Amador-Calaveras Consensus Group (ACCG)

General Meeting Summary 08/19/2026, via Zoom and in person

MEETING BRIEF

- Meeting facilitator: John Heissebuttel
- Presentation: Socioeconomic panel
- UMRWA-USFS PHASE I & MAC update
- SNC Landscape Grant Program
- Roundtable
- Work Group updates

ACTION ITEMS

- Layhee: Finalize agenda and summary and add to website.
- UMRWA/interview team: Coordinate prep call and continue SNC landscape grant interview preparation.
- ACCG: submit shovel-ready or near-shovel-ready wildfire risk reduction or forest health projects to Megan Layhee by Friday, August 21 for consideration in the ACCG priority project list.
- Sarkis: send out the finalized September field tour itinerary once stops are confirmed.
- Rose Day: keep ACCG informed on progress for contractor workshop planning and future regional offerings.
- ACCG: those interested in workforce/local contractor support to coordinate with Rose Day on how to help with workshop efforts.
- ACCG: those interested in participating in the September 12 Wildlife and Habitat Festival contact Amanda Watson as soon as possible if they want a booth or another role.

MEETING OPENING/HOUSEKEEPING

Draft agenda and last month's meeting summary were approved. Administrator will post them to the ACCG website.

GUEST PRESENTATION

Socioeconomic panel

Panelists: John Heissebuttel (Heissenbuttel NRC), Hannah Grawbowski (SPI), Alex Gorman (YRA), and Kaylee Tanner-Dillashaw (Calaveras RCD), Stan Dodson (Facilitator)

Panel Topics:

- Panelist Introductions
- Benefits of hiring local contractors, local workforce development
- Prevailing wage
- State of the local timber market

Hiring Local

John Heissenbuttel emphasized that ACCG has long supported local contractors, though ACCG

historically struggled to define "local" in a way that worked across the collaborative. In contrast, the Amador Fire Safe Council has intentionally cultivated local contractors by structuring projects at manageable scales and selecting for best value rather than low bid alone. Local, in that context, was described as contractors with an office in Amador, El Dorado, Calaveras, or Tuolumne counties.

Alex Gorman and Julia Stephens noted that local contractors and local implementation teams often bring stronger familiarity with the landscape, easier coordination, and stronger long-term relationships. Kaylee Tanner added that local contractors contribute more directly to local communities through taxes, schools, volunteering, and multi-generational workforce continuity.

Rose Day mentioned the RFP response workshops for local contractors, potentially in partnership with Tuolumne County, to help local businesses submit more competitive proposals. Suggestion was made to add content on prevailing wage compliance.

Prevailing Wage

Richard Sykes (UMRWA) explained that prevailing wage requirements from AB 338 became effective for public agencies on July 1, 2026, and will apply to nonprofits on July 1, 2027. The rules apply broadly to state-funded forest health work classified as public works, with exceptions including tribal lands, private lands, prescribed fire, grazing projects, and projects or contracts under certain thresholds. UMRWA had already been awarded two prevailing-wage-covered projects and found bid increases lower than expected. Instead of a 50–75% increase, bids generally came in around $2,000 to $3,000 per acre, which was less dramatic than anticipated. There are also contractor compliance requirements such as DIR registration, certified payroll, and apprenticeship-related payments. Kaylee Tanner-Dillashaw confirmed that prevailing wage is administratively burdensome but manageable, especially for contractors with previous experience.

Timber Market Conditions

Hannah Grabowski noted serious challenges in the local timber economy. SPI's Standard and Chinese Camp mills require about 120 million board feet annually, but current projections show shortfalls at both mills. Also, there is a decline in supply from small private landowners, from around 15% annually to less than 1% over the last three years. Hannah also described a 1) shortage of larger, higher-value logs, 2) an oversupply of small whitewood with weak market demand, 3) shrinking contractor pool due to insufficient timber sales and inconsistent Forest Service offerings, and 4) slowdown in fencing markets, especially for whitewood fencing, resulting in inventory backlogs and losses. Possible solutions to these shortcomings and potential ways to improve sale value would be increasing diameter limits and adjusting Forest Service prescriptions, which would also help offset the cost of removing lower-value material, though the discussion acknowledged tradeoffs with ecological, scenic, and wildlife values.

MAC UMRWA-USFS FPP Phase I & MAC update

FPP-1 - Megan Layhee reported that by the end of July, approximately 300 acres had been completed across the four currently funded FPP projects: Arbor, Birch, Cedar, and Dogwood. Across those projects, contractors were actively working in nine project areas, and UMRWA still expects about 3,000-4,000 acres could be completed by the end of the treatment season, depending on conditions. Additionally, Washoe Tribe completed 9.3 acres under the SNC-funded Birch project. UMRWA recently entered into

contract with Buena Vista Rancheria for about 190 acres under the Birch project, as well. UMRWA board recently awarded two contracts under the Dogwood CAL FIRE #3 project to Krisman Enterprises (local contractor) and GTS Forestry, for a total of 6 projects under the grant.

MAC - UMRWA is continuing to develop both the MAC CEQA documentation and MAC implementation work plan (IWP). A CEQA Notice of Exemption, like the process used for FPP Phase 1, is being utilized for MAC. UMRWA is also drafting additional management requirement language intended to add more restrictions to treatments in high-quality California spotted owl habitat, in response to concerns raised during public review of the MAC EIS. For the MAC IWP, UMRWA is in the process of prioritizing the first approximately 20,000 acres of MAC on the Eldorado and Stanislaus NFs for likely state-funded implementation. That IWP prioritization process and plan includes GIS analysis, sequencing, prioritization, funding strategies, and identification of pre-implementation needs such as surveys and layout. The goal is for the draft IWP to be ready for the Planning work group to review at the end of 2026, though early 2027 may be more realistic.

SNC LANDSCAPE GRANT Program

Richard Sykes announced that ACCG had advanced to the third round of the SNC Landscape Grant Program selection process and would need to prepare for an interview, scheduled for Friday Aug. 28th. This opportunity appears tied to ACCG's extensive collaborative work on FPP and MAC, and that MAC currently has no implementation funding. A five-person ACCG interview team was proposed: Megan Layhee, Richard Sykes, John Buckley, Chuck Loffland, and Carinna Robertson. The group discussed that the grant portfolio would focus primarily on FPP and MAC, while still leaving room for other ACCG-supported projects in the broader project pipeline.

ROUNDTABLE

Rose Day - a State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection regional tour is planned for September, more details forthcoming.

John Buckley – Representatives from Golden State Natural Resources wants to present a revised biomass and wood products planning effort to ACCG (Char and Megan work to add to the October meeting).

Sophia Kaufman - Shindig 2.0 on August 21 in Sonora, tied to Sierra Jobs First, including site visits and cross-sector collaboration.

Michael Pickard - Michael Pickard reported that SNC's final decisions on the landscape grant awards would be made at the December SNC board meeting, and that concept proposal review for the current Wildfire and Forest Resilience funding round had concluded, with invitations for full proposals expected soon.

Amanda Watson –Wildlife and Habitat Festival on September 12 at Kennedy Mine in Jackson.

Kaylee Tanner - Calaveras RCD is working with BLM on treatment projects within the Butte Fire burn scar, using surplus SNC funding from another project to support implementation on BLM parcels.

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WORK GROUP UPDATES

At the August Admin work group, the group continued to discuss planning for the September field tour and discussed further ACCG membership outreach and participation status. The group discussed sending a notice to listed members who are not actively participating and a reminder about participation status and impacts to membership status.

The July Planning work group meeting focused on project portfolio development and ACCG priority projects, regarding the SNC block grant funding opportunity. Megan Layhee sent out a request for shovel-ready or nearly shovel-ready wildfire risk reduction and forest health projects for consideration in ACCG's priority project list to the full ACCG, project due by Aug. 21st. Only MAC-related and existing UMRA-related projects were submitted so far.

At the August Monitoring Workgroup meeting the group continued to work on refining the draft MAC monitoring plan, funded through SNC grant to UMRWA. The plan includes just over 20 implementation, effectiveness, socioeconomic, and cultural related questions and indicators, in addition to a field implementation framework and funding plan. Megan Layhee said the draft is expected to be presented to ACCG in October for input and possible support.

MEETING CLOSE

Next general meeting: The September ACCG general meeting will be replaced by a field tour on September 16, likely in the Calaveras County area. More information to come.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Count	Name	Affiliation
1	Michael Pickard	SNC
2	Rose Day	MLJT
3	Stan Dodson	CSERC (in person)
4	Chuck Loffland	USFS retired
5	Rich Farrington	AWA, UMRWA Board member
6	Dana Simpson	
7	Chris Shull	Mason, Bruce, & Girard Inc.
8	Kaylee Tanner-Dillashaw	CRCD
9	Sophia Kaufman	MLJT
10	Linda Diesem	private citizen
11	Richard Sykes	UMRWA
12	Amanda Watson	ARCD
13	John Buckley	CSERC
14	Megan Layhee	UMRWA, ACCG Administration, Meeting Host
15	Trina Walley	CRCD
16	Hannah Grabowski	SPI
17	John Heissenbuttel	Heissenbuttel Natural Resources Consulting
18	Mary Boblet	Chickaree Group
19	Julia Stephens	YRA
20	Alex Gorman	YRA

21	Elise Sawa	NFF