



SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE

5560 Overland Avenue | Suite 400, San Diego | CA 92123-1204

www.sdcountyfire.org

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, March 3, 2025 | 1:00 p.m. | San Diego County Fire Office, Balboa Room

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - A. Pledge of Allegiance
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Declaration of Quorum
 - D. Introductions
- II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION: Members of the public may address the Board on any subject matter within its assigned purview and not on the agenda. Please notify County staff prior to the meeting.
- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 4, 2024 **(VOTE)**
- IV. MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT
 - A. Fire Chief's Update
 - B. Director's Update
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Selection of a Chair and Vice Chair for 2025—Voting Item
 - B. SDCFPD Annual Fire Mitigation Fee Program Participation and Capital Improvement Plan—Pending Board of Directions Action
 - C. Updates to County Fire's Fire Marshal Program Fees—Pending Board of Supervisors Action
 - D. Recent Board of Supervisors Actions on Wildfire Safety—Information Only
 - E. Capital Improvement Needs Assessment (CINA) Program Updates for County Fire—Information Only
- VI. NEXT MEETING
 - A. Monday, May 12, 2025 at 1:00 pm at the San Diego County Fire Office – 5560 Overland Ave, Suite 400, Balboa Room, San Diego CA 92123 (County Operations Center).
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

Written materials distributed to the Fire Advisory Board in connection with this agenda will be made available to the public less than 72 hours before the meeting at the Office of San Diego County Fire.

ASSISTANCE FOR THE DISABLED

If you are planning on attending this meeting and need special accommodations, please contact County Fire staff at least 24 hours before the meeting. Individuals requiring sign language interpreters should contact the Americans with Disabilities Coordinator at (858) 505-6521, in advance of the meeting.

For meeting information, please contact:

San Diego County Fire

TEL: (619) 455-1819

Nicole.DelToro@sdcounty.ca.gov



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

MINUTES

Members

Jason Shanley
Bret Sealey
Clifford Kellogg
VACANT
VACANT
Randy Lyle
Ben Tullock

District 1 – Seat 1 (absent)
District 5 – Seat 2
District 5 – Seat 3, Vice Chair
District 2 – Seat 4
District 2 – Seat 5
District 2 – Seat 6
District 2 – Seat 7

County Staff

Jeff Collins
Marc Regier
Ryan Silva
Jason Malneritch
David Sibbet
Bob Spanbauer
Jessica Martinez
Nicole del Toro

County Fire/Director
County Fire/Assistant Director
CALFIRE/Deputy Chief Community Risk Reduction
CALFIRE/Deputy Chief
County Fire/Fire Services Coordinator
County Fire/Chief Admin Services
County Fire/Group Program Manager
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

Nicole.DelToro@sdcounty.ca.gov

Fire Advisory Board Notes

Selection of a Chair and Vice Chair for 2025—Voting Item

Article 4 (“Officers”), Section B, of the San Diego County Fire Protection District Fire Advisory Board bylaws requires the Fire Advisory Board to annually elect from its members a Chair and Vice Chair.

Recommendation: Fire Advisory Board membership to vote for the selection of a Chair and Vice Chair.

SDCFPD Annual Fire Mitigation Fee Program Participation and Capital Improvement Plan—Pending Board of Directions 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 0.90%. 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 to include:

1. Save and/or utilize funding for fire station projects identified in the Capital Improvement Needs Assessment
 - a. Training Center
 - b. Station 80 (Ramona) expansion
2. Save and/or utilize funding for vehicles in accordance with the Department Fleet Plan
 - a. Additional Ladder Truck (East Otay Mesa Station 38)
 - b. Second Light and Air Vehicle

Recommendation: Support the participation in the FMF program and the Capital Improvement Plan for FMF revenue.

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 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.

Recommendation: Receive a presentation on proposed fee updates and public outreach. Support the proposed County Fire fee increases for full cost recovery.

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.

Recommendation: Receive an update on recent Board of Supervisors actions and future County staff updates to the Board.

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.

Recommendation: Receive an update on proposed changes to County Fire's CINA projects.

San Diego County Fire
Fire Marshal Fees

Fee	FY 2020/21 Approved (Current Fees)	FY 2025/26 Proposed	+ / - from Current to Proposed	% Change from Current to Proposed
1.a. Residential Building Permit w/o Fire Sprinklers	\$ 184	\$ 232	\$ 48	26%
1.b. Residential Building Permit w/ Fire Sprinklers	\$ 381	\$ 451	\$ 70	18%
2.a. Commercial Building Permit w/o Fire Sprinklers	\$ 366	\$ 491	\$ 125	34%
2.b. Commercial Building Permit w/ Fire Sprinklers	\$ 698	\$ 1,314	\$ 616	88%
3. Commercial Tenant Improvement	\$ 539	\$ 384	\$ (155)	-29%
4. Grading Plan Review (Fire)	\$ 58	\$ 143	\$ 85	147%
5. Gate Plan Review (Fire)	\$ 58	\$ 84	\$ 26	45%
6. Fire Safety/Site Inspection	\$ 222	\$ 280	\$ 58	26%
7. Special Event (Fire)	\$ 275	\$ 323	\$ 48	17%
8. Fire Alarm System	\$ 408	\$ 545	\$ 137	34%
9. Alternative Fire Suppression System	\$ 417	\$ 460	\$ 43	10%
10. Initial Inspection and Re-Inspection (Hourly Rate)	\$ 171	\$ 181	\$ 10	6%
11.a. Fire Apparatus Standby - Type I (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 173	\$ 173	
11.b. Fire Apparatus Standby - Type II (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 164	\$ 164	
11.c. Fire Apparatus Standby - Type III (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 157	\$ 157	
11.d. Fire Apparatus Standby - Type IV to VII (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 150	
11.e. Fire Apparatus Standby - Water Tender Tactical I (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 148	\$ 148	
11.f. Fire Apparatus Standby - Water Tender Tactical II (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 127	\$ 127	
11.g. Firefighter I (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 40	\$ 40	
11.h. Firefighter II (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 49	\$ 49	
11.i. Firefighter II (Paramedic) (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 56	\$ 56	
11.j. Fire Apparatus Engineer (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 54	\$ 54	
11.k. Fire Apparatus Engineer (Paramedic) (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 62	\$ 62	
11.l. Fire Captain (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 61	\$ 61	
11.m. Fire Captain (Paramedic) (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 69	\$ 69	
11.n. Battalion Chief (Hourly Rate)	\$ -	\$ 71	\$ 71	