

Topanga Canyon Boulevard Roadside Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 30, 2014
10:00am-12:00pm
Topanga Library

“The mission of the Topanga Canyon Boulevard Roadside Committee, an ad hoc advisory group, working collaboratively with related public agencies and community organizations, is to plan and execute sustainable solutions by April 2013 to manage roadside brush clearance along TCB/State Route 27 that promote public safety and best management practices for fire safety, invasive plant management, and protection of the natural environment of the Topanga Creek Watershed, by using methods, other than herbicides, consistent with the goals and policies of the Topanga Creek Watershed Plan of 2002.”

Standing Members in Attendance:

Susan Nissman, Yaroslavsky, Third Supervisorial District
Kara Seward- Pavley, SD27
Zuhey Espinoza – Yaroslavsky, Third Supervisorial District
Debbie Wong, Caltrans (CT)
Fiona Nagle – Caltrans (CT)
Lauren Wonder- Caltrans (CT)
Ed Siribodhi- Caltrans (CT)
Patrick Chandler- Caltrans (CT)
Gustavo Nunez- Caltrans (CT)
Kevin Johnson – Los Angeles County Fire Department
Clark Stevens – Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM)
James Grasso – Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP)
Joseph Rosendo – Topanga Chamber of Commerce
Carrie Carrier- Topanga Creek Watershed Committee (TCWC)
Ben Allanoff- Topanga Creek Watershed Committee (TCWC)
Josh Kurpies- Assembly member Richard Bloom

I. **Welcome and Approval of Minutes:** Co-chairs Kara Seward and Susan Nissman called the meeting to order. The minutes were approved with minor corrections. Debbie Wong proposed a change to the mission statement that includes “to provide a safe and sustainable environment.”

II. **Issues/Reports**

A. **Implementation Plan Update (Nagle):** has given a hard copy to the Topanga Library

B. **Adaptive Management Response**

- **(Nunez):** Mowing dates should be set by the end of the month to suppress weeds and growth.

- **(Ed Siribodhi):** Mulch is effective but will require taking the weeds out by mowing, so this is just an interim solution. A long term solution would be to apply mulch near/under the guardrail. Outside the right-away is not under our scope.
- **(Grasso):** The goal of mulch is to place it in an area that is labor intensive but will require consistent monitoring and some hard work in order to determine level of effectiveness

C. Update on projected weather (Johnson): Shrubs have been in dormant state. Fire assessment is bleak. The outlook is above average fire danger with an extreme drought for all of LA County. Conditions are dependent on fuel moisture and high winds. These conditions will remain for the next 1-2 months. In addition, brush clearances will not be moved up. The following dates are as scheduled for LA County: Antelope Valley – April 1st; Coast – June 1st and Inland Areas – May 1st.

D. Caltrans Update (Wong): This fiscal year Caltrans has been asked to balance own budget. Caltrans is on a zero-based budget. By the end of July, Caltrans need to reset budget according to zero based budgeting. In other words, Caltrans has to justify expenses related to maintenance, as well as anticipate factors that are out of Caltrans control. It is projected that 14 million dollars will be needed and this is a strict year for purchasing materials. Must reassess whether or not purchasing mulch will be feasible in July 2014 and must be transparent on how money is being spent.

E. Communications Subcommittee: Town Council and Topanga Chamber will pay for printing and mailing of the TCB Brochure. Labels will be printed at SD3 District Office. 500 copies will be needed. Caltrans will provide the specs to Joseph and Stacey ASAP

F. Best Management Practices Subcommittee: will reconvene before July and will provide update at next meeting.

G. Mapping Subcommittee- No updates

H. Transitional Process (Nissman): SD3 has roughly 8 months in office. SD3 is working to create a seamless transition for incoming Supervisor.

III. Action Items

- Best Management Practices Subcommittee will reconvene before July and provide an update at next meeting
- Caltrans, Town Council and Joseph will work on TCB Brochure SPECS and estimate

IV. Next Meeting: scheduled for Wednesday, July 9th from 10-noon