

From: jonathan [REDACTED]
To: Holbrook, Marcia
Subject: Further Comments on Proposed Ordinance 23-04
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 8:33:38 AM

MOFD Board Members:

I took the trouble of viewing the video of the fire chief's presentation at last month's Board meeting concerning proposed ordinance 23-04 and did find that, although in the written staff report he does not say he feels MOFD's authority does not extend to CalTrans, he did say so at the meeting. However, have you, gentlemen, ever perused the State Fire Code or Public Resources Code? There I can find no indication that a local agency has any authority to tell a regional agency what to do on its own property, unless we're talking about a parcel containing an inhabited structure. I say this because I would suppose that a responsible Board member would want to know that he is acting in alignment with State law when voting for a given agenda item. Just how sure are you that MOFD has any such power, given a seeming lack of it being bestowed in the State codes?

Additionally, I might note that, although the fire chief offers an exemption for protected species, there is no exemption for habitat conservation for species which are not protected. By the way, I am not aware of any MOFD employee having a background in public lands management, whereas our regional public resource agencies have been doing such work for decades. Perhaps their wisdom should be respected by those of us unqualified to judge these matters?

The main point I wish to make here is something related to this, namely, our fire district has lately taken the notion that inter-agency fuels mitigation planning should be a punitive process, using code enforcement as a cudgel, rather than one which truly engages sister agencies as equals. To this point, I thought it might be instructive to offer a sketch of what such a thing might look like. While I don't expect that current District leadership will adopt such an approach, it might benefit the Board to know of this so that some member might suggest it to a succeeding regime.

1. The Fire Management Plans of all agencies owning property in MOFD would be included in an updated version of the District's CWPP.
2. This fire district and applicable agencies would discuss areas of mutual concern and discuss possible fuels mitigation projects which specifically would further protect life, property & the environment and be financially sustainable.
3. These projects would be approved by the relevant boards, thus ensuring some degree of accountability.

You know, the era of MOFD receiving multi-million dollar fuels reduction grants is likely drawing to a close and the time will come when more humble solutions will be sought. Something as simple and practical as the above should be given due consideration in due course.

~Jonathan Goodwin
Canyon, Calif.