



SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE

5560 Overland Avenue | Suite 400, San Diego | CA 92123-1239

www.sdcountyfire.org

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, November 4, 2024 | 1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Members

Jason Shanley	District 1 – Seat 1 (absent)
Bret Sealey	District 5 – Seat 2
Clifford Kellogg	District 5 – Seat 3, Vice Chair
VACANT	District 2 – Seat 4
VACANT	District 2 – Seat 5
Randy Lyle	District 2 – Seat 6
Ben Tullock	District 2 – Seat 7

County Staff

Jeff Collins	County Fire/Director
Marc Regier	County Fire/Assistant Director
Ryan Silva	CALFIRE/Deputy Chief Community Risk Reduction
Jason Malneritch	CALFIRE/Deputy Chief
David Sibbet	County Fire/Fire Services Coordinator
Bob Spanbauer	County Fire/Chief Admin Services
Jessica Martinez	County Fire/Group Program Manager
Nicole del Toro	County Fire/EMS Admin Secretary/Recorder



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- I. CALL TO ORDER at 1:00 pm.
 - A. The group recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - B. Roll call was taken.
 - C. A quorum was declared present with four (4) members in attendance, (1) absent.
 - D. There were no introductions.

- II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
There was no public communication.

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF AUGUST 12, 2024 (VOTE)

ON MOTION of Member Sealey, seconded by Member Lyle, the Advisory Board approved the minutes of August 12, 2024.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1

- IV. CHIEFS REPORT

- A. Fire Chiefs Report

1. Chief Ryan Silva provided information on the following:

- Current weather pattern: Santa Ana winds are pushing through. Plan to have a meeting with southern region, to possibly staff up extra additional reserves, camps, engines, and may move engines down from northern and central California. Everything is staffed up, prepared and ready to go.

Director Jeff Collins provided information and updates on the following:

- Home Hardening Project
- Station 80
- Jacumba Fire Station
- Ambulance System
- LEMSIS

- V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Board Letter Updates

Received an update on the County Fire's Board Letters and the Advisory Board Statement section.

- B. San Pasqual Fire Station Capital Project – Pending Board of Supervisors Action

San Pasqual Fire Station 84 is owned by County Fire but staffed through San Diego Fire & Rescue. The City of San Diego is increasing staffing at San Pasqual from 2 firefighters per day to 4 per day. San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) residents in this area receive fire protection and emergency medical services from San Diego Fire-Rescue personnel. To accommodate the increased staffing, a larger modular home with 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms will be installed, allowing for all 4 firefighters to reside in the same living quarters. The total estimated cost of the project is \$865,000 and construction is expected to begin this fiscal year. County Fire and San Diego



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Fire & Rescue are working together to discuss a potential cost sharing agreement. County Fire will seek approval from the Board of Supervisors to establish the capital project and authorize the Department of General Services to complete the project.

ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Kellogg, the Advisory Board voted to support County Fire's request to establish a capital project for the San Pasqual Fire station and authorize County staff to complete design, acquisition, and installation of a modular trailer.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1

C. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) Consultant Study – Pending Board of Supervisors Action

San Diego County Fire staff, on behalf of the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD), is responsible for administering the Consolidated Fire Code for proposed projects in the SDCFPD and Deer Springs Fire Protection District. After the May 2024 Gateway Fire in East Otay Mesa, the Board of Supervisors provided funding for County Fire to hire a nationally recognized consultant to review the Cause of Origin for the Gateway Fire and propose best practices for mitigating risk related to future Battery Energy Storage projects in the unincorporated area. On October 29, 2024, County Fire and unincorporated fire protection district fire marshals received the draft report. County Fire is working with partner agencies and plans to seek public input on the consultant's recommendations.

In addition, on September 11, 2024 (5), the Board directed the County Fire Chief, through the Chief Administrative Officer, to analyze residential buffer distances based on plume modeling and develop a plan for new BESS facilities and report back to the Board by December 11, 2024.

ON MOTION of Member Kellogg, seconded by Member Sealey, the Advisory Board voted to receive an update on the consultant report for best practices on fire code safety best practices, provide the Advisory Board's feedback, and proposed public engagement strategy for the report.

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 1

D. Fire Protection Districts Funding Update – Informational Only

On July 17, 2024 (2), the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Administrative Officer to review the level of resources, funding, and sustainability of fire protection in the communities of Valley Center, Deer Springs, Pauma Valley, and other parts of the San Diego County Fire Protection District and return to the Board within 90 days to provide options, including a property tax adjustment, for the Valley Center and Deer Springs Fire Protection Districts. On October 8, 2024 (8), County Fire staff returned to the Board and presented several options to increase funding and resources in alignment with the Board's prior direction to include increasing the property tax allocations for Deer Springs and Valley Center Fire Protection Districts to 6% of the 1 %, a new two-person medic squad along the U.S.-Mexico international border, enhancing the two-person medic squad in East Otay Mesa to a three-person fire engine, and adding a new three-person fire engine in Pauma Valley.

E. Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) – Informational Only



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The Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) is an independent, non-profit, scientific research and communications organization supported by insurance companies. To address increasing wildfire risk to insurance companies and rising costs to consumers, IBHS created the Welfare Prepared Home program. In this two-tier system, homeowners can evaluate their home's wildfire safety and then make improvements that reduces risk. Residents meeting the minimum standards will receive a certificate that they can provide to their homeowners insurance to seek premium relief or improve their chances of exiting the FAIR program. One of the biggest gaps in the Wildfire Prepared Home program is the ability of rural residents to secure an appointment from an inspector who can educate on the program requirements and issued a certificate that the homeowner meets the program requirements.

On October 22, 2024 (FP01), the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) Board of Directors authorized County Fire staff, on behalf of the SDCFPD, to pilot the Wildfire Prepared program in the District. County Fire will utilize an existing Fire Prevention Specialist to become trained in the Wildfire Prepared Home program and close the gap on education and certification.

F. Calendar Year 2025 Meeting Schedule

To continue providing input for San Diego County Fire Protection District future Board of Directors actions, and County Fire's actions on behalf of fire protection and emergency medical services in our region, a 2025 Fire Advisory Board meeting schedule is needed. County staff has provided four (4) options:

Monday, March 3, 2025
Monday, May 12, 2025
Monday, September 8, 2025
Monday, November 17, 2025

ON MOTION of Member Kellogg, seconded by Member Lyle, the Advisory Board voted to receive feedback and approval for a 2025 Fire Advisory Board meeting schedule.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next Fire Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 1:00 pm at the San Diego County Fire Office (County Operations Center) – 5560 Overland Ave, Ste 400, Balboa Rm, San Diego 92123.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Advisory Board adjourned at 2:06 pm.

NOTE: These Minutes set forth all action taken by the Advisory Board on the matters stated, but not necessarily the chronological sequence in which the matters were taken up.

For meeting information, please contact: San Diego County Fire

TEL: (619) 455-1819

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