



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, May 12, 2025 | 1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Members

Jason Shanley	District 1 – Seat 1 (absent)
VACANT	District 2 – Seat 2
Debra Foster	District 2 – Seat 3
Randy Lyle	District 2 – Seat 4
Ben Tullock	District 2 – Seat 5, Chair
John Clark	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

County Staff

Tony Mecham	CALFIRE/Chief
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
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 seven (7) members in attendance, (1) absent.
 - D. Introductions were made. The following new members were introduced: Debra Foster representing District 2, and John Clark representing District 3.

- II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
There was no public communication.

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 3, 2025 (VOTE)

ON MOTION of Member Sealey, seconded by Member Lyle, the Advisory Board approved the minutes of March 3, 2025 with the correction of the date for the next meeting.

AYES: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 0

- IV. CHIEFS REPORT

- A. Fire Chief's Update – Tony Mecham
 - Two additional water tenders have been purchased.
 - Sheriff's helicopters need replacing.
 - The 2024 Standards of Cover–Executive Summary will be given out in hard copies.
 - Additional staffing needed in Pauma Valley, Dulzura and Otay Mesa.
 - Interagency started with City of San Marcos and Carlsbad where staffing is shared for Regional Use Task Force.
 - Protection responsibilities with US Forest Service and CALFIRE will no longer be exchanged.
 - State Budget was revised; increase in CALFIRE budget.
 - Descanso Fire Station rebuild got pushed back, causing additional pushbacks on Borrego Fire Station and Ramona Fire Station.
- B. Director's Update – Jeff Collins
 - County's CAO released a proposed budget; budget looks good.
 - Facilities pending projects: Jacumba Fire Station; San Pasqual Fire Station – 4-bedroom module; Fire Station 80 – kitchen; Borrego Springs Fire Station.
 - Two increases were passed from the Board of Supervisors: Fire Mitigation Fee and Fire Marshals Services.

- V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. County Fire's Return to the Board of Supervisors on Wildfire Preparedness and Recovery – Pending Board of Supervisors Action

In January, Los Angeles County experienced several wildfires that resulted in significant damage to the Pacific Palisades and Altadena communities. Thousands of homes were destroyed and nearly 30 lives were lost. On January 28, 2025, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors took several actions to promote wildfire readiness, education, response, and recovery efforts. On June 3, 2025, County staff will return with a presentation on overall wildfire preparedness, which includes



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vegetation management, water supply and infrastructure, residential insurance, and emergency response coordination. Representatives from partner agencies, including the San Diego County Water Authority, California Insurance Commissioner's Office, and San Diego Gas & Electric are expected to join County staff in the presentation.

An update was received from County Fire staff.

B. Adoption of the Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Maps – Pending Board of Directors Action

In 2011, the State of California enacted AB 211 which required the Office of the State Fire Marshall to reclassify the fire hazard severity for Local Responsibility Areas in California. The legislation then required the local fire agency to adopt the findings, by ordinance, within 120 days of the maps being made public. The Office of the State Fire Marshal published the new Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) Maps on March 24, 2025 for the area which includes San Diego County. The San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) has a limited LRA in two areas of the District, one in the middle of Ramona and the other in Borrego Springs. AB 211 prohibited local agencies from reducing any risk severity but authorized the local agency to increase risk severity if certain findings are made. County Fire staff, on behalf of the SDCFPD, have reviewed the LRA maps and is proposing no changes. On June 24, 2025, the SDCFPD Board of Directors will be asked to adopt the map.

Summary of Changes:

Change	Ramona (Acres)	Borrego Springs (Acres)
No Designation to Moderate	263	2,199
No Designation to High	286	2
No Designation to Very High	279	0
Very High to No Designation	0	1
Very High to Moderate	87	1
Very High to High	97	0

ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Kellogg, the Advisory Board voted to support County Fire Staff's recommendation to approve the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Maps, as required by the Office of the State Fire Marshal, in the San Diego County Fire Protection District.

AYES: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 0

C. Annual Levies, Special Taxes and Community Facilities Districts – Pending Board of Directors Actions

The County of San Diego Department of Public Works (DPW) and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) are putting forth the annual special tax board actions. Upon approval, the annual levies will be placed on the tax roll so that the property owners can continue to pay the levy through their property tax bills. County Fire receives special tax revenue from:

- San Diego County Fire Protection District
 - 10 Zones within the FPD



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- County Service Area (CSA)
 - CSA-17 – San Dieguito Emergency Medical Services
- Community Facilities District (CFD)
 - CFD 04-1 (Lake Morena, Jacumba, Jamul, and Lyons Valley Region)
 - CFD 09-1 (Otay Mesa)
 - CFD 14-1 (Borrego Springs)

ON MOTION of Member Robles, seconded by Member Kellogg, the Advisory Board voted to support the annual special tax board actions.

AYES: 7 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 1 ABSTAIN: 0

D. Standards of Cover Update–Information Only

San Diego County Fire periodically updates its Standards of Cover to ensure the appropriate distribution of fire protection and emergency medical resources and to identify long-term needs. County Fire staff recently completed this project, and the findings will be used to reallocate equipment and place new purchases on the County's Fire-Year Financial Forecast.

An update was received from County Fire staff.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next Fire Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, September 8, 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 2:00 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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