

SONOMA VALLEY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
Minutes of the Hybrid Virtual/In Person Meeting
September 24, 2025

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For Viewing Purposes: Sonoma TV You Tube - SVCAC Hybrid Meeting September 24, 2025
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qN4RPI5naTQ>

1. Call to Order 6:30pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Dickey

Roll Call: Secretary Dambach

Present: Brereton, Roberts, Kokkonen, Smith, Jenkins

City of Sonoma: Ross

Ex-Officio County: Freeman

Absent: Wellander, Bramfitt, Norman, Brown, Crisler, Farrar-Rivas, Kapolchok

Present:

Admin/Betzy Chavez, 1st District Bilingual Field Representative, Betzy.Chavez@sonomacounty.gov

Jessica Barajas, 1st District Board Aide, Jessica.Barajas@sonomacounty.gov

Lin Marie deVincent - Minute Taker

Public is invited to submit their email address & name to the SVCAC Meeting Notification List. Clipboard in lobby of Council Chambers, or submit to Admin.

Chat and Q&A turned off to avoid violation of Brown Act & any Public Comments made outside of Public Comment time.

2. Approval of Minutes July 23, 2025

Commissioner Roberts made a Motion to approve the Minutes of July 23, 2025. Commissioner Smith Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Public Comment (Limited To items not appearing on the agenda) Zoom.
None. Closed.

4. Evacuation Planning and Interagency Coordination in Sonoma Valley (@2:57)

Description: The Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Commission (SVCAC) will receive presentations from local public safety agencies on evacuation planning, emergency coordination, and response procedures in Sonoma Valley. This will be a general

informational session intended to provide background on how agencies prepare for and respond to emergencies across the region. It is not intended to assess or predict evacuation outcomes for any specific project. The goal of this presentation is to provide a broad overview of agency roles and coordination efforts to support more informed public discussion and land use recommendations.

Presentations will be delivered by the following agencies in this order:

1. Sonoma Valley Fire District - Chief Steve Akre
2. Sonoma County Department of Emergency Management – Director Jeff Duvall
3. Sonoma County Sheriff's Office:
 - Assistant Sheriff Jayson Fowler
 - Lt. Kelly Burris
 - Sgt. Juan Valencia
 - Public Information Specialist Emily Fuller

Each agency will provide a 15 to 20 minute presentation, followed by a shared Q and A session for Commissioners and members of the public. All questions will be held until the conclusion of all presentations to support an organized discussion. This session is intended to provide Commissioners with context for evaluating future land use and development proposals where emergency access and evacuation are key considerations

Admin/Chavez read a statement from City of Sonoma & So Co Counsel.

The Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Commission (SVCAC) cannot recommend or advise permit applicants to consult the Valley of the Moon Alliance (VOTMA) traffic study, as doing so risks compromising the neutrality of commissioners and impairing due process.

The VOTMA study was not commissioned or conducted by the County, and it represents the analysis and perspective of a private organization and its paid consultant, not the independent judgment of the City and County of Sonoma. Recommending this specific study—particularly in the context of a permit review—could be perceived as bias, suggesting that the Commission favors the conclusions of that study over other potential evidence. This undermines the appearance of impartiality that is essential to the advisory process.

Under the principles of due process, especially in land use matters that affect life or property rights, advisory bodies such as the SVCAC must ensure that their proceedings are neutral and fair. The SVCAC has influence over permit applicants, and recommendations from the Commission can carry weight. Therefore, any appearance that members are partial to one source of evidence over another compromises the integrity of the process. Commissioners are of course free to and expected to weigh evidence that is submitted to them at a public hearing in making advisory recommendations, but commissioners are cautioned about taking in evidence outside of a noticed public hearing. If evidence is taken outside of a noticed public hearing, it must be disclosed on the records in sufficient detail to allow applicants and the public to

respond to it during public comment. Failure to do so can create due process problems. In contrast, referencing materials like the County's Winery Event Ordinance or SVCAC's Winery Guidelines (to the extent they do not conflict with the Ordinance) is more appropriate because those are County-developed laws (in the case of the Ordinance) and policy recommendations (nonbinding in the case of SVCAC's Winery Guidelines)—not evidence in favor or against a specific project. Policies serve as guidance tools that promote consistency in decision-making; they do not advocate for or against individual applications. In summary, while applicants are free to submit or respond to any relevant study as part of the public record, the Commission itself must not promote privately developed evidence, like the VOTMA study. Doing so could jeopardize the fairness of the hearing process and the credibility of the body's recommendations and could potentially lead to disqualification from the commission.

Chief Steve Akre, Sonoma Valley Fire District, President So Co Fire Chiefs' Assoc.

Will be a team presentation; appropriate to topic. Each in own discipline has key role; stronger working in collaboration for best interests to keep community safe.

Introduced additional participants:

Chief Matt Ryan, Cal Fire Exec for Sonoma/Lake/Napa

Ben Nicholls, Sonoma, Division Chief

Sean Jerry, Battalion Chief, Glen Ellen Fire Station

Jeff Duvall, DEM Director

Sam Wallace, Asst. Director

Reps from Sheriffs' Dept. & City of Sonoma Police Dept.

Jayson Fowler, Asst. Sheriff

Brandon Cutting, Sonoma Police Chief

Basic Overview of Evacuations & Processes

Jeff Duvall, So Co Dept. of Emerg Mgmt. (DEM) (@9:44)

Coordination, collaboration, evacuations within county. Established 2019 after action of 2017 fires; only independent Dept. that reports directly to County Exec Officer/Director of Emergency Services - authorized to make emergency proclamations & ensure that emergency operations & services are continuing both in emergency mode also in continuity of operation of the bulk of the county govt. in emergencies.

Power Point

SLIDE: 6 Divisions (@10:47)

- Administrative Services - our traditional HR, Executive Leadership, Budget & Grants division.
- Community Preparedness - Dr. Nancy Brown is out in the community, working with different cultural groups, Firesafe Committees, & the Sonoma County CERT/Community Emergency Response Team. Community preparedness is working with our community,

the community champions to be ready, be prepared & spread that message across the county.

- Community Alert & Warning - 3D Alert & Warning Division is exactly that. Have the tools to make those alerts, whether it's SoCo Alerts, the Wireless Emergency Alert. NOAA weather radios. Have full-time folks dedicated to ensuring that systems are up & running, but more importantly, every time an alert is launched - what is the data telling us on the back-end? How successful are alerts & different programs?
- Emergency Coordination & Operations - Core of Emergency Management & the Department of Emergency Formation & Operations is our traditional emergency management. The Department of Emergency Management is the county unincorporated, and the county government's emergency management. The 9 incorporated cities, are responsible for their own emergency management, have their own planning teams to oversee that. Emergency Coordination & Operations is writing the county's Emergency Operations Plan, which guides the county when into those emergency situations - rules, responsibilities. Also, have annexes - functional annexes e.g. masks, care, shelter, local alerts & warning, evacuation. Also situational things, e.g. extreme temperature, power shut off, etc.
- Hazard Mitigation & Recovery – how to look at disasters & hazards, work towards the mitigation of reducing their impact.
- Water Hazards Program – looking specifically at drought & flood; works with Hazard Mitigation Division to mitigate risks. Consequent management.

SLIDE: EVACUATIONS (@13:04) Definitions

Evacuation WARNING: common terminology - potential threat to life and/or property. Those who require additional time to evacuate & those w/ pets and livestock.

Evacuation ORDER: there is immediate threat to life. Law enforcement/lawful order to leave that area now, and that area is closed to the public access

Evacuation Order LIFTED: formal announcement; lifting of either Order or Warning

SHELTER IN PLACE: go indoors, shut & lock doors & windows, prepare to self-sustain until further notice and/or contact by emergency personnel for additional direction

***Noted** have been times in past when in an Evacuation Order can be reduced to a Warning or Lifted when threat is mitigated.

SLIDE: Alert & Warning Systems (@14:08) 8 options

Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) amber style alerts on phones

SoCoAlert – text messages, phone calls, emails, personal

Emergency Alert System –broadcasts across TV & Radio

NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) So Co was first county on west coast to implement in 2019 for evacuations. Recognized places where cell devices don't work. Radios can work.

In support of messages:

Hi lo sirens on vehicles, make announcements, So Co Public Safety

Neighbor to neighbor contact – put communications plan in, who needs help

Nixle – Sheriffs' office

Image Trend/Resource Bridge – all hospitals in county RE health care

[SoCoEmergency.org](https://socoemergency.org) county's page for preparedness response & recovery. Coordinating alerts, posting info, updating maps. At end of message is a tiny URL, or web link, SOCOPSA.org.

SLIDE: Alert & Warning Messaging (@16:39)

Samples of emergency alert messages on website

Red banners applied

Always updating evacuation Map of Zones, where temporary evacuation points are, also shelters if needed

SLIDE: Evacuation Coordination & Authority (@17:32)

Takes teamwork/coordination, i.e. Law Enforcement, Department of Emergency Management, & Fire Department or agency that is responding to the incident

- County's Emergency Operations Plan & Evacuation Annex
- Unified Evacuation Team: county team, DEM, Sheriff's Office, Public Info Team, web design team, Shelter Team, & Animal Services. Monitoring – receive evacuation order, warning, alert. Will jump on zoom call, live coordination takes effect, noting zone/s on Order
- Temporary evacuation points/shelters; family services; animal evacuations
- Maps, 100 different county locations to open shelter site; depends on aspects of threat. Don't want to open a shelter then have to close it right away. Discuss options. Preplanning, forethought.
- Evacuation Authority; Law Enforcement. Sheriff shows up, in Unified Command, passed to DEM, go over coordination check list, start public Alert

SLIDE: Community Preparedness (@21:17)

- Know your Zone, go to socoemergency.org, hit blue box, look up zone
- Go Bags
- Evac Packs, documents
- Community Evacuation Exercises, started after 2017 fires in 2019. Recognized need for two ways in, and out, how to prepare community. Idea to partner w/ local agencies. Set up date, weekend to launch a SoCoAlert, see what it's like. Hi-lo sirens. Notify communities, using tools at work

***Biggest threat is Wildfire** - when there are wind events, fire weather watches, red flag warnings. These are times to be ready, have vehicles gassed.

Many of these systems resulted from experience. Partnered 2019 & evacuated half the county; successful. Dedicated staff. Alert warning. Collaboration.

After Kincaid, evaluation - working w/ Law Enforcement, established evacuation zones.

2020 fires, 80% complete; also successful. Had info on websites, people accessed.
Recent example - Santa Rosa small vegetation fire. Put zone into evacuation warning. Launched Alert. 300 zones in county - prerecorded messages ready to go, all evacuation Alert messages. Bilingual, can be sent immediately. Working w/ Public Safety, how to preplan for additional evacuation if needed.

SLIDE: Dept. of Emerg Mgmt. Mission, Values, Vision (@26:39)

Our MISSION is to support Sonoma County before, during and after emergencies. Our team VALUES integrity, inclusivity, and innovation. Our VISION is an empowered and resilient community built through education, collaboration, and trust.

SLIDE: List of Emergencies (@27:02)

2017 Complex fires

2018 Rebuild, new direction

2019 Flood, new DEM, PSPS, Kincade Fire

2020 COVID, Evac Map, LNU Complex, Glass Fire, PSPS

2021-2024 Floods, extreme weather, PSPS, Point Fire

Chief Akre (@28:19)

***Highlight in presentation**, the meaningful improvements collective industries accomplished from 2017 emergency, when not well prepared. Now new initiatives. County invested resources necessary to establish DEM. An example/model in the state.

Sonoma County Sheriff Presentation (30:49)

Jayson Fowler & team. Intro Lt. Kelly Burris LEMA, Law Enforcement/Mutual Aid coordinator.

Sgt. Juan Valencia, Public Info officer, on Force 6 years

Emily Fuller, Public Info Specialist, on Force 5 years. Adapting to what community needs, does presentations in county, tailor to each area's concerns

SLIDE: Topics (@33:00)

Evacuation Zones - go to county website socoemergency.org/evacuation-map enter your address, write down your Zone number. Also recommended to note nearby Zones, as this could also impact you. Do this now; during an emergency cell towers can be down. Store zone # in your phone, or on refrigerator, obvious place, put on Go Bag

Evacuation Tag

Gate Codes

Alerts

SLIDE: Evacuation WARNING vs. Evacuation ORDER (@34:21)

Warning = If you live in a Zone that is under a *Warning*? Feel unsafe? Get stuff and leave.

Benefits all: flow of traffic, emergency services can get in faster. Postponing can cause more problems. Understands there are unpredictable situations, but best to evacuate.

Order = danger, get out now. In 2017 on patrol, had Deputies pulling disabled residents out of their homes who weren't able to leave

SLIDE: Evacuation Tag (@35:59) image of tag, says “Sonoma EVACUATED Sheriff” - rectangular paper w/ hole to tie on mailbox or other. List of 6 locations to get tags

Developed after Kincade fire. Helps to expedite evacuation.

List of 6 offices to get tag, or send email sheriff-outreach@sonoma-county.org

In Sonoma Valley Substation, Sonoma Police Dept., group requests available. Deputy can also deliver, also available at Fire Stations

SLIDE: TAG HOW? (@37:13)

To be posted on gate, door, mailbox. When see TAG know people got Alert & have left.

Responders will not break down doors or gates to get in.

SLIDE: Question: will this make my home target for looting? (@37:53)

During emergencies have allied Agencies patrolling. Sheriffs’ Office employees, detectives in unmarked cars patrolling evacuation area. In every fire so far have arrested on average 10-12 people attempting to loot but always caught before act. Have been no break-ins.

After checking on property, Police patrols will then mark w/ yellow tape, for other agencies to see.

SLIDE: Security (@39:08)

Roadblocks set up, soft & hard closures

Patrols, blocking, evacuation order no entrance, for safety

Deputies and Mutual Aid, zero tolerance for looters

Approx. dozen arrests per fire

SLIDE: Your home Gate Codes (@39:50)

Service from county, good for regular law enforcement calls as well as emergencies. Register gate code at residence. www.sonomasheriff.org/gate-code. All secure. Goes to dispatcher’s system, already on file. In case property owner is not available.

SLIDE: Alerts/Notifications (@40:55)

Notifications: list

- Hi lo siren – demonstrated sound, only time this goes off is in evacuation
- Deputy - going door to door if there’s time. During night.
- PA announcements - from cars, *if you can hear my voice, please leave*
- Alerts
- Social media - to spread the word, call friends who live in that area
- Media
- Neighbors - help those w/ disabilities

*Redundancy built in to ensure coverage; hopefully one will wake us up

SLIDE: Alert Systems (@43:53) work in tandem, keep messages consistent

Sign up: By your zip code on websites; register kids’ school, places visited frequently

SoCoAlert

Nixle

Forced/automatic:

Wireless emergency alert cell phone

Emerg alert system TV radio

Reverse 911 landlines

Weather Radio

SLIDE: Nixle (@45:04) Sample of page, bilingual, similar to how a SoCoAlert comes out
Text message will be same e.g. *zone x, y, z w/ essential information*

***Sgt. Juan Valencia Noted** that due to past incidents of computer failures in cars, now also carry **laminated Fire Map Books in every vehicle**, w/ dry erasers. Every incident is debriefed, analyze how to improve. **Noted**, alert warnings are now bilingual. First agency north of Golden Gate to issue bilingual alerts.

Division Chief Ben Nicholls, Cal Fire Presentation (@47:21)

Large fires prior to 2017 -

1996 Cavedale fire, started here burned into Napa Valley

1978 Geysers fire

But 2017 was the perfect storm. Greater wind event over entire north state. Hundreds of fires broke out in first day, most contained, but as evening progressed, 6 major fires broke out in Sonoma/ Lake/Napa (SLN) unit, plus other counties north - Butte, Nevada

CA has unfortunate experience of major fire events

West Division one of four Divisions Sonoma/Napa/Lake Unit

14 fire engines, 2 bulldozers, fire crew, Sonoma Air Attack base, aircraft

Greater area unit, 31 engines, etc. State-wide resource allocation for Cal Fire

2017: Tubbs Fire & Atlas were first fires to be recorded across S/L/N unit

Fires rapidly expanded beyond resource capacity to contain due to high winds, low fuel moisture, explosive conditions, at night, people asleep

All agencies in crisis then, never experienced before, analyzed since then to improve

Been in Division since 2019, part of every major fire since then

SLIDE: baseline for discussion of hierarchy - MAP (not seen on video)

Gray, Local Responsibility area (LRA)

Yellow, State Responsibility area (SRA)

Green, Federal Responsibility area (FRA)

Who has responsibility to suppress and prevent future wildfires? Who's paying for it? Who is running incident?

Catalyst - to protect forests and watersheds of CA, Cal Fire CDF, California Department of Forest and Fire Protection

The SRA = If it's a forest, a watershed, or contiguous rangeland that we see from those forests into the municipal cities & into the valley floors, that is the SRA.

The FRA = land owned by the federal government, whether or not that's United States Forest Service partners, National Park Service. Locally, Green on MAP is Army Corps of Engineers for Lake Sonoma, BLM in the Geysers along the line from the range on the northeast corner of county.

Lessons learned post 2017

Community feedback on improvements appreciated. Firefighting hasn't significantly changed; same as decades prior.

Chief Nicholls related personal description of how efforts proceeded in 2017 fire:

Myself and my fire agency partners, Keith Baker, met several times in Kenwood as we were battling the Nunn's fire, in our neck of the woods. I was up at the top end of the valley here. Fire service was lockstep, but in those early hours of the Tubbs and Nunn's fires, where the main fire progression occurred over the course of 3 hours, the firefighters were fighting fires, and law enforcement was trying to evacuate people. Everybody was doing good things, but we weren't lockstep, and we weren't face-to-face. And so what that created was the telephone game. a Fire Incident Commander would get on the radio and say - I need evacuations at this point. The recipient in the Command Center would take that information, pick up a phone, and then relay that information to a dispatcher on the law enforcement side, who would then key their mic and talk on their radios to the deputy or the lieutenant, sergeant, captain in the field. And things didn't move as quickly as they should have, and things ultimately got missed as that catastrophic firefight took place over the course of that night.

I mentioned the Mutual Aid component. We have a lot of resources in the State of California compared to most other states. But when you think about a Tubbs Fire, where it burned from Napa Valley to Santa Rosa within 3 hours' time, think about road trips you've done with your family. There are all sorts of fire engines and fire equipment in Southern California. Are they gonna get here in the 3 hours that it's going to take that fire to come into Santa Rosa? Absolutely not. So, day to day, with 14 engines that I have here in Sonoma County under CAL FIRE, and roughly 51-plus engines from our local government partners that are going to come out the gate right off the bat, that's 65 fire engines in the course of the first hour or so of that firefight.

When we talk about the Glass Fire with one of the lower, structure destroyed counts, over 300 structures destroyed. We don't have enough fire engines in those early hours to save every single home. So, what is it that we can do proactively, differently, that's going to protect lives and property? Because the natural landscape will grow back. Homes can be replaced. But lives are irreplaceable, right? So the evacuation component has become a huge cornerstone in what we do proactively here in the county with our partners in the Sheriff's Office, DEM, and our local fire agencies to make sure that we get you out of harm's way, so that firefighters can get in there and put the fire out. Because if firefighters are trying to effect rescues with our Law Enforcement partners, that means they're not fighting fire. And if they're not fighting fire, that's

allowing that fire to expand and continue to threaten other communities.

SLIDE: (56:59) photo of crew looking at maps, example of an Incident Command Post

This is the Point Fire; Father's Day last year. Star badge at back of truck, which is a constant presence at all of our Incident Command Posts when we have a fire that's threatening to extend or major attack. That has significantly reduced the reflex time in getting evacuation warnings & orders out. Can't see off the photo is Jorge Rodriguez w/ DEM; he set up Starlink to the conversation about the Deputy's connectivity. Without that Starlink, it would have been a game changer for trying to communicate & run all the technology. That Incident Command Post, that Law Enforcement presence, our unified ICs, in this case, the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District. The Chief was away, not represented during that fire, but as a rule, if it's a fire down here, Chief Aker or one of his Chiefs is going to be at that Incident Command Post lock step to make sure that we're fighting fire as effectively & efficiently as possible.

SLIDE: Kincade Fire progression MAP (@57:47)

Lessons learned. In 2017, a fog of war, we're having struggles with communications, not coordinated in what it is we're doing.

Coming into Kincaid, as Director Duvall indicated, the evacuation zones were still underway. There was a great map that was produced. At time, Lt Murphy w/ Sheriff's Office needed another copy of to get it over to the main Police & deputies to get folks out on the line. This map was roughly 10 feet by 10 feet. Hand-drawn on the map, a one-of-a-kind. So, that kick-started it & we made sure that that evacuation zone map made it across the line.

Now there's that digitized map that not only the community can know, but it ties into the Sheriff's Office day-to-day operations. It ties to their individual beats across the county so that their Deputies are familiar with it, & it has a reasoning or a methodology to it that makes sense to not only Sheriff's Office personnel, but the Mutual Aid Law Enforcement partners that are coming in to assist them.

MAP (@59:01)

Colors show progress of fire. The light pink section of fire is first days' worth of firefighting with the first wind event. First of three wind events, offshore wind events during that fire, where the fire pushed down into Geyserville proper. That was the traditional way of evacuating people in front of the fire front as it came down the hill. The hi-lo sirens were in effect, it was real time to bring that into the community of Geyserville proper. However, over the course of 25th and 26th, it was recognized that there was the second wind event coming that was going to be the strongest, most significant wind event of that fire. The fire modeling produced by our fire behavior analyst with the incident management team that was here at the fire indicated there was a very good possibility that fire would go from Geyserville out to the Pacific Ocean by the

time it was done.

As Director Duvall indicated, this was a major project & a major concern about what to do with that? And as it was getting later on into the evening, overnight, we knew the wind event was coming in that following evening. With that second wind event, also had the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) that was coming. For folks on the Lower Russian River, all concerned about reliability of communication & people able to get out. So there was a choreographed event to try to limit that chaos, stress & panic that would have been there if we had hit the big red button that night. Knew there was time the next day before that wind event came in the following night.

The next morning, there was a phased evacuation throughout the core of the county, & then from the Russian River that ultimately displaced roughly 190,000 people.

*Recounted story of a poor CHP Sergeant that came to them as they were getting ready to ink the evacuation order at about 11 o'clock at night. He said - *you guys have to be really sure about this because my phone call is going to wake up the Governor*. And we said, yep, Sheriff Essick has supported the plan, this is what we're gonna do.

That was the Kincaid Fire; a huge wind. So when that wind event occurred, which surfaced over the night of the 26th into the early morning hours of the 27th – the firefighters on rural roads were not fighting a sea of fleeing residents, had open access, could attack fire as it progressed.

Glass Fire, second evening. The fire spotted across into Sonoma County. Using technology & resources brought online post 2017, the night air attack plane, or the spotter plane that you see during the daylight hours. That air attacker got over the fire & he said - *that fire will be into Santa Rosa by 2 o'clock this morning*. He was spot on. With that Intel, able to immediately start the evacuation orders coming down the St. Helena Road corridor, Los Alamos into Oakmont. Also made next phone call to the City of Santa Rosa Fire Department to say - *it's coming, so you need to gear up your city infrastructure to prepare for that as well*. As reported, that fire impacted the city, but we were able to get people out of harm's way, which was another success in preserving lives in front of that advancing fire threat.

Technology, tools used for support

Alert CA, <https://alertcalifornia.org> – strongly recommended this resource. Not just for first responders, also readily available to residents, can see what the firefighters are seeing, know the lay of the land just as well as others, & make informed decisions on what that fire is doing. As Sergeant Valencia noted, ask yourself - *is this time for me to go? With where the fire's at right now, should I go now, because there's a good possibility that my property, my family, my friends are going to be impacted by that fire?*

Available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Is assisted by Artificial Intelligence to spot the incipient smoke pollen that comes up from fires.

Greater than 95% of our fires are human-caused; whether or not that's a roadway, house, utility infrastructure - people are seeing or know that there's a fire prior to the smoke column that the artificial intelligence spots.

But we use that camera – the tool for that situational awareness for firefighters to be able to make those informed decisions.

SLIDE: (@1:01:53) photographs of two different fires, smoke in hills, for comparison

Picture at top left is a fire up at the very top of Pine Mountain, up above on the Mendocino-Sonoma County line; takes about 45 minutes to get in there. There is a heavy brush fuel model. This is late July when this took place. 5 o'clock in the evening on a normal day, normal fire season, that would have been a significant fire. But you can see the overcast skies, so Chief Ryan, who's in St. Helena when this kicks off, can see what Chief Fleckenstein responding from Healdsburg Station sees - a lazy column of smoke, not doing much, right? It brings us down a little bit - this is not going to be that major fire.

Compared to the Pickett Fire on the low right in image, where you have a developed column of smoke, w/ pressure behind it, going aloft a little bit, but then getting sheared off by the wind. That smoke column that's getting sheared off is going over the top of Deer Park & Angwin - communities at risk.

Spotting Potential: we talked about the spotting on the Glass Fire 3 miles out in front of the main body of fire. As an incident commander, Chief Jerry or myself, want to make sure that we're anticipating where that fire is going. So that tool regardless of where we're at, we know what that fire is doing, because as the fire progresses the Incident Command Post is fixed, so that Law Enforcement partners, DEM partners, utility partners know where to find us. Now we're at the heel of the fire, & the fire is gone. This gives a different perspective of that fire that we wouldn't otherwise have.

SLIDE: more technology. (@1:06:30) Aerial Intel aircraft, photograph from air, plane

Capacity - other aircraft or CalFire Intel aircraft. These are aircraft that have a sensor package underneath the airframe that allows the Incident Commander & air personnel to be able to see through that column of smoke, see exactly where that fire is burning, where those resources are at, where the homes are in front of that fire. Gives Incident Commander that real-time knowledge that completely evaporates that fog of war & allows them to know exactly where that fire's at & where it's most aggressively burning.

Also to the technology component. No slide, but the night flying helicopters are significant change to firefighting in the modern era. Those helicopters have made significant impacts, specifically when it came to the Pickett Fire. The dozer operators wouldn't have been able to put the line in where they did, but w/ support by those night helicopters, keeping that fire at check, while those dozers pushed those final control lines for where we caught the fire.

SLIDE: more tech (@1:07:44) MAP w/ lines drawn

Cal Fire has adopted a program called **Techno Silva**, application called **Tactical Analyst**. Not

only does it provide where Cal Fire resources are, & additional different situational awareness capabilities, at time of dispatch, and both FIRIS through OES & Cal Fire with Techno Silva, it shows the fire - **the orange blob in image is the modeling** for what the computer believed that the fire was going to do without any sort of suppression efforts at time of dispatch. It's regularly gathering fuel, moistures, weather conditions, & already knows the fuel out in front of that fire. Takes into account the terrain, produces, at time of dispatch, a model of where that fire is expected to be without any sort of suppression activity.

On image, the black outline is the final perimeter of that fire, totally in alignment w/ what modeling was showing. When I hit the all-call button to bring all available resources here in Sonoma County to that fire, it was because the tool highlighted on the screen there allows me to draw a polygon on the map, & it will show the structures & the people associated with those structures within that drawn polygon. So, over 200 structures were within that polygon, approx. 80 people, so I knew I didn't have enough fire engines to put at those homes, & needed all available engines to that fire to assist in that firefight.

SLIDE: MAP more technology driven application (@1:09:38) RESOURCES in colors

Tablet Command, Cal Fire & local government partner. Were first to adopt in Sonoma County, valuable tool that captures real-time where the resources are in the county.

Black resources are local government resources (LRA), blue are State resources. (SRA)

The color coding is the difference between SRA & LRA, so when an initial Attack Commander is trying to figure out who the agency is that has jurisdiction, can figure it out in real time. As well, there are the built-in evacuation zones on that map. Partners have same sheet of music as Sheriff's Office to be able to affect timely evacuations.

SLIDE: (@1:10:27) proactive, how to save lives, protect

How do we prevent loss of life & impact to our friends, families, & residents of Sonoma County?

ASK: question that is repeated – do you have at least two ways out identified from your home & community? Share w/ friends and family.

RE evacuations - especially wildfires - trying to get distance between you & the fire. Trying to get you out of immediate fire area.

So think about our wind-driven fire events that have necessitated these rapid evacuations. It's a very narrow, wind-driven fire front. If you can get ½ or ¾ miles offline, you're okay. You may be stuck in traffic for a period of time, but you're not going to be impacted by that fire that's now coming through your neighborhood, through your evacuation zone that was triggered to fall into the Order.

Here in the Sonoma Valley, everybody knows about Highway 12 & Arnold Drive. I challenge people to think - when was the last time you drove Bennet Valley Road? Or picked up Warm Springs Road from Kenwood & went over to Santa Rosa an alternate route?

We're creatures of habit; seen this time and time again - when we evacuate communities. I'm heading for the intersection, going to the store, going to the doctor, going to the veterinary office - if it's always left that I turn at the intersection, then under a panic, high-stress, low-frequency event, my body is going to take that muscle memory, & I'm gonna go left.

But everybody else is trying to go left too - so find alternate routes to get distance between you & the fire, get offline so that that fire can travel behind you. Don't stay underneath the column

of smoke.

So not as frequent, but consider Bennett Valley Road, Cavedale Road, Trinity Road - there are other routes out that are not as optimum, but in that point when you find yourself in bumper to bumper traffic & think things aren't moving, & you're at risk, if it's safe to do so, take this into account, to preserve your life, your friends, family, & loved ones.

SLIDE: (@1:13:10) Roadside Vegetation Removal. Photos of Bennett Valley Rd. crew

Roadside vegetation removal along Bennett Valley Road, after Mark West, Porter Creek Road corridor was started earlier this year, to maintain those evacuation routes. So, lessons learned. Specifically here locally for us in 2017, when there is alignment with those offshore wind events - where a canyon & a draw are aligned with that offshore wind - as in the Hanley Fire, Tubbs Fire, Nunn's Fire, & also Southern California experiences this on a regular basis.

Those are the priorities - to get those corridors treated; will be pushing people down them. Whether or not it's a decade, two decades, maybe a half a century - that's coming. When it comes to wildfire, it's not a matter of if, but when. Crews are doing everything they possibly can to get out there with public infrastructure. Local fire department partners need to be able to treat that road & maintain that as a viable evacuation route for you & your loved ones.

SLIDE: (@1:14:19) Three sample Posters, know routes, know action plan, two ways out

The broken record: minimum of two ways out. Have wildfire action plan w/ your family prior to smoke in the air. Have Go Bag ready to go during fire season containing those items you can't replace. RE a Red Flag Warning - when the news is talking about that offshore wind event, that's the time to make sure that bags are at the front door, readily available, and everybody's aware of the plan. Then when Director Duvall's team pushes that Alert, when Assistant Chair Fowler's Deputies arrive in your neighborhood with the hi-lo siren - you're ready to go & ready to get out of harm's way.

Chief Akre (@1:15:39)

The Sonoma Valley Fire District: As of July 1, formally consolidated Kenwood Fire District into Sonoma Valley. Now cover everything from City of Sonoma all the way through Temelec, then north of Highway 12, Arnold Drive corridor through Kenwood, all the way to Oakmont. Have 5 staffed fire engines, 3 staffed ambulances. Last year ran 5,500 calls for service; up about 5% from year before. Big vision or goal statements is - how do we try to make our community as wildfire prepared, adaptive, & resilient as possible? Choose to focus on three general areas: planning, preparedness, and response.

SLIDE: Evacuation priorities (not seen on video)

SLIDE: Planning (not seen on video)

There is common terminology with all of the disciplines that are emergency responders i.e. Law, Fire, EM; in planning, preparedness, & response.

SVFD is deeply involved & engaged in the formal planning processes, through AB747 & 1409, the requirements for us as the local fire agency to evaluate & weigh in on wildfire risks & evacuations. Most recently did this with the City of Sonoma in commenting on General Plan & the Safety Element.

SLIDE: (@1:17:41) Sonoma Valley Fire District Evacuation Planning - 7 Items listed

Fire Risk Reduction Community; Firewise Communities, Firesafe Councils, Fire Dept. & other partners do good work collectively, have earned significant recognition. Go to website, see this benefit to home & property owners RE potential for insurance; insurance being a community concern due to rising fees, cancellation, etc.

Two Op Area Coordinators SVFD; in county, the Chiefs within our department. Chief Akre & Deputy Chief Spencer Andreas. Provides a first-hand look & involvement with our partners in Cal Fire & DEM & other emergency managers to be on the forefront of what situational awareness is for weather events. From the 2017 fires, started weekly operational area coordination calls. Get over 70 leaders from various agencies & associations & groups throughout the county that are on those weekly calls. Get National Weather Service updates, & can forecast & see - are we in a potential for a red flag warning? Sarah Tracy is here from the city, the PIO, is often on those calls as well. It is a combination of fire & law leaders, emergency managers, but also PIOs & city management folks that can then, when they hear that message that - this is a big weather event, whether it's a winter storm warning or a red flag, or an extreme red flag event – they can notify our communities. Super important, & is another big improvement from 2017.

EOC, the Emergency Operations Center in City of Sonoma. Also established here, to the back of this building. One of the things recognized in 2017 & 2019 was that it's great the city has its own EOC, but where's the Valley's EOC? Made a concerted effort with partners, the county, County DEM, & others, so that **City of Sonoma EOC is now the Valley-wide EOC**. Reached out to the Springs, El Verano, all the unincorporated areas around the Valley, &, do it in dual language. Not as well prepared as we could have been in 2017 to reach everyone in the Valley but much better now.

SLIDE: Sonoma Valley Fire District Evacuation Preparedness (@1:21:36) List of 5 items

Community Outreach & Education. A phenomenal fire prevention, community risk reduction division. They are out there all the time doing defensible space inspections, doing vegetation management fuels reduction programs, similar to what Chief Nicholls just mentioned with the evacuation corridors. A project on deck for Grove Street to expand that area to be able to allow the folks from Diamond A to get down. Others on deck with Cavedale Road. We're aggressive with that.

In Closing: Locally, the Sonoma County community supported Measure H last March. That is making a substantial difference in our resources, planning, & capabilities. Both day to day as well as in significant events. Measure H brings in \$60 million a year directly to fire agencies. Here in the Valley, that has meant more than 20 new firefighter positions just serving here within the Sonoma Valley. Has increased capability with communications, emergency management & planning, as well as vegetation management, fuels reduction. A cooperative effort was done for the Montini prescribed burn this year. There are others that are on deck in partnership with a lot of folks. It's the city, the Ecology Center, Cal Fire, Sonoma Land Trust, a lot of agencies & organizations that come together to do what's best for our community.

Chair Dickey called for Commissioners' questions (@1:24:32)

Commissioner Freeman, acknowledged all presenters. Question to Duvall RE: Department of Emergency Mgmt. that was formed in 2019. A lot of this happened because of 2017 fires; after that everyone came together & congealed. What kind of budget protection is there for you all going forward? The biggest fear is that, eventually, people forget. Granted, hopefully that might be long into the future. Noted the earlier fires mentioned in the '80s. We've forgotten on some level; want to make sure that from a budgetary perspective, you are all safe. We've mentioned Measure H, curious how that impacts you? From your perspective, do you feel like you're in the budget, & will stay there?

Duvall, yes, Dept. of Emerg Mgmt. formed in 2018, opened 2019 as a General Fund Dept. GFD Budget \$4 million. Staff of 20. Receive Federal grants that funds one position - Emergency Coordination & Operations. With current landscape of federal administration, that position eliminated. Has submitted a budget request to BoS & Executive Board to evaluate and review. Emerg Coordination Operations Division currently runs w/ 2 Emergency Coordinators, & supervising Emergency Coordinator does day to day work of traditional emergency management & staff, Duty Office Program, & Emergency Coordinator for Alert Warning Program. Can help each other, rotate in. Always someone 24/7 on call in county.

Freeman, as a realtor, grateful to firefighters doing inspections for defensible space. This is major tool RE issues for protecting structures. Any change there to help that kind of program go forward? **Akre**, county started another layer, Ordinance 13A, defensible space; in general, made requirements more stringent. Program – Fire Districts go into unincorporated area, do 300-500 properties per year, two year process. Education better than enforcement. Educate first year, then return to check on progress, evaluate, offer help. Cal Fire does a lot of defensible space; LE100s in SRA, many per year. Agencies coordinated better now - will alternate; & yes those services will continue.

Freeman, how does PGE tie in to all of this? Coordination? Power shut offs, etc.? **Duvall**, PGE Public Safety Specialist assigned; work closely, will get notice. PGE has own Weather Operations Center, national, running models, looking at policies & procedures whether to qualify for PSPS. Notify county Emerg Mgmt. Team. Then all goes out to Operational Public Safety Centers. Fire & Emerg Mgmt. county partners, have his number. If county incident, they will respond out to command post; if larger coordinating mutual requests & support.

Commissioner Jenkins, requested clarification, is a warning sent RE: king tides & potential floods? Will that happen w/ NOAA? **Duvall**, not w/ king tides, no. Changed operation on Russian River RE floods. As river approaches flood stage, So Co Alert will go out to RR Zones. Provide estimated times of flood levels.

Commissioner Brereton, acknowledged appreciation for all service providers.

RE: Emerg Communications, in Community Wildlife Protection Plan, 11 towers for system, 6 to wildfire. Are you using Starlink & superseding other system? How system kept up to date, are there dead spots? **Akre**, not a techie, but knows about radio infrastructure. Is on REDCOM Board, Community Dispatch Center. Invested \$1M in last 2 years upgrade radio infrastructure. Yes. Were dead spots; still working on the smaller ones. Upgrading - in south valley, west county, & in north county. RE: Starlink – it's another layer, Measure H funded additional 20

Starlinks in county. 2017 problem when cell towers went down. Each area in county has at least one or two Starlinks. **Duvall**, Dept. Emerg Mgt., in partnership w/ Sheriff's Office telecommunications unit has mobile tower trailer for back up repeater site. Available 24/7. Notify Sheriff Unit, gets sent out. **Brereton**, RE: Alert CA, areas in county not covered by it? Are there plans to cover? **Nicholls**, So Co cutting edge when Alert CA was first Alert Wildfire. Sonoma Water first entity to fund cameras in state. From Osbourne Preserve to Lake Sonoma; up spine of county. PGE said So Co had too many cameras, wanted some back. Got some new cameras installed, idea not to look down on each fire, it's to capture smoke column coming up, get situational awareness. Old fire lookouts & old tactics - 2 would triangulate, now do it w/ cameras. Always looking for better locations, like to shuffle. Saturated in county.

Brereton, RE: Ag, knows of maps of all fire hydrants. Other water sources not public i.e. private lakes, wells, etc. Are these being identified? **Akre**, yes. The Tablet Command program shows different resources. Great program, has layers, e.g. fire hydrant map, water source map. Also have old school maps, pre-attack maps, valuable during 2017. Showed areas around valley, e.g. Mission Highlands, Lovall Valley. Broke them down into geographical areas, showed number of people, water sources, hazards. Still using these too.

Brereton, are fire evacuation studies helpful from traffic standpoint? **Akre**, none of us are traffic engineers in fire depts.; is a wide range of opinions re traffic patterns/flows/times in studies. Does not have expertise to identify which are most accurate.

Brereton, safety part of General Plan, has Fire Evacuation Study on emergency evacuating from Mark West to Farmers Lane, all the way to Sonoma, w/ everybody all at once. Inconsistent w/ identified evacuation zones, no phasing. Report doesn't seem to take into consideration what agencies are doing. As a mass exodus, appears to be irrelevant. Not useful.

Akre, understands, speaking for his agency, are working w/ City of Sonoma on General Plan. Has expertise in those areas – i.e. which fire model is being used, knows history, studied, knows weather patterns. Yes, zones & sequencing important. Won't try to evacuate all of So Co at once. About knowing procedures, zones, sequencing & how to accomplish.

Brereton, just presented w/ a 50 unit condominium, 3 story project. Significant number of streets, small lot. Jammed up against is 8' of landscaped strip. That is not defensible space. Building materials are supposed to be WUI compliant. [wildland-urban interface (WUI) zone]. Should reviews be enforcing defensible space?

Akre, going to Zone Zero is a work in progress. Being considered, no final decision. Public Comment period coming. Some agencies engaged in this process. Won't be palatable for much of public; does make a difference.

Commissioner Dambach, expressed gratitude for all; informative presentation. Number one issue for new projects is evacuation. Talking about models & value of data entered. Considering the valley & limitations of evacuation routes, even w/ alternate routes - are limited. Level of service of roads not going to improve. How confident are agencies in your plans - given projected increase in building in valley - to be able to adequately evacuate folks? If they leave when told. **Akre**, no projects have been approved. Have to ask - what are elements of developments? Is it a new community, or infill? Big considerations for fire spread, need to evacuate vs shelter in place. Is confident in systems in place. In 2017 sat at GE Fire Station w/ paper maps re valley evacuation; asking what was needed. No zones then, but many people w/

history & knowledge of valley. Made hard decisions – e.g. these are our containment lines, this is how the sequence of evacuations has to go; & it was big chunks. There were traffic jams, but no one in harm's way. Been removed from proximity to fire. Had to evacuate valley, unknown what fire would do. Throughout all major fire incidents, including Glass Fire which affected north valley, & were also practicing on smaller incidents - Penngrove, Santa Rosa, Avenue Fire recently. This is part of wiring for Incident Commanders now. Looking ahead, what zones need to be evacuated, get in partnership w/ Law, DEM, get people out early & often. We are confident, but, emphasized that no one in the agencies feel like everything is set. Always working hard towards improving safety of life; the number one thing for everyone here tonight.

Dambach, yes, clear from presentation. Also recognition of Sonoma County as a leader. Practices & techniques from fire experience in So Co used in Palisades Fire. RE CAC looking at projects- see them piecemeal. Can't evaluate the integrated effect on evacuation. As projects do go forward, how are your agencies evaluating? Will have an important perspective. **Akre**, not traffic engineers, don't study how people move. Look hard at cumulative effects. Point of reference - look at call volume for service demands. Can see the cumulative effect. Same thing possible for projects w/ infill, evacuations. **Dambach**, would that be useful data? **Akre**, yes, asking - what value are the studies? Different outcomes from different studies. Need to be able to trust the agency/company w/ objective view to choose best, use proper modeling, sequencing, etc. and be able to say what is best.

Dambach, RE efforts for preparedness and hardening. Given limitations in valley for evacuations, do agencies have influence w/ PGE around hardening? What are preventive interactions? E.g. putting up lines, or protective devices. **Akre**, PGE is a good partner; they take lead on hardening, now many miles of underground being done, hardening in wildfire prone areas. Huge difference from 2017/18 is the ability to flip switch & de-energize immediately, have impressive command centers, proactive. Doesn't feel need to press PGE to do more. They are initiating efforts.

Commissioner Kokkonen, expressed gratitude. RE Command Center, 5 years from now, what are biggest priorities for agency, budget, recruitment, investment? **Akre**, recruitment always high priority; want to home grow workforce. Have 2 Explorer posts, allow high schoolers 14-18 years to learn craft of firefighting & emergency medical services. Robust volunteer program, 50 active. Support volunteers through Firefighter One Academy. Mix of hiring - go outside, but also hire within. Will put through paramedic school; investing in them to later invest in community. Accomplish much through consolidation; believes regional fire service is best. Look at street as defining line between districts - stronger in consolidation. Budget – like to do more w/ Community Outreach. Rebuilding 2 fire stations; money not cheap, construction costs high. Thanks to Measure H got third ambulance, important. Engine staffing good.

Commissioner Jenkins, grateful for presentation & all work being done. Has personal experience of emergencies w/ fire twice in his life. Question specific RE southern Sonoma Valley – i.e. evacuation. Roads can't handle traffic north and south. If a fire racing in from north or east, basically 2 roads to exit which can't handle the traffic. Few roads, too many cars. But also only two roads east and west, & are 2 lane roads, everything gets jammed up. Possible that people will get burned alive in their cars. Recommended putting in another north/south road,

include most of Railroad Ave, & Riverside, thru Leveroni property. Or partial N/S escape road from Boyes Blvd down Railroad to Riverside to Hwy 12 or Penngrove. **Akre**, way outside of his ability & purview; that's planning & infrastructure. Understands that fear is real. Evacuated his own family in 2017 before he left to fight fire in GE. A challenging time. No lives lost here in 2017 w/ 5 fires surrounding valley - due to neighbors looking out for neighbors, plus first responders, w/ priority of life safety. Went to areas closest to fire, got people away from fire. Understands high stress level of being stuck in traffic, too close to a fire. Doesn't know how to change road systems in valley in wholesale manner. Have discussed recently - what are next steps? Looking to improve. Looking at getting alignment w/ traffic signals; can make big difference in traffic flow. Challenge that Hwy 12 is Cal trans; they control all the signals. Arnold Drive would be easier to address - it's county public infrastructure, county signaling. Working on these things to improve flows.

Noted that in 2017 there were no zones, no sequencing. Better now, effective. Neighborhoods will be warned as soon as possible, so people can decide if/when to evacuate.

Commissioner Brereton, as an architect, recognizes concern for earthquakes. Teaching people how to turn off gas during earthquake is not discussed enough. Not that difficult w/ right tool. **Akre**, a component of SCOPE training. **Brereton**, lived in Napa, in Atlas Fire. Fire repeats itself, as in Tubbs Fire, previous fire Nuns Canyon burning again. In models, using just environmental & fuel conditions but also repetition from previous fires to see where they might be going? **Akre**, yes, absolutely.

Commissioner Smith, acknowledged presentation. RE technology, i.e. digital maps, specifically planning & approval stage - how often maps updated, considering new structures coming in? Once a year? Frequency? **Nicholls**, get frequent updates, not sure about structures. The technology is not agency or company specific - so Microsoft USA Footprint, others, is one layer used in GIS realm. Other software vendors capturing the real estate transactions predominantly, & regular updates satellite imagery, updated often. Doesn't know schedule; not specific to Fire or Law Enforcement, it's driven by private sector.

Chair Dickey, (@2:05:24) RE Emergency Services. Data - how is it collected & utilized? In terms of Evacuation Studies, data in general, back-end data; sources of data collection. Concerned because public has to rely on data - are sources adequate, complete, limited to funding parameters? **Duvall**, one of the big sources we use for back-end data is our Alert and Warning Program which has two components to SoCoAlert.

There's the Opt-in Data - the public can go to our website & register their information. Then there's Reverse 911. Through California State Law, the Public Utilities have to give County Emergency Management a data set, which is - basic utilities i.e. electricity, and, if you live within the incorporated city - water. Required to give us address & phone number for that residence. We take that information - once a quarter as we get it from PGE or from the local water utilities or Healdsburg Electric - & upload that into the system. That keeps our Reverse 911 up to date.

Also get information through other different open sources, e.g. the Yellow Pages. Still receive that data, through our vendor that we sourced, SoCoAlert.

So the system is always constantly being updated, whether it is through that utility data or from folks opting-in. We have done different studies on this through alerts. And the Opt-in data can be interesting because when we run an Alert Warning test, we will get people that call up and say - *I no longer live here*. We've had folks call from the East Coast, saying - *I'm no longer in the area, why did I receive the alert?*

So we start going down through the series of questions to find out, yes, you were opted in, you never opted out; and we start validating that data. The data from the Utility data is so much more powerful when we go to launch that Alert; it's much more accurate versus the Opt-in.

So we have a lot more success now that that law has passed, and a lot of that data that helped get that law passed was through 2019 Kincaid with a lot of our evacuation numbers going back at the State Legislature.

On the evacuation side - a lot of the back-end data that we're pulling when we go into the system to mark an evacuation zone, either in Warning or Order through the back-end, is pulling up general numbers of estimated population living within that zone.

That way, in the Emergency Operations Center, we have an idea in those initial hours of when those zones go into Warning & Order of an estimate of how many people are being evacuated. First - we use that number in many different ways in the Emergency Operations Center. It's helping us formulate, scaling up mass Care & Shelter Sites & services that we'll need to provide out there. And at the same time, if we need to, we can work through the Assessor's Office to refine some of that data, as is.

Dickey, does the public need to be concerned about the privacy of data being collected? **Sam**, privacy is a major issue; don't want to violate anyone's if not needed. For the Alert & Warning systems, we can't see most of data; no names involved. Looking only at phone numbers & address. Then can Geo-locate specific alert w/ phone number associated. RE population data, is just an estimate, based on generalities, no privacy issues there. More of a schematic.

Dickey, RE funding. Familiar w/ FEMA. Is Block Grant access being funded? Or what is FEMA funding for So Co? **Duvall**, RE Community Development Block Grants, the changing landscape on Federal level = every day is a new day re constantly changing evaluations. Are we in or out of SCOPE? Going forward or not w/ projects? Has led to several government jurisdictions' lawsuits to Federal Govt. centered on grants. Dept. of Emer. Mgmt. fortunate to have Com Center Block Grants on preparedness side moving forward; under former terms & conditions, not been amended. Will be able to do analysis centered on accessing Vulnerable Needs Communities during emergencies. Also RE what emergency transportation looks like during emergencies & evacuations. Other grants county receives through his department are Homeland Security grants, Bay Area Urban Area Securities Initiative, or State Homeland Security program. Those funds come through our department as pass-through. County Departments, Agencies, Special Districts, the Fire Districts, Law Enforcement are able to apply for those for capacity and training building. E.g. various grants, Sonoma Valley Fire took for airbags for Urban Search and Rescue Team. With the Sheriff's Office, fund Henry 1, the helicopter. Radio repeater sites. Upgrades and enhancements. Goes across the county or the Operational Area, for training, preparedness, enhancement & equipment purchases.

Dickey, to Law Enforcement, what is LEMA? **Jayson Fowler**, Law Enforcement Mutual Aid. Large scale events/incidents tap resources immediately. Reach across state for more Law Enforcement resources. Typically will get offers from nearby counties. Deputies & Law Enforcement want to help. This is a structured way to get needed resources. Our Deputies will be rushing to do evacuations, need allies to help w/ road closures, check points. Sonoma County Deputies patrolling evacuated zones, contacting people; want So Co Deputies in local neighborhoods. **Dickey**, yes, experienced presence of Oakland Police Dept. in 2017 fire.

Dickey, RE properties & providing gate codes. Fire Dept. has key to his gate, required. Who else has a key? Might be good redundancy. **Fowler**, some Deputies have keys, not always. If Dispatch Center has gate code, can get on radio, punch it in, faster/easier. **Dickey**, gate code circulating around? **Fowler**, doesn't circulate around. Kept in Dispatch Center; no one else has access. Typically a phone call from Deputy to Dispatch to get on radio. Not usually broadcast.

Dickey, Cal Fire. Felt their presentation was reactive i.e. fire comes & these are the things available now. Largely based on communications capability. What about projective? What about studies, concerned about western hills Sonoma Valley. 300 years following native inhabitants, has been no major fire. Ignition Studies for woodlands research. Doing something similar? **Nicholls**, yes, in Sacramento, locally paired w/ UC Berkeley, research on coastal timber stands, similar to in Sierras. Plans for controlled burns in near future. What will components be – none, mechanical, prescribed fire - to better understand what treatment to use. Yes, need to get reentry fire back onto landscape; not if but when. Need to reduce accumulated forest fuel from catastrophic fire windows.

Dickey, western hills have small population, steeper, harder access, do you track private roads, PGE roads for service? **Nicholls**, institutional knowledge. Topography maps w/ existing roads, plus two track roads/old ranch roads. Tech is LIDAR which can see through forest canopy; establish change in contours of landscape. [Wiki: Lidar is a technique that uses laser light to measure distances to objects or surfaces and create 3D maps] Chief Jerry & personnel do orientation of landscape before future fire event, capture into GPS. Add any situational awareness to be noted. Western hills component, Chief Jerry & Sonoma Valley partners' component w/ Fire Forward Sonoma Valley. Recently off Grove St - active controlled burns last year. Also into Jack London Park, identified a strategic line from Wolf House up & over Sonoma Mountain to get back out & have opportunities for future containment of fire, before comes over hill into Penngrove, Petaluma, those surrounding areas.

Dickey, mentioned in presentation that firefighting techniques haven't changed; except for Communication. Other advancements? LIDAR for roads. What about on the ground advances? Considering other things, also how to better protect firefighters? **Nicholls**, RE wildland firefighting – have to contain & extinguish. Don't want firefighters falling in onto the fire from all different sides, because that creates the opportunity of firefighters moving through unburned material to get to the flaming front of the fire, & depending on where that's at, that may be steep & inaccessible terrain. And that fire can change directions in the course of them trying to make access to fire. So, when we talk about wildland firefighting, we establish anchor points, then we envelop that fire with control lines, taking the fuel away from in the form of

hand line or bulldozers or reducing. Taking that heat component away from the fire with hose lays, hose streams, firefighting aircraft to cool the fire in advance of that ultimate line that needs to be cut in around that fire. So, the fire triangle - that hasn't changed - fuel, heat, and oxygen. When it comes to a wildland fire, we can't take away the oxygen, we can work really hard to take away the heat, but that fuel component, especially when we're talking about major fires, that's what we have to do. So there's the capacity. Our Firehawks that we've now brought on line that are dropping 1,000 gallons of water at a shot. The Hueys that we were flying just a handful of years ago, that was about 360 gallons of water per bucket drop. We basically increased the water capacity by almost 3 times for our helicopters, not to mention the exclusive use helicopters, what we call the Type 1, the largest helicopters. We've established long-term contracts to bolster our fleet of aerial firefighters, as well as the addition of the C-130 airframes that, instead of the 1,200 gallons of retardant on the S2s, our legacy air tankers, the C130 brings 4,000 gallons of retardant, per trip to the fire.

Dickey, is retardant toxic? **Nicholls**, no, retardant is mostly water; the pink that you see is a dye that's added so the aircraft Aerial Supervisor can see where the tankers have dropped, and/or tanker pilots coming in to drop additional lines for spotting.

Dickey, does County do a third party review of PGE lines? PGE does it to avoid risk liability. Does Cal Fire work w/ PGE in inaccessible woodland areas? Redundancy of review of equipment might be helpful. **Nicholls**, review of hardening of infrastructure or improvements? **Dickey**, review of their assessments. **Nicholls**, no, not an electrical engineer. PGE concerned about liability, but also want the meters to spin. Are using their weather folks & weather data. The historic outages & incidents they've had where their lines have been impacted by trees & mechanical issues to ensure that they keep the lights on, and, that there's not excess liability downstream. County inspects their lines to make sure they've got the required clearance, as we're out & about conducting our operations. **Dickey**, how about the old poles back in inaccessible woodland areas? **Nicholls**, Public Safety Specialist is available via phone anytime. Woodpecker damage over years significant to power poles. He will report to him if he sees a compromised pole. A Doug fir is supposed to be a vertical tree, if it's leaning as hazard to power line, or diseased he will make the call.

Dickey, "PIO" - what does that mean? **Chief Akre**, Public Information Officer. **Dickey**, reported 5,500 incidents. How many are fire related? **Akre**, 10% fire incidents i.e. dumpster, small grass, house fire alarms. Transport 3,000 patients via ambulance service.

Dickey, RE FireWise. Tried to apply to fire insurance; his company not knowledgeable of it. No standard program to reduce fire insurance premiums. Effort to make uniform on state level so fire insurance companies consider it? **Akre**, yes, state level Cal Chiefs working hard w/ insurance industry to establish common definitions, programs relating to fire service & community safety; is a work in progress.

Dickey, how many fire incidents locally in last 12 months? **Nicholls**, average 400-500 wildland fire incidents annually, in Sonoma/Lake/Napa Unit. We've struggled with the implementation of good fire & not prescribed fire. Because the general public sees smoke in the air & people get

anxious early on, but just smoke in the air is not necessarily a bad thing. So Cal Fire's mission is to contain 95% of our fires to 10 acres or less, and believe it or not, we have never not hit that mark. So when we talk about 400 to 500 fires, people say - *wait, I didn't know*, that's because we put those out, and they weren't noticed.

Presentation & Discussion Concluded

5. Reports on Other Organizations from Commissioners and Staff (@2:32:53)

- Sonoma City Council, none

▪ Sonoma City Planning Commission

Commissioner Dambach

- Review of Montalvo Apt Complex, Route 12, review of EIR & Permit, both approved. Project will move forward. 50 units. 13 affordable - Extremely Low, Very Low, Low.
- City General Plan moving along. Several Elements out. Review & comment on Conservation Open Space & Circulation. October go over Circulation & Utility Elements

Agenda: <https://sonomacity.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&Id=8409>

▪ Sonoma County Planning Commission/BZA

Commissioner Freeman

- EIR on cannabis cultivation; reminded of Trinity Project. Much interaction w/ community groups. Met w/ Bennett Valley group, strong neighborhood org. Process w/ recommendations to BoS helpful; iterative, thorough. Recommendations will be reviewed shortly.

- LAFCO, none
- Springs MAC, none

▪ North Sonoma Valley MAC

Councilmember Dickey

- Meeting last week. Presentation from Groundwater Sustainability org. enlightening and alarming. Recommended learning about groundwater.

▪ Sonoma Valley GSA Advisory Committee

Commissioner Jenkins

Recent meeting w/ growers. Agreed to water reduction in El Verano area, reduce 15%, goal 1200 acre feet. Encouraging first step. But another 100 acres planted in same area. Water necessity and planting. Golf Course could use less.

Wells at issue at fault line, data info needs to be reviewed. Issue between GSPlan and current figures being used. GSP shallow aquifer at less than 220', deep over 400'. Saying anything deeper than 200 is deep, and anything less than 200 is shallow. Doesn't count for elevation; difficult to analyze. Hard to determine which aquifer. Will be reviewing data collection re variability.

Also, need to meet w/ Golf Course owners, legal team, etc.

Commissioner Kokkonen, RE conservation effort in El Verano. Is that site specific to growers & participants, and/or commercial? What are parameters of conservation?

Jenkins, RE pumping from the deep aquifer. Focusing on Ag wells which are deeper, also worried about rural residential, not being accounted for how much water is used. Assuming it's less than 2 acre feet per year. But in El Verano area, i.e. Carriger Rd, Orange Ave. those estates, have managers w/ landscaped property. One acre of grass is 6 acre feet per year of water use for nice green grass year round. Use not being accounted for. Need to identify high users.

Kokkonen, what is timetable, or is there a website? **Jenkins**, public info from GSA, quarterly release of info. Growers at meeting agreed to start this year, started late, second week of October. Hard to hit goal this year. Next year will be part of program. Majority of vineyards here on electrical programmers on irrigation to keep track. So there is a budget apparatus on controller. Can set to drop 15%. So could go from 100 to 85. Even if it's done well, won't show in deep aquifers for another 100 years. Difficult to see efficacy w/o immediate return.

Commissioner Freeman, as resident of Sonoma Greens, allot of lawn, allot of water pumped out. **Jenkins**, deep wells for city are nearby. Ernie Smith Park well going dry. Drilling another city well. Great aquifer, but doubling use. Map shows usage.

▪ **First District Office**

Admin/Chavez, will send update

- Quarterly Newsletter out; reminder to sign up to receive
- Altimira meeting 6pm – SDC - EIR
- Open Doors campaign launched, uniting county & nonprofits to connect residents to food, housing, childcare, healthcare, and Legal Aid
- The Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to approve the Supporting Immigrant Communities Ad hoc, Communities Charter on 9-23-25, bringing together Sanctuary Coalition Attorneys, Chair Hopkins & county leadership to provide direction to Staff to return to the Board at its future meeting with the final Draft of the Urgency Ordinance once the county completes & meets the confer process with labor unions
- Enhanced Infrastructure Financing District Joint Proposal with City of Sonoma. This is an innovative tool to fund infrastructure, housing, and local improvements. Start of a conversation.
- Shultz/Santa Rosa Airport, April 7, 2026 South West Airlines starts flights, nonstop to San Diego, Burbank, Las Vegas, Denver
- Meet your Street, weekend Oct 3-5th county wide community building
- District One, Drought Resilient Plan

▪ Others as appropriate, none

6. Consideration of Future Agenda Items (@2:45:43)

Chair Dickey, Agenda for October?

Admin/Chavez,

- UPE24-0044: 1225 E Napa Street. Sonoma County

- PLP23-0019: 795 Donald Street, Sonoma (expansion of care facility)
 - Referral received 10/16/24
- UPE24-0076: 24500 Ramal Road, Sonoma (winery use permit modification)
 - Referral received 10/17/24
- Springs Specific Plan EIR/FEIR (joint informational meeting with MACs and FEIR SVCAC only)
- City of Sonoma General Plan Elements
- PLP25-0008: 19220 & 19154 Arnold Dr., Sonoma (Sonoma Valley Fire District)
 - Referral received 5/20/25
- Will circle back when the “completeness referral” is shared
- November meeting: United Policy Holders Presentation

Commissioner Jenkins, RE Sonoma Skate Park, approached by community person, for funding and/or help to keep park operating. Maxwell Village, in county.

Chair & Admin, so noted.

7. Adjourned: 9:19pm

Contact: AnnaMaria Tamayo Madarieta, Field Representative to Supervisor Rebecca Hermosillo Anna.Tamayo@sonoma-county.org

For Viewing Purposes: Sonoma TV You Tube - SVCAC Hybrid Meeting September 24, 2025
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qN4RPI5naTQ>

Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Commission after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Board of Supervisors’ Office located at 575 Administration Drive, Room 100-A1, Santa Rosa, CA, during normal business hours.

A **Receive** item indicates that the item is informational, and the Commission will take no action.

A **Resolution** item indicates that the Commission will vote on a recommendation to the decision-making body (e.g. Sonoma County Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Adjustments, City of Sonoma Planning Commission).

Consideration of proposed development projects will proceed as follows:

1. Presentation by project applicants
2. Questions by Commissioners
3. Questions and Comments from the public
4. Responses by applicant, if requires
5. Comments by commissioners
6. Resolution, if indicated