

Healthy Forest Charter

(DRAFT FOR REVIEW – 4/20/2022)

The purpose of the Healthy Forest Ad Hoc is to consolidate and coordinate the efforts of County departments/agencies to reach collective goals that protect and improve the conditions of our forests and natural landscapes while reducing the risk of fire throughout the county. The Ad Hoc will recommend actions for full Board consideration that can be taken in vegetation management, land protection and ecosystem services to ensure the ecological functions of our forested and natural landscapes are stable and improving over time. The Ad Hoc will provide input on department/agency activities such as the Vegetation Management Grant Program, Federally-funded wildfire resiliency efforts, parcel and landscape level planning tools, and County Tree Ordinance using the best available data to support these goals.

The Ad Hoc Committee will propose specific strategies to leverage and utilize the remaining funds from the PG&E Settlement Funds to best protect our communities and landscapes from large scale wildfires and improve the health of our natural resources. It is the intention of this Ad Hoc to meet monthly and prepare recommendations for full Board review in September or October of 2022.

The Ad Hoc Committee will receive updates on each department/agency's investment into improving the management practices throughout the county capable of enhancing our resiliency to drought, flooding, wildfires and other natural disasters related to climate change and development.

Ag + Open Space staff will coordinate with a diverse group of County departments/agencies whose responsibilities include land management, natural resources protection, climate change adaptation, resiliency from wildfire and drought. Staff have been selected from the following departments/agencies Permit Sonoma, Regional Parks, Sonoma Water, University of California Cooperative Extension, and Climate Action and Resiliency Division. Partner organizations and key stakeholders will be invited to participate in these meetings on an as-needed basis. The Ad Hoc will work with the County Tribal Liaison to determine how to involve local Tribes and how traditional resource management could be integrated into the collective response of our County agencies.

Healthy Forest Ad Hoc Committee:

1. Supervisor James Gore (4th District)
2. Supervisor Lynda Hopkins (5th District)

Assigned Staff:

1. Misti Arias, General Manager, Ag + Open Space District
2. Kim Batchelder, Vegetation Management Coordinator, Ag + Open Space
3. John Mack, Natural Resource Manager, Permit Sonoma
4. Steve Mosiurchak, Fire Marshall, Permit Sonoma
5. Brad Sherwood, Assistant General Manager, Sonoma Water
6. Susan Haydon, Sonoma Water
7. Barbara Lee, Director, Climate Action & Resiliency Division
8. Anna Yip, Climate Resiliency Analyst, Climate Action & Resiliency Division
9. Sashi Sabaratnam, Wildfire Vegetation Mitigation Program Manager, UC Cooperative Education

10. Hattie Brown, Natural Resources Program Manager, Regional Parks
11. Cory O'Donnell, Chief Deputy County Counsel, Natural Resources + Resiliency, County Counsel