

Oak To Timberline

*Serving the Foothill and Mountain Communities
east of the Friant-Kern Canal and south of the Kings River
of Fresno and Tulare Counties*
P.O. Box 375, Dunlap, CA 93621
oaktotimberline@hotmail.com



MINUTES

General Meeting

Thursday, October 18, 2007

Bear Mountain Library, Squaw Valley

7:00 p.m.

7:03 p.m., the meeting was called to order by 1st Vice Chairperson, Tammy Ahumada

Guest Speaker: Sharon Wedro, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

- **Changes:**
 1. Two new board members are being added to the Board.
 2. Agricultural burning is being phased out. This is the final year for burning of an orchard after removal.
 - Restrictions for fireplace burning in rural areas are being considered for the future. Currently, foothill residents are not subject to fireplace "no burn" days.
 - The Valley received a lot of smoke and particulate matter from the Zach and Moonlight fires. More information can be found on the SJVAPCB website at www.valley.org.
 - **Hazard Reduction Burning:**
 1. Sharon has noticed lots of leaf piles. Wet leaves create more smoke.
 2. People who leave lit burn piles unattended will be ticketed.
 - **Warming Fires:**
 1. Temperature is required to be less than 45 degrees F.
 2. The definition is a fire used to keep warm with no heat close by. This is not intended for being just outside the house.
 3. Burn barrels are illegal.
 4. It was mentioned by a stakeholder that some people who have no intentions of cooking will have a grate and steaks ready to put over the burn barrel in case an inspector happens to drive by. Sharon's response is that yes, grilling is allowed but if she happens to come across this scenario she will wait for the person to actually cook their food on the grill before she leaves. (Sometimes the meat is still frozen!)
1. **Question:** Is smoke a good indicator of how much pollution the Valley accumulates from other communities such as the Bay Area and Sacramento? Yes, it is a very good indicator. Eighteen to twenty percent of pollutant particles from other communities settle into the Fresno area.
 2. The SJVAPCB is doing several things to reduce pollution. Two of these are the engine replacement program and requiring a dust control program for farmers with 100 or more acres.

3. Burn Permits:
1. Are required to be completed in full. P.O. Boxes are not allowed; a physical location is required.
 2. If a permit is not completed entirely, the resident will be contacted and informed that the permit is invalid.
 3. Permits may be for different time periods depending on where the permit was issued.
 4. For those concerned about their personal information being stolen, locks are being installed on collection boxes.

Old Business:

- ❖ The minutes from the August meeting were approved and accepted.
- ❖ Evacuation pouches:
 1. The Hume Lake Volunteer Fire Department (Company 70) has donated \$500.00 to be used for the evacuation pouches!
 2. The Board will contact other non-profit associations in the local area for additional sponsorships.
 3. The Board will meet twice in November; Nov. 1st and the 29th.
- ❖ The Evacuation Plan rollout is planned for March 2008.

New Business:

- ❖ We need to form an election committee. Nominations are in January and elections are in February.
- ❖ We have had no news from CAL FIRE regarding the Burns Flat Project. The projected starting date was May 2007.
- ❖ Steve Odom of Mountain Valley Volunteer Fire Department reported that CAL FIRE has closed the Sand Creek fire station. Squaw Valley and Piedra are the only area CAL FIRE stations open now. Each has one engine with a two-person crew. The Tulare County Badger station has also been closed.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Christine Flannigan, Secretary