



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, August 17, 2026 | 1:00 p.m. | 10200 Willow Creek Rd suite 100 San Diego, CA 92131

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 MAY 11, 2026 **(VOTE)**
- IV. MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT
 - A. Fire Chief's Update
 - B. Director's Update
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Firefighter Wellness—Information Only
 - B. Mandated Fire Inspection Reporting for Fiscal Year 2025-26—Pending Board of Directors Action
 - C. Approve a New Cooperative Agreement Between the County of San Diego and CAL FIRE for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services—Pending Board of Supervisors Action
 - D. Enhancing Ambulance Transportation Services within the Grossmont Ambulance Operating Area—Pending Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors Actions
 - E. CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevent Grant Award Acceptance—Pending Board of Supervisors Action
 - F. Increasing Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Safety Practices—Information Only
 - G. Funding for a Contracted Firefighting Helicopter – Pending Board of Supervisors Action
- VI. NEXT MEETING
 - A. Monday, November 9, 2026 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.



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For meeting information, please contact:

San Diego County Fire

TEL: (619) 455-1819

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Monday, May 11, 2025 | 1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Members

VACANT

Mike Stein

Debra Foster

Randy Lyle

Ben Tullock

John Clark

Jesse Robles

Bret Sealey

Clifford Kellog

District 1 – Seat 1

District 2 – Seat 2

District 2 – Seat 3

District 2 – Seat 4 (absent)

District 2 – Seat 5, Chair

District 3 – Seat 6

District 4 – Seat 7 (absent)

District 5 – Seat 8

District 5 – Seat 9, Vice Chair (absent)

Guest

County Staff

Jeff Collins

Marc Regier

Bob Spanbauer

Ryan Silva

Nicole del Toro

County Fire/Director

County Fire/Assistant Director

County Fire/Chief Admin Services

CALFIRE/Deputy Chief Community Risk Reduction

County Fire/EMS Admin Secretary



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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 six (5) members in attendance, one (3) absent.
 - D. No introductions were made.

- II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
There was no public communication.

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MARCH 2, 2025 (VOTE)

ON MOTION of Member Foster, seconded by Member Sealey, the Advisory Board approved the minutes of March 2, 2025. Motion carried.

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 3 ABSTAIN: 0

- IV. CHIEFS REPORT

- A. Fire Chiefs Update – Deputy Chief Ryan Silva on behalf of Chief Tony Mecham
 - Staffing; currently have extra firefighters
 - New program started called Fire Side
 - Open House at Pine Valley Station 44 on 5/16 at 10:00 am
 - Funding received from CALFire to staff additional Firefighter IIs on engines
 - Two type I water tenders now in Pine Valley and Intermountain; will also staff two water tenders year-round.
 - Ramona airbase scheduled to open 6/1; helicopter also expected to arrive on 6/1
 - Finished 0-5 at Station 79 – new rock surrounding the station
- B. Director's Update – Jeff Collins
 - CALFire will host a media event at Air Attack Base in June or July
 - Ground breaking on 6/2 at 10:00 am for new station in Jacumba
 - Board of Supervisors approved Training Tower
 - Board of Supervisors took action on their Capital Improvement Needs Assessment (CINA) document – funding to replace Descanso Fire Station
 - Borrego Springs land donation being finalized
 - EMS Bureau will have a leased space in Carol Canyon area for a training facility. A future Fire Advisory Board meeting will be held there.
 - Board of Supervisors provided direction on workforce standards for the battery energy storage. Trying to finalize. Will give options.
 - Starlight project in Boulevard
- C. Assistant Director's Update – Marc Regier
 - Responsible for two ambulance areas – CSA 17 and Ambulance Service Area. Currently have a contract out to hire a consultant – a national expert with a lot of experience managing a large ambulance program to deep dive into the data. Each study takes 60-90 days. Will discuss the results with operational folks, then debrief with financial folks.



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V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Viejas Ambulance Donation – Pending Board of Supervisors Action

ON MOTION of Member Sealey, seconded by Member Foster, the Advisory Board voted to support the ambulance donation acceptance. Motion carried.

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 3 ABSTAIN: 0

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

ON MOTION of Member Stein, seconded by Member Clark, the Advisory Board voted to support the annual special tax board actions. Motion carried.

AYES: 5 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 3 ABSTAIN: 0

C. Annual Wildfire Preparedness Board Letter – Pending Board of Supervisors Action

The Advisory Board members received an update from County Fire/CAL FIRE regarding the region's preparedness for wildfires this summer and fall.

D. County Fire's Anticipated Budget Changes for FY 26-27 – Informational Only

The Advisory Board members received an update from County Fire staff regarding anticipated budgetary changes and operational priorities for FY 26-27.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next Fire Advisory Board meeting will be held Monday, August 17, 2026 at 1:00 pm at the new EMS Bureau located at 10200 Willow Creek Rd, Suite 100, San Diego, CA 92131.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Advisory Board adjourned at 1:42 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

TEL: (619) 455-1819

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Firefighter Wellness—Information Only

At the May 11, 2026, Fire Advisory Board meeting, a request was made for staff to present on the actions that have been taken to improve firefighter safety and well-being. A presentation is being made on changes within existing and new fire stations along with changes in the equipment used by personnel.

Recommendation: Receive a presentation on firefighter wellness and safety.

Mandated Fire Inspection Reporting for Fiscal Year 2025-26—Pending Board of Directors Action

The State code requires the San Diego Fire Protection District to perform annual inspections on all buildings used as a school, apartment complex, group care facility, residential care facility, commercial space, office complex, jails, law enforcement station, lodging unit, and day care facility. County Fire, on behalf of the San Diego County Fire Protection District, completed 100% of the 264 State-mandated inspections in the San Diego County and Deer Springs Fire Protection Districts in Fiscal Year 2024-25. In addition, staff conducted 1,694 non-mandated business inspections in the same time period.

Recommendation: Receive this report and vote in support of the findings.

Approve a New Cooperative Agreement Between the County of San Diego and CAL FIRE for Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services —Pending Board of Supervisors Action

In 2008, the County of San Diego and CAL FIRE entered into a Cooperative Agreement for fire protection and emergency response services to bolster staffing in unincorporated communities and provide coordination among fire protection districts and volunteer fire agencies. There have been 4 additional agreements since that time to reflect increased investment by Boards of Supervisors to adding around-the-clock staffing, paramedic-level response capabilities, and increase pre-fire services. In Fiscal Year 2026-27, the County funds over 300 firefighters to staff 21 fire stations, manage and provide services in the San Diego County Fire Protection District Ground Ambulance Service Area, and operate a robust Community Risk Reduction Services. The current agreement has reached its contract funding maximum and requires a new agreement for continued operations. The new agreement will be for up to three years with two option years. The effective date will be July 1, 2027.

Recommendation: Support the new agreement between the County and CAL FIRE for continued fire protection and emergency medical services.

Enhancing Ambulance Transportation Services within the Grossmont Ambulance Operating Area—Pending Board of Supervisors and Board of Directors Actions

The County of San Diego (County) is responsible for ensuring emergency ambulance transportation services in the Grossmont Ambulance Operating Area (EOA) which includes the

cities of La Mesa and Lemon Grove and the unincorporated communities of Rancho San Diego, Mt. Helix, Spring Valley, Casa De Oro, Granite Hills and La Presa. On May 5, 1979 (27), the Board of Supervisors (Board) assigned management of ambulance transportation services in the Grossmont AOA to the Grossmont Hospital District (now the Grossmont Healthcare District) through a contract. On October 1, 1991 (12), the Board re-assigned the contract to the Grossmont Hospital Corporation to reflect a new partnership between the Grossmont Hospital District and Sharp Healthcare for operating the Grossmont Hospital. The Grossmont AOA had 23,580 emergency medical services dispatches and 15,798 ambulance transports in 2025.

The Grossmont Hospital Corporation has communicated support for ending their direct system oversight and returning management to the County of San Diego. Under prior Board of Supervisors actions, ambulance operating areas where the County has responsibility for service delivery are managed and/or provided by the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD).

The Board of Supervisors is being asked to approve a mutual termination of the current contract with the Grossmont Hospital Corporation and authorize the transfer of the contract with the private provider to the SDCFPD to ensure no disruption of services. County Fire staff, on behalf of the SDCFPD, will complete an ambulance deployment study using a third-party vendor to complete a comprehensive deployment study to evaluate how to best serve the Grossmont EOA. Outreach will include fire agencies, hospitals, and the public. The SDCFPD is not proposing to provide ambulance transportation services in the Grossmont AOA and will instead serve as a system administrator to protect patient outcomes. To maintain exclusivity in the area, a competitive solicitation will be completed by the Local EMS Agency (LEMSA) in a process approved by the State, following statute and regulations.

County Fire proposes to enhance the ambulance system with direct staff oversight to ensure performance metrics are met, quality assurance nurse to review patient outcomes, and reinvesting revenue into the community to promote enhanced medical outcomes for the most vulnerable residents.

Recommendation: County Fire staff is seeking support for the following recommendations:

Board of Supervisors:

1. Authorizing the Director of San Diego County to reach mutual termination with the Grossmont Hospital Corporation and transferring management and the existing contract to the San Diego County Fire Protection District

Board of Directors:

2. Authorize a competitive solicitation for the LEMSAs and County Purchasing and Contracting on behalf of the San Diego County Fire Protection District
3. Authorize a revenue agreement for the San Diego County Fire Protection District
4. Allowing the San Diego County Fire Protection District to accept the current contract between the Grossmont Hospital Corporation and the private provider and to make amendments

CAL FIRE Wildfire Prevent Grant Award Acceptance—Pending Board of Supervisors Action

San Diego County Fire, in partnership with the County's Parks and Recreation, is seeking grant funding in the amount of \$299,995.50 through CAL FIRE's 2026 Wildfire Prevention Grant to implement a targeted grazing program that will reduce hazardous vegetation on approximately 183 acres of County owned parks, preserves, and open space located in high and very high wildfire hazard areas. The project will use prescribed goat grazing as an environmentally sustainable method to reduce fine fuels, invasive vegetation, and ladder fuels, particularly in steep terrain and environmentally sensitive areas where mechanical treatment is less effective. Grant funds will be used for grazing services, complete environmental compliance activities, provide contractor oversight, and monitor treatment effectiveness. The project will improve defensible space, maintain fuel breaks, protect evacuation routes and County facilities, reduce wildfire risk to nearby communities, and enhance the overall resilience of San Diego County's public lands.

Recommendation: If County Fire is awarded grant funding, support accepting funds to implement the targeted grazing program to support fire prevention in the San Diego County Fire Protection District.

Increasing Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Safety Practices—Information Only

On February 10, 2026 (02), the Board of Supervisors, as part of the first reading of the updated San Diego County Consolidated Fire Code, directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to work with County Counsel and a stakeholder working group to return to the Board with options to incorporate minimum workforce safety standards for BESS projects. Specifically, the Board directed the evaluation include a requirement of certified electricians performing all electrical work on a BESS facility or Energy Storage Management System (ESMS) and an Energy Storage and Microgrid Training and Certification (ESAMTAC) for a minimum percentage of onsite certified electricians. On October 6, 2026, County Fire will return to the Board with options for workforce safety standards for BESS project.

Recommendation: Receive an update from staff.

Funding for a Contracted Firefighting Helicopter – Pending Board of Supervisors Action

San Diego County Fire previously secured authorization from the Board for an agreement with San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) to fund County Fire's Helicopter Program. County Fire purchased, and is now operating, a Firehawk in partnership with CAL FIRE. County Fire is in discussions with SDG&E to increase the amount of funding to County Fire to support a contracted firefighting helicopter.

Recommendation: Support County Fire's future request to seek an increase in funding from SDG&E and a issue competitive solicitation for a contracted firefighting helicopter to serve our region.