



**Wrightwood Fire Safe Council**

P.O. Box 3100  
Wrightwood, CA 92397  
(760) 249-3249

[www.wrightwoodfsc.com](http://www.wrightwoodfsc.com)

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to order:** The general meeting for the Wrightwood Fire Safe Council (WFSC) was called to order by Jim Emery on February 18, 2025 at 1807 hours local time. This meeting was held at the Wrightwood Community Building. Audio of this meeting is available here: <https://www.wrightwoodfsc.com/zoom/WFSC.2.18.25.mp3>

**Roll call:** The following WFSC Board of Directors were present: John Aziz, Robert Comperini, Jim Emery, Tom Foley, Hank Hallmark, Tim Heinrich, Ben Smith. Absent was: David Larkin.

The following agency representatives were present: See attached attendance log.

**Flag salute:** The flag salute was led by Jim Emery.

**Public Comments:**

Jim Emery: Jim announced that the CSD will be holding a public workshop 3/29/2025 from 12:00pm to 6:00pm, to help “shape Wrightwood’s future”. This workshop will be held at the community center.

Strech Suba: CERT will be holding a CPR certification class on 3/15/2025. There are will openings available. If anyone would like to attend, please contact Strech at [certwrightwood@gmail.com](mailto:certwrightwood@gmail.com).

**Approval of minutes:**

The minutes of the January 2025 meeting was approved as written. Motion to approve was made by Ben Smith. Motion was seconded by John Aziz. Motion approved 5/0. Hank Hallmark and Tim Heinrich abstained, as they were not present at the meeting.

**Bridge Fire Updates:** Chief Anderson reported that the recent storms did not appear to cause any flooding or debris flow in Wrightwood. K-rail and dirt berms were erected in wash, to prevent mud flow on SR-2. Thanks to SB County Fire and Mountain Hardware for providing sandbags to residents.

**Cooperative partner & agency updates:**

Angeles National Forest (Jon Wight): Jon discussed the current staffing levels. With the new administration, it is unknown what the near future will be with government funding, and how that may affect things like programs, grant money and staffing. Matthew Bokatch is on detail in northern California. The Forest has a new battalion (32) chief Stephen Fuller. George Perez is the prevention Battalion chief. The engine has been relocated to Vallyermo until later this year. During January 2025, staff supported numerous fires. SR-2 beyond Mountain High remains closed due to fire damage from the Bridge Fire. The PCT is closed in the Bridge Fire area. So far, the PCT Association has not announced how the trail will bypass this area. The WFSC asked ANF to communication with Caltrans to look into reopening SR-2 west of Mountain High to Vincent Gap.

San Bernardino National Forest: See attached email.

CCC: No representative, no report. Ben Smith reports that the CCC has been doing some work in the Jackson Flats area.

CAL FIRE (Drew Smith): Drew discussed staffing levels. Drew also discussed fuels moisture levels. Fuel moisture levels above 60% are ok. Anything below 60% is critical. In November 2024 the moisture level was

64%. In December 2024 it was 62%. In January 2025 it was 56%. Things are getting drier. So far, we have not had enough rain to get us out of fire danger. Wrightwood is experiencing a lower than average rainfall, In 2017 we had 12 inches of rain. In 2020 we only had 0.10 inches of rain. In 2023 we had 13.29 inches of rain. The amount of rain we receive has a direct impact on the amount of fires we will most likely experience. In 2001 329,000 acres of land burned, with 263 inches of snowpack. In the 2016-2017 season, 1.5 million acres burned, with 91 inches of snowpack. In 2021, 4.3 million acres burned, with 93 inches of snowpack. The bottom line is the less rain and snow received most likely means that we will have larger fires, and the burn season will be longer. With more rain and snowpack, fuel moistures will be higher, which means a shorter window of opportunity for fires. This year, we only have 152 inches of snowpack. While not a bad number, it is relatively low, which means we may have another active fire season in 2025. Vaughn Mason has been promoted to Batallion-2 chief.

CalTrans: See attached email.

IERCD: See attached email.

LA County AG: No representative, no report.

LA County Fire: No representative, no report.

SB County Fire (Branden McGarvy): In January, we had 112 calls, which included 13 fire (structure, vegetation, vehicle), 4 collisions, 5 miscellaneous calls (smoke detectors, etc.) and 90 medical aid calls. The department praises the ski patrols at Mountain High for their efforts triaging injured skiers. There is still a second ambulance stationed in Phelan, for Wrightwood use.

Chief Anderson said the department would be happy to help with another sandbag handout event, if one is needed. Chief Anderson asked if the FSC wanted to have more than one green waste event. If so, SB County Fire will be happy to support.

SB County Code Enforcement: No representative, no report.

#### **New/continued business:**

Fire hydrant mapping/adopting: Present at the meeting, was Mr. Chase Nankivell from Golden State Water. He was present to answer questions the FSC and community may have regarding the state of our hydrants. Chase reports that we have 325 hydrants in Wrightwood. Each hydrant is tested for flow and operation every 3 years. In each 3 year cycle, 125 of the hydrants are tested in year #1 and year #2, and the remaining 75 hydrants are tested in year #3. In 2024, 125 hydrants were checked. Only one had issues, which was resolved. The bottom line is that our hydrant system is in good shape, and do receive mandatory inspections. Everyone must always remember that a hydrant system is not designed to provide water when many hydrants are opened at the same time. There is only so much water that can flow through pipes. What happened during the fire in the Pacific Palisades area is unique situation, which demanded more water than the hydrant system could deliver. In Wrightwood, we have 8 wells. Each well has fire hardened walls. 6 of the wells have backup generators to supply power in the event of an outage. Each generator can power the pump for several weeks if needed. Golden State Water would like to increase the storage capacity in the upper East Canyon area. We currently have a 20,000 gallon tank, and want to upgrade to a 250,000 gallon tank. The 20,000 gallon tank was installed in the late 1950's. We have been trying for many years to get ANF to approve the request.

Golden State Water was invited to continue participation in FSC meetings.

Wildfire & Disaster Awareness Day (WDAD): This event will be held May 10, 2025 from 10:00am to 2:00pm in the Mountain Hardware parking lot.

Tri-Community Green Waste Recycling Event: This event will be held on May 30-31, 2025, at the County yard on SR-2.

CWPP Update: No updates.

Treasurer's report: No report.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 1946 hours local time. The next general WFSC meeting will be held on March 18, 2025.

Minutes submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert Comperini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Robert Comperini, Secretary  
Wrightwood Fire Safe Council

WFSC 2/18/2025

| Name                         | Org/Agency | Email                     |
|------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|
| Jim Emery                    | WFSC       |                           |
| Ben Smith                    | " "        |                           |
| Tom Foley                    | " "        |                           |
| Vicky Rineck                 | MPA        |                           |
| <del>JOSE MANRIQUEZ</del>    |            | BSWC                      |
| Karla Tejada                 | 2/18/25    | Karla.tejada@<br>gwsc.com |
| Cody Parker                  | 2/18/25    |                           |
| Brian Crauen                 | 2/18/25    |                           |
| Brenden McGarvey             | 2/18/25    |                           |
| Kelly Andersen               | 2/18/25    |                           |
| STRECH SUZA <sup>CERT</sup>  | 2/18/25    |                           |
| STAN SOUDERS <sup>CERT</sup> |            |                           |
| John Aziz                    | WFSC       |                           |
| Hank Hallmark                |            |                           |
| Tim Heinrich                 |            |                           |
| Robert Comperini             |            |                           |
| <del>Ron Wright</del> (ANF)  |            |                           |

**jimandmo@att.net**

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**From:** Fam, Michael <mfam@dpw.sbcounty.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 10:56 AM  
**To:** jimandmo@att.net  
**Cc:** Michel, Dustin - DPW; staff@wrightwoodfsc.com  
**Subject:** RE: K Rail Agreement

Hello Jim,

I'm glad to hear that the storm passed without major incidents! It's encouraging to know that the monitoring efforts and creek reinforcement work were beneficial.

Regarding the K-Rail project with NRCS, the Flood Control District (FCD) will be advertising the installation work for the K-Rail next week. Their proposed timeline is to begin installation by mid to late March 2025.

This is a significant step forward in enhancing our community's flood protection. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Thanks,

**Michael B. Fam, MPA, P.E.**  
Engineering Manager/Division Chief  
*Flood Control Planning/Water Resources Division*  
Department of Public Works  
Phone: 909-387-8121  
Cell: 909-991-5537  
Fax: 909-387-7801  
825 East Third Street  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0835



*Our job is to create a county in which those who reside and invest can prosper and achieve well-being.*  
[www.SBCounty.gov/dpw](http://www.SBCounty.gov/dpw)

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**From:** jimandmo@att.net <jimandmo@att.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 18, 2025 9:37 AM  
**To:** Michel, Dustin - DPW <Dustin.Michel@dpw.sbcounty.gov>  
**Cc:** staff@wrightwoodfsc.com  
**Subject:** RE: K Rail Agreement

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you can confirm the sender and know the content is safe.**

Hello Dustin,

We dodged a bullet with the last storms. We did see lots of resources in the area monitoring and all the work along the creek to reinforce the berms and other related work was also noticed.

We have a WFSC meeting tonight and I wanted to check in and see if you had any updates on the K-Rail project with NRCS. Please let us know if there is any new info that we can share at the meeting tonight.

Robert

**Subject:** RE: [External Email]Wrightwood Fire Safe Council Feb 2025 Meeting  
**From:** "Nobles, Mike - FS, CA" <Michael.Nobles@usda.gov>  
**Date:** 2/18/2025, 11:48 AM  
**To:** John <John@WrightwoodCalif.com>

Good Morning John.

I will not be able to make the meeting tonight.

San Bernardino N.F Update

- Fuels contract for Lone Pine /Boundary ridge is paused due to a government wide review of contracts.
- Working with Cal Trans on the Southern California Ignition Reduction Plan that incorporates portions of the 138.
- With recent wet weather the Forest is evaluating fuel moistures and are considering reducing fire restrictions from elevated to general.
- If weather and fuel conditions remain favorable the Forest will be considering prescribed fire opportunities if the right conditions exist.
- Fire staffing is at 4 Engines, 2 suppression modules, 1 Dozer, 5 Fire Prevention Technicians, 1 Water Tender and 3 Chief Officers.

Thanks

Michael Nobles  
District Ranger  
Forest Service  
San Bernardino National Forest  
Front Country Ranger District

p: 951-204-0165

w.909-382-2860

[michael.nobles@usda.gov](mailto:michael.nobles@usda.gov)



**Subject:** RE: Wrightwood Fire Safe Council Feb 2025 Meeting  
**From:** "Shum, Adrian@DOT" <Adrian.Shum@dot.ca.gov>  
**Date:** 2/18/2025, 4:15 PM  
**To:** John <John@WrightwoodCalif.com>

Hi John,

I have a scheduling conflict this evening and will not be able to attend.

We hope to see you all for next month and if there is any input regarding dates when fuel reduction work on SBD-002 would ideal to begin please let me know. **KAP**

Have a great day,

**Adrian Shum**

Caltrans Maintenance Area Superintendent  
District 8 Landscape Coordinator – Maintenance Support  
Cell: (909) 486-2342

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**From:** John <John@WrightwoodCalif.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 10:12 AM  
**To:** John <john@wrightwoodcalif.com>  
**Subject:** Wrightwood Fire Safe Council Feb 2025 Meeting

**EXTERNAL EMAIL.** Links/attachments may not be safe.

**Wrightwood Fire Safe Council (WFSC)**



The Wrightwood Fire Safe Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Feb 18, 2025 at **6pm** will be held in-person at the Wrightwood Community Building. The public is encouraged to attend.

**Location:** Wrightwood Community Building, 1275 Hwy 2, Wrightwood  
**Date:** Feb 18, 2025  
**Time:** 6pm PST

**Agenda**

- BOD roll call
- Introductions
- Public Comments
- Approval of minutes
- Bridge Fire updates

**Cooperative Partner & Agency updates**

- Angeles National Forest
- SB National Forest
- California Conservation Corps

**jimandmo@att.net**

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**From:** Julie D Clark <jdclarkdeblasio@ucanr.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2025 10:44 AM  
**To:** John  
**Cc:** Kayla Thompson; jimandmo@att.net; ben\_smith@mthigh.com  
**Subject:** Re: Wrightwood Fire Safe Council Feb 2025 Meeting  
**Attachments:** GSOB Community Stewards Resource Toolkit - February 2025.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello John,

How did you all do in the storm this week? Any sedimentation, debris flow, snow? Were the counties and other agencies able to complete most of their infrastructural protections ahead of the latest storms?

Am a little skeptical with NWS' prediction that the event yesterday will be the largest for the rain year. A model that a colleague and I use seems to be even more reliable (disclaimer: NWS is usually right on) states that March portends to be the wettest and coldest month this year. Time will tell, yes?

Here's our contribution for Tuesday:

Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning completed its *GSOB Community Stewards* project (see attached). This is a result of a culmination of efforts the last three years that included:

- *LA County Forest Management Plan*
- Revision of the Oak Tree Ordinance
- Oak woodland health programs targeting county departments, staff, and oak dominant communities about oak care, planting, diseases and pests with emphasis on GSOB

The county has already benefitted from these efforts by upticks in oak awareness, including and not limited to increased establishment of new trees, protections and inclusions of existing oaks in new developments, reports to LA County Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures and LA County Fire Department/Forestry Division about possible GSOB and disease infestations. As example, a ranch owner of a large parcel located in open space near Porter Ranch (northwestern San Fernando Valley) attended one of the oak health community workshops, returned to her property, believed some of her stressed trees were infested with GSOB, and reported the observations. Her engagement helped the initiate control actions to contain the GSOB and prevent spread to the heavily oak laden surrounding hillsides.

Be safe,

Julie Clark  
Community Education Specialist III  
University of California Cooperative Extension