



Albion Little River Fire Protection District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, June 18, 2024, 10:00 AM

Please note that this meeting will be held at Station 810, 33900 West Street, Albion, CA and via videoconference on the Zoom platform Information on attending this meeting can be found on our website <http://www.alrfpd.com> under the Notices tab.

1. **Call to order and determination of a quorum.**
2. **Motion by Secretary Steve Acker to adopt agenda:**
3. **Public communication to the board:** Members of the public may address the board by emailing the board at board@albionfire.com on any matter within the jurisdiction of the board; however, no action will be taken on items not on the agenda. Individuals wishing to address the board regarding items on the agenda may also email the board at board@albionfire.com.
4. **Chief's report**
5. **Consent calendar:** The following consent items are expected to be routine and non-controversial, and will be acted on by the board in a single action without discussion unless a request is made by a board member or a member of the public to move an item for discussion or separate action
 - a. **Approval of the May 15, 2024 regular meeting minutes.** (see packet)
 - b. **Approval of the May 24, 2024 special meeting minutes.** (see packet)
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Building Committee:**
 - b. **Treasurers report:** Welty
 - c. **Finance Committee:** Welty
 - d. **Resource Committee:** Greenberg
 - e. **Grants, Fire safe council, LAFCO:** Christensen
 - f. **Fire Tax Ad Hoc Committee**
7. **Items for discussion and possible action by the board:**
 - a. **Motion: Revise Resolution No: 20240515 title to match Ordinance No. 05-15-24** (see packet)
 - b. **BBQ Bounce House Insurance for the Auxiliary.**
 - c. **CWPP approval** (see packet)
8. **Adjournment**

Any individual who requires disability related accommodations or modifications, including auxiliary aids and services, in order to participate in the board meeting should contact the board at 707-937-4022, email: board@albionfire.com or write to the board at PO Box 634, Albion, CA 95410-0634 as soon as possible before the meeting date.

002

Albion-Little River Fire Protection District is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Albion-Little River Fire Protection District's Zoom Meeting

Time: Jun 18, 2024 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89216583738?pwd=MAO5RGkbazbJKibjVoF1q6WyKMnAyP.1>

Meeting ID: 892 1658 3738

Passcode: 525382

One tap mobile

+16694449171,,89216583738#,,,,*525382# US

+16699006833,,89216583738#,,,,*525382# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

- +1 669 444 9171 US
- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 719 359 4580 US
- +1 253 205 0468 US
- +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
- +1 360 209 5623 US
- +1 386 347 5053 US
- +1 507 473 4847 US
- +1 564 217 2000 US
- +1 646 931 3860 US
- +1 689 278 1000 US
- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
- +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
- +1 305 224 1968 US
- +1 309 205 3325 US
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 892 1658 3738

Passcode: 525382

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kbyoKbqS0H>



Albion Little River Fire Protection District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES draft

Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 10:00 AM

Please note that this meeting was held at Station 810, 33900 West Street, Albion, CA and via videoconference on the Zoom platform.

1. **Call to order and determination of a quorum.** The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by President Greenberg. Directors Acker, Linstedt, Welty, and Greenberg were present at Station 810. Director Christensen was absent. Also present Wendy Meyer and Chief Rees.
2. **Motion by Secretary Steve Acker to adopt agenda:** Approved by a board vote of 4 ayes and 1 absent.
3. **Public communication to the board:** None
4. **Chief's report:** Elk Fire asks for Auto Aid Agreement and (see page 2, 3)
5. **Consent calendar:** Approved by a board vote of 4 ayes and 1 absent.
 - a. **Approval of the April 17, 2024 regular meeting minutes.** (see packet)
 - b. **Acceptance of April 2024 correspondence report.** (see packet)
 - c. **Acceptance of submitted current financial report.** (see packet)
6. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Building Committee:** Meeting with the Albion Mutual Water Co. : No issues with Station 810 project.
 - b. **Treasurer's report:** Welty \$100K has been received from Special Secured property Tax.
 - c. **Finance Committee:** Welty no report
 - d. **Resource Committee: Greenberg:** no report
 - e. **Grants, Fire safe council, LAFCO:** Christensen: no report
 - f. **Fire Tax Ad Hoc Committee:** no report
7. **Items for discussion and possible action by the board:**
 - a. **Special Fire Tax 2024 Ordinance and Resolution.** (see packet)
 - 1a. Motion by Acker, 2nd Linstedt: Rescind Ordinance 03-20-24 to be amended. (see packet) Approved by a board vote of 4 ayes and 1 absent.
 - 2a. Motion by Acker, 2nd Linstedt: Rescind Resolution 20240320 and adopt Resolution 20240515 (see packet) Approved by a board vote of 4 ayes and 1 absent.
 - b. **Schedule Special meeting to adopt Ordinance 05-15-24.** Special meeting to vote on Ordinance 05-15-24 scheduled for May 24, at 11:00 am at Station 810, 33900 West Street, Albion, CA.
8. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm. The next regular meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 10:00 am at Station 810 and Zoom.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES draft

Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 10:00 AM

Albion-Little River Fire Protection District Chief's Report

05/13/2024

Michael Rees Fire Chief

Schedule

05/02-Operations Meeting Station 810@ 18:00
 05/09-Wildland RT-130 Refresher Station 810@ 18:00 05/11-ALRFPD
 Flea Market Fundraiser Station 812@ 10:00 05/15-ALRFPD Board
 Meeting Station 810@ 10:00
 05/16-Coastal Development Permit Hearing Ukiah@ 09:30
 -Ladders Coast Training Tower@ 18:00 05/23-Pack
 Test MHS Track@ 18:00
 05/30-Medical w/ Nat Norling

Incidents 04/2024

Structure Fire-1 Other Fire-1
 Medical-?
 Traffic Collision-3 Public Assist-
 4
 Total=16
 Total for the year to date=103

Mendocino County Association of Fire Chiefs

Fire Representative Trial Run
 -See attachment County
 Contracts
 -Are once again delayed due a new County Council review Coastal
 Training Tower
 -Fined \$22,000.00 for building without a use permit, building permit or CDP

Meeting with Joe Arch District Accountant

-We need to create or update the following:
 -Asset Inventory
 -includes all property, vehicles and equipment
 -Capitol Asset Policy
 -Credit Card Policy
 -Grant Policy
 -By-Laws need to be updated

Coffee Fundraiser

-The Three Ridge Roast is here!!!

Station 813

-Owner no longer wants the station on property

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES draft

Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 10:00 AM

4/29/24

Strategic Planning Committee and MCFSC Proposal to MCFCA on Fire Representative Position:

The Strategic Planning Committee and MCFSC propose a trial run of the Fire Representative position through MCFSC staff effective May 9th 2024 through December 31st 2024. MCFSC and the Strategic Planning Committee will evaluate the trial run and determine if/how to continue in 2025. That recommendation will also be brought to MCFCA for a vote. MCFSC expects to spend up to 20-hrs a week on tasks related to the Fire Representative position and will coordinate directly with the Strategic Planning Committee on expected duties. The Strategic Planning Committee will oversee MCFSC activities related to the Fire Representative position and MCFSC will report to the Strategic Planning Committee. MCFSC and the Strategic Planning Committee will negotiate a remuneration amount to be donated to MCFSC not to exceed \$40,000 for the duration of the trial run following an evaluation on actual hours spent on related tasks.

The intention of the trial run is to provide MCFCA the opportunity to assess the value of the Fire Representative position without going through the substantial efforts needed to create a direct hire position (which includes creating job qualifications, running a hiring/interview process, creating employee policies, obtaining workers compensation, processing payroll etc.). MCFSC's proposal comes at a significantly lower cost than MCFCA expected to pay for a direct new hire.

Current Tasks Being Discussed:

- Revive and coordinate MCAFD meetings

- Monitor and report on County BOS, County Budget, State/Federal impacts Develop Measure P reporting, with the goal of creating an Annual Chiefs Report Explore MCFCA grant opportunities

- Develop a MCFCA website with an internal feature to facilitate communications and information sharing

- Develop/prepare draft and template responses/comments to proposed legislation or similar issues calling for agency feedback

- Communicate/share information regularly via email distribution lists with District boards and the Chief's Assoc and respond to questions

- Provide reports/updates in bimonthly Chiefs Assoc meetings



SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA minutes draft

Friday May 24, 2024, 11:00 am

Please note that this meeting was held at Station 810, 33900 West Street, Albion, CA. This meeting was called as a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Albion Little River Fire Protection District for Voting on adoption of Ordinance No. 05-15-24

- 1. **Call to order and determination of a quorum:** . The meeting was called to order at 11.06 am by President Greenberg. Directors Acker, Linstedt, Greenberg and Christensen were present at Station 810. Also present Wendy Meyer. Director Welty was absent.
- 2. **Motion by Secretary Steve Acker to adopt agenda:** Approved by a board vote of 4 ayes and 1 absent.
- 3. **Public communication to the board:** None
- 4. **Items for discussion and possible action:**

- a. Motion: To Adopt Ordinance No. 05-15-24 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALBION-LITTLE RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT PROPOSES TO CHANGE THE UNIFORM SCHEDULES AND RATES FOR A SPECIAL FIRE AND RESCUE TAX (see packet) Approved by a board vote of 4 ayes and 1 absent.

Greenberg Aye
 Linstedt Aye
 Acker Aye
 Welty Absent
 Christensen Aye

- 1. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM. The next regular meeting date is Wednesday, June 18, 2024 at 10:00 am at Station 810 and Zoom.

RESOLUTION NO: 20240515

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ALBION-LITTLE RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, ALBION, CALIFORNIA, CALLING FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION ON AN ORDINANCE IMPOSING A SPECIAL TAX INCREASE FOR FIRE PROTECTION, PREVENTION, SUPPRESSION, AND ALL RELATED SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED BY THE FIRE DISTRICT.

WHEREAS, at its meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, the Board of Directors of the Albion-Little River Fire Protection District set the time and place for consideration of adoption of such ordinance as May 24, 2024 at 11:00 AM, at Station 810, 33900 West Street, Albion, CA

WHEREAS, this Board pursuant to Section 53978 of the California Government Code, on behalf of the District adopts an ordinance imposing a special tax increase to be used to maintain and improve the current level of fire protection, prevention, suppression, emergency medical, hazardous materials response, search, and rescue services. In addition, the increase will be directed toward procuring, equipping, operating, and maintaining equipment and infrastructure and for the purpose of training and paying salaries of personnel or any related services; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance adopted by the Board, must, by law, be submitted to the qualified voters of the District, whose approval by a two-thirds vote of those casting ballots is required if the tax is to become effective; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albion-Little River Fire Protection District calls for a special election to be held on November 5, 2024, and further requests the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to consolidate said election with other elections on that same day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriations limit for the District shall be increased by the amount of the tax money raised by the imposition of this tax; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the question placed before the voters reads as follows:

Shall the Albion-Little River Fire Protection District, by Ordinance, (1) Repeal the existing special tax of \$75.00 per unit, (2) Replacing it with a special tax of \$300.00 per unit, increasing 2% annually; this special tax shall be used for: maintaining and improving fire protection, suppression, prevention, medical, and rescue activities; maintaining and procuring equipment, apparatus, and infrastructure; and paying for personnel training and salaries; (3) Adjust appropriations based on increased revenue from the tax?

Yes _____ No _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Albion-Little River Fire Protection District at a meeting held on May 15, 2024.

Greenberg Yes
Linstedt Yes
Acker Yes
Welty Yes
Christensen absent

President Chuck Greenberg
Chuck Greenberg

Date 5/15/24

Secretary Steven Acker
Steven Acker

Date 5/15/24

RESOLUTION NO: 20240320**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ALBION-LITTLE RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
PROPOSES TO CHANGE THE UNIFORM SCHEDULES AND RATES
FOR A SPECIAL FIRE AND RESCUE TAX**

WHEREAS, at its meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 the Board of Directors of the Albion-Little River Fire Protection District set the time and place for consideration of adoption of such ordinance as May 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., at the Albion-Little River Fire House, Albion, CA 95410; and

WHEREAS, this Board pursuant to Section 53978 of the California Government Code, on behalf of the District adopts an ordinance imposing a special tax increase to be used to maintain and improve the current level of fire protection, prevention, suppression, emergency medical, hazardous materials response, search, and rescue services. In addition, the increase will be directed toward procurement, equipping, operating, and maintaining equipment and infrastructure, training personnel, and for the purpose of paying salaries of personnel or any related services; and

WHEREAS, the ordinance adopted by the Board, must, by law, be submitted to the qualified voters of the District, whose approval by a two-thirds vote of those casting ballots is required if the tax is to become effective; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Albion-Little River Fire Protection District calls for a special election to be held on November 5, 2024, and further requests the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to consolidate said election with other elections on that same day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appropriations limit for the District shall be increased by the amount of the tax money raised by the imposition of this tax; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the question placed before the voters reads as follows:

Shall the Albion-Little River Fire Protection District, by Ordinance, (1) Repeal the existing special tax of \$75.00 per unit, (2) Replacing it with a special tax not to exceed \$300.00 per unit, increasing 2% annually, this special tax shall be used to maintain and improve fire protection, suppression, prevention activities, and to acquire and maintain equipment, apparatus and infrastructure, and to increase our medical and rescue services, (3) Increase the appropriations limit by the increase of revenue raised by the tax?

Yes _____ No _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of Directors of the Albion-Little River Fire Protection District at a meeting held on May 15, 2024.

Greenberg Aye
Linstedt Aye
Acker Aye
Welty Aye
Christensen Aye

President _____
Chuck Greenberg

Date May 15, 2024

Secretary _____
Steve Acker

Date May 15, 2024

ALBION LITTLE RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT **Community Wildfire Protection Plan**

October 2023

The Albion Little River Fire Protection District (ALRFPD) Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been written to evidence that our community has planned for wildfire and that it is aware of various actions which we need to be accomplished to better protect both of our communities from wildfire. This CWPP is written to the Fire Risk Severity Map dated September 20, 2023

LOCATION

ALRFPD is located in the central, unincorporated portion of Mendocino County's rural coast. The District consists of approximately 55 square miles that is bounded on the south by the Navarro River, on the north by the Little River Inn's golf course and Van Damme State Park, on the east by the first ridge of the Mendocino Coastal Range and on the west by the rugged cliffs off the Pacific Ocean. The village of Little River does not lie within our District.

GEOGRAPHY

The topography of our District is marked by the Mendocino ecological staircase. This staircase was created millions of years ago by wave action sequentially uplifting the land into three distinct terraces, each with their own type of vegetation. Consequentially, each terrace presents different fire prevention issues that, in turn, may require different planning and strategies. The eastern edge of our District coincides with the first ridge of the Mendocino Coastal Range. The crest of this first ridge ranges from 1000-foot elevation up to 1300 feet or more. The District is further marked by east-west ridges divided by river or creek gorges. The slopes of the river and creek gorges are very steep. Highway 1 is the only north-south road. It essentially parallels the Pacific Coastline. There is no north-south road in the eastern half of our District connecting our communities

VEGETATION

We have three distinct types of forests within our District. Close to the ocean we have a mixed conifer/redwood forest that consists of Bishop Pine, Mendocino or Bolinger Cypress, Alders, Redwoods and Douglas Fir. The understory of this area has shade loving ferns, some manzanita, native rhododendron and Mendocino tea along with salal, wild ginger and mosses.

The second story of the staircase is marked by the transition of the mixed conifer/redwood trees into the stunted pygmy forests. These trees are the same as for the forest of the first level minus the alder

and redwoods. The understory is crowded with huckleberries, rhododendron, Mendocino tea and sun loving ferns.

The third terrace forest area is primarily pygmy forests with scattered pockets of taller trees. All the understory plants grow to normal height, at times dwarfing the smaller pygmy trees. Further east the forest returns to mixed conifer/redwood and Douglas fir, Sitka spruce and tan oak trees. Huckleberries and shade loving ferns and some rhododendron form the understory.

Except for the pygmy forests which are all old growth, all our forests are dense, second growth forests that are the result of the significant, frequently clear cutting, redwood timber harvesting of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Due to extensive efforts by CalFire and local volunteer departments over the last hundred years, most of our areas of forest have never experienced the forest cleaning/rejuvenation process of fire. As a result, these areas often consist of dense stands of smaller diameter trees with lots of close bushes and significant amounts of fuel present in the lower levels of the trees.

Most of the pygmy forest areas have no recorded history of fire. As the name implies, these trees are significantly stunted due to the lack of nutrients in the soil which is compacted ancient sand dunes covered by a thick layer of white clay. The trees of this area grow closely together because they are not thinned out by shade of other trees. For the same reason, the huckleberries and rhododendrons which grow to normal size despite the soil, crowd in between the trees with the result being an almost impenetrable mesh vegetation. When trees die from age, they often take years to fall completely to the ground. And, because they are so small, they are not harvested for firewood meaning that the forest is full of dried trees. Also, the foliage of both huckleberries and rhododendron are high in resin meaning that they are quite flammable.

Per CalFire's newest rating maps (9.29.2023), our most of our Little River community is rated as either Very High Fire Severity Risk (all the areas of pygmy forest) or High Fire Severity Risk (all other areas). Albion's Fire Severity Risk ranges from Moderate (all the coastal bluffs and grasslands) to High (all mixed conifer/redwood and transition forests) to Very High (the three areas of pygmy forest)

Lastly, our District is plagued by two invasive species -- pampas grass and scotch broom. The pampas grass primarily has become established along the coast, particularly along Highway 1. Scotch broom is becoming established along all the roadsides as far as 5 miles inland. A small group of about 9 persons did do a broom eradication project this past June. They were able to use plant pulling tools borrowed from the County's Fire Safe Council as well as a dumpster and truck from the Department of Transportation and successfully cleared about 100 yards along Albion Ridge Road.

COMMUNITY DESCRIPTIONS:

ALBION

Albion comprises about two-thirds of the District. Albion is bounded on the South by the Navarro River, on the North by the Albion River and on the West by the Pacific Ocean and on the East by the first ridge of the Mendocino Coastal Range. Albion is further divided into two ridges by the Salmon Creek. There is

a third smaller ridge that branches off the Albion Ridge in between the north and south Salmon Creeks before they join to form Salmon Creek.

Albion has a small village of about twenty houses that is located on the south side of the mouth of Albion River where it joins the sea. A second cluster houses and small farms are on the north side of the river on the coastal bluff grassy area. Two more smaller groups of houses are south along the bluffs to the north and south of the mouth of Salmon Creek where it empties into the ocean. As Albion Ridge moves inland from Highway 1, houses dot the area.

Several small one-lane and usually dirt roads branch off Albion Ridge Road. These side roads are usually one lane access roads that move deeper into the forest until the land drops off on the north and the south to either the Albion River or Salmon Creek gorges. Some of these roads are so overgrown that fire vehicles cannot drive down them without getting scratched by the trees and bushes. Many of these lanes have no turn arounds or wider areas that can allow two-way traffic.

The Albion village and Pacific Reefs communities do have recognized Water Districts with sufficient water storage for fire fighting use. Otherwise, the entire Albion area does not have adequate water for firefighting use beyond small wells that serve individual residences.

The Village does have a Grocery with two gasoline pumps. There is also a small hardware store and the US Post Office just off the intersection with Highway 1. Across from this area of Albion village is the Whitesboro Farm. Their pastures might be suitable for the creation of a Safe Harbor for residents from the Village and the western portion of Albion Ridge Road (maybe up to Road D).

Albion Ridge Road ends about 7.5 miles inland at the base of the Coastal Range where the terrain becomes very steep. The last mile is a one lane road though it is paved. There is no egress for this road. At least two more safe harbors need to be developed along Albion Ridge Road, one for use by part of Middle Ridge Road and for the side roads along Albion Ridge Road (Road E to Middle Ridge Road which is mostly pygmy and transition forests). A third Safe Harbor needs to be developed for the eastern third of Albion Ridge Road.

There is a one room school located on Albion Ridge Road that serves children in classes K through 5. This school building is identified by the County's 2020 Annex to the Fire Evacuation Plan as a vulnerable facility. It is in the Very High Fire Severity Risk area of the pygmy forest. Presently, this school is very vulnerable to fire as the cleared area barely encompasses the school building and its parking lot and playground. The present cleared area is not large enough to be a community Safe Haven. The Albion School property will form the Safe Harbor for the School when it is in session. The Mendocino Unified School District's evacuation plans are not known for this school.

The Middle Ridge area of Albion presents the need for different fire prevention strategies. Here the narrow, mostly one lane road connects several small farms and ranches. This heavily forested area consists of mixed conifer and redwood trees. And while there are clearings for farm animals and gardens, none are very large. The Middle Ridge Road does end at the point where the coastal grasses reach up to the forest. This grass covered clearing might be able to be made suitable as a Safe Harbor area for the Middle Ridge residents instead of having them all access Albion Ridge Road and then move on to use Highway 1 as an exit. This entire area is rated as High Fire Severity Risk. As presented above, the upper end of Middle Ridge Road should be assigned to the Middle Safe Harbor on Albion Ridge Road.

The third area of Albion lies to the south along Navarro Ridge before the bluff drops down into the Navarro River gorge. This third area is accessed by Navarro Ridge Road. And while this county road technically and legally connects about 8 miles inland to Highway 128, the upper (most inland portion) was long ago pulled from the County's Department of Transportation maintenance calendar resulting in road conditions that are today barely traversable by high clearance 4WD vehicles. Thus, there is no egress for regular 2WD vehicles for this road.

The Navarro Ridge area consists of several homes up above the Navarro River along the bluff as well as several small farms and ranches on the north side of the road. Topographically, much of this area consists of windswept grassy slopes marked by forested northward running ravines that end down in the Salmon Creek gorge. This more westerly area is rated as having Moderate Severity Fire Risk. There are also two comparatively smaller areas of pygmy forests up above the Salmon Creek Gorge where the South Salmon Creek joins with the North Salmon Creek to form the main, larger gorge. Further inland along Navarro Ridge Road, the forest becomes densely treed with redwoods, Douglas Fir, spruce and ferns. The two areas of pygmy forest are rated as Very High Fire Severity Risk while the remaining inland areas are rated as High Fire Severity Risk.

There is a third road just north of the Albion Bridge that moves inland from Highway 1 along side and up above the very steep Albion River gorge. This road is Albion Little River Road. For the first about 3.5 miles of this road the forest is very thickly treed with redwoods, Douglas fir and Bishop pines and dense undergrowth. After that the forest abruptly changes to pygmy. This road runs past the eastern end of the airport runway at the fenced boundary of the Little River Airport and ends at the intersection with Little River Airport Rd. The first 3 miles of this road is rated at High Fire Severity Risk while the pygmy forest area is rated at Very High Fire Severity Risk

LITTLE RIVER

Generally, our portion of Little River lies north of the Albion River and extends north along the coast up to the southern boundary of the Little River Cemetery. The northern boundary then moves eastward along Little River Airport Road (along the center line) until the eastern boundary of the Little River Inn Golf Course, and then further eastward along the southern border of Van Damme State Park until about 1 mile east of the Little River headwaters. The village of Little River is not in our District.

As with Albion, this area is marked by the Mendocino ecological staircase that has three distinct types of vegetation. The first extends along the coast where the forest is mixed conifer/redwoods with alders and Bishop Pines. The immediate areal along the Coastal bluff and in some places extending approximately 100-300 yards east of Highway 1 is rated as High Severity Fire Risk.

There is about a mile wide swath of transition forest that is rated as Moderate Fire Severity Risk. The fire rating then changes back to High Fire Severity Risk at the second level of the Mendocino staircase where the coastal forest transitions into the pygmy forest. The entire pygmy forest is rated as Very High Fire Severity Risk. There are two distinct and large areas of pygmy forest in Little River both of which are surrounded by transition forests that contain a mix of pockets of dwarf trees right next to full sized pines and cypress. The entire eastern portion of Little River's mixed conifer/redwood forest is rated as High Fire Severity Risk.

Mendocino County's Coastal Little River Airport lies within the northern piece of pygmy forest. This is a municipal airport, though generally it serves privately owned planes and jets. Access to the Airport occurs via Little River Airport Road. Little River Airport Road is our District's sole true through road with egress at the coast where it intersects with Highway 1 and towards the northeast where it dead ends at Comptche Ukiah Road.

Access to the Airport thus occurs from three directions; from the east and west via Little River Airport Road and from the south off Highway 1 immediately north of Albion Bridge in Albion via Albion Little River Road. The entrance to the Airport is off Little River Airport Road about 3 miles inland from Highway 1 and about .75 mile west of the intersection the with Albion Little River Road. The access road to the main gate of the Airport is Airport Road. Airport Road is surrounded by the Very High Fire Severity Risk pygmy forest. Additionally, Little River Airport Road runs through the pygmy from both directions. Adequate fuel breaks have not been established along any of the Airport's access roads. These areas are rated as Very High Fire Severity Risk. With no recent history of any fires in this pygmy forest, this Airport is a very vulnerable piece of County infrastructure.

Besides the Airport, Little River does contain The Woods. The Woods is a resident owned Cooperative Association which consists of 109 manufactured homes with approximately 165 residents. It is the County's largest recognized Senior (55 years+) community. The Woods residents bought their Community 3 years ago and are presently working to address or upgrade delayed infrastructure issues. Amongst these delayed issues is the maintenance and fire clearances of the common areas. The Community has asked Van Damme State Park to do the necessary fire clearances along the Park Fire Road that forms the north border of this community. The Community is also asking PG&E to take down the trees that died after PG&E's Contractor's "prevention" trimming through their transmission lines that run in the frontage area along Little River Airport Rd, along the Community's southern boundary. The Association has been awarded a grant by the Community Foundation of Mendocino for monies to remove ladder fuel and additional standing or fallen dead trees and bushes in the frontage area along Little River Airport Road.

The Woods has a 15-year history working as a community on issues involved in all levels of disaster preparedness such as go-bags, preparing to shelter in place, how to survive an earthquake and fire evacuation drills. The Community has a small group of residents that volunteer to help their neighbors with fire clearance work such as raking and bush trimming. Recently as many as 15 lots were treated by the County Fire Safe Council's Defensible Space Assistance for Income Eligible work crew and more lots are presently on the waiting list for this program.

Currently, the Community is in the process of making application to become a FireWise USA Community. Also, the large piles of green waste that the maintenance crew picks up weekly give evidence that residents spend significant additional energy and resources maintaining fire clearances. Lastly, it is to be noted that the last of the shake roofs that were originally required by community design are now gone. Additionally, most of the recent external renovations now include installation of cement fiber siding to replace the plywood that was commonly used as siding on manufactured homes in the past.

The Woods has been designated as a "Vulnerable Community" by the County Board of Supervisors. If the need to evacuate this community arises, the County's 2020 Fire Evacuation Plan has designated the Little River Airport as the Woods community's evacuation site. As the Woods is located on Little River

Airport Road amid the pygmy forest about 1/3 mile west of the access road to the Airport, an even greater emphasis is placed on the need to create adequate fuel breaks in and around and on the way to the Airport. The specific site for The Woods community evacuation location still needs to be selected. Once selected, this site will need to be developed and the community trained to the use of this site.

Community Risk Assessment

Albion see attachment 1

Little River see attachment 2

Community Fire Clearance Needs

see attachment 3

Home Hardening Needs

see attachment 4

This Community Wildfire Protection Plan has been specifically written for the Albion Little River Fire Protection District. Input has been sought and provided by several Community members, Chief Rees and our Volunteer Firefighters, the ALRFPD Board Members and staff, the ALRFSC Members, The Woods Cooperative Association Disaster Preparedness Committee, the Mendocino County FSC along with dozens of residents from both Communities.

This plan was additionally written after consultation with Carol Rice from Napa County's FireWise program. Ms. Rice has a long history of experience with all things within the sphere of fire prevention. She has helped write each of Napa County's Community Wildfire Prevention Plans for all their FireWise USA Communities.

Albion Little River Fire Save Council

Chuck Greenberg
President, Albion Little River Fire Protection District

Ted Williams
5th District Member,
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors