



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, August 12, 2024 | 1:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Members

Jason Shanley	District 1 – Seat 1 (absent)
Bret Sealey	District 5 – Seat 2
Clifford Kellogg	District 5 – Seat 3, Vice Chair (absent)
VACANT	District 2 – Seat 4
VACANT	District 2 – Seat 5
Randy Lyle	District 2 – Seat 6
Ben Tullock	District 2 – Seat 7

County Staff

Tony Mecham	CALFIRE/Chief
Jeff Collins	County Fire/Director
Marc Regier	County Fire/Assistant Director
Ryan Silva	CALFIRE/Deputy Chief Community Risk Reduction
David Sibbet	County Fire/Fire Services Coordinator
Bob Spanbauer	County Fire/Chief Admin Services
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 three (3) members in attendance.
 - D. There were no introductions.

- II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
There was no public communication.

- III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF MAY 6, 2024 (VOTE)

ON MOTION of Member Sealey, seconded by Member Lyle, the Advisory Board approved the Minutes of May 6, 2024 with the correction to add 1 abstain to the vote, to reflect Member Sealey's abstention. Member Tulloch abstained due to not being in attendance at the May meeting.

AYES: 2 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2 ABSTAIN: 1

- IV. CHIEFS REPORT

- A. Fire Chiefs Report

1. Fire Chief Tony Mecham provided information and updates on the following:

- Ambulance Service Area
- Fleet
- Will continue to invest in long term capital - fleet and facilities
- Carlsbad and Joint technical rescue team

Director Jeff Collins provided the following information and updates:

- Facilities
 - Jacumba Fire Station is currently being built.
 - Borrego Springs Fire Station living conditions are being improved.
 - Ramona Fire Station is getting an expansion.
 - Training Tower Project will be fully funded next year.

- V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approving the Advisory Board Sunset Review Report for 2024

Board of Supervisors Policy A-74, "Citizens Participation in County Boards, Commissions, and Committees," requires a sunset of advisory committees. The Board Policy requires the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to conduct a sunset review for all Advisory Board on a regular basis. All identified County Advisory Boards are supposed to respond to a baseline assessment and provide responses to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors by October 11, 2024.

ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Sealey, the Advisory Board voted to approve the draft responses and authorize County Fire staff to send feedback on behalf of the Fire Advisory Board.



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AYES: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2

- B. Adopting the Ramona Municipal Water District Equivalent Dwelling Unit Code for the San Diego County Fire Protection – Pending Board of Directors Action

On August 1, 2022, the Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) divested fire protection and emergency medical services and the community of Ramona was annexed into the San Diego County Fire Protection District. The Local Agency Formation Committee (LAFCO) authorized all existing special benefit taxes, including the Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) benefit fee, to be transferred to the San Diego County Fire Protection District to make the transition cost-neutral to the County of San Diego. The EDU is a voter-approved special tax of \$188.52 per EDU and funds may only be used for fire protection and emergency medical services within Ramona. For owners receiving a property tax bill, the tax is included on that statement. Non-profits and government agencies receive a “hand bill” by a County of San Diego contractor.

The EDU ordinance authorizing the San Diego County Fire Protection District to collect the tax is within the RMWD building code. To incorporate the EDU code language into the San Diego County Fire Protection District, the Board of Directors will need to adopt an ordinance and add the RMWD code to the San Diego County Administrative Code.

ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Sealey, the Advisory Board voted to support the adoption of the EDU Ordinance into San Diego County Administrative Code.

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2

- C. Mandated Fire Inspection Reporting for Fiscal Year 2023-24 – 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 258 State-mandated inspections in the San Diego County and Deer Springs Fire Protection Districts in Fiscal Year 2023-24. In addition, staff conducted 1,183 non-mandated business inspections in the same time period.

ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Sealey, the Advisory Board voted to receive and accept this report and vote in support of the findings.

AYES: 3 NAYS: 0 ABSENT: 2

- D. Ramona High School Fire Science Center Technical Education Programs – Information Only

San Diego County Fire and CAL FIRE are partnering with Ramona High School to launch a fire science career technical education program for the 2024-25 school year. The program is open to seniors and includes both semesters and summer session. Students will receive instruction and hands on training from CAL FIRE/County Fire staff.



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E. Battery energy Storage Systems (BESS) projects in the San Diego County Fire Protection District – Information Only

In May 2024, the San Diego County Fire Protection District responded to a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) fire in the East Otay Mesa area. The prolonged response, along with several proposed BESS projects, has led to questions about safety and best practices. County Fire staff is reviewing several actions to protect people and properties.

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next Fire Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, November 4, 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 1:45 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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