

## Minutes of the Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Regular Board Meeting

July 20, 2023

423 Saint Charles St, San Andreas, CA

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by J. Marsili - President @ 6:00 pm

Board Members & Staff Present: B. Dean; M. Dvorak; K. Lambert-V.P.; J. Marsili-President; Y. Tiscornia; M. Cole-IED & Admin; D. Simpson-Fiscal Director; K. Dillashaw, Project Manager

Board Members & Staff Absent: Ben Cook-Assoc. Director; L. Plautz-Project Manager

Others Present: Mary Boblet; Sarah Hodson; Gary Whitson; Matt Harrison

**Public Comment:** Mary Boblet requested an amendment to the May minutes. This will be placed on the August agenda.

### Partner Comment:

1. M. Cole read Jesse Fowler (Ag Dept) report, and Jennifer Wood (NRCS) report.

### Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approval of 6/15/23 Minutes. **B. Dean made the motion to approve the minutes, second by K. Lambert. On a 5-0-0 vote, minutes were approved.**
2. Approval of June 2023 Finance Reports – **B. Dean made the motion to approve the financial statements, second by K. Lambert. On a 5-0-0 vote, financials were approved.**

### Old Business:

1. Update on Current CalFire Grants:
  - Forest Meadows to Wylderidge – notes are in Grant Report.
  - Update on Murphys to Forest Meadows – notes are in Grant Report.
  - Highway 108 – notes are in Grant Report.
  - Fricot City – notes are in Grant Report.
  - Pine Mountain Lake – should have been deleted from agenda as we no longer have this project.
  - Moke Hill – notes are in Grant Report.
2. Update on Current SNC Grants:
  - Pine Ridge – K. Dillashaw reported this project is half completed. It is going slow, but the contractor is doing very good work.
  - Bummerville/Blizzard Mine – notes are in Grant Report.
3. Update on Current CARCD Grants:
  - Climate Resilience Through Habitat Restoration – **J. Marsili made a motion to turn over the WCB project to Amador RCD. Second by B. Dean, motion passed on a 4/0/1 vote.**
4. Ad Hoc Committee - Sale of Building – J. Marsili reported no updates.

**New Business:**

1. Auditor’s Financial Report –**B. Dean made the motion to approve the auditor’s financial report with a couple of noted corrections, second by Y. Tiscornia. On a 5-0-0 vote, financials were approved.**
2. Approve 2023-2024 Budget – **B. Dean made a motion to approve the proposed budget. Second by K. Lambert. Motion passed 5/0/0 vote.**
3. Change signatories on bank accounts - **B. Dean made a motion to approve adding M. Cole and removing G. Long as signatories on the bank accounts. Second by K. Lambert. Motion passed 5/0/0 vote.**
4. Review and approve policies – J. Marsili thanked the committee for all of their work on these policies. After some discussion, it was decided to move this to the August agenda.
5. Lease renewal w/ Common Ground – **M. Dvorak made a motion to renew the current lease for one year and change it to fiscal year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2023, and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate future lease agreements. Second by B. Dean. Motion passed 5/0/0 vote.**
6. Calaveras Community Foundation Grant – M. Dvorak reported he and M. Boblet viewed the potential site at Michaelson School for the water catchment system being proposed in the grant. After reviewing the grant application, **J. Marsili made a motion to approve submission of this application. Second by K. Lambert. Motion passed 5/0/0 vote.**
7. Meeting with BurnBot – This is an information only item. J. Marsili, B. Dean, M. Cole, and D. Simpson will meet with them on July 21<sup>st</sup>.
8. Application to Calaveras County Hardwood Advisory Committee – **B. Dean made a motion to have Gordon Long remain as the CCRCD representative. Second by M. Dvorak. Motion passed 5/0/0 vote.**
9. MOU with Central Sierra Partnership Against Weeds (CSPAW) – **B. Dean made a motion to have Interim Executive Director sign and submit the MOU. Second by K. Lambert. Motion passed 5/0/0 vote.**

**Reports:**

1. Board Member announcements – J. Marsili reminded everyone to complete their trainings.  
K. Lambert reported on visiting the ponderosa pines he and Gordon planted. He found that 12 of the 60 trees planted are doing well.  
M. Dvorak reported that the grand jury report has been released and has a lot of good fire reduction information.
2. Staff announcements – M. Cole read from her attached report and noted the CivicWell and CARCD conference opportunities.

**Adjournment of meeting.** Meeting adjourned @ 7:43 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 6:00 pm.**

Attest:

President, Julia Marsili \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary, Mary Cole \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Minutes of the Calaveras Resource Conservation District (RCD)

Regular Board Meeting

May 11, 2023

423 Saint Charles St, San Andreas, CA

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by J. Marsili -President @ 6:00 pm

Board Members & Staff Present: M. Dvorak; K. Hafley; K. Lambert-V.P.; J. Marsili-President; Ben Cook-Assoc. Director; G. Long-Executive Director; D. Simpson-Fiscal Director; M. Cole-Admin; K. Dillashaw, Project Manager; L. Plautz-Project Manager

Board Members & Staff Absent: Y. Tiscornia

Others Present: Bob Dean; B. Dubois

**Public Comment:** Bob Dean was introduced.

**Mary Boblet spoke regarding CCRCD's Public Record Act Policy.** ~~came to speak about her taking exception with our public request policy where we ask for the request to be in writing with additional information. She noted that she did receive her requested document.~~

**Partner Comment:** None.

### Consent Agenda Items:

1. Approval of 4/13/23 Minutes. Board Action – **K. Lambert made the motion to approve with corrections, second by M. Dvorak. On a 3-0-1-1(abstain) vote, minutes were not approved.**
2. Approval of April 2023 Finance Reports – **K. Lambert made the motion to approve, second by K. Hafley. On a 4-0-1 vote, financials were approved.**

### Old Business:

1. Update on Current CalFire Grants:
  - Forest Meadows to Wylderidge – L. Plautz reported that the small equipment was brought in to restart working, with the larger machines arriving Monday.
  - Update on Murphys to Forest Meadows –Tanner Logging completed the Woodland Unit. Krisman Enterprises will complete the last two units.
  - Highway 108 – RFP for the mastication work is being posted Monday. Contractor selection will come for approval at the next board meeting.
  - Fricot City – G. Long reported CEQA contractor, Ed Struffenegger, has started work.
  - Pine Mountain Lake – G. Long reported CEQA should be completed in the next couple of weeks.
  - Moke Hill – G. Long reported CEQA contractor, Ed Struffenegger, has started work.
2. Update on Current SNC Grants:
  - Pine Ridge – K. Dillashaw reported the contractor has started with hand-work while the ground is too wet. But will start with equipment soon..
  - Bummerville/Blizzard Mine – G, Long reported two contractors have started work, with the third to start next week.

3. Update on Current CCRCDC Grants:
  - Climate Resilience Through Habitat Restoration – G. Long reported we received our Notice of Exemption #4 and filed it with the County.
4. Ad Hoc Committee - Bylaws – J. Marsili reported she will schedule a meeting with the committee.
5. Ad Hoc Committee - Sale of Building – J. Marsili reported a request for qualifications audit is out for review. She will schedule a meeting with the committee.

**New Business:**

1. Approve Krisman Enterprises to complete Units 1 & 2 of Murphys to Forest Meadows – Due to the lack of a decision to approve Tanner last month, they became unavailable to us, so a request to approve Krisman Enterprises was brought to the board. After questioning THIS decision by a board member, **K. Hafley made a motion to approve Krisman. Second by K. Lambert. Motion failed for a 3/0/1/1 (abstain) vote. A special meeting will be called to get this resolved so we can get the work completed before fire season.**
2. Letter of Commitment - **K. Hafley made a motion to approve the letter. Second by K. Lambert. Motion passed 4/0/1 vote.**
3. Board & Meeting Etiquette – J. Marsili requested that discussions during the meetings be more respectful. She recommends more communication between directors and staff, and encourages more board involvement.
4. Summer Schedule – M. Cole asked for the board’s vacation schedule to determine if any month would be short a full board attendance and should therefore be cancelled. With a couple of minor exceptions, all summer meetings should take place.

**Reports:**

1. Board Member announcements – K. Lambert would like to host a BBQ for the board and staff sometime this summer.  
M. Dvorak has his water catchment system setup and has started watering his wildflower garden with it.
2. Staff announcements – G. Long noted to review his attached ED report.  
— D. Simpson thanked J. Marsili and K. Lambert for turning in their required Ethics certificates.

**Adjournment of meeting.** Meeting adjourned @ 6:58 pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm**.

Attest:

President, Julia Marsili \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Acting Secretary, \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Calaveras County Resource Conservation District

08/04/23

## Profit &amp; Loss

Accrual Basis

July 2023

|                                 | <u>Jul 23</u>           |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ordinary Income/Expense         |                         |
| Income                          |                         |
| Investments                     |                         |
| Interest-Savings, Short-term CD | 15.00                   |
| Total Investments               | 15.00                   |
| Program Income                  |                         |
| Indirect Costs                  | 3,701.05                |
| Program Revenue                 | 37,010.46               |
| Total Program Income            | 40,711.51               |
| Rental Income                   | 1,364.02                |
| Total Income                    | 42,090.53               |
| Gross Profit                    | 42,090.53               |
| Expense                         |                         |
| Contract Services               |                         |
| Contractor Services             | 35,411.25               |
| Total Contract Services         | 35,411.25               |
| Facilities and Equipment        |                         |
| Facility Maintenance            | 900.00                  |
| Utilities                       | 495.66                  |
| Total Facilities and Equipment  | 1,395.66                |
| Insurance Expense               |                         |
| Worker's Compensation Insurance | 2,659.46                |
| Total Insurance Expense         | 2,659.46                |
| Operations                      |                         |
| Computer Software               | 649.49                  |
| Office Supplies                 | 245.85                  |
| Total Operations                | 895.34                  |
| Other Types of Expenses         |                         |
| Advertising Expenses            | 1.20                    |
| Total Other Types of Expenses   | 1.20                    |
| Payroll Expenses                | 9,373.18                |
| Total Expense                   | 49,736.09               |
| Net Ordinary Income             | -7,645.56               |
| Net Income                      | <u><u>-7,645.56</u></u> |

## Calaveras County Resource Conservation District

08/04/23

## Balance Sheet

Accrual Basis

As of July 31, 2023

|  | <u>Jul 31, 23</u>          |
|--|----------------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>                          |                            |
| <b>Current Assets</b>                  |                            |
| <b>Checking/Savings</b>                |                            |
| Checking                               | 105,051.20                 |
| Savings 2420 - Forest Meadows          | 170,336.72                 |
| Savings 2421 - Wylderidge              | 98,160.84                  |
| Savings 2422 - SNC Pine Ridge          | 32,753.24                  |
| Savings 2423 - Hwy 108-Fricot          | 197,134.18                 |
| Savings 2485 - Bummerville             | 280,115.98                 |
| <b>Total Checking/Savings</b>          | <u>883,552.16</u>          |
| <b>Accounts Receivable</b>             |                            |
| Accounts Receivable                    | 5,344.63                   |
| <b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>       | <u>5,344.63</u>            |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>            | <u>888,896.79</u>          |
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                    |                            |
| Building Improvements                  | 7,675.00                   |
| Buildings - Operating                  | 219,210.49                 |
| Land - Operating                       | 93,947.35                  |
| <b>Total Fixed Assets</b>              | <u>320,832.84</u>          |
| <b>Other Assets</b>                    |                            |
| Accum Depreciation                     | -28,010.23                 |
| Accumulated Depr - Bldg Improve        | -1,183.23                  |
| <b>Total Other Assets</b>              | <u>-29,193.46</u>          |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>                    | <u><u>1,180,536.17</u></u> |
| <b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>        |                            |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                     |                            |
| <b>Current Liabilities</b>             |                            |
| Other Current Liabilities              |                            |
| Payroll Liabilities                    | 2,627.49                   |
| Unearned or Deferred Revenue           | 791,682.36                 |
| <b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b> | <u>794,309.85</u>          |
| <b>Total Current Liabilities</b>       | <u>794,309.85</u>          |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>               | 794,309.85                 |
| <b>Equity</b>                          |                            |
| Net Investment in Capital Asset        | 307,020.92                 |
| Retained Earnings                      | 51,439.71                  |
| Net Income                             | 27,765.69                  |
| <b>Total Equity</b>                    | <u>386,226.32</u>          |
| <b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>  | <u><u>1,180,536.17</u></u> |

**Calaveras County Resource Conservation District**  
**Deposit Detail**  
 July 2023

| Type           | Num      | Date              | Name | Account                      | Amount        |
|----------------|----------|-------------------|------|------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Deposit</b> |          | <b>07/10/2023</b> |      | <b>Checking</b>              | <b>977.06</b> |
| Payment        | 11586... | 07/10/2023        | UCCE | Undeposited Funds            | -977.06       |
| TOTAL          |          |                   |      |                              | -977.06       |
| <b>Deposit</b> |          | <b>07/31/2023</b> |      | <b>Checking</b>              | <b>2.24</b>   |
|                |          |                   |      | Interest-Savings, Sh...      | -2.24         |
| TOTAL          |          |                   |      |                              | -2.24         |
| <b>Deposit</b> |          | <b>07/31/2023</b> |      | <b>Savings 2422 - SN...</b>  | <b>0.84</b>   |
|                |          |                   |      | Interest-Savings, Sh...      | -0.84         |
| TOTAL          |          |                   |      |                              | -0.84         |
| <b>Deposit</b> |          | <b>07/31/2023</b> |      | <b>Savings 2421 - Wyl...</b> | <b>2.52</b>   |
|                |          |                   |      | Interest-Savings, Sh...      | -2.52         |
| TOTAL          |          |                   |      |                              | -2.52         |
| <b>Deposit</b> |          | <b>07/31/2023</b> |      | <b>Savings 2420 - For...</b> | <b>4.36</b>   |
|                |          |                   |      | Interest-Savings, Sh...      | -4.36         |
| TOTAL          |          |                   |      |                              | -4.36         |
| <b>Deposit</b> |          | <b>07/31/2023</b> |      | <b>Savings 2423 - Hw...</b>  | <b>5.04</b>   |
|                |          |                   |      | Interest-Savings, Sh...      | -5.04         |
| TOTAL          |          |                   |      |                              | -5.04         |

**Calaveras County Resource Conservation District**  
**Check Detail**  
**July 2023**

| Type            | Num   | Date       | Name                       | Account                  | Paid Amount |
|-----------------|-------|------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|
| Liability Check |       | 07/07/2023 | QuickBooks Payroll Service | Checking                 |             |
|                 |       |            | QuickBooks Payroll Service | Direct Deposit Liabil... | -4,305.54   |
| TOTAL           |       |            |                            |                          | -4,305.54   |
| Liability Check |       | 07/24/2023 | QuickBooks Payroll Service | Checking                 |             |
|                 |       |            | QuickBooks Payroll Service | Direct Deposit Liabil... | -2,440.15   |
| TOTAL           |       |            |                            |                          | -2,440.15   |
| Check           | Debit | 07/03/2023 | Facebook                   | Checking                 |             |
|                 |       |            |                            | Advertising Expenses     | -1.20       |
| TOTAL           |       |            |                            |                          | -1.20       |
| Check           | Debit | 07/07/2023 | Microsoft                  | Checking                 |             |
|                 |       |            |                            | Computer Software        | -89.50      |
| TOTAL           |       |            |                            |                          | -89.50      |
| Check           | Debit | 07/13/2023 | Adobe                      | Checking                 |             |
|                 |       |            |                            | Computer Software        | -29.99      |
| TOTAL           |       |            |                            |                          | -29.99      |
| Check           | Debit | 07/14/2023 | Staples                    | Checking                 |             |
|                 |       |            |                            | Office Supplies          | -245.85     |
| TOTAL           |       |            |                            |                          | -245.85     |
| Check           | Debit | 07/25/2023 | Intuit Quickbooks          | Checking                 |             |
|                 |       |            |                            | Computer Software        | -500.00     |
|                 |       |            |                            | Computer Software        | -30.00      |
| TOTAL           |       |            |                            |                          | -530.00     |
| Check           | Debit | 07/25/2023 | Air Serve                  | Checking                 |             |
|                 |       |            |                            | Facility Maintenance     | -450.00     |
| TOTAL           |       |            |                            |                          | -450.00     |
| Liability Check | E-pay | 07/10/2023 | EDD                        | Checking                 |             |
|                 |       |            |                            | Payroll Liabilities      | -518.09     |
| TOTAL           |       |            |                            |                          | -518.09     |



## Calaveras County Resource Conservation District Check Detail July 2023

| Type            | Num   | Date       | Name                                     | Account              | Paid Amount |
|-----------------|-------|------------|--|----------------------|-------------|
| Liability Check | E-pay | 07/10/2023 | United States Treasury                   | Checking             |             |
|                 |       |            |  | Payroll Liabilities  | -1,055.00   |
|                 |       |            |  | Payroll Liabilities  | -717.97     |
|                 |       |            |  | Payroll Liabilities  | -717.97     |
|                 |       |            |  | Payroll Liabilities  | -167.91     |
|                 |       |            |  | Payroll Liabilities  | -167.91     |
| TOTAL           |       |            |  |                      | -2,826.76   |
| Liability Check | E-pay | 07/20/2023 | EDD                                      | Checking             |             |
|                 |       |            |  | Payroll Liabilities  | -13.53      |
|                 |       |            |  | Payroll Liabilities  | -487.12     |
| TOTAL           |       |            |  |                      | -500.65     |
| Check           | 585   | 07/10/2023 | Don O'Brien                              | Checking             |             |
|                 |       |            |  | Facility Maintenance | -450.00     |
| TOTAL           |       |            |  |                      | -450.00     |
| Bill Pmt -Check | 586   | 07/10/2023 | Calaveras Public Power Agency (CPPA)     | Checking             |             |
| Bill            |       | 07/10/2023 |  | Utilities            | -300.00     |
| TOTAL           |       |            |  |                      | -300.00     |
| Bill Pmt -Check | 587   | 07/10/2023 | Calaveras Public Utility District (CPUD) | Checking             |             |
| Bill            |       | 07/10/2023 |  | Utilities            | -77.36      |
| TOTAL           |       |            |  |                      | -77.36      |
| Bill Pmt -Check | 588   | 07/10/2023 | Eddy Struffenegger                       | Checking             |             |
| Bill            |       | 06/30/2023 | Cal Fire:Moke Hill 5GG21172              | Contractor Services  | -7,646.48   |
| Bill            |       | 06/30/2023 | Cal Fire:Hwy 108 Fricot City             | Contractor Services  | -1,542.58   |
| TOTAL           |       |            |  |                      | -9,189.06   |
| Bill Pmt -Check | 589   | 07/10/2023 | Markit Forest Management LLC             | Checking             |             |
| Bill            |       | 06/28/2023 | Sierra Nevada Conservancy:Bummerville    | Contractor Services  | -95,502.80  |
| TOTAL           |       |            |  |                      | -95,502.80  |
| Bill Pmt -Check | 590   | 07/10/2023 | PG&E- V                                  | Checking             |             |
| Bill            |       | 07/10/2023 |  | Utilities            | -12.79      |
| TOTAL           |       |            |  |                      | -12.79      |
| Bill Pmt -Check | 591   | 07/10/2023 | San Andreas Sanitary District            | Checking             |             |
| Bill            |       | 07/10/2023 |  | Utilities            | -105.51     |
| TOTAL           |       |            |  |                      | -105.51     |

11:30 AM

08/04/23

**Calaveras County Resource Conservation District**  
**Check Detail**  
July 2023

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| Type            | Num | Date       | Name                                 | Account              | Paid Amount |
|-----------------|-----|------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Bill Pmt -Check | 592 | 07/10/2023 | Special District Risk Mgmt Authority | Checking             |             |
| Bill            |     | 07/10/2023 |                                      | Worker's Compensa... | -2,659.46   |
| TOTAL           |     |            |                                      |                      | -2,659.46   |

|                        | 2017              | 2018               | 2019              | 2020              | 2021               | 2022               | Jan-23            | Feb-23            | Mar-23            | Apr-23            | May-23            | Jun-23            | Jul-23            | YTD 2023           | Total All Dates    |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Income:</b>         |                   |                    |                   |                   |                    |                    |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                    |                    |
| CPUD                   | \$1,420.50        | \$348.60           |                   |                   |                    |                    |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                    | \$1,769.10         |
| Common Ground          | \$0.00            | \$3,600.00         | \$4,737.50        | \$5,100.00        | \$6,625.00         | \$6,600.00         | \$550.00          | \$550.00          | \$550.00          | \$550.00          | \$550.00          | \$550.00          | \$550.00          | \$3,850.00         | \$30,512.50        |
| UCCE                   | \$0.00            | \$1,261.34         | \$3,724.18        | \$3,540.50        | \$3,581.92         | \$6,931.42         | \$939.22          | \$950.84          | \$1,025.14        | \$1,059.97        | \$977.07          | \$835.17          | \$814.02          | \$6,601.43         | \$25,640.78        |
| Motherlode Bonsai Club | \$0.00            | \$0.00             | \$0.00            | \$240.00          | \$375.00           | \$75.00            |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   | \$0.00             | \$690.00           |
| <b>Total Income</b>    | <b>\$1,420.50</b> | <b>\$5,209.94</b>  | <b>\$8,461.68</b> | <b>\$8,880.50</b> | <b>\$10,581.92</b> | <b>\$13,606.42</b> | <b>\$1,489.22</b> | <b>\$1,500.84</b> | <b>\$1,575.14</b> | <b>\$1,609.97</b> | <b>\$1,527.07</b> | <b>\$1,385.17</b> | <b>\$1,364.02</b> | <b>\$10,451.43</b> | <b>\$58,612.38</b> |
| <b>Expenses:</b>       |                   |                    |                   |                   |                    |                    |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                    |                    |
| CPUD                   | \$177.38          | \$672.06           | \$709.63          | \$988.51          | \$927.41           | \$901.58           | \$77.36           | \$77.36           | \$77.36           | \$77.36           | \$77.36           | \$77.36           | \$77.36           | \$541.52           | \$4,918.09         |
| San Andreas Sanitary   | \$282.59          | \$1,009.61         | \$1,280.41        | \$1,391.33        | \$1,192.97         | \$1,206.83         | \$105.51          | \$105.51          | \$105.51          | \$105.51          | \$105.51          | \$105.51          | \$105.51          | \$738.57           | \$7,102.31         |
| CPPA                   | \$44.80           | \$1,353.60         | \$2,009.80        | \$1,618.80        | \$1,743.60         | \$2,218.48         | \$168.32          | \$260.00          | \$260.00          | \$260.00          | \$220.00          | \$228.00          | \$300.00          | \$1,696.32         | \$10,685.40        |
| PGE                    | \$44.87           | \$422.44           | \$1,400.71        | \$1,057.48        | \$1,221.74         | \$1,512.10         | \$292.86          | \$307.33          | \$357.08          | \$238.65          | \$75.95           | \$37.73           | \$12.79           | \$1,322.39         | \$6,981.73         |
| Insurance              |                   |                    |                   |                   | \$684.26           | \$848.70           |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   | \$0.00             | \$1,532.96         |
| Sewer Repairs          | \$0.00            | \$8,500.00         | \$0.00            | \$0.00            | \$0.00             | \$230.00           |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   | \$1,589.70        | \$1,589.70         | \$10,319.70        |
| A/C Repairs            | \$0.00            | \$142.16           | \$0.00            | \$2,039.02        | \$145.19           | \$1,088.99         |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   |                   | \$0.00             | \$3,415.36         |
| General Maintenance    | \$0.00            | \$27.57            | \$406.89          | \$295.47          | \$272.68           | \$1,151.75         | \$24.74           |                   |                   |                   | \$530.00          |                   | \$450.00          | \$1,004.74         | \$3,159.10         |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>  | <b>\$549.64</b>   | <b>\$12,127.44</b> | <b>\$5,807.44</b> | <b>\$7,390.61</b> | <b>\$6,187.85</b>  | <b>\$9,158.43</b>  | <b>\$668.79</b>   | <b>\$750.20</b>   | <b>\$799.95</b>   | <b>\$681.52</b>   | <b>\$1,008.82</b> | <b>\$448.60</b>   | <b>\$2,535.36</b> | <b>\$6,893.24</b>  | <b>\$48,114.65</b> |
| Profit/Loss            | \$870.86          | (\$6,917.50)       | \$2,654.24        | \$1,489.89        | \$4,394.07         | \$4,447.99         | \$820.43          | \$750.64          | \$775.19          | \$928.45          | \$518.25          | \$936.57          | (\$1,171.34)      | \$3,558.19         | \$10,497.73        |

Grant Tracking as of 07/31/2023

|  | <u>Grant Period</u>    | <u>Amount Awarded</u>  | <u>Direct Costs</u>    | <u>Indirect Cost</u> | <u>Current Advance</u> | <u>Remaining Advance</u> | <u>Expended to Date</u> | <u>Invoiced</u>    | <u>Amount Remaining</u> |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Murphys Forest Meadows (CalFire)       | 5/26/2020 - 3/15/2024  | \$ 2,161,776.00        | \$ 1,965,251.00        | \$ 196,525.00        | \$ 540,256.75          | \$ 170,255.78            | \$ 1,389,836.19         |                    | \$ 771,939.81           |
| Wylderidge (CalFire)                   | 11/23/2021 - 3/15/2025 | \$ 440,608.30          | \$ 400,553.30          | \$ 40,055.00         | \$ 110,022.00          | \$ 98,123.71             | \$ 11,898.28            |                    | \$ 428,710.02           |
| Pine Ridge (SNC)                       | 4/15/2022 - 1/1/2027   | \$ 405,605.00          | \$ 352,700.00          | \$ 52,905.00         | \$ 121,681.50          | \$ 32,719.23             | \$ 88,962.28            |                    | \$ 316,642.72           |
| Fricot City/108 Direct Award (CalFire) | 5/9/2022 - 3/15/2026   | \$ 999,109.10          | \$ 908,281.00          | \$ 90,828.10         |                        | \$ 197,118.26            | \$ 18,481.74            |                    | \$ 980,627.36           |
| Moke Hill (CalFire)                    | 10/6/2022 - 3/15/2026  | \$ 1,047,753.71        | \$ 952,503.37          | \$ 95,250.34         |                        | \$ 54,130.51             | \$ 34,880.12            |                    | \$ 1,012,873.60         |
| Bummerville/Blizzard Mine (SNC)        | 9/12/2022 - 1/1/2028   | \$ 1,450,740.00        | \$ 1,318,854.00        | \$ 131,885.00        | \$ 435,222.00          | \$ 239,334.87            | \$ 195,887.13           |                    | \$ 1,254,852.87         |
| CARCD - WCB Wildlife Structures        |                        | \$ 200,000.00          |                        |                      |                        |                          |                         |                    | \$ 200,000.00           |
| Other A/R: Rent, TCRCD, CARCD          |                        |                        |                        |                      |                        |                          |                         | \$ 5,344.63        |                         |
| <b>Total</b>                           |                        | <b>\$ 6,705,592.11</b> | <b>\$ 5,898,142.67</b> | <b>\$ 607,448.44</b> | <b>\$ 1,207,182.25</b> | <b>\$ 791,682.36</b>     | <b>\$ 1,739,945.74</b>  | <b>\$ 5,344.63</b> | <b>\$ 4,965,646.38</b>  |

\* Deferred Rev

\*Accounts Rec



## CALAVERAS COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PO Box 1041 ♦ 423 E. St Charles St. ♦ San Andreas, CA 95249

info@CalaverasRCD.org

August 10, 2023 CCRCDD Board Meeting

### **CALFIRE GRANT UPDATES:**

1. Forest Meadows/Wylderidge: RPF Bray has completed her inspection and is now waiting on CAL FIRE/TCU for final acreage of the Northwest unit and the Southern unit (previously GPSd); LCLC can then submit their invoice for payment. LCLC will return after the 2023 fire season to complete the project (NE unit).
2. Murphys to Forest Meadows Fuels Reduction project: Krisman will return mid-Sept if it's not 100 degrees, or as soon thereafter to finish up the remaining ~ 200 acres.
3. Highway 108 North Fuels Reduction Project: This is scheduled to start right after fire season.
4. Fricot City Road Fuels Reduction Project: We just received the bio report. Jason and Ed will finish the field work, which is mainly some unanswered questions, in the next several days. Cultural issues have all been addressed and flagged. Prescriptions and mapping will be done shortly thereafter. Then the report writing should all be done before the end of August.
5. Mokelumne Hill Fuels Reduction Project: Ed is working on the prescriptions. Mapping is coming along, and should be done in another week or so, as soon as we get all field issues answered. Bio report is in-hand. Cultural issues are all addressed and flagged. I submitted all the bio reports, cultural data, etc. to Dr. Richard Harris, who will be doing the writing of the CEQA documents (Notice of Exemption and the ERRF form). He indicated he should have this done easily in August.
6. We received award letters for our latest CalFire Fire Prevention Grant applications.

### **SNC Grants Update:**

1. SNC Pine Ridge Project is active, Kaylee Dillashaw is project manager and will give her report.
2. SNC Bummerville/Blizzard Mine Project: Per Pat McGreevy - California Forest has completed treatment on 13.49 acres in the Jurs Road Unit. This work passed inspection for quality control by Jan Bray on 8/1/2023. I have certified the acreage by GPS and have attached the unit map. Please pay the attached invoice from California Forest in the amount of \$35,411.25 (13.49 ac x \$2,625.00/ac).



## New Business Item #3 - Murphys to Forest Meadows

### Contract Background:

Unit 1. Forest View – 263 acres total

RJW worked **71.55** acres less final chipping - Fully certified and paid.

Krisman finished the chipping on this 71.55 acres. Has not invoiced. (\$7,500 value)

Krisman was awarded up to **191.45** acres to complete the unit.

RJW started work on 20.5 of these acres, did not complete the acres to prescription but was certified by CalFire. RJW has not invoiced or been paid for these acres. (\$23,575 total value bid)

Unit 2. Forest Meadows West – 143 acres total

RJW worked **87** acres - Fully certified and paid.

Krisman was awarded up to the remaining **56** acres to complete this unit. But is expected to do only 17.7 acres.

### Issues at Hand:

**Issue 1** – RJW did *most* of the work on 71.55 acres except for the final chipping of logs but was paid in full for this work. We then hired Krisman to chip so it would be done to prescription since RJW would not return to do it.

***We need to reimburse Krisman for this work in some manner to be determined.***

**Issue 2** – RJW also started work on 20.5 acres for which CalFire certified, however they were not completed to our prescription. It is apparently enough for CAL FIRE's needs. RJW never invoiced for these acres.

***We need to decide if we let Krisman complete these 20.5 acres to our prescription and be paid accordingly or remove them from his scope of work since the acres have already been certified as "enough" by CAL FIRE.***

*One possible solution to this is to send RJW a certified letter giving him 30 days to submit any open invoices. If he does not submit an invoice, we can allow Krisman to complete these acres and bill for them. If he does submit an invoice, then we can remove them from Krisman's scope of work.*

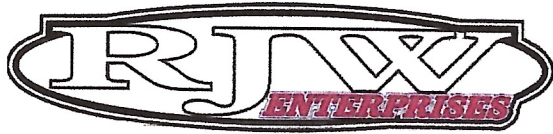
**Issue 3**—Should we allow Krisman to raise his per acre rate in order to cover his chipping costs, since we can't re-pay for the chipping that was already invoiced/paid?

**Items of Note in RJW's Contract:**

**15. Failure to Perform:**

- a. In order to ensure faithful performance of this agreement and to reimburse CCRCD for any loss or damages suffered by reason of RJW Enterprises, Inc.'s failure to perform in full or in part, CCRCD shall have the right to withhold monies due RJW Enterprises, Inc., a sum or sums sufficient to cover, in the judgment of CCRCD, such loss, damage or failure. In the event that CCRCD does withhold said sum or sums, CCRCD shall, in writing, notify RJW Enterprises, Inc. stating specifically the terms in which RJW Enterprises, Inc. is deficient so that RJW Enterprises, Inc. may, if possible, cure the deficiencies and obtain a release of the withheld sums. If, within ten (10) days after written notice, RJW Enterprises, Inc. has not cured the deficiencies, then CCRCD is expressly given the right by RJW Enterprises, Inc. to take possession of project documents, data, reports, maps, and information and to remedy the problem by hiring other resources to complete the project. RJW Enterprises, Inc. expressly agrees to provide all project materials to CCRCD and to abide by CCRCD's decision. RJW Enterprises, Inc. also agrees to accept payment for such work as has been completed to CCRCD's satisfaction and to reimburse CCRCD for any additional cost in excess of the contract price hereunder incurred by CCRCD in completing the work.
  - b. In the event RJW Enterprises, Inc. shall fail to comply with each and every term and condition of this Agreement to be kept and performed by it, and in the event such default shall not be remedied within ten (10) days after written notice thereof by CCRCD to RJW Enterprises, Inc., then and in such event, CCRCD shall have the right to terminate this agreement and it thereafter shall be of no further force or effect. The remedy provided in this section shall be provided for in addition to any and all other remedies by law or this Agreement.
  - c. CCRCD shall compensate RJW Enterprises, Inc. for CAL FIRE Grant 5GG19147 work assigned that is satisfactorily completed using the rates defined in "**Exhibit B, Payment Schedule**". RJW Enterprises, Inc. agrees and understands that all or a portion of assigned work payments may be withheld from payment for reasons detailed in item #15 "Failure to Perform".
- 10.** RJW Enterprises, Inc. understands and acknowledges that CCRCD may suffer damages as a result of RJW Enterprises, Inc.'s tardiness in performance of its services under this Agreement. RJW Enterprises, Inc., therefore, agrees to give CCRCD or its designated representative as much notice as practical of any foreseeable delay in the completion of RJW Enterprises, Inc.'s services. RJW Enterprises, Inc. further agrees to indemnify CCRCD for any damages suffered by CCRCD because of RJW Enterprises, Inc.'s failure to perform its services in accordance with said work schedule when delays result from RJW Enterprises, Inc.'s negligence.





RJW Enterprises, Inc.  
PO Box 162  
Shaver Lake, CA 93664  
559-841-2411  
robert@rjwenterprises.org  
www.rjwenterprises.org

BILL TO  
CCRCD

INVOICE 1633

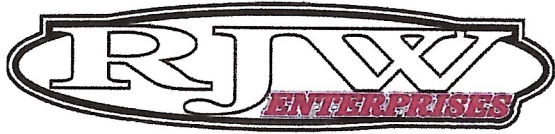
DATE 03/15/2022 TERMS Net 60

DUE DATE 05/14/2022

| ACTIVITY  | QTY | RATE     | AMOUNT    |
|---|-----|----------|-----------|
| <b>Mastication:Mastication</b><br>Murphys to Forest Meadows WUI Fuel<br>Break | 44  | 1,000.00 | 44,000.00 |

TOTAL DUE \$44,000.00

pd 3/18/22  
Check # 472



RJW Enterprises, Inc.  
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BILL TO  
CCRCD

INVOICE 1660

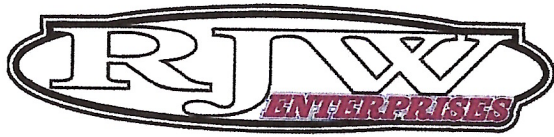
DATE 06/03/2022 TERMS Net 30

DUE DATE 07/03/2022

| ACTIVITY   | QTY | RATE     | AMOUNT    |
|--|-----|----------|-----------|
| Mastication:Mastication<br>Murphys to Forest Meadows WUI Fuel<br>Break | 43  | 1,150.00 | 49,450.00 |

TOTAL DUE \$49,450.00

pd 6/22/22  
ck 495



RJW Enterprises, Inc.  
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 559-841-2411  
 robert@rjwenterprises.org  
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BILL TO  
 CCRC

INVOICE 1674

DATE 09/02/2022 TERMS Net 30

DUE DATE 10/02/2022

| ACTIVITY  | QTY   | RATE     | AMOUNT    |
|---|-------|----------|-----------|
| Mastication: Mastication<br>Murphys to Forest Meadows WUI Fuel<br>Break | 71.55 | 1,150.00 | 82,282.50 |

TOTAL DUE \$82,282.50

pd 12/5/22  
 Check 535



## **Executive Director Report – August 10, 2023**

*By Mary Cole, Interim Executive Director*

1. Grants:
  - a. Sent contract to AERI for the Hwy 108 project.
  - b. Worked on Murphys to Forest Meadows issues.
  - c. Spoke with a homeowner in the Moke Hill project.
  - d. Wrote quarterly reports for Hwy 108, Moke Hill, and Fricot City grants.
2. Reached out to County OES Director, Mike Massone.
3. Submitted Calaveras Community Grant application.
4. Submitted CSPAW MOU letter.
5. Met with BurnBot (along with Bob Dean, Julia and Dana) to discuss what our roll might be.
6. Building Maintenance:
  - a. Had the monthly building clean up.
    - i. More bush trimming.
    - ii. Repaired fencing in front.
    - iii. Had locks placed on spigots.
    - iv. Had wasp entrances blocked.
    - v. Placed trash can in front. County will replace bag weekly.
    - vi. Placed 'No Loitering' and 'No Trespassing' signs.
    - vii. Will install signs "Parking Only for UCCE, Common Ground & CCRCD".
  - b. Had the top floor HVAC fixed. No present need to replace the furnace.
7. Correspondence:
  - a. Letter from Marcie Powers re: Save Calaveras Big Trees



From Marcie Powers

The *LA Times* story — which quotes me and Tom and other Arnold residents and introduces our nascent *Save Calaveras Big Trees* grassroots organization — appeared on the front page of Wednesday's print edition with the headline: "Outrage after fire damages beloved sequoias / The 5-century-old 'Orphans' are roasted in controlled burn. One may not survive."

We hope you will go to our website — <https://savebigtrees.org/> — and **sign the petition at the top to the Governor** calling on him to urgently clean up the massive fuels buildup in the Park, which poses an existential wildfire threat to both our treasured Giant Sequoias and our surrounding communities.

**It's particularly urgent now to better prep the astonishingly overgrown South Grove of 1000 giant sequoias where the park plans a 1300-acre burn this fall.** Currently, the Park is preparing the 1000 sequoias in South Grove the same way they prepared The Orphans.

Prescribed burning is **essential** — as is this particular burn — to create healthy forests resilient to wildfire.

But with the drought caused by climate change along with the massive fuels buildup — and the tragic plight and cautionary tale of The Orphans — **we believe it's vital to more aggressively prepare the sequoias for the prescribed burn of the entire South Grove.**

We are carrying on the advocacy work of the Park's nonprofit, Calaveras Big Trees Association, which over the past year and a half doggedly urged the state to dramatically increase the pace and scale of fuels reduction and expand its methods beyond its prescribed-burn-only plan for half the Park over five years — advocating for a significant reduction in fire fuels — ladder fuels, dead standing trees and understory and biomass — *before* planned burns.

In a recent meeting with the head of state parks and undersecretary for forest management for California — including our Calaveras County Supervisor Martin Huberty, who spoke about the Park being the lifeblood of the County's economy — we reached an impasse.

The turning point for us came when it was discovered in June that "The Orphans" had been severely damaged in an uncontrolled prescribed burn last October, unbeknownst to the Park for seven months.

We hope you will go to the website and **sign the petition to the Governor** calling on him to urgently protect the only Giant Sequoias on state park land.

We also urge you to share this with your neighbors, friends, colleagues and family who care about the Giant Sequoias and our community, and post on social media.

Attached is the news article. Our website, at the very top, has a link to a copy of the e-edition of the story that includes *five* photos instead of the one in yesterday's print edition.

Together, let's save our beloved Giant Sequoias!

Best,  
Marcie & Tom

## Outrage after fire damages beloved sequoias

The 5-century-old ‘Orphans’ are roasted in a controlled burn.  
One may not survive.

BY ALEX WIGGLESWORTH

They are called “the Or-phans” and they have stood side by side in what is now Calaveras Big Trees State Park for more than five centuries.

But today, fans of the gi-ant sequoias fear that one of the towering duo may soon perish after a prescribed fire that was intended to protect them, but instead roasted the trees’ massive trunks and killed most of their can-opies.

The burn — and the ex-tensive damage it inflicted on the beloved sequoias —has tapped a deep vein of anger and fear in a Northern California mountain com-munity, where the worry over catastrophic wildfire has grown steadily over the last decade. It has also served to undermine local confidence in how state parks officials perform con-trolled burns — one of the key tools for reducing the se-verity of wildfires in an era of extreme drought and cli-mate change.

“The serious damage done to these ancient trees was a wake-up call,” said Marcie Powers, a resident of Arnold, Calif. She and others say they are outraged by the way the burn was conducted, and



# Damage to sequoias angers community

[Sequoias, from A1]

accuse park officials of failing to adequately prepare the forest before setting it alight. Now, they say they have little faith in the park's ability to conduct a much larger prescribed burn planned for the fall.

Park officials deny the charges, and say they took all necessary precautions to avoid a mishap when the burn was conducted last fall. They say the trees appear to have been weakened by years of drought, making them more susceptible to heat.

"It is just a reality of the situation where sometimes you do lose a very small percent of the ecosystem you were trying to protect," said Jay Chamberlain, chief of California State Parks' Natural Resources Division.

Tucked within the western Sierra Nevada, halfway between Yosemite National Park and Lake Tahoe, Calaveras Big Trees is the only state park where giant sequoias grow. More than 1,000 grow in the remote South Grove, while some 100 populate the North Grove.

Like many California landscapes, the park suffers from an overgrowth of vegetation — a condition that started to take root more than 150 years ago, when Gold Rush settlers began to systematically snuff out naturally sparked blazes and those set by Indigenous people.

As part of an estimated \$7-million, five-year plan of prescribed burns, park crews set fires in about 180 acres of the North Grove from Oct. 20 to Nov. 4.

The goal was to reduce dead and downed vegetation, slow the regeneration of Pacific dogwood and expose patches of mineral soil where sequoia seedlings could take root, according to an incident action plan.

Before the burn, crews raked 3-foot lines around the Orphans' roots to move away leaves and needles. They also cleared heavy vegetation and downed limbs within a 20-foot radius of the trunks, said Danielle Gerhart, superintendent for the Central Valley District. Some snags — standing dead trees — were felled, and logs were removed, she said.

Despite these precautions, the Orphans were badly damaged — although it took months for anyone to realize it.

A winter storm shut down the main road into the park less than a week after the burn. When the snow cleared in mid-April, Joan Perry walked her dog along the road and spotted the Orphans.

"I hadn't seen them all winter," said the semi-retired schoolteacher, whose backyard abuts the park. "And I come around the bend and I look at their tops and they're brown, they're not green. As I got closer, I could see that their trunks were scorched."

When Perry looked at the other mature giant sequoias in the burn area, it appeared flames had reached only 3 to



DOMINIQUE WILLIAMS Modesto Bee

**ARNOLD**, Calif., residents, members of the Calaveras Big Trees Assn., County Supervisor Martin Huberty, Adam Lewis of the Calaveras band of Mi-wuk Indians and others hike to "the Orphans" to pray for the trees.

5 feet up their trunks, she said. But the Orphans were scorched all the way into their crowns, more than 100 feet off the ground, she said.

State park officials aren't sure exactly what happened. Giant sequoias have not only evolved to withstand low-intensity fires sparked by lightning, they rely on fire to reproduce — their cones open and release seeds only in response to bursts of heat.

The Orphans did not catch fire but were damaged by radiant heat, possibly from sparks igniting a nearby tree or snag, Gerhart said. The trees' vulnerability may have been exacerbated by a lack of soil moisture because of the drought, worsened by climate change, she said.

A giant sequoia can survive if just 15% to 20% of its crown remains intact, although the loss makes the tree more vulnerable to diseases and future fires. One of the Orphans appears likely to survive. The other has fewer green needles left and may die. If that happens, it will be left in place to serve as wildlife habitat.

Word of the damage spread.

Tom Van Lokeren, Powers' husband, organized a gathering in which residents prayed for the trees, which were named the Orphans because they were set apart from other sequoias in the grove.

"It really pulls at your heartstrings that these two trees, out away from the rest of the family, were forgotten," said the retired forensic accountant.

Along with news of the damage, rumors began to spread of state negligence: Some claimed officials failed to perform forest thinning that could have spared the Orphans. Others claimed crews stood idly by as flames climbed the trees and raged through their canopies.

"It's really created a lot of tension in our community," Van Lokeren said.

The controversy comes at a time when state officials and others have been attempting to encourage broader use of "good fire" as

a means of removing dense trees and brush that could fuel a damaging wildfire. Recently, the state rolled out a \$20-million claims fund to cover damages should a controlled burn escape.

Some experts worry the outcry over the Orphans will jeopardize efforts to safeguard other ancient groves.

They say that high-severity wildfire poses an existential risk to giant sequoias, which grow nowhere else in the world. Already, three fires in the southern Sierra are estimated to have killed nearly 20% of the population in just two years.

"If we're going to say that if we can't perfectly prep every single giant sequoia then we can't burn, we're taking a big gamble there," said Kristen Shive, a fire ecologist and assistant professor at UC Berkeley. "It's impossible to say you would never lose one in a prescribed burn, but you are going to lose far fewer in the long run."

Park officials maintain that the fire that damaged the Orphans was a good burn overall — not only did it clear away vegetation that could carry high-severity fire, but baby sequoias have sprouted up in the mineral soil beneath the scorched giants.

Amid the backlash, some residents worry the park's overgrown condition could stoke a fast-moving wildfire and endanger communities dotting the fire-prone corridor along Highway 4 — the area's only escape route.

"If you ask anybody up here, it's not a question of if, it's a question of when," said David Vassar, a filmmaker who lives less than two miles from the park.

When she sits on her side deck, Perry said she can see "easily 300 dead trees" in the park. She estimates that at least half a dozen have fallen onto her property since 2018, after a die-off caused by drought and bark beetles.

While the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection requires nearby homeowners to keep their yards clear of needles and fallen trees, the park isn't held to the same stand-

ards, Perry said.

"By protecting the forest within the park boundaries, they also protect the lives and the livelihoods of their Arnold neighbors," she said. "And I'm not sure how much that has been taken into consideration with the park's planning."

The park has failed to maintain its land for years, said Pat McGreevy of the Calaveras Amador Forestry Team, a group of retired foresters and resource specialists who banded together after the 2015 Butte fire, which destroyed hundreds of homes.

The group has secured nearly \$5.6 million in grant funding to build 3,500 acres of shaded fuel breaks from the village of Murphys to the border of the park, he said. Within the project footprint, crews thinned big trees to prevent fire from leaping from treetop to treetop, and masticated — or ground up — smaller trees and surface vegetation to keep flames closer to the ground.

The goal is to give firefighters an opportunity to fight blazes that start deep in the canyon and race up the wall, McGreevy said.

But there's a hole in the network, McGreevy said: Calaveras Big Trees officials declined the group's offer to extend the fuel break through the park with 270 acres of mastication, even though the organization said it would secure grant funding and ensure quality control.

"It's the Achilles' heel of the defense system that we're trying to construct," he said.

Now, as park officials go forward with plans for a 1,300-acre prescribed burn in the South Grove this fall, residents are anxious.

They point out that the grove has experienced virtually no significant recent fire, leading some experts to declare it the most at risk of catastrophic wildfire among all the unburned sequoia groves in California. There are also thousands of piles of trimmed vegetation awaiting disposal.

"When you look at the South Grove, it is so choked

that it's frightening to think about burning it," Powers said.

Until recently, the retired press secretary had served on the board of the Calaveras Big Trees Assn., a non-profit that raises funds for the park's educational and interpretive programs. In February of last year, the board passed a resolution urging the park to thin more trees and vegetation before the next prescribed burn, she said.

"We envisioned bringing in the same firefighter infrastructure that you bring in when you have a fire — put up the tents in the campground, put up the portable showers and food stations, the medical tents," she said.

Unsatisfied with the park's response — and heartbroken by the damage to the Orphans — Powers recently resigned from the board to found Save Calaveras Big Trees with her husband. Its goal is to get the park to do more thinning, mastication and biomass removal in addition to prescribed burns, she said. If that isn't possible, she'd like to see the federal government step in and take over management, she said.

Park officials say they are committed to the task.

The South Grove burn was initially scheduled for spring in 2022, but conditions were too dry and the unit wasn't ready, so Cal Fire, in conjunction with park officials, called it off, Gerhart said.

In preparation for the fall burn, Gerhart said, workers have already begun clearing dead and downed material from around the trunks of monarch sequoias — the largest trees in the grove. They've also hired a contractor to help remove large logs from around the burn perimeter and about 50 feet into the preserve, and they're masticating trees and brush along the boundary edge, as well as some of the piles, she said.

"We all want to get this work done, and we all wish it could go faster," Gerhart said, "but we're working really hard to get it completed."