

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024, 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 9:01 a.m.

PRESENT: Directors Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice-Chair; Joel Anderson; Monica Montgomery Steppe; Jim Desmond; also, Ryan Sharp, Assistant Clerk of the Board of Supervisors.

ABSENT: Director Nora Vargas, Chair

B. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a 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 July 17, 2024.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Director Anderson, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District approved the Statement of Proceedings/Minutes for the meeting of July 17, 2024.

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

ABSENT: Vargas

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.	FIRE INSPECTION REPORTING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24
2.	NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XX OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE CODE, RELATING TO THE RAMONA FIRE PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE/PARAMEDIC FEES AND CHARGES (9/24/24 - FIRST READING; 10/08/24 - SECOND READING UNLESS ORDINANCE IS MODIFIED ON SECOND READING)

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**1. SUBJECT: FIRE INSPECTION REPORTING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24
(DISTRICTS: 1, 2, AND 5)**

OVERVIEW

San Diego County Fire (County Fire) operates a robust pre-fire inspection program to promote safety and well-being for residents in the Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD). County Fire also conducts inspections within the Deer Springs Fire Protection District, by written agreement. The inspection program is mandated under California Health and Safety Code Sections 13146.2 and 13146.4, which require the fire agency of record in a service area to annually inspect any building used as a school, hotel, motel, lodging house, apartment building, and/or residential care building for compliance with fire and safety regulations. In Fiscal Year 2023-24, San Diego County Fire completed 100% of the mandated inspections comprising 258 specific sites. The local fire agency is required to report its findings annually to its governing board.

Today's request is for the Board of Directors to adopt a resolution acknowledging receipt of the report for the Fiscal Year 2023-24 mandated fire inspections.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

DIRECTORS

1. Receive the County Fire's report of the State-mandated inspections, as required by California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.4.
2. Adopt a resolution entitled: A RESOLUTION OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF THE COMPLETION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 FIRE INSPECTIONS.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The San Diego County Fire Protection District (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 disadvantaged unincorporated community, based on a San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) report on the funding, administration, and performance of the former County Service Area No. 135 (now SDCFPD). In addition, one aspect of fire prevention is ensuring fire and safety codes are complied with, including facilities housing the most vulnerable. By performing these fire inspections, the SDCFPD is ensuring equitable safety for residents of our county.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed action to adopt a resolution acknowledging receipt of the report of the Fiscal Year 2023-24 mandated fire inspections contribute to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals to protect the health and wellbeing of residents. These actions will impact the sustainability of health and wellbeing by identifying and addressing potentially hazardous conditions and imposing safety measures in schools, apartment complexes, group care facilities, residential care facilities, camps, jails, law enforcement stations, transient housing units, daycare facilities, and a vacant occupancy. San Diego County Fire continues to engage with the community by collaborating with property owners and managers during these inspections to build, enhance, and maintain resiliency.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's request to adopt a resolution acknowledging receipt of the annual report of the Fiscal Year 2023-24 mandated fire inspections. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Director Desmond, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District, took action as recommended, on Consent, and adopted Resolution No. 24-120, entitled: A RESOLUTION OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO ACCEPT THE REPORT OF THE COMPLETION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023-24 FIRE INSPECTIONS.

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

ABSENT: Vargas

2. **SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XX OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE CODE, RELATING TO THE RAMONA FIRE PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE/PARAMEDIC FEES AND CHARGES (9/24/24 - FIRST READING; 10/08/24 - SECOND READING UNLESS ORDINANCE IS MODIFIED ON SECOND READING) (DISTRICT: 2)**

OVERVIEW

On December 14, 2021, the Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) Board of Directors voted to divest and transfer fire protection and emergency medical services within their district to the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD). On February 8, 2022 (1), the SDCFPD Board of Directors adopted a resolution in support of the RMWD resolution and directed County staff to take all necessary actions to transfer responsibility for fire protection and emergency medical services from the RMWD to the SDCFPD. On August 1, 2022, SDCFPD officially assumed fire protection and emergency medical responsibilities for the community of Ramona.

As part of the reorganization, SDCFPD assumed responsibility for the RMWD special tax on Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU) which funds fire protection and ambulance transportation services in the community of Ramona. In 1983, the RMWD first started to charge property owners through an ordinance. In 1997, the EDU ordinance was reclassified as a special tax through a voter approved ballot measure, which set a rate of \$188.52 per EDU to maintain the service levels and continues to be collected. The EDU special tax and ordinance is currently within the RMWD code and will require transfer and adoption into the San Diego County Administrative Code. Ramona residents will not experience any property tax changes associated with today's actions. All special tax revenue collected from the Ramona EDU will continue to be used to support fire protection and emergency medical services in Ramona.

Today's request is for the Board of Supervisors to adopt the EDU ordinance and special tax into the San Diego County Administrative Code.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

On September 24, 2024:

1. Approve the introduction of the Ordinance (first reading):
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XX OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE CODE, RELATING TO THE RAMONA FIRE PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE/PARAMEDIC FEES AND CHARGES

If, on September 24, 2024, the Board takes actions recommended in Item 1 above, then on October 08, 2024:

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

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's proposed ordinance supports the reorganization of fire protection and emergency medical services, which is intended to support the existing level of services for the residents of Ramona. The adoption of the EDU ordinance into the San Diego County Administrative Code will maintain necessary funding to ensure equitable fire and emergency response across the SDCFPD. The EDU ordinance allocates resources exclusively to the community of Ramona that would otherwise need to be provided by general purpose revenue or through reduced fire and emergency services in other communities in the SDCFPD. Codifying the EDU Ordinance into the San Diego County Administrative Code is critical for providing equitable fire protection and emergency medical response needs in the heavily impacted and underserved communities in the SDCFPD.

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 fire protection and emergency medical services by ensuring the SDCFPD can meet and address future needs for fire protection and emergency medical services of the community.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of the EDU ordinance and special tax. All special tax revenue collected from the Ramona EDU will continue to be used to support fire protection and emergency medical services in Ramona. 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 Lawson-Remer, 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 October 8, 2024.

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

ABSENT: Vargas

There being no further business, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District adjourned at 3:45 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.