



Oak To Timberline Fire Safe Council

*Serving the Foothill and Mountain Communities East of the Friant-Kern
Canal and South of the Kings River of Fresno and Tulare County*
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ANNUAL REPORT FEBRUARY 23, 2017, COVERING THE PARTIAL YEAR PRIOR TO 2016 WHEN OTFSC WAS RE-CONSTITUTED

The Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council (OTFSC) was re-constituted with a new Board in spring of 2015, maintaining the OTFSC Mission, By-Laws and Articles of Incorporation and starting with a holdover balance of roughly \$600 from the previous OTFSC Board. The new OTFSC Board consisted of Sandi Cates, Chair, Mike Weinberg, Vice Chair, Julie Harcos, Secretary, David Karplus, Treasurer, Dotty Woolum, Public Information Officer, Marwan LoMele and Horst Rademacher, both Members.

Very early on, our Board was a critical asset in the months of the 2015 153,000 acre Rough Fire, and since then we have been dealing with the overwhelming tree mortality in our Sierra Nevada foothill communities in the Highway 180 corridor at the entrances to Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks.

In 2016, the Board consisted of: Sandi Cates, Chair, Mike Weinberg, Vice Chair, Julie Harcos, Secretary, David Karplus, Treasurer, Trulen Cates, Public Information Officer, Dotty Woolum, Grants Coordinator and Projects Manager, Mahalia LoMele Newsletter Editor and Website Guru, and Jack Huneke, Outreach Specialist, until near and at the end of the year when Mike Weinberg and Sandi and Trulen Cates announced their resignations. The Board is currently at its minimal membership of 5 members, and Dotty Woolum is serving as Acting Chair until our elections at the February 23, 2017 Annual Meeting.

Since our re-incarnation, we have written ten grants (federal, state, corporation) to obtain funding to deal with fuels reduction and our tree mortality and to promote fire safety in our service area. Four of these were funded in 2016 (for a total of just over \$201,000). These four are now totally, or almost totally, expended, with the vast majority of the funds spent on contractual work for felling dead/dying trees. OTFSC is particularly proud of the contractual work accomplished by its LTO (Licensed Timber Operator, Brack Welton of Topnotch, Inc.) and RPF (Registered Professional Forester, Jeff Gletne). Over 1100 trees were taken down in 2016; the logs were bucked and decked and the slash was masticated. All this was done at an average cost of \$143 per tree, and this includes the costs for the sub-contracted (and expensive!) traffic control necessary for road traffic safety. The fourth grant, a \$500 grant, was used to support a fund-raising event in spring 2016. One additional grant was just approved in December 2016, for a

start date in early spring 2017; it is a California State Tree Mortality (TM) grant for \$200,000 to remove dead trees in the north Tulare County part of our service area.

Members of the OTFSC Board provide hundreds of hours of their time at no expense to the organization and no member has received reimbursement for their time and efforts, only for reimbursement for their personal outlay of OTFSC approved expenses like postage, mileage and supplies and services needed for our fire safety work.

Our normal operations include:

- *Monthly Board meetings (to which the public is always invited)

- *Bi-monthly public meetings, at which we and our Partners (e.g., CAL FIRE, USFS,) update the community on our/their progress and plans for the future .

- *Maintenance of a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/oaktotimberline) and a website (www.oaktotimberline.org) and publication of a monthly e-newsletter, copies of which are posted on our website. Mahalia reports that our newsletter has 227 subscribers!

In addition, we provide fire prevention information booths at community events (this year at a Mountain Rodeo Association event, a Four Seasons Garden Club annual event, a Central Sierra Chamber of Commerce Holiday event, and a Dunlap Holiday Parade).

Board members attend and speak at meetings of other community organizations to promote fire safety, publicize our efforts and events and seek community participation, involvement and support.

Whenever possible we provide opportunities for community chipping events to promote fire safety. There were 2 such events in 2016.

We routinely participate in the monthly Fresno Country Tree Mortality Task Force Meetings and the quarterly Yosemite/Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Meetings.

Finally, we are currently collaborating with Sierra Resource Conservation District to develop a CWPP (Community Wildfire Protection Plan) for our Service Area, and Board Members and Stakeholders are in Firewise training with the goal of having our communities recognized as Firewise Communities.

Our Financial Report from our Treasurer follows.

Respectfully submitted,
Dorothy Woolum
Acting Chair, and Grants Coordinator/Projects Manager
Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council

FINANCIAL REPORT

January 31, 2017

Balance and Income Statement for Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council 2016

2016 Beginning Balance: \$1,442.38

2016 Expenses: \$171,675.91

2016 Income: \$199,604.13 (Grants, Donations, Interest)

2016 Ending Balance: \$29,370.60 (Cash on hand)

2016 Pending Grant Income: \$3,797.50 (2015 SRA Grant)

2016 Outstanding Expenses: \$42.95

2016 Net Ending Assets: \$33,125.15

Signed,
David Karplus
Finance Officer
Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council

March 15, 2016

Balance and Income Statement for Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council 2015

2015 Beginning Balance: \$607.89

2015 Expenses: \$499.51

2015 Income: \$1334.00

2015 Ending Balance: \$1442.38

Signed,
David Karplus
Finance Officer
Oak to Timberline Fire Safe Council