



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE

5510 Overland Avenue | Suite 250, San Diego | CA 92123-1239

[www.sdcountyfire.org](http://www.sdcountyfire.org)

## **CSA-135 Fire Advisory Board Meeting**

March 12, 2018 | 1:00 pm | 5520 Overland Ave, Room 116

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### **MINUTES**

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1. **Call to Order at 1:00 pm**
2. **Roll Call** – Each appointed member of the Fire Advisory Board is present. There are still two vacancies.
3. **Public Comment (3 minutes)**
  - a. Suzann Leininger attended the Palomar Mountain board meeting. Someone from the community drew attention to a good outcome of having CAL FIRE, specifically paramedics, in the area. During a recent storm, someone was having a heart attack and an ambulance had to come up the mountain road. Having increased intervention in the incident improved the patient’s outcome. The community appreciates having the paramedics and being able to count on an extended response because of the ambulance presence.
4. **Approval of Minutes from the February 12, 2018 Meeting** – Motion to approve by Tim Stanton; motion seconded by Suzann Leininger. Motion carries unanimously.
5. **Updates from County staff**
  - a. Board members do not need to fill out a 700 form.
  - b. The annual report will be due to County Fire staff by January 1<sup>st</sup>. County staff with work with the Board to draft and edit the report before submission to the Board of Supervisors.
  - c. ID cards are created for and given to board members during the meeting.
  - d. County staff is in the process of ordering hats for board members.
6. **Chief’s Monthly Report** – Chief Mecham presents the February 2018 Chief’s Report.
  - a. County Fire has met with Julian-Cuyamaca FPD about possible dissolution. In November, JCFPD voted to stay all volunteer. Per our contract, the County/CAL FIRE exited on January 1, 2018. In February, JCFPD voted to reopen negotiations with the County. JCFPD held a board meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 to discuss the proposed terms and conditions of dissolution.

- b. The County was also approached by Yuima MWD to divest fire and EMS services to CSA 135. We have proposed terms and conditions. Director Herman Reddick and Chief Mecham will be presenting to Mootamai and Pauma. In April, it is expected that all 3 will submit resolutions to divest fire and EMS services.
- c. A reorganization of CAL FIRE and SDCFA is in progress. Herman Reddick is now the Director of County Fire. There will be a new Community Risk Reduction office to represent the County and San Diego CAL FIRE at the Unified Disaster Council. The reorganization is an effort to further unify the operations of CAL FIRE and San Diego County Fire. San Diego CAL FIRE is also adding new data analysts to its staff.
- d. The County has multiple items moving through the LAFCO review process, including the CSA 135 sphere of influence.
- e. We are expecting a base budget increase for CAL FIRE in the Governor's budget.

7. **Roundtable**

- a. Chief Heiser states that County staff is working on booking a standard room for our meetings. He reminds board members that the next meeting will be at Monte Vista, where they will tour the Incident Command Center. Board members will meet at that location.
- b. Dick Foss asks about future discussions with fire districts. Chief Mecham mentions current talks that the County is involved in and states that he thinks things will slow down after the next couple of years.

8. **Action Item Recap**

- a. County staff is working to order hats.
- b. Chief Mecham will present the new County Fire/San Diego CAL FIRE organizational chart at the next meeting.
- c. Chief Mecham will provide continuous updates on LAFCO actions.

9. **Tim Fitzgerald, who manages operations of the County Fire Fleet Division, gives a presentation on San Diego County Apparatus.**

- a. His responsibilities include scheduling repairs and maintenance for apparatus, utilizing DGS mobile mechanics, creating a fleet mobile maintenance program, facilitating immediate need repairs of apparatus, prepping annual budgets for the fleet division, and creating a fleet vehicle strategic replacement plan.
- b. Tim also co-chairs the San Diego CAL FIRE apparatus committee, which has designed specifications for over 90 pieces of apparatus.
- c. The Fleet division has applied for and received over \$20 million in grant funding.
- d. When San Diego County Fire was created, there was a need for apparatus. Within the first two years of its creation, County Fire bought 14 Type II engines

and 17 Support water tenders for volunteer firefighters. Currently, the majority of firefighters utilizing County apparatus are career staff. Over the last decade, County Fire has tailored its fleet to a size more appropriate to its needs, reducing it by nearly 30 units.

- e. The fleet division has projected its apparatus replacement needs for the next five years. This projection shows what County Fire is expected to potentially purchase each year.
- f. Tim brought three different units to the meeting to show to board members:
  - i. Type I engine – custom designed for rural backcountry of SD
  - ii. Tactical water tender
  - iii. Patrol vehicle – has been used on strike teams and gotten great feedback from other jurisdictions
- g. Chief Mecham talks about the current and future state of the County Fire fleet.
  - i. When he became Chief there was not a valid long-term plan for the fleet. He brought in all ranks and went into a room to collaborate on writing specifications for a lot of the equipment we have now.
  - ii. We have been able to reduce our fleet budget by \$300,000, which we have been able to invest into other operations.
  - iii. Fleet replacement often still depends on one-time funds. County Fire is trying to get that more stable to level out fleet replacement.

10. **Adjournment – 1:41 pm.** Dick Foss makes a motion to adjourn; motion is seconded Suzann Leininger. Motion carries unanimously.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 1pm – Monte Vista Dining Hall, 2249 Jamacha Rd, El Cajon, CA 92019.

**Attendance**

***Name***

***District/Affiliation***

Ben Tulloch	District 2 – Seat 7, Board Chair
Suzann Leininger	District 5 – Seat 2, Board Vice Chair
Richard (Dick) Foss	District 2 – Seat 9, Board Secretary
Tim Stanton	District 2 – Seat 4
J.R. “Randy” Terry	District 2 – Seat 5
Frank Whiteley	District 2 – Seat 6
Mark White	District 2 – Seat 8
William (Bill) Huskey	District 2 – Seat 10
Tony Mecham	CAL FIRE Unit Chief
Don Heiser	SDCFA Deputy Chief, Board Liaison
Kelsey Chesnut	SDCFA Administrative Analyst, Board Staff

**Not in Attendance**

VACANT	District 1 – Seat 1
VACANT	District 5 – Seat 3