



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, March 3, 2025 | 1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Members

Jason Shanley	District 1 – Seat 1 (absent)
VACANT	District 2 – Seat 2
VACANT	District 2 – Seat 3
Randy Lyle	District 2 – Seat 4
Ben Tullock	District 2 – Seat 5, Chair
VACANT	District 3 – Seat 6
Jesse Robles	District 4 – Seat 7
Bret Sealey	District 5 – Seat 8
Clifford Kellog	District 5 – Seat 9 Vice Chair

Guest

Debra Foster	Ramona Community Planning
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County Staff

Jeff Collins	County Fire/Director
Marc Regier	County Fire/Assistant Director
Ryan Silva	CALFIRE/Deputy Chief Community Risk Reduction
David Sibbet	County Fire/Fire Services Coordinator
Bob Spanbauer	County Fire/Chief Admin Services
Jenny Le	County Fire/Admin Secretary
Nicole del Toro	County Fire/EMS Admin Secretary/Recorder



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I. CALL TO ORDER at 1:01 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, (2) absent.
The fifth member attended towards the end of the meeting, after the voting items.
- D. Introductions were made.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

Debra Foster, member of the public, was advised to be in attendance from the Ramona Community Planning Group and the Ramona Water District. She is planning to be approved to be a member of the Fire Advisory Board.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 4, 2024 (VOTE)

ON MOTION of Member Kellogg, seconded by Member Lyle, the Advisory Board approved the minutes of November 4, 2024.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 ABSTAIN: 0

IV. CHIEFS REPORT

A. Fire Chiefs Report

1. Chief Ryan Silva provided information on the following:

- Lilic Fire update. Arsonist was caught and arrested.
- Border 2 Fire update. Type 1 team was activated. The team came down until it started raining and the fire was put out. No damages reported.
- Due to the recent Los Angeles fires, CAL Fire's budget was bolstered and will staff every state station in the state.
- New Hires – 5 Defensible Space Inspectors.
- Inclement weather was launched in east county for 3 days. Will bolster staffing and move 4x4 engines and ambulances into the Interstate 8 corridor, in case cars skid off.

Director Jeff Collins provided information and updates on the following:

- Jacumba Fire Station
- Valley Center and Deer Springs – passed to increase shared property taxes from 2% to 6%. Every fire agency is now at least 6%.
- Borrego Springs Fire Station – living quarters being upgraded in mid-April; to be completed in 3 months.
- Ramona High School program – 27 students enrolled. Provides students with firefighting skills and education. Story was covered by County News. Ideally some of the students will go on to the Reserve Program once they have completed the necessary training.
- Battery Energy Storage System Facilities – controversy between the industry and surrounding property owners. Per the Board of Supervisors, the County Fire Chief has the authority to create the guidelines on his own. No vote required. County Fire will finalize the guidelines once receive updates from the California Fire Code and the National Fire Protection District Association. In the meantime, interim guidelines will be provided.



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V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Selection of a Chair and Vice Chair for 2025

ON MOTION of Member Sealey, seconded by Member Lyle, the Advisory Board voted to nominate the current Chair and Vice Chair to continue for another year.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 ABSTAIN: 0

B. SDCFPD Annual Fire Mitigation Fee Program Participation and Capital Improvement Plan–Pending Board of Directors Action

To participate in the Fire Mitigation Fee (FMF) Program, fire agencies must adopt a resolution on an annual basis authorizing participation in the FMF Program that states the percentage of the maximum fee ceiling for collection and adopt a plan for the future use of FMF revenue. The Fiscal Year 2025-26 Fire Mitigation Fee Program Fee Schedule for SDCFPD is listed below and includes the automatic cost escalator based on the annual Los Angeles Construction Cost Index (LACC Index) based on the previous 12-month period (October to October). The LACC index increase for the FMF program for FY25-26 is .090%. The residential fee rate for FY25-26 will be collected at 100% of the determined rate.

SDCFPD - FMF 2025-26							
FY	RESIDENTIAL*	COMMERCIAL/ RETAIL	HOTEL	INDUSTRIAL	MEDICAL	OFFICE	AGRICULTURE
2024-25	\$2.29 (75%)	\$2.66	\$1.43	\$2.10	\$4.99	\$9.98	\$0.09
2025-26	\$3.08 (100%)	\$2.68	\$1.44	\$2.12	\$5.03	\$10.07	\$0.09
*Phased-In Residential Rate: \$3.05 (75%) FY24/25							
**LACC Index: 0.90%							

The FMF will generate approximately \$2,000,000 in revenue in the next fiscal year. The use of mitigation fees will be used to support new development within the boundaries of the San Diego County Fire Protection District.

ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Kellogg, the Advisory Board voted to support the participation in the FMF program and the Capital Improvement Plan for FMF revenue.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 ABSTAIN: 0

C. Updates to County Fire's Fire Marshal Program Fees–Pending Board of Supervisors Action

San Diego County Fire staff, on behalf of the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD), are responsible for reviewing and enforcing the County's Consolidated Fire Code within the SDCFPD. This includes reviewing plans for new commercial and residential development projects, grading permits, and fire alarm systems. By charging fees for actual County staff, County General Purpose Revenue is made available for operational priorities within the SDCFPD. Existing fees have not been updated since Fiscal Year 2020-21. The average increase is 35% with the primary factor being staff labor costs. County Fire is proposing new fees to recover the costs of standby fire apparatus and staffing for special events to avoid disruptions to the existing emergency response system. Finally, County staff currently performs business and state-mandated inspections at no



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cost to the public. The proposed fee package includes updating past policy decisions to begin charging for full-cost recovery to continue investing in SDCFPD operational needs.

An attachment has been included with the notes that identifies current fees and proposed changes.

ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Sealey, the Advisory Board voted to receive a presentation on proposed fee updates and public outreach; and to support the proposed County Fire fee increases for full cost recovery.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 ABSTAIN: 0

D. Recent Board of Supervisors Actions on Wildfire Safety–Information Only

In January 2025, wildfires began in Los Angeles County that resulted in thousands of structures being destroyed and tens of billions of dollars in property damage. On January 28, 2025, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors took several actions to expand preparedness and response efforts in the region.

An update was received on recent Board of Supervisors actions and future County staff updates to the Board.

E. Capital Improvement Needs Assessment (CINA) Program Updates for County Fire–Information Only

The County of San Diego uses a five-year planning process to replacing and/or building new capital projects. This is known as the Capital Improvement Needs Assessment (CINA) program. Every March, the director of the Department of General Services provides an annual update and makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for which projects should be included in the CINA, funding needs, and updates the Board on timelines.

An update was received on proposed changes to County Fire’s CINA projects.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next Fire Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 12, 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 2:15 pm.

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

For meeting information, please contact:

San Diego County Fire

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