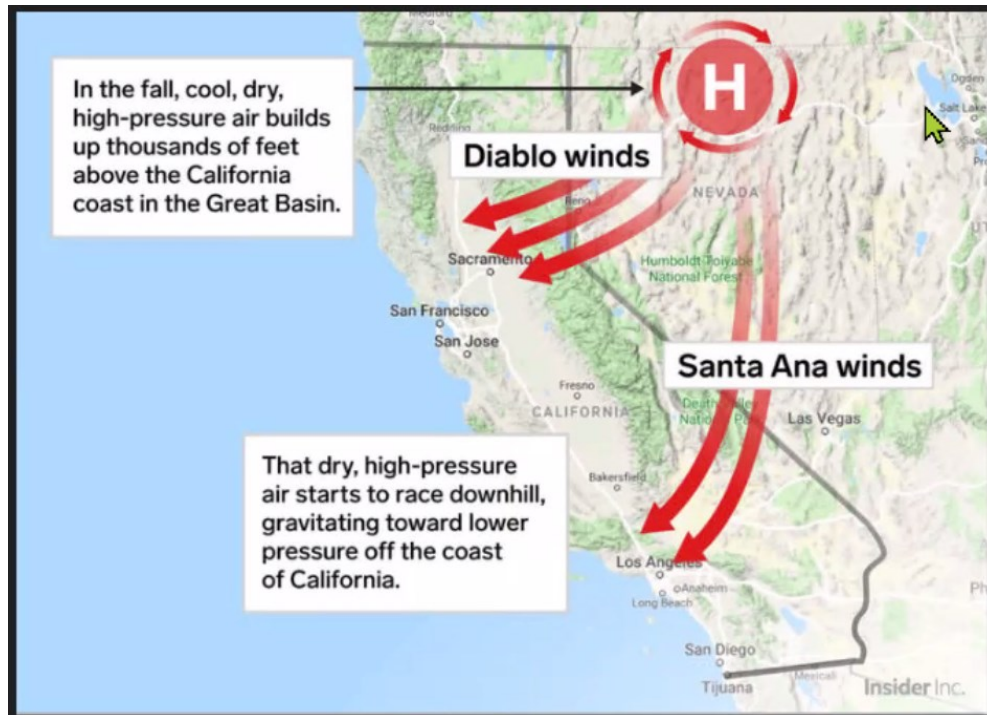
**AGENDA**

- Newsletter (Soheila)
  - We have a design and three articles, including a FireWise article by Joyce and an article from Susan about shutoff valves as well as deadline for cutting weeds down (June 18th for Richmond, June 3 for County); inspections will take place after those dates.
  - Marilyn will write an article more about landscaping, vegetation, and defensible zones
  - Should warn of PDS RFW days because they're especially dangerous. Can have PDS RFW where PG&E doesn't shut power off.
- Fundraising (Soheila)
  - Soheila hasn't heard back from the Fire Chief
  - Usually use the open house as a way to discuss fundraising
- Open House date (Soheila)
  - Marilyn is following up on demonstration garden
  - October is national fire preparedness week (Soheila is likely to be traveling then)
  - Hoping for workshops in May
- Evacuation Drill date(s) (Soheila)
  - Unfortunately no update on this either, which is frustrating
- Vent mesh purchase and distribution
  - No one is assigned to this, could use more help
  - Marilyn said that Moraga/Orinda fire district has a person who buys the 1/16 in. non-corrosive mesh at a discount. At any MOFD fire station they provide it for free and cut it to the measurements that the homeowner wants.
  - Rebecca has been working on having the PG&E money used for mesh purchase through James Grier
  - We need a contractor/handyman who can do this, Marilyn will contact Bob Reed Jr, general contractor with large crew—she has already engaged him to do the

work for her house later this month. Can the WCCFSC get 10 households together and offer to cover part of the mesh cost?

- Volker will make a Measure X request to remove flammable materials (wood chip) to Michelle Rinehart (County Coordinator, CCFPD) as a FireWise community
- Joe also suggested a Cal Fire approved option for extreme weather resistant attic vents, when re-roofing
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- Educational garden (fire demonstration garden)
  - Marilyn tried to reach out to the fire house and they're not answering the phone
  - Going to write an article about how great the beds look
  - Marilyn and Sue recently weeded the beds and planted some new succulents, it's looking excellent
  - Could use more help, hoping that the master gardeners can get involved (need the MOU signed off on first)
- Evacuation routes
  - Soheila is hoping residents bring required evacuation route maintenance (vegetation management at sides, vertical clearances) to City of Richmond's attention because they haven't done anything yet
  - County is doing an evacuation traffic analysis
  - Joe explained that there are endless variables re. Evacuations: how traffic loads affect speed of evacuation, so agencies typically don't tell people which direction to go but rather just to evacuate, so there needs to be multiple options for how people can escape. A company called [Ladris](#) does traffic modeling.
  - Joe explained that we should advocate for specific red flag warnings by National Weather Service, called Particularly Dangerous Situation (PDS)—purple in diagram below. Joe showed dramatic photos from the Oakland hills fire and how quickly the fire moved. Areas of limited egress, especially during major wind events, are what cause the most concern.

Red Flag Weather Matrix		Sustained Winds				
		<6 mph	6-11 mph	12-20 mph	21-29 mph	30+ mph
H u m i d i t y	Daytime Min <29-42% and/or Night Max 60-80%					RFW
	Daytime Min <19-28% and/or Night Max 46-60%				RFW	RFW
	Daytime Min <9-18% and/or Night Max 31-45%			RFW	RFW	RFW
	Daytime Min <9% and/or Night Max <31%		RFW	RFW	RFW	PDS RFW
		Low	Medium	High	Very High	Extreme



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- FireSafe Marin EXCELLENT video on evacuating safely in the presence of approaching wildfire: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91hgUjhmSIE>
- Joe demonstrated how the free app, [Watch Duty](#), works. Also recommended the Genasys app to get status alerts.

#### Announcements

- Soheila announced that on July 8th (by zoom, 9am-noon) there will be a meeting of the East Bay Hills wildfire prevention coordinating group. We the public need to educate them and share our concerns.
- Marilyn: CA Fire Safe Council relaunching their Regional Council meetings NEXT NORTHERN/CENTRAL MEETING IS June 19, 12-1pm. Must register in advance at <https://cafiresafecouncil.org/event/cfsc-northern-california-regional-monthly-meeting-2024-01-17/2024-06-19/>