



SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE

5560 Overland Avenue | Suite 400, San Diego | CA 92123-1239

www.sdcountyfire.org

SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 15, 2023 | 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 6, 2023 **(VOTE)**

- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. County Fire's Fiscal Year 2023-25 Proposed Operational Plan
 - b. Community Facilities District (CFD) Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2023-2024—Pending Board of Directors Action
 - c. Permanent Road Division (PRD), County Service Areas (CSA), Fire Protection District (FPD), and Stormwater Maintenance Zones (SMZ) Tax Levy Fiscal Year 2023-24—Pending Board of Directors Action
 - d. Annual Fire Mitigation Fee Program Resolution Authorizing Continued Participation and Adoption of a Capital Improvement Plan—Pending Board of Directions Action
 - e. Authority for County Fire to Apply for Grants and Enter into Revenue Contracts to Support Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services—Pending Board of Supervisors Action
 - f. Reimagining County Fire's Volunteer Reserve Firefighting Program—Pending Board of Supervisors Action
 - g. Authority to Accept Funding for Roadside Vegetation Management—Pending Board of Supervisors Action
 - h. Accepting the Recommendations for the Ramona Subcommittee Membership
 - i. Establishing a Post-Hospital Discharge Follow Up program in Mountain Empire

- V. NEXT MEETING
 - A. Monday, September 11, 2023 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).

For meeting information, please contact:

San Diego County Fire

TEL: (619) 455-1819

Nicole.DelToro@sdcounty.ca.gov



SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE

5560 Overland Avenue | Suite 400, San Diego | CA 92123-1239

www.sdcountyfire.org

VI. 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



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, March 6, 2023 | 1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Members

Jason Shanley	District 1 – Seat 1
VACANT	District 5 – Seat 2
Clifford Kellogg	District 5 – Seat 3, Vice Chair (Absent)
Bob Uribe	District 2 – Seat 4 – (Absent)
Dan Summers	District 2 – Seat 5
Randy Lyle	District 2 – Seat 6
Benjamin Tulloch	District 2 – Seat 7, Chair

Guests

Stephen Cook	Intersecting Metrics/Consultant
--------------	---------------------------------

County Staff

Jeff Collins	County Fire/Director
Marc Regier	County Fire/Assistant Director
David Sibbet	County Fire/Fire Services Coordinator
Kat Anady	County Fire/Admin Analyst
Nicole del Toro	County Fire/EMS Admin Secretary



SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE

5560 Overland Avenue | Suite 400, San Diego | CA 92123-1239

www.sdcountyfire.org

- I. CALL TO ORDER at 1:09 p.m.
 - 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, and two (2) absent.
 - D. Introductions were skipped.

- II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
There was no public communication.

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 27, 2023 (VOTE)

ON MOTION of Member Shanley, seconded by Member Summers, the Advisory Board approved the Minutes of February 27, 2023 with the correction of “Medic 82” instead of “Medic 81” on page 2, Item IV, A, 2. Motion carried.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2

- IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. County Fire Mitigation Fee Program Updates – Pending Board of Supervisors Action to Adopt a Nexus Study and updated Ordinance in accordance with new legislative requirements, including a determination of maximum fee rates based on the actual costs to provide structural fire protection and emergency medical services within each of the participating fire agencies’ jurisdiction.

ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Shanley, the Advisory Board accepted the Nexus Report. Motion carried.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2

ON MOTION of Member Shanley, seconded by Member Lyle, the Advisory Board recommended that the County Supervisors take a two-year step increase in the San Diego County Fire Protection District.

ON AMENDED MOTION of Member Shanley, seconded by Member Lyle, the Advisory Board recommended that the Board of Supervisors adopt 50% of the maximum fee ceiling in fiscal year 23/24, 75% in fiscal year 24/25, and 100% in fiscal year 25/26. Motion carried.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2

- V. NEXT MEETING

The next Fire Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 15, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. at the San Diego County Fire Office (County Operations Center) – 5560 Overland Ave, Suite 400, Balboa Room, San Diego, CA 92123.

Member Shanley will not be in attendance at the May meeting.



SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE

5560 Overland Avenue | Suite 400, San Diego | CA 92123-1239

www.sdcountyfire.org

(Dan Summers)

The Ramona Fire Advisory Council held their first meeting yesterday. Problems were identified and are pursuing solutions.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Advisory Board adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

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

DRAFT

Fire Advisory Board Notes

County Fire’s Fiscal Year 2023-25 Proposed Operational Plan

On May 4, 2023, the County of San Diego’s Chief Administrative Officer released the Fiscal Year 2023-25 Proposed Operational Plan. The Operational Plan provides budgetary changes and priorities for all County Departments, including San Diego County Fire.

Recommendation: Receive a staff update on San Diego County Fire’s Proposed Operational Plan for Fiscal Years 2023-25.

Community Facilities District (CFD) Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2023-2024—Pending Board of Directors Action

The San Diego County Fire Protection District manages two Community Facilities Districts. A CFD is established to fund public facilities and services, including fire protection. Property owners within the CFD are taxed to fund long-term current and future costs. The two CFDs managed by the SDCFPD were established by the former Rural Fire Protection District. Proposed minimum special tax increases are calculated in accordance with the Rate and Method of Apportionment (RMA).

Community Facilities District 04-1 (CFD 04-1): Located in southeastern San Diego County, CFD 04-01 was adopted on January 6, 2004, and encompasses approximately 4,549 acres of land. Special Tax A revenues fund fire and emergency services within the district. Special Tax B is a one-time special tax for developed property, but there were no new parcels identified in the past year so there will be no special tax B collected in fiscal year 2023-24.

Community Facilities District 09-1 (East Otay Mesa) (CFD 09-1): Located in the southwestern portion of San Diego County and adopted on September 22, 2009, CFP 09-1 encompasses approximately 3,068 acres of land. The collection of Special Tax A is currently suspended as the temporary lease for the Sheriff’s substation is not currently needed. The proposed maximum special tax rate increase will only apply to Special Tax B which continues to fund fire protection and emergency medical services for the approximately 134 parcels within the boundaries.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES DISTRICT RATE COMPARISON FOR FISCAL YEARS 2023-24 AND 2024-25

	FY 2023-24	FY 2024-25
CFD 04-1		
Special Tax A	\$19,9736.00	\$20,372.78
Special Tax B	\$1,456.06	\$0.00
CFD 09-1		
Special Tax A	\$0.00	\$0.00
Special Tax B	\$1,611,467.10	\$1,768,989.96

Recommendation: Support the adoption of a resolution to authorize the Fiscal Year 2023-24 levies for CFD No. 04-1 and CFD No. 09-1 at the proposed maximum rates calculated in accordance with the voter approved RMA to maintain current and future fire protection and emergency medical services within the San Diego County Fire Protection District.

Permanent Road Division (PRD), County Service Areas (CSA), Fire Protection District (FPD), and Stormwater Maintenance Zones (SMZ) Tax Levy Fiscal Year 2023-24—Pending Board of Directors Action

There are now eleven zones in the San Diego County Fire Protection District funded by assessments or special taxes managed by San Diego County Fire that provide funds to supplement the cost of fire protection and emergency medical services across multiple unincorporated communities. On August 1 2022, the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) finalized the reorganization of the Ramona Municipal Water District and transferred the responsibility for fire and emergency medical services within their district to the San Diego County Fire Protection District. Prior to this reorganization, a special tax was approved by voters to pay for fire protection and emergency medical services. San Diego County Fire is now responsible for managing this special tax and there is no voter-approved cost escalator.

Rates will remain the same in ten of the eleven zones that levy assessments or special taxes because there is no voter-approved cost escalator. One rate increase is being proposed within the San Diego County Fire Protection District—Palomar Mountain zone to provide services within the unincorporated community of Palomar Mountain. The proposed maximum annual special tax will increase from \$170.50 to \$175.61 per single-family residence. The increase is due to rising inflation, based on a 6.45% escalation in the San Diego CPI index for 2022, resulting in an increase of 3%, the maximum amount established by the ordinance. The additional revenue will be used to fund firefighting personnel and fire protection equipment and apparatus.

Recommendation: Support the adoption of a resolution for special assessments to be collected on the tax roll for Fiscal Year 2023-24, including the proposed fee increase for SDCFPD-Palomar Mountain, to maintain existing fire protection and emergency medical services within the San Diego County Fire Protection District.

Annual Fire Mitigation Fee Program Resolution Authorizing Continued Participation and Adoption of a Capital Improvement Plan—Pending Board of Directions Action

Created in 1985, the purpose of the FMF Program is to collect and allocate funds to fire agencies in the unincorporated area of San Diego County so they may provide long-term capital facilities and equipment to serve new development. State law requires that participating agencies adopt two resolutions annually – a resolution authorizing participation in the FMF Program and identifying the percentage of the maximum fee ceiling for collection, and a resolution adopting a plan for the future use of FMF revenue.

This action adopts both of these resolutions for the San Diego County Fire Protection District. On May 2, 2023, the Board of Supervisors approved the first hearing of the updated fire mitigation fee ordinance for the SDCFPD and the other participating fire agencies. The second hearing will be held on May 23, 2023. The SDCFPD is requesting to collect 100% of the new fee at \$1.32/sq ft for residential land uses. For the next fiscal year, County Fire is proposing to use fire mitigation fee funds for the design and construction of a training tower and other improvements at the San Diego County Training Center. In future years County Fire plans to use the estimated \$700,000 - \$1.4M annually for expansion of fire stations in Ramona, Descanso, and Borrego.

Recommendation: Support the adoption of the Participation resolution and the Capital Improvement Plan resolution for the San Diego County Fire Protection District.

Authority for County Fire to Apply for Grants and Enter into Revenue Contracts to Support Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services—Pending Board of Supervisors Action

On June 19, 2018, the Board authorized the Director of Purchasing and Contracting to approve expenditure contracts and the Clerk of the Board to approve revenue agreements with fire agencies to improve fire protection and emergency medical services. This authority will expire at the end of Fiscal Year 2023.

County Fire utilizes grant funding to implement fuel reduction and evacuation readiness programs. Additionally, the Emergency Medical Services office may seek grant opportunities to support community paramedicine initiatives and substance use overdose programs.

County Fire has an on-going need to train and certify fire and emergency medical staff to ensure that State and National standards are met and that first responders can meet the needs of the community into the future. Training partnerships may include community colleges, private academies, and the City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department's Paramedic Program.

This action will provide administrative authorities for San Diego County Fire to enter into expenditure contracts and revenue agreements with other agencies to improve fire prevention, fire protection, emergency medical services, and operating goods. The action will also authorize County Fire to apply for and accept grants, and to reimburse other agencies for all training and certification requirements to provide fire protection and emergency medical services.

Recommendation: Support San Diego County Fire's request for administrative authority to enter into expenditure and revenue contracts, apply for and accept grants, and to reimburse other agencies for all training and certification requirements to provide fire protection and emergency medical services.

Reimagining County Fire's Volunteer Reserve Firefighting Program—Pending Board of Supervisors Action

San Diego County Fire operates a Volunteer Reserve Firefighting (VRFF) program to supplement the career staffing provided by CAL FIRE. Over the past year, County Fire has been working to reimagine the VRFF program to remove financial and access barriers for young adults from underserved communities to be able and enter the firefighting and emergency medical services workforce. This includes establishing a high school engagement program, add new starting points for paid service in the VRFF program, and aligning the hourly rate for the stipend to minimum wage.

Recommendation: Receive a staff update on proposed changes to the VRFF. Support County Fire's proposal to increase the daily stipend and promote increase participation from traditionally underserved communities.

Accepting the Recommendations for the Ramona Subcommittee Membership

On April 18, 2022, the Fire Advisory Board approved the formation of a Ramona Subcommittee to address constituent concerns regarding fire protection and emergency medical services. The Subcommittee includes one (1) representative from each of the following: Ramona Municipal Water District, Ramona Community Planning Group, and Ramona Fire Safe Council. On May 16, 2022, the Fire Advisory Board approved the scope of duties for the Ramona Subcommittee. This is a request to formally accept the membership for the Ramona Subcommittee.

Recommendation: Accept the Ramona Subcommittee membership nominations of: Jim Piva (Ramona Municipal Water District), Dan Summers (Ramona Community Planning Group), and Kristi Mansolf (Ramona Fire Safe Council).

Authority to Accept Funding for Roadside Vegetation Management—Pending Board of Supervisors Action

Managing vegetation along roads has been as strong focus of County Fire’s Community Risk Reduction (CRR) Division since CRR’s inception in 2019. In 2022, with approval from the County Board of Supervisors, CRR rolled out the “20 Ft. Roadside” program. Through this program, County Fire staff identifies vulnerable evacuation routes throughout the unincorporated area, and then works with the Department of Public Works to expand the vegetation that is treated along these roads (from the standard 10 foot right of way out to 20 feet). The additional 10 feet of clearance is critical to public safety as it helps minimize the intensity and severity of wildfire and increases the reliability of evacuation options during an emergency. Nearly 200 lane miles have been treated since the start of the program, and the department has been pursuing grant funding that will allow the program to be expanded.

In Oct. 2022, County Fire submitted an application to the US Forest Service (USFS) for the *FY 2022 Community Wildfire Defense Grant*. The proposal requested \$3.4M to work on 550 lane miles of critical evacuation corridors throughout the unincorporated area. County Fire would also use the funding to create 100-foot buffers of defensible space around temporary refuge areas. In Mar. 2023, the USFS announced that San Diego County Fire was awarded the fully request amount of \$3,409,443. County Fire will have five years from the time of acceptance to complete the work.

The Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Omnibus Budget included appropriations of \$1.5M for San Diego County for fuels work. This funding will allow County Fire to conduct roadside work on 200 lane miles annually over a three-year period (600 lane miles total) and aligns with larger County priorities to ensure we have evacuation routes for all residents in our rural communities.

Recommendation: Support County Fire in accepting these funds and to be applied as previously described.

Establishing a Post-Hospital Discharge Follow Up program in Mountain Empire

On March 14, 2023, at the recommendation of Supervisor Joel Anderson, County Fire and HHSA were authorized to work with the Grossmont Healthcare District and Sharp Grossmont hospital to initiate a post-hospital discharge follow up pilot program. Hospital data has indicated that rural residents are much likelier to be readmitted within 30 days of hospital discharge than urban residents. Sharp Grossmont has an existing follow up program where nurses visit patients, but this program is only available in communities close to the hospital. The pilot program is expected to begin this summer and will partner a CAL FIRE/County Fire paramedic with a County nurse to make home visit with a goal of improving health outcomes. The pilot will be focused on the Mountain Empire community.

Recommendation: Receive a staff report on the post-hospital discharge pilot program.