

Topanga Canyon Boulevard Roadside Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2013
10:00am-12:00pm
Topanga Library

I. Welcome:

a. Introductions

Standing Members in Attendance:

Kara Seward- Pavley, SD27
Susan Nissman-Yaroslavsky, Third Supervisorial District
Zuhey Espinoza – Yaroslavsky, Third Supervisorial District
Fiona Nagle – Caltrans (CT)
Lauren Wonder- Caltrans (CT)
Ed Aguilar- Caltrans (CT)
Ed Siribahdi- Caltrans (CT)
Patrick Chandler- Caltrans (CT)
Josh Kurpies- Assembly member Richard Bloom
Roger Pugliese – Topanga Association for a Scenic Community (TASC)
Stacey Sledge – Topanga Town Council
Kevin Johnson – Los Angeles County Fire Department
Beth Burnam – North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council (NTCFSC)
Clark Stevens – Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains (RCDSMM)
Rosi Dagit- 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 Squire- Arson Watch

b. Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved with minor corrections

II. Reports:

a. Implementation Plan Review

- Fiona Nagle presented the final version of the Implementation plan
- Park Service representative is missing; Rosi Dagit will follow up with NPS
- Fiona Nagle will submit the Implementation Plan for the NAEP Award; letters of support are due by 9/12/13
- Stacy Sledge will send Fiona copies of an article written about the Implementation Plan to Fiona Nagle.
- Roger Pugliese expressed concern about signing the Implementation Plan because of the description of fennel. He would like for the classification of fennel to change from 'severe' to 'moderate'. In order to mitigate his concern, it was agreed that Fiona Nagle will add the following sentence: "It should be noted that these plants have beneficial uses" (pg. 50).
- NPS and Caltrans (Debbie Wong) are the last signatures needed

b. Best Management Practices Subcommittee (Carrie Carrier)

- Nothing new to report
- The issue of mulch was raised. Ed Siribahdi indicated that Caltrans is willing to spend \$5,000 on mulch. Ed Siribahdi indicated that instead of spending \$3,000 on Mulch and \$2,000 for transportation, the residents could spread the mulch and purchase \$5,000 worth of mulch. Ed Siribahdi will send over an estimate and follow up to see if we could get the mulch spread by this winter.
- Rosi Dagit asked if mulch qualifies for an EEMP Grant
- At the next meeting Ed Siribahdi will bring photos of previous projects (weed mat & mulch)

c. Communication Sub-committee (Lauren Wonder)

- The Communications sub-committee met in August and re-drafted the letter and brochure. Various methods of outreach regarding the TCB Roadside 'Gardening Program' were discussed, including using door hangers, Topanga Messenger, RCD newsletter, One Topanga, Malibu Patch and Acorn.
- The Brochures will be mailed directly to TCB addresses.
- It was discussed that clearly identifying the roles and responsibilities of Caltrans and TCBRC stakeholders are vital for the ongoing success of the program.

D. Mapping Subcommittee (Rosi Dagit)

- There was discussion of possibly merging the BMP and Mapping subcommittees. The general consensus is not to merge the subcommittees; instead work in synergy.

III. Next Steps

a. Action Items

- BMP subcommittee will meet before the TCBRC meeting
- Communications subcommittee will meet before the TCBRC meeting

b. Meeting Schedule

- The next meeting is scheduled for Dec 11, 2013 or January 2014