

EPPOC Draft Minutes

Wednesday, February 4, 2026, 9:30-11:30 am

[Link to Zoom recording](#) of this meeting:

Passcode: 2mU^vPF9

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- . Introductions
- . December minutes approved.
- . Announcement from Red Cross: Beatriz Mich gave an excellent presentation about the services that Red Cross provides to our Calaveras County citizenry. Anyone who needs smoke alarms in their homes please contact Red Cross and they will install the alarms at no charge. They will be installing alarms on March 21st in Meadowmont. They will be of smoke alarms in high-risk areas in Meadowmont by Beatriz Mich (Beatriz's presentation 3:21 to 9:00 minutes in the video)
- Monthly Reports:
 - EPPOC Treasurer's Report – Laura Baughman -- \$78.90 in treasury
 - EPPOC Chairperson's Report – Eric Davis – starting next month Eric is going to focus on Davis Sterling law and how it affects our HOAs that belong to EPPOC.
 - District 3 Board of Supervisors – Martin Huberty – Eric Holt has left the County EOC to assume role of General Manager of Utica Water Co. Martin has been setting up rehearsal evacuation drills with HOAs and may need to reschedule until a new EOC director is hired. The Friends of the Arnold Meadow project to acquire the meadow and converted to a County Park update. Martin has identified a private donor who would purchase the meadow and gift it to the County and that process is negotiation. Martin announced he is going to run again for another Supervisor term. (12:10 to 17:50 in the video)
 - Calaveras County Public Works – Monica Remus
 - Ebbetts Pass Fire District – Chief Mike Johnson – Luke Stevens is the new Battalion Chief for the Arnold District and not available to attend today's meeting. Reporting for Luke, Chief John reported that there will be prescribed burn. Current staffing is 5 engines and will go to 15 in March. Mike reported that in the winter it is open burning season constrained only by air quality control board. Call 209-754-6600 to learn if that day is a burn day. The Chief cautioned that while burning is allowed to be very careful. If a burn gets away to an adjacent property, citations can be issued. The Department does have a small number of smoke alarms available to those who are financially challenged, and they will come out install smoke alarms for those who have them but are physically not able to install them. The number of alarms they have available it limited. The new Fire Dept Secretary Andrea Ramirez has started. The Chief talked in detail about the planning process for the construction of the new fire house near Forest Meadows HOA. (17:50 to 27:03)
 - CHP–Resident Deputy Joshua Wilkenson, Commander Tim McCollister

- Sheriff's Department – Sheriff Whiting – As usual, Sheriff Whiting provided an excellent summary of activities in the department in the recent past including addressing the fact that wolves will be coming to Calaveras. Also transitioning the Office of Emergency Services from the County to the Sheriff's Department. The new CHP Commander is named Lt. Brandon Baldwin. Lt Jason Waite (j.waite@calaverscounty.gov) is the new public information officer. He is the community liason officer so if HOAs wish to invite someone to one of their meetings please contact him (38:00 to 46:30)
 - CalFire – Dennis Lange
 - Calaveras Office of Emergency Services –Bajit Singh – Sheriff Whiting and Supervisor Huberty report that the OES is in transition with the Office being transferred from the County to the Sheriff's Department, we'll learn more in subsequent months.
 - Friends of the Calaveras Library, Arnold Branch – Martha Rubin – Martha explained what programs are available at the library. Story time and Adult Crafts are each Wednesday afternoon at 2:30pm and Kids Crafts are Friday afternoons at 2:30. On the third Thursday of each month the library is hosted Senior Planet Tech Teaching is the 3rd Thursday of every month. Teach mobile phone use and any other technical help. (27:15 to 29:07).
 - CCWD –Kelly Gerkenmeyer, Jeffrey Robertson – Kelly gave an excellent presentation about some of the projects that CCWD is doing now, explaining the infrastructure of delivering water, and talked about the details of the rate structure. Martin suggested that CCWD arrange tours for the public to learn about CCWD and Kelly thinks that's an excellent idea. (29:25 to 38:18)
 - Calaveras Public Health – Evita Olson
 - CalWaste – Jillian Goss
 - FOAM Friends of the Arnold Meadow – Colleen Dienger
 - FOCAS – Kim deArrillaga & Christine Albertine
 - California Big Trees State Park – Heather Reith – There is a new ranger named Jodie McDermett joining the Park staff. A citizen willed two million dollars to the Park and the Park is going to restore and preserve the Perry Cottage. Also, Governor Newsom joined the Park for celebration of Martin Luther King's holiday. (46:35 to 50:30)
 - Calaveras Big Trees Association (CBTA) – Paul Prescott, Debbie McGee – Paul reported that during the winter activities are curtailed. Over the Christmas New Year's holiday, the CBTA opened Jack Knight Hall for cider and treats and displays about nature. (50:40 to 53:30.)
 - Calaveras Council of Governments – no current representative
 - Great Arnold Business Association – Karen Strand
 - Arnold Rim Trail Association (ARTA)– Steve Lauterbach announced that he had stepped down as Chair of ARTA and is now “Chair emeritus and ARTA Historian” and that the future is bright with many young smart competent folks on the Board including the new Chairperson Greg Novacek. (53:40 to 59:30)
- Open Forum: What's on your mind that is not on the agenda?
 - Martha reminded us that the Firewise program at Independence Hall this year will be on May 2nd
 - Steve suggested it would be valuable to provide the Video of Deon Stein's presentation about Davis Sterling law so that all HOA Board members would have the opportunity to learn about every single element of Davis Sterling law. It will be provided in the cover email.

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