

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

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 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 9:02 a.m.

PRESENT: Directors Monica Montgomery Steppe, Vice-Chair; Paloma Aguirre, Chair Pro Tem; Joel Anderson; Jim Desmond; also, Andrew Potter, Clerk of the Board of Directors.

ABSENT: Director Terra Lawson-Remer

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 meeting of May 5, 2026.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Aguirre, 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 May 5, 2026.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

ABSENT: Lawson-Remer

Agenda Items

- | Agenda # | Subject |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. | ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM:
SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE:
NOTICE OF 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. | FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 THIRD QUARTER SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT OPERATIONAL PLAN STATUS REPORT AND
BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS
(4 VOTES) |

1. **SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM:
SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE:
NOTICE OF 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 May 5, 2026 (FP01), the Board of Directors took action to further consider and adopt the Ordinance on May 19, 2026.

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**

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 Desmond, seconded by Director Montgomery Steppe , the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District took action as recommended, on Consent, and adopted Ordinance No. 10999 (N.S), entitled: 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.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond
ABSENT: Lawson-Remer

2. SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 THIRD QUARTER SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OPERATIONAL PLAN STATUS REPORT AND BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS (DISTRICTS: ALL)

OVERVIEW

This item recommends budget adjustments in the San Diego County Fire Protection District as part of the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Third Quarter Operational Plan budget adjustments.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Cancel appropriations in the San Diego County Fire Protection District Fire Mitigation (Fund 14610) and establish appropriations in San Diego County Fire Protection District (Fund 14611) for Capital Project 1022910, Jacumba Fire Station #43.

- Cancel appropriations of \$480,000 in San Diego County Fire Protection District Fire Mitigation (Fund 14610) Operating Transfers Out; *and* establish appropriations of \$480,000 in San Diego County Fire Protection District (Fund 14611), Operating Transfers Out, based on revenue from the Jacumba Valley Energy Park fire prevention services agreement. This is a funding swap for one of the funding sources in Capital Project 1022910, Jacumba Fire Station #43. **(4 VOTES)**

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The recommended actions are intended to provide resources to address inequities in County of San Diego (County) services and to identify disparities, develop meaningful outcomes, and create a County government culture of equity, belonging, and racial justice.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's actions support the sustainability measures across the County of San Diego (County) considering the environment, economy, health/wellbeing, and/or social aspects of the community by aligning the County's available resources with services to maintain fiscal stability and ensure long-term solvency.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds associated with today's recommendations are partially included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan in the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD). If approved, this action will result in a funding swap from the SDCFPD Fire Mitigation fund balance (14610) to San Diego County Fire Protection District (14611) for Capital Project 1022910, Jacumba Fire Station #43. The funding source is Jacumba Valley Energy Park fire prevention services agreement. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

Noting for the Record that this item was heard on May 20, 2026; ON MOTION of Director Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Director Aguirre, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District took action as recommended.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

The Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District recessed at 3:50 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