



**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS

***THE MINUTES OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT***

May 5, 2026

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026, 9:00 AM
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER
BOARD CHAMBER, ROOM 310
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

A. **REGULAR SESSION – Regular Meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.**

PRESENT: Directors Terra Lawson-Remer, Chair; Paloma Aguirre, Chair Pro Tem; Joel Anderson; Jim Desmond; also, Andrew Potter, Clerk of the Board of Directors.

ABSENT: Director Monica Montgomery Steppe, Vice-Chair

B. **Non-Agenda Public Communication: Opportunity for individuals to speak to the Board on any subject matter within the Board’s jurisdiction but not an item on the agenda. In accordance with the Board’s Rules of Procedure, individuals may only speak at one Non-Agenda Public Communication session per meeting. The speaker may select which session (General Legislative or Land Use Legislative Session) to address the Board for Non-Agenda Public Communication at their convenience.**

C. **Approval of the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meetings of the San Diego County Fire Protection District of March 3, 2026 and March 24, 2026.**

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Anderson, seconded by Director Aguirre, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District approved the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meetings of March 3, 2026 and March 24, 2026.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Desmond

ABSENT: Montgomery Steppe

Viewing Agenda Materials

All documents and attachments related to agenda items are available for public viewing. You can access them online at www.sandiegocounty.gov/cob, or in person at the Clerk of the Board’s Office, located at 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402, San Diego, CA 92101. The Board Meeting calendar is online at www.sandiegocounty.gov/bos/calendar.html.

How to Speak at a Board Meeting

If you would like to speak at the meeting, either in person or by phone, you can sign up by visiting <https://PublicComment.SanDiegoCounty.gov>. On the form, you will be asked to enter your name and choose how you would like to participate, either by attending in person or calling in virtually. If you choose to speak by phone, please make sure to enter a valid phone number so we can identify you when you call. You will also be asked to select the agenda item or items you wish to comment on and indicate whether you are in favor, opposed, or neutral. Once you submit the form, you will receive a confirmation email. If you need the information on the website in another language, simply click the Translate button at the top of the page and select your preferred language.

You can also submit a comment in writing at www.sandiegocounty.gov/ecomment, via email to PublicComment@sdcounty.ca.gov, or by mail to 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402, San Diego, CA 92101.

Board Actions and Recommendations

The Board of Supervisors may take action on any item listed on the meeting agenda. While each agenda item includes recommendations, these are only suggestions and do not limit what the Board may ultimately decide. Individuals should not assume that the Board will follow the recommendations.

Accessibility Accommodations

The County is committed to making Board meetings accessible to everyone. If you need accommodations to participate, please contact us at least three days before the meeting by calling 619-531-5434 (TTY 619-531-4803) or emailing PublicComment@sdcounty.ca.gov. If you need a sign language interpreter, you can call 619-531-4908. Assistive Listening Devices are also available from the Clerk of the Board's Office in Room 402.

Language Interpretation Services

The County of San Diego wants everyone to be able to participate in Board meetings—no matter what language they speak. A Spanish interpreter is available at every Board of Supervisors meeting to assist those who wish to speak to the Board in Spanish. If you need interpretation in another language, please request it at least 72 hours before the meeting by calling 619-531-5434 or emailing PublicComment@sdcounty.ca.gov.

In addition, the County can provide space in the Board Chamber's Observation Balcony for those providing or receiving interpretation, supporting the use of personal devices like phones or headsets, or help connect you to outside interpretation services for other languages. Please contact the Clerk of the Board in advance so we can make the necessary arrangements. Interpretation must not interrupt the meeting, in accordance with Government Code Section 54957.95.

Levine Act Notice – Campaign Contribution Disclosures

Under the Levine Act (Government Code § 84308), anyone involved in a proceeding before the Board, such as for a license, permit, or other entitlement for use, must disclose any campaign contributions over \$500 made to Board Members within the past 12 months. This includes contributions made by the parties themselves or their agents. The disclosure must include the name of the contributor and recipient, the amount, and the date of the contribution. Disclosures can be made orally during the meeting or in writing on the request-to-speak form.

Agenda Items

- | Agenda # | Subject |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. | NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING:
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XX OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE CODE, RELATING TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICE AREA CHARGES AND FEES (05/05/26 - FIRST READING; 05/19/26 - SECOND READING UNLESS ORDINANCE IS MODIFIED ON SECOND READING) |
| 2. | NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING:
ANNUAL FIRE MITIGATION FEE PROGRAM RESOLUTIONS AUTHORIZING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION AND ADOPTION OF A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN |

- 1. SUBJECT: NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING:
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XX OF THE SAN DIEGO
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE CODE, RELATING TO
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT GROUND
AMBULANCE SERVICE AREA CHARGES AND FEES (05/05/26 -
FIRST READING; 05/19/26 - SECOND READING UNLESS
ORDINANCE IS MODIFIED ON SECOND READING)
(DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

On February 27, 2024 (FP01), the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) Board of Directors approved the ambulance transportation fee increase to maintain current services within the SDCFPD Ground Ambulance Service Area (ASA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 25-26. The ASA includes the entirety of the SDCFPD as well as the Deer Springs, Valley Center, Alpine, and a portion of the San Miguel Fire Protection Districts. Ambulance operating areas have historically relied upon insurance revenue from transports to hospitals to recover costs. However, rural communities with large geographic areas and small population centers are more costly to serve and generally are overrepresented by public insurance programs that reimburse at lower rates than private health plans. Public plans, such as Medicare and Medi-Cal, pay a fixed rate based upon regulation and statute that is below the actual costs for ambulance transport to the hospital.

San Diego County Fire (County Fire), on behalf of the ASA, recently conducted a review of fees to ensure compliance with Board of Supervisors Policy B-29, *Fees, Grants, and Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery* (Board Policy B-29), which requires County departments to recover the costs to provide services to agencies or individuals. As a result, County Fire is proposing actions that support the cost of providing services, while ensuring fair and equitable fee levels for the public. After reviewing the current fees and rates, County Fire staff is proposing to increase three fees and decrease one fee. The Auditor and Controller reviewed and approved the supporting documentation and the methodology for establishing the fees in this proposal for FY 2026-27.

The proposed ambulance transport user fee received support from the SDCFPD Fire Advisory Board and would be consistent with County Service Area 17's proposed fees, which is another ambulance service that is managed by County Fire. In the ASA, the average collection rate on fees assessed is about 28% due to various reimbursement rates from Medicare, Medi-Cal, commercial insurance, and patient private pay. Since 100% of the fees assessed on ambulance transports are not collected, full cost recovery for services will not be achieved in FY 26-27 and a waiver of Board Policy B-29 is being requested. The proposed fees in the ASA have a 5% escalator through FY 28-29, to align with the annual increase in contract costs that support the operations of the ASA.

Today's action requests that the SDCFPD Board of Directors approve amendments to Article XX of the San Diego County Administrative Code to fees charged for services by the SDCFPD ASA.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

On May 5, 2026:

1. Approve the introduction of the Ordinance (first reading):
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XX OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE CODE, RELATING TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICE AREA CHARGES AND FEES
2. Waive Board Policy B-29, *Fees, Grants, and Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery* which requires full cost recovery for services.

If, on May 5, 2026, the SDCFPD Board takes action as recommended, then on May 19, 2026:

1. Consider and adopt (unless ordinance is modified on second reading):
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XX OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, RELATING TO SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT GROUND AMBULANCE SERVICE AREA CHARGES AND FEES

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Advanced (Paramedic) and Basic (Emergency Medical Technician) Life Support ambulances are critical components to an emergency medical services system that seeks to reduce health disparities in our region. San Diego County Fire, on behalf of the San Diego County Fire Protection District, worked with outside consultants to establish a service plan and quality assurance measures to meet the minimum requirements for residents in rural communities. Updating the fee schedule will have minimum impacts to our lowest-income and most vulnerable residents.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed action to update the ambulance transportation fees in the San Diego County Fire Protection District supports efforts for County programs, operations, and contracts that reflect the values and priorities, including equitable service delivery, to residents in our region. The proposed fee increase protects our lowest-income residents while promoting an equitable emergency medical services program that is closer to full cost recovery to operate the system.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact in the current fiscal year. If approved, this request will result in an estimated increase in revenue of \$0.85 million in the ASA in Fiscal Year 2026-27. Costs and revenue for this request will be included in the Fiscal Year 2026-28 CAO Recommended Operational Plan for the ASA. The funding source is fees paid by entities or individuals for services.

A waiver of Board of Supervisor Policy B-29: *Fees, Grants, Revenue Contracts - Department Responsibility for Cost Recovery* is requested because the proposed fees will not cover the current operating costs for services in the ASA. The unrecovered cost, estimated at \$10.0 million, will be funded with existing General-Purpose Revenue and property tax revenue. There is no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Anderson, seconded by Director Aguirre, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District closed the Hearing and took action as recommended, and took action to further consider and adopt the Ordinance on May 19, 2026.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer

NOES: Desmond

ABSENT: Montgomery Steppe

2. **SUBJECT: NOTICED PUBLIC HEARING:
ANNUAL FIRE MITIGATION FEE PROGRAM RESOLUTIONS
AUTHORIZING CONTINUED PARTICIPATION AND ADOPTION OF
A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego created the Fire Mitigation Fee (FMF) program following the adoption of an ordinance by the County Board of Supervisors on December 11, 1985 (11). The purpose of the program is to collect and allocate funds to participating fire agencies in the unincorporated area of San Diego County, including the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD), for facility and equipment improvements to serve new development. In addition to SDCFPD, the program allows other fire agencies, lacking legal authority to directly impose and collect mitigation fees, to provide long-term capital facilities and equipment for fire suppression or emergency medical services, including station construction, station expansion or improvements, and fire or emergency medical apparatus to serve new development in their districts.

To participate in the FMF Program, SDCFPD must adopt two resolutions on an annual basis to authorize continued participation and identify the percentage of the maximum fee for collection and adopt a Capital Improvement Plan identifying the future use of FMF revenue. The SDCFPD Capital Improvement Plan proposes to allocate FMF revenues to support fire facility projects identified in the Capital Improvement Needs Assessment (CINA) and fire service vehicles in accordance with the County Fire Fleet Plan. The proposed Fire Mitigation Fee Program Fee schedule reflects the Los Angeles Construction Cost Index annual cost escalator of 3.6% for Fiscal Year 2026-27 in accordance with the County’s FMF Ordinance (SEC. 810.301).

Today’s actions request approval of the annual Participation and Capital Improvement Plan Resolutions to allow the SDCFPD to continue to receive mitigation fees to support new development in the district.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. Adopt the Resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO FIRE MITIGATION FEE PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27.

2. Adopt the Resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO ADOPT A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE USE OF FIRE MITIGATION FEE REVENUE

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) serves an under resourced and geographically diverse portion of the County's unincorporated area where many communities experience limited access to critical public safety infrastructure. These areas are designated as high or very high fire hazard severity zones and include populations that are at risk, low income or socially vulnerable. Revenue collected through the Fire Mitigation Fee program is critical to maintaining equitable service delivery by providing funding for capital improvement investments, including fire stations and equipment, to support growing communities and increased demands for services in the SDCFPD. These investments directly enhance response capabilities and service delivery to ensure residents receive fire protection and emergency medical services that are equitable to those provided by incorporated city departments.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed actions in today's request support the County of San Diego's Sustainability goals to provide just and equitable access to services by ensuring communities across the SDCFPD can address future needs for fire protection and emergency medical services.

FISCAL IMPACT

If approved, the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) will continue to participate in the County's Fire Mitigation Fee (FMF) Program and will use funds collected for capital improvement projects and equipment purchases within the boundaries of the SDCFPD. In Fiscal Year 2026-27, the FMF program is anticipated to generate approximately \$2,000,000 in revenue. Costs for equipment purchases and facility improvements will be included as needed in future Operational Plans for San Diego County Fire. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years will be required.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Anderson, seconded by Director Aguirre, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District closed the Hearing and took action as recommended, adopting Resolution No. 26-034, entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO FIRE MITIGATION FEE PROGRAM FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-27; and, Resolution No. 26-035, entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO ADOPT A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE USE OF FIRE MITIGATION FEE REVENUE.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer

NOES: Desmond

ABSENT: Montgomery Steppe


The Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District recessed at 12:51 p.m.

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

Notes By: Vizcarra

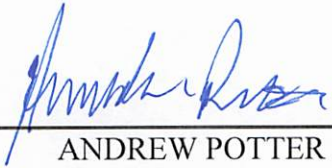
NOTE: This Statement of Proceedings sets forth all actions taken by the San Diego County Fire Protection District on the matters stated, but not necessarily the chronological sequence in which the matters were taken up. Generative artificial intelligence (AI) was utilized to assist in drafting portions of the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes using the meeting's audio recording. All content produced through AI assistance underwent human review to ensure accuracy.

Approved by the Board of Directors, on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.



MONICA MONTGOMERY-STEPPE
Vice-Chair

Attest:



ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board