

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS  
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023, 9:00 AM**  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, ROOM 310  
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

- A. REGULAR SESSION – Regular Meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.  
  
PRESENT: Directors Nora Vargas, Chair; Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice-Chair; Joel Anderson; Nathan Fletcher, Jim Desmond; also, Andrew Potter, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.
- B. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Supervisor/Member/Director, if applicable.
- C. Non-Agenda Public Communication: Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Board on any subject matter within the Board’s jurisdiction but not an item on today’s agenda.
- D. Approval of the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meeting of February 28, 2023.

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Director Fletcher, seconded by Director Desmond, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District approved the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meeting of February 28, 2023.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

NOTICE: THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ANY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE ITEMS INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COUNTY STAFF DO NOT LIMIT ACTIONS THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT RELY UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE BOARD LETTER AS DETERMINATIVE OF THE ACTION THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ON A PARTICULAR MATTER.

**Agenda Items**

<b>Agenda #</b>	<b>Subject</b>
1.	SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE: ORDINANCES ADOPTING AND RATIFYING THE 2023 CONSOLIDATED FIRE CODE, REPEALING THE COUNTY FIRE CODE, AND AMENDING THE COUNTY DEFENSIBLE SPACE ORDINANCE; FIND THE ACTIONS ARE EXEMPT, OR ALTERNATIVELY, NOT PROJECTS UNDER CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (2/28/2023 - FIRST READING; 3/14/2023 - SECOND READING UNLESS ORDINANCE IS MODIFIED ON SECOND READING)

(RELATES TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM 03)

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1. **SUBJECT: SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE: ORDINANCES ADOPTING AND RATIFYING THE 2023 CONSOLIDATED FIRE CODE, REPEALING THE COUNTY FIRE CODE, AND AMENDING THE COUNTY DEFENSIBLE SPACE ORDINANCE; FIND THE ACTIONS ARE EXEMPT, OR ALTERNATIVELY, NOT PROJECTS UNDER CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (2/28/2023 - FIRST READING; 3/14/2023 - SECOND READING UNLESS ORDINANCE IS MODIFIED ON SECOND READING) (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

### **OVERVIEW**

On February 28, 2023 (FP01), the Board of Supervisors took action to further consider and adopt the Ordinance on March 14, 2023.

Based on a triennial cycle, the California Building Standards Commission publishes the California Building Standards Code (Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations). Part 9 of Title 24 is known as the California Fire Code. The California Health and Safety Code provides that counties and fire protection districts may adopt the California Fire Code by reference or establish more restrictive standards than the California Fire Code, if such changes are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions.

On February 25, 2020, the County of San Diego (County) enacted the previous version of the California Fire Code into the County's Code of Regulatory Ordinances (County Fire Code). On December 7, 2020, the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) was established, transferring fire protection services from the County to the SDCFPD. As part of today's proposed actions, the Board of Supervisors would repeal the existing County Fire Code, and the SDCFPD Board of Directors would adopt the updated 2022 California Fire Code with modifications, which shall be enforced as the 2023 Consolidated Fire Code by the SDCFPD. Additionally, the 2023 Consolidated Fire Code will incorporate fire protection requirements from the County's Defensible Space Ordinance (DSO), and the existing DSO will be amended to address that change.

There are 13 fire protection districts within the geographical area of the County, including the SDCFPD. In addition to the modifications by the SDCFPD, the Consolidated Fire Code contains modifications that one or more fire protection districts deem necessary because of local conditions. The Borrego Springs Fire Protection District recently initiated dissolution proceedings, with an intent to join the SDCFPD and will not be adopting the 2023 Consolidated Fire Code. The other 11 local fire protection districts have already approved the 2023 Consolidated Fire Code. In order to take effect within the fire districts, the 2023 Consolidated Fire Code must be either ratified, modified or denied by the Board of Supervisors. One of today's proposed actions is for the Board of Supervisors to ratify the 2023 Consolidated Fire Code.

If approved, the fire code standards put forth in today's proposed ordinances will increase protection of new structures and property against wildfire-related damage and loss through the adoption of progressive requirements that go beyond those required by the State. There are 58 proposed changes, including 26 that reflect changes in the State Fire Code. There are 32 additional changes proposed by the fire marshals of the local fire districts. Some of the key updates provide further clarity on outdoor fireplaces, secondary access, driveway curves, security gates, directory maps, water tanks, and defensible space.

Today's requested actions for the Board of Directors of the SDCFPD are to: (1) find modifications to the 2022 California Fire Code are reasonably necessary due to local conditions, and (2) adopt the 2023 Consolidated Fire Code.

Today's requested actions for the County Board of Supervisors are to: (1) ratify the 2023 Consolidated Fire Code adopted by the local fire districts; (2) repeal the existing County Fire Code; and (3) amend the County's DSO.

The ordinances for the Board of Directors and Board of Supervisors are being introduced today, February 28, 2023, and, if approved, will be scheduled for adoption on March 14, 2023. If any of the proposed ordinances are altered on March 14, 2023, then on that date a subsequent meeting date will be selected for adoption.

### **Acting as the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District:**

#### **RECOMMENDATION(S) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

1. Consider and adopt the Ordinance Adopting the 2023 Consolidated Fire Code for the San Diego County Fire Protection District (second reading unless ordinance is modified on second reading).
2. If adopted, direct the Clerk of the Board to provide a certified copy of the adopted Ordinance Adopting the 2023 Consolidated Fire Code for the San Diego County Fire Protection District.

#### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

One aspect of fire prevention is ensuring fire codes are updated and clear to provide specific direction to customers and residents. The proposed actions will provide better direction, ensuring good customer service and equitable safety for the residents of our county. In addition, the SDCFPD recognizes the systematic impacts that inequitable policies may create for residents of the County of San Diego. More than 80% of the SDCFPD's jurisdictional area qualifies as a disadvantage unincorporated community, based on a San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) report on funding, administrative, and performance of the former County Service Area No. 135 (now SDCFPD).

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

The proposed actions to adopt the County Fire Code and the Consolidated Fire Code will contribute to the County of San Diego’s sustainability goal to protect the health and well-being of everyone in the region and advocating for environmental justice for communities that have been disproportionately impacted. Partnering with the other local unincorporated fire districts to provide one fire code will support the safety and sustainability of communities by ensuring that codes are imposed consistently to build, enhance, and maintain resiliency.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no fiscal impact associated with these recommendations. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

(RELATES TO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM 03)

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Director Fletcher, seconded by Director Vargas, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District took action as recommended, on Consent, adopting Ordinance No. 10836 (N.S.), entitled: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2023 CONSOLIDATED FIRE CODE FOR THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

There being no further business, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Directors of the  
San Diego County Fire Protection District

Notes By: Vizcarra

NOTE: This Statement of Proceedings sets forth all actions taken by the San Diego County Fire Protection District on the matters stated, but not necessarily the chronological sequence in which the matters were taken up.

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