

# Forest Fire Lookout Association

## CA-Pacific Area Chapter

30021 McKenna Heights Court, Valley Center CA 92082



### *2019 ANNUAL REPORT*

Hi Samsara,

## **Konocti Lookout Tower**



On September 26, 2019 Cal Fire completed a structural inspection of the “Konocti Lookout Tower” in Lake County CA and on October 3, 2019 the tower was closed by State officials to all access due to Safety Concerns. Cal fire and FFLA CA-Pacific Director are in the planning stages (workgroup) to determine the necessary repairs.

Cal Fire is motivated to get the repairs done, but the repair would likely be the long option; therefore, Cal Fire is willing to sign over responsibility of the lookout repairs to FFLA in the interest of preserving a historic building and the historic activity associated with the building. On November 5<sup>th</sup> the FFLA CA-Pacific Director (Bill Ulmer) meet with Cal Fire to review the documents detailing the repairs needed.

The wood framed cab is in critical need of repairs to bring it to a safe and code compliant state. Without renovation, the cab is unsafe for human occupancy. If the cab is being considered for use by the general public, accessibility requirements for path of travel to the lookout cab per Chapter 8-6 of the 2019 California Building Code and Federal Regulations for will need to be

considered. Additionally, the historical status of structure needs to be considered for any modifications.

Cal Fire Battalion Chief Jake Hannan stressed the seriousness of the safety problem, but also of the need to get the tower back in operation. "It wasn't safe to have people in it," Hannan said. "We lost a real important asset."

Please see the attached report on the observed structural integrity of the Konocti Lookout Tower.



Mt. Konocti  
Lookout Tower Field

The task is currently in Cal fire Engineers court to get the drawings done that will detail specifics of required work and standards. The repair "COST" will depends on Cal Fires decision to use Historical Specifications or current CA Building Codes (drastic cost difference). It sounds like it will be done to historical spec.

Jim Adams, chairman of the Konocti FFLA chapter, said Cal Fire—which owns the tower—isn't likely to pay for the repairs. If money did come from the agency, it could take more than a year, according to Adams.

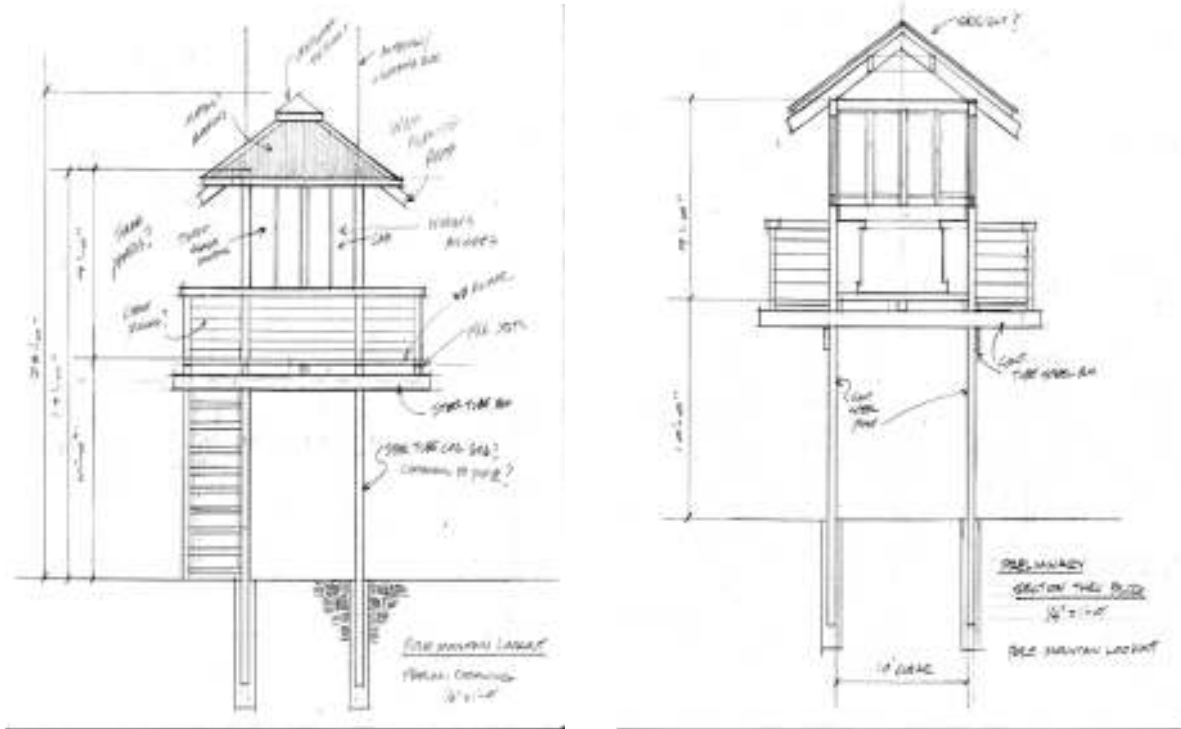
## Copernicus Peak Lookout Tower



The CA-Pacific Director continue to work with Cal Fire Morgan Hill, CA (Santa Clara County. Many "smoke report" this year, but none caused any serious damage. The plan for 2020 will be to start recruiting in January with classroom training scheduled at the end of February. Hands on training at the tower will begin in March and the tower will re-open mid-April to mid-May dependent on the rain we receive.

# Pole Mountain Lookout Tower

Continue to work with Marshall Turbeville, Cal Fire on the New Tower to be built. See drawing below.



## Additional 2020 plans & challenges for CA-Pacific:

- Fundraising or Grant to cover cost of repairing Konocti Tower and other maintenance items.
- Add additional towers to the NHLR list
- Coordinate with Cal Fire Mendocino N/F to re-open one of the three towers

My research of Ca-Pacific Tower is on-going, but due to lack of internet data it is my opinion that many of these towers have been removed or destroyed. The search is never over.

Respectfully submitted,

*Bill Ulmer*

Director, FFLA CA-Pacific Chapter

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