



## THE MAYACAMAS FIRE SAFE COUNCIL - PROGRESS REPORT MAY 2019

Hello to all our Trinity and Cavedale neighbors.

We would like to share an update from The Mayacamas Fire Safe Council. As a reminder, we are a small group of volunteer residents from Cavedale and Trinity Roads, who came together after the 2017 fire to work on making ourselves, our properties, and our special mountain community more resilient to wildfire, by creating a Fire Safe Council (FSC).

In addition to forging our identity as an FSC, we have been working on a number of initiatives and wanted to share both our successes and challenges with the community.

### **Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP)**

In April 2019, we received the final thumbs-up (aka signatures) endorsing and supporting our CWPP – a foundation document that enables us to apply for grants based on a list of priority projects.

Approval of the CWPP is a significant milestone for the Mayacamas Fire Safe Council. It required extensive coordination and collaboration across the State and County with politicians and the fire protection community, and now positions us better to receive grant funding for CWPP priority projects. The Mayacamas Fire Safe Council is very proud to have achieved this milestone in just 14 months (a relatively short time based on our peers).

The Mayacamas CWPP has been signed and endorsed by:

- Susan Gorin, Supervisor, Sonoma County, First District
- Chief Shana Jones, CALFIRE Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit
- Chief Steve Akre, Sonoma Valley Fire & Rescue Authority
- Chief Michael Jablonowski, Mayacamas Volunteer Fire Department
- Allison Ash, President, Board of Directors Mayacamas Volunteer Fire Department
- James Williams, Sonoma County Fire Marshall
- Roberta McIntyre, President, Board of Directors Fire Safe Sonoma

Following are a few CWPP priority projects:

- Clearing brush and debris along Trinity and Cavedale Roads, to enhance access for the Fire Department and residents as well as reduce vegetative fuel that could be ignited by cars.

- Creating shaded fuel breaks, which are a carefully planned thinning of dense tree cover and the removal of underlying brush. These are placed in strategic locations along a ridge, access road or other location such as around a group of homes or road spur.
- Community education projects, including signage and resources to assist us in becoming more fire resilient.

If you are interested in learning more about the CWPP process and projects, please reach out, we would be happy to share the plan and discuss opportunities for you to get involved. Our 100% volunteer effort is always looking for additional support.

## **GRANTS**

We are busy identifying and applying for grants for CWPP priority projects. It is a significant learning process (with fierce competition) which we are grateful to undertake for the community.

In December 2017, we received our first grant for approximately \$5,000 from CALFIRE. The grant is for the installation of educational and warning signage along Trinity and Cavedale Roads and to replace the aging danger sign at Station One. Signage will be installed in early May 2019.

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In Q1 2019, we applied for a much larger grant (approximately \$250,000) to clear debris and brush along Trinity and Cavedale Roads. We are disappointed that we did not receive this grant and are in the process of following up to understand how we can strengthen our future grant applications. Identification, application, and execution of grant projects is extremely time-consuming, and we are actively looking for support from the community in this area. If anyone out there has expertise in this area we would love to hear from you!

## **EVENTS**

The Mayacamas Fire Safe Council also hosted the following recent events:

- **Burn Workshop:** More than 30 participants attended and learned how to safely burn clearance vegetation debris. A postcard highlighting the key steps to take when undertaking a burn was mailed afterwards. If you could not attend we hope you found the card useful.
- **#ReOak Wine Country:** Based on the goal of replacing lost trees, especially pines, with more fire resistant oaks, the Fire Safe Council, in collaboration with the California Native Plant Society, facilitated the distribution of 600 oak saplings for planting on the mountain.

## **SUMMARY**

The work continues and projects are ongoing. As many of those we spoke with during the development of the CWPP reminded us, this is a great time to make appeals for grants to increase fire safety. We're working hard to do this for our Mayacamas community.

We'll have a table set-up at the Community Picnic on June 8th. Please stop by and say hello. We look forward to hearing your thoughts, ideas and learning from your experiences.

Thank you,

Board Members: Lisa Warner, Kristen Drummond, Geoffrey Herrick, Jennifer O'Mahony, Berta Acker  
Committee Leaders: Theresa Hayle