

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
MEETING AGENDA
TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2021, 11:00 AM
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER, ROOM 310
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY
SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

A. REGULAR SESSION – Regular Meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m.

PRESENT: Directors Nathan Fletcher, Chair; Nora Vargas, Vice-Chair; Joel Anderson; Terra Lawson-Remer; Jim Desmond; also, Andrew Potter, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

(Please note, California Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order N-29-20 on March 17, 2020, relating to the convening of public meetings in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pursuant to the Executive Order, and to maintain the orderly conduct of the meeting, members of the Board of Supervisors attended the meeting via teleconference and participated in the meeting to the same extent as if they were present.)

B. Non-Agenda Public Communication: No Speakers

C. Approval of the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meeting of July 13, 2021.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Desmond, seconded by Director Vargas, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District approved the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meeting of July 13, 2021, on Consent.

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

Agenda #	Subject
1.	ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM: SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE: AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DEFENSIBLE SPACE FOR FIRE PROTECTION ORDINANCE

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**1. SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE ITEM:
SECOND CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE:
AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE COUNTY OF
SAN DIEGO DEFENSIBLE SPACE FOR FIRE PROTECTION
ORDINANCE (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

The County of San Diego Board of Supervisors (Board of Supervisors) adopted the Defensible Space for Fire Protection Ordinance (Defensible Space Ordinance) in its current form on May 10, 2011 (9). The Defensible Space Ordinance sets forth various requirements for property owners to increase the resilience of their homes. The ordinance applies within: (1) all unincorporated areas of the County of San Diego (County) outside of fire protection or municipal water districts providing fire protection services, and (2) any fire protection or municipal water district providing fire protection services if the district adopts the Defensible Space Ordinance by reference through enactment of its own district ordinance.

The Defensible Space Ordinance applied to the unincorporated areas of the County through the former County Service Area No. 135 (CSA 135). With the recent formation of the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD), the SDCFPD Board of Directors (Board of Directors) is requested to enact a district ordinance adopting the County's Defensible Space Ordinance by reference. The jurisdictional footprint of CSA 135 and SDCFPD are identical, and therefore there will be no change in the defensible space requirements for residents and property owners within SDCFPD. Administrative and enforcement authority of the Defensible Space Ordinance may be delegated to the County through a memorandum of understanding between the County and SDCFPD, and is being presented to the Board of Directors as a separate action today.

Today's requested action is for the Board of Directors to enact a district ordinance adopting by reference the County of San Diego's Defensible Space Ordinance.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Consider and adopt the following Ordinance:

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE COUNTY OF SAN
DIEGO DEFENSIBLE SPACE FOR FIRE PROTECTION ORDINANCE.**

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Taking the proposed action will result in increased community resilience and decreased likelihood of the need to rebuild whole communities after devastating wildfires. There are 33,544 parcels with 24,759 structures within the SDCFPD that will be affected. Of the affected parcels, 93% are within areas considered High or Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones. In addition, data presented by the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) in May 2020 found that more than four-fifths of the SDCFPD jurisdictional area qualifies as a disadvantaged unincorporated community. This designation is based on annual median income. It is influenced in part by a higher level of unemployment and increased number of individuals collecting retirement compared to county-wide LAFCO data. This shows that there are communities that could be devastated by both the physical and financial risks of wildfire.

This recommendation will require individuals to continue performing defensible space work on their properties or pay for the work to be completed. Based on the jurisdictional area's demographics, SDCFPD works with local fire safe councils and other community organizations to assist individuals who are differently abled, elderly, or do not have the financial resources to perform defensible space work themselves. SDCFPD and CAL FIRE San Diego Unit staff refer individuals to grant-funded programs that assist in performing this work. By referring individuals to community organizations, SDCFPD aims to reduce unintended consequences of ability, age, and financial resources that can be a prohibitive factor to community resiliency, though these organizations cannot guarantee financial resources to assist every eligible individual.

Finally, to ensure community members know the requirements of the Defensible Space Ordinance and community resources available to assist achieving them, SDCFPD, in conjunction with the CAL FIRE San Diego Unit, will visit every parcel in its jurisdiction on a triennial basis. These visits ensure parcels are compliant with the Defensible Space Ordinance and provide an opportunity to engage with community members on further steps they can take to increase wildfire readiness.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the enactment of a district ordinance adopting by reference the County of San Diego Defensible Space for Fire Protection Ordinance. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Desmond, 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. 10740 (N.S.) entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO ADOPT BY REFERENCE THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DEFENSIBLE SPACE FOR FIRE PROTECTION ORDINANCE.

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 7:47 p.m.

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

Consent: Ruffier
Discussion: Zurita

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.