



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, May 12, 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 MARCH 3, 2025 **(VOTE)**
- IV. MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT
 - A. Fire Chief's Update
 - B. Director's Update
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. County Fire's Return to the Board of Supervisors on Wildfire Preparedness and Recovery—Pending Board of Supervisors Action
 - B. Adoption of the Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Maps—Pending Board of Directors Action
 - C. Annual Levies, Special Taxes and Community Facilities Districts—Pending Board of Directors Actions
 - D. Standards of Cover Update—Information Only
- VI. NEXT MEETING
 - A. Monday, September 8, 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

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

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

MINUTES

Members

Jason Shanley
VACANT
VACANT
Randy Lyle
Ben Tullock
VACANT
Jesse Robles
Bret Sealey
Clifford Kellog

District 1 – Seat 1 (absent)
District 2 – Seat 2
District 2 – Seat 3
District 2 – Seat 4
District 2 – Seat 5, Chair
District 3 – Seat 6
District 4 – Seat 7
District 5 – Seat 8
District 5 – Seat 9 Vice Chair

Guest

Debra Foster

Ramona Community Planning

County Staff

Jeff Collins
Marc Regier
Ryan Silva
David Sibbet
Bob Spanbauer
Jenny Le
Nicole del Toro

County Fire/Director
County Fire/Assistant Director
CALFIRE/Deputy Chief Community Risk Reduction
County Fire/Fire Services Coordinator
County Fire/Chief Admin Services
County Fire/Admin Secretary
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, 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 2:15 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:

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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 vegetation management, water supply and infrastructure, residential insurance, 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.

Recommendation: Receive an update from County Fire staff.

Adoption of the Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Maps—Pending Board of Directions 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

Recommendation: 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.

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:

- Sand Diego County Fire Protection District
 - 10 Zones within the FPD
- 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)

Recommendation: Support the annual special tax board actions.

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.

Recommendation: Receive an update from County Fire staff.



2024 Standards of Cover – Executive Summary

San Diego County Fire

PURPOSE AND OVERVIEW

The Standards of Cover: Community Risk Assessment (Standards of Cover) is a critical component of San Diego County Fire's performance evaluation and strategic planning. Serving as a companion to the San Diego County Fire 2020–2025 Strategic Plan, the Standards of Cover aligns with nationally recognized standards and local priorities to ensure our fire and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) remain effective, equitable, and data-informed. This report takes a comprehensive look at community risk, organizational performance, resource deployment, and response outcomes across the County's over 2.1 million acres of unincorporated service area and its more than 192,000 residents.

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH

Over the past decade, San Diego County Fire has unified previously independent fire agencies into a cohesive, countywide fire protection system. Key milestones include:

- Integration of former separate jurisdictions under a single operational model.
- Expansion of full-time staffing across all 40 fire stations.
- Launch of the County Fire Ambulance Service Area (ASA) in September 2023 to enhance EMS delivery across Rural regions.
- Addition of over 239,000 acres to the service area through strategic transitions (Ramona Municipal Water District and Borrego Springs).

Today, the department is shifting from rapid expansion to strategic refinement—focusing on sustainable growth, system resilience, and service equity.

SYSTEM PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

1. Countywide total response time improved from 81% to 91%, exceeding the 90% compliance goal.
2. Urban total response time performance jumped from 67% to 93%, a massive 26% improvement.
3. Urban, Rural, and Outlying areas achieved 91%, 93%, and 95% success, respectively, for Urban Search & Rescue response time benchmarks.

4. Technological Upgrades Underway: IP alerting systems are 65% implemented, expected to improve turnout time efficiency when fully operational by FY 26/27.
5. More frequent and complex incidents highlight the need for a certified Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) program.
6. Thousands of community members are engaged annually through education programs, public forums, and events, strengthening community trust and preparedness.

GROWING COMMITMENT

San Diego County Fire is committed to:

- Making data-informed investments in people, equipment, and infrastructure.
- Strengthening regional collaboration across agencies and jurisdictions.
- Aligning operational performance with Board priorities and community expectations.
- Embracing continuous quality improvement and fiscal accountability.

As the County grows, so must its emergency service capacity. The Standards of Cover ensures San Diego County Fire is well-positioned to meet today's needs and tomorrow's challenges—with transparency, strategic foresight, and a focus on public trust.

