



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, January 8, 2024 | 1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Members

Jason Shanley	District 1 – Seat 1
Bret Sealey	District 5 – Seat 2
Clifford Kellogg	District 5 – Seat 3, Vice Chair
VACANT	District 2 – Seat 4
Dan Summers	District 2 – Seat 5
Randy Lyle	District 2 – Seat 6
Benjamin Tulloch	District 2 – Seat 7, Chair

County Staff

Jeff Collins	County Fire/Director
Marc Regier	County Fire/Assistant Director
Ryan Silva	County Fire/Deputy Chief Community Risk Reduction
Jessica Martinez	County Fire/Group Program Manager
Nicole del Toro	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 six (6) members in attendance.
 - D. There were no introductions.

- II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
There was no public communication.

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 (VOTE)

ON MOTION of Member Kellogg, seconded by Member Summers, the Advisory Board approved the Minutes of September 11, 2023. Motion carried.

AYES: 6 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0

- IV. CHIEFS REPORT

- A. Fire Chiefs Report (Deputy Chief Ryan Silva on behalf of Chief Tony Mecham)
 1. Deputy Chief Silva provided the following information and updates:
 - A 12-month calendar was pushed out which will help with training for personnel.
 - Transitioned into winter staffing; went from 18 state station staff to 14 state station staff.
 - Zone Haven will be rolled out on May 1.

Director Jeff Collins provided the following information and updates:

- Ambulances – total of 22.
- Full transition on September 30.
- Ag Pass – total of 118 renewed, 12 new applications in the queue.
- Fire Station in Jacumba needs to be replaced. Baywa is donating land for the Fire Station.
- East Otay Mesa Fire Station 38 - moved in. The area continues to develop.

- V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Updating the Ambulance Transportation Fees in the San Diego County Fire Protection District Ground Ambulance Service Area—Pending Board of Directors Action

On July 28, 2022, San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) established ambulance transportation fees in anticipation of operating direct ambulance services in the community of Ramona starting August 1, 2022. On May 23, 2023, the Board of Directors authorized the Executive Director to enter into a contract with the County of San Diego to provide ambulance transportation services in the areas where the County has, or will have, that responsibility upon the expiration of existing contracts. This included in the area formerly known as the Unified Service Area. On September 30, 2023, the SDCFPD Ground Ambulance Service Area (ASA) became operational. The ASA now operates 22 ambulances in our rural communities through CAL FIRE and AMR.

It is anticipated the (ASA) will have a \$3M to \$5M deficit based upon the current fee schedule, minimum service levels and projected collections. County Fire staff worked with an outside



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consultant in emergency medical services to evaluate several fee schedule options to reduce this gap. In addition, recent legislation provides an opportunity to generate additional revenue from private insurance and reduce the impact on patients and taxpayers. Assembly Bill 716 requires provider health insurance plans regulated by the State of California to pay the full cost of an ambulance transport if a local agency establishes a fee ordinance. However, Medi-Cal and Medicare, public health plans, have capitated rates and will only reimburse based upon what is in statute or regulations. County Fire is proposing:

Current Fee Schedule

Service	Cost
Base Rate	\$2,500
Mileage	\$40
Treat, No Transport	\$150

Proposed Fee Schedule

Service	Cost
Base Rate	\$3,395
Mileage	\$44
Treat, No Transport	\$417
Standby/Special Event	\$211

ON MOTION of Member Kellogg, seconded by Member Lyle, the Advisory Board voted to support the proposed fee increase to reduce the cost/impact to other County Fire services.

AYES: 6 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0

- B. Accept a Donation and Modify the Grounds on the Borrego Springs Fire Station for Firefighters to Live–Pending Board of Supervisors/Directors Action

On July 1, 2023, the Borrego Springs Fire Protection District dissolved and became part of the San Diego County Fire Protection District. There is one station to serve the community in Borrego but was built in the early 1960s and is inadequate for current operations. County Fire staff has been working with the community and Supervisor Desmond’s Office to explore temporary improvements while funding can be identified for a replacement station.

County Fire has engaged with the Department of General Services to initiate a project that would add a temporary living trailer or update the current buildings. In addition, the Borrego Valley Endowment Fund is considering a donation to cover the costs for the trailer while the County pays for the site improvements.

NO ACTION required on this agenda item.

- C. Authorize the Acceptance of a Donation from the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County–Pending Board of Supervisors Action

San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) recently provided at \$60,000 donation to the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County (FSCSDC) for the purpose of applying long-term fire retardant (LTFR) along evacuation corridors in high fire risk areas throughout the County. FSCSDC has offered to pass the \$60,000 donation to County Fire to promote safety for our residents.

ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Sealey, the Advisory Board voted to receive an update on the SDG&E donation and vote in support of the proposed recommendation to receive



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the funding for the purpose of applying long-term fire retardant along evacuation road (included for consideration in the Board Letter scheduled for the January 23, 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting).

AYES: 6 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0

- D. Authority to Accept \$1.6M in Grant Funding from the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research, Regional Resilient Grant Program for community education, community chipping and roadside vegetation management–Pending Board of Supervisors Action

In August 2023, County Fire jointly applied with San Diego Fire-Rescue and the Fire Safe Council of San Diego County to the CA Governor’s Office of Planning and Research *Regional Resilience Grant Program*. A total of \$1,588,838 was requested to fund three main objectives: 1) provide equitable public education and community engagement, 2) assist residents with maintaining defensible space by offering free community chipping, and 3) reduce the chance of a roadside fire start and protect evacuation corridors for safe evacuation through roadside vegetation management.

On December 21, 2023, County Fire was notified that our application was successful. Through this grant, the following activities will occur over the next two years: working with Fire Safe Councils to update Community Wildfire Protection Plans, hosting Wildland Urban Interface and Last Chance Survival workshops, providing 24 free community chipping events throughout the County, and treating approximately 150 miles of evacuation routes with expanded roadside vegetation management. Because vulnerable populations bear an unequitable share of the risks and the consequences of wildfire, special attention will be given to ensure targeted service to individuals with disabilities or access and functional needs, limited English proficiency, geographically isolated individuals, households with low broadband subscription, seniors and older adults, and low-income individuals or families.

ON MOTION of Member Shanley, seconded by Member Kellogg, the Advisory Board voted to support County Fire in accepting these funds and to be applied as previously described.

AYES: 6 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0

- E. Adopt a Fire Advisory Board Meeting Schedule for 2024

The San Diego County Fire Advisory Board meets at least four (4) times annually to provide input to proposed San Diego County Fire Protection operations and items to be heard by the Board of Directors. Staff is proposing the following meeting dates for 2024:

1. January 8, 2024 (Present Meeting)
2. May 6, 2024
3. August 12, 2024
4. November 4, 2024

All meeting times are proposed for 1pm at the County Fire main office in Kearny Mesa.

ON MOTION of Member Kellogg, seconded by Member Shanley, the Advisory Board voted to approve the proposed meeting schedule.



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AYES: 6 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 0

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next Fire Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 1:00pm at the San Diego County Fire Office (County Operations Center) – 5560 Overland Ave, Suite 400, Balboa Rm, San Diego 92123.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Advisory Board adjourned at 2:17 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

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