



# SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE

5560 Overland Avenue | Suite 400, San Diego | CA 92123-1204

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

## SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, August 12, 2024 | 1:00 p.m. | San Diego County Fire Office, Balboa Room

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### AGENDA

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- 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 6, 2024 (**VOTE**)
  
- IV. MANAGEMENT TEAM REPORT
  - A. Fire Chief's Update
  
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Approving the Advisory Board Sunset Review Report for 2024
  - B. Adopting the Ramona Municipal Water District Equivalent Dwelling Unit Code for the San Diego County Fire Protection—Pending Board of Directions Action
  - C. Mandated Fire Inspection Reporting for Fiscal Year 2023-24—Pending Board of Directors Action
  - D. Ramona High School Fire Science Career Technical Education Program—Information Only
  - E. Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) projects in the San Diego County Fire Protection District—Information Only
  
- VI. NEXT MEETING
  - A. Monday, November 4, 2024 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.

For meeting information, please contact:

San Diego County Fire

TEL: (619) 455-1819

[Nicole.DelToro@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Nicole.DelToro@sdcounty.ca.gov)



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## SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Monday, May 6, 2024 | 1:00 P.M.

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### MINUTES

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#### Members

Jason Shanley	District 1 – Seat 1
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
Benjamin Tulloch	District 2 – Seat 7, Chair (absent)

#### County Staff

Tony Mecham	CALFIRE/Chief
Jeff Collins	County Fire/Director
Marc Regier	County Fire/Assistant Director
Jason Malneritch	CALFIRE/Deputy Chief
Ryan Silva	CALFIRE/Deputy Chief Community Risk Reduction
David Sibbet	County Fire/Fire Services Coordinator
Jessica Martinez	County Fire/Group Program Manager
Bob Spanbauer	County Fire/Chief Admin Services
Jeremy Warlick	County Fire/Admin Analyst II
Nicole del Toro	County Fire/EMS Admin Secretary/Recorder



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- I. CALL TO ORDER at 1:10 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 JANUARY 8, 2024 (VOTE)

**ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Stanley, the Advisory Board approved the Minutes of January 8, 2024. Motion carried.**

**AYES: 3      NAYS: 0      ABSENT: 2**

- IV. CHIEFS REPORT

- A. Fire Chiefs Report

1. Deputy Chief Malneritch provided the following information and updates:

- Hiring –
  - The hiring process started, to get everyone up to 3 bodies per funded position on the engines.
  - Moving towards realigning the workforce to traditional staffing; will mirror what is on the state side, minus the ALS piece.
- Ambulances – Last of ambulances came online at Station 38, with 23 in total; 16 hard staff, 7 cross staff.
- Aviation –
  - Took delivery of the 412 helicopter late last year with the Sheriffs.
  - Ground training has begun for CALFIRE assigned staff.
  - Anticipate going in service later this month.
  - Will be used for cruise ships.

Fire Chief Tony Mecham provided the following information and updates:

- Operational – Budget is fully funded.
  - Priority is to complete all open projects before starting new ones.
  - Standardizing all rescue vehicles.
  - Will put any additional funds into buying down our fleet next year.
  - The Governor's proposed budget is the largest increase in CALFIRE history with 2,747 new permanent positions.
- Regional Rescue Task Force 13 was officially recognized, which opened state funding.
- Performance is looking good since moved to Station 38; continue to struggle in rural land use category.

Director Jeff Collins provided the following information and updates:

- The request to increase ambulance transportation rates successfully passed by the Board



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of Supervisors.

- A contract has been secured with the Department of Corrections, which will increase the amount of money that we get for transports from Donovan State Prison.
- The Ag Pass is being expanded to Poway. Applications continue to be processed for the unincorporated area.
- The existing living quarters at the Borrego Springs Fire Station will be revamped until a new station can be built.
- A brand new fire station will be built in Jacumba Hot Springs. The land will be donated from the BayWa solar project.

## V. NEW BUSINESS

### A. First Watch Contract

San Diego County has been receiving near real time 911 emergency medical services (EMS) call center surveillance data from all four 911 dispatch centers in the County and have contracted with FirstWatch Solutions Inc. (FirstWatch) for data integration and analysis. Since 2009, FirstWatch has gathered, analyzed, and managed the 911 call data for the County of San Diego. To continue to effectively deliver these services for data management, historical access to data, and interoperability between other agencies also using FirstWatch, San Diego County Fire is requesting single source approval to procure a new contract with FirstWatch. The current contract with FirstWatch is set to expire on June 30th, 2024.

**ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Shanley, the Advisory Board voted to support the procurement of a new contract with FirstWatch. Member Sealey abstained.**

**AYES: 2                      NAYS: 0                      ABSENT: 3**

### B. ZOLL and Stryker Sole Source

SDCFPD maintains fire apparatus, ambulances, and provides critical equipment to staff, ensuring all emergency responders have the necessary tools to deliver the highest level of fire and emergency services in the region. To effectively deliver these services, SDCFPD requires standardized equipment and gear. Emergency responders are trained in using the current cardiac and medical equipment. Two SDCFPD contracts that provide critical emergency medical services support in our suburban and rural communities are expiring in 2024 ZOLL Medical Corporation’s (ZOLL) cardiac monitors and Stryker’s patient gurneys and medical equipment. All SDCFPD ambulances and first responder engines have equipment from these providers onboard. SDCFPD is requesting single source approval to procure from: ZOLL (cardiac equipment, related accessories, repair and servicing of the equipment, warranty services, and software for operating the equipment) and Stryker (medical equipment, gurneys, related accessories, repair and servicing of the equipment, and warranty services).

**ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Stanley, the Advisory Board voted to support the procurement of new contracts with ZOLL and Stryker.**

**AYES: 3                      NAYS: 0                      ABSENT: 2**



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C. Grant Acceptance California Climate Investment Wildfire Prevention Grants Program

County Fire has been awarded grant funding from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection’s (CAL FIRE) California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grants Program. The department will receive an award of \$946,858 which will be used to treat an additional 215 lane miles of roads with hazardous fuels reduction per year, through March 2026. County Fire is requesting the Board of Supervisors to adopt a resolution to accept funding under the California Climate Investment Wildfire Prevention Grant.

**ON MOTION of Member Stanley, seconded by Member Lyle, the Advisory Board voted to support the acceptance and use of the California Climate Investments Wildfire Prevention Grant.**

**AYES: 3                      NAYS: 0                      ABSENT: 2**

D. SDCFPD Annual Fire Mitigation Fee Program Participation Resolution & Capital Improvement Plan

To participate in the FMF Program, fire agencies must adopt a resolution on an annual basis authorizing participation in the FMF Program that states the percentage of the maximum fee ceiling for collection and adopt a plan for the future use of FMF revenue. Fiscal Year 2024-25 Fire Mitigation Fee Program Fee Schedule for SDCFPD is listed below and includes the automatic cost escalator based on the annual Los Angeles Construction Cost Index (LACC Index) based on the previous 12-month period (Oct to Oct). The LACC Index increase for the FMF program for FY24-25 is 15.20%. The residential fee rate for FY24-25 will be collected at 75% of the determined rate.

SDCFPD - FMF 2024-25							
FY	RESIDENTIAL*	COMMERCIAL/RETAIL	HOTEL	INDUSTRIAL	MEDICAL	OFFICE	AGRICULTURE
2023-24	\$1.32 (50%)	\$2.31	\$1.24	\$1.82	\$4.33	\$8.66	\$0.08
2024-25	\$2.29 (75%)	\$2.66	\$1.43	\$2.10	\$4.99	\$9.98	\$0.09

\*Phased-In Residential Rate: **\$3.05 (75%)** FY24/25  
 \*\*LACC Index: **15.20%**

The FMF will generate approximately \$2,000,000 in revenue in the next fiscal year. The use of mitigation fees will be used to support new development within the boundaries of the San Diego County Fire Protection District.

**ON MOTION of Member Shanley, seconded by Member Lyle, the Advisory Board voted to support the participation in the FMF program and the Capital Improvement Plan for FMF revenue.**

**AYES: 3                      NAYS: 0                      ABSENT: 2**

E. Annual Levies, Community Facilities Districts & Special Taxes

The County of San Diego Department of Public Works (DPW) and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) are putting forth the annual special tax board actions. Upon approval, the annual levies will be placed on the tax roll so that the property owners can continue to pay the levy through their property tax bills. County Fire receives special tax revenue from:



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- San Diego County Fire Protection District
  - 10 Zones within the FPD
- County Service Area (CSA)
  - CSA-17 – San Dieguito Emergence Medical Services
- Community Facilities District (CFD)
  - CFD 04-1 (Lake Morena, Jacumba, Jamul, and Lyons Valley Region)
  - CFD 09-1 (Otay Mesa Region)

**ON MOTION of Member Shanley, seconded by Member Lyle, the Advisory Board voted to support the annual special tax board actions.**

**AYES: 3                      NAYS: 0                      ABSENT: 2**

F. Grant Acceptance Cal OES FEMA

County Fire was awarded \$1.28 million through Cal OES's FEMA PDM 2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity. The intent of the grant funds will be used to harden/retrofit County Fire Stations. Funding will provide:

- Defensible space and hazard inspection of all 20 County owned fire stations
- Vegetation management & defensible space clearing around stations
- Station hardening & retrofit applications (fire resistant vents & windows)

County Fire will prioritize service based on hazard severity, structure vulnerability and anticipated impact on the community if facility were to be damaged or lost by wildfire. Depending on cost, not all facilities may be able to receive service, but all stations will receive hazard assessments by County Fire. The department will be meeting with a contractor supporting Cal OES Mitigation to discuss the terms of the grant.

**ON MOTION of Member Lyle, seconded by Member Shanley, the Advisory Board voted to support the acceptance and use of Cal OES FEMA PDM 2024 grant funding.**

**AYES: 3                      NAYS: 0                      ABSENT: 2**

VI. NEXT MEETING

The next Fire Advisory Board meeting will be held on Monday, August 12, 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 2:09 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**

**TEL: (619) 455-1819**

**[Nicole.DelToro@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Nicole.DelToro@sdcounty.ca.gov)**

# ADVISORY BOARD SUNSET REVIEW REPORT 2024

Board of Supervisors Policy A-74 "Participation in County Boards, Commissions, and Committees" requires that each year, one fourth of all advisory committees conduct a "Sunset Review."

As required by the policy, we are asking you to complete a review of the board, commissions, or committee that you assist. Please complete the survey and submit your report to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors by **October 11, 2024**. Should you have any questions regarding the BCC Sunset Review process, please contact the Civic Services Unit, at (619) 531-5601 or email [BCC@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:BCC@sdcounty.ca.gov).

## 1. NAME OF BOARD, COMMITTEE OR COMMISSION

FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (SDCFPD) FIRE ADVISORY BOARD

## 2. LEGAL AUTHORITY (Note Federal/State/County action. eg: "Admin. Code Section 396.10")

California Government Code §25210.1 et seq.

## 3. Please provide a description of the committee's level of involvement in County programs relative to the duties and responsibilities defined in your establishing authority, including actions accomplished or completed on issues assigned to the committee by the Board of Supervisors, and/or status of goals set by the committee

As defined in the establishing authority, Resolution No. 14-147, the duties and responsibilities of the San Diego County Fire Protection District Fire Advisory Board (Advisory Board) are to provide information and recommendations to San Diego County Fire and the Board of Supervisors regarding the operations and maintenance budget of the SDCFPD. The Advisory Board also provides a forum for the public to plan, discuss and implement changes that may improve the fire services within the SDCFPD. Meeting reports include the monthly Chief's Report of department activities and bureau statistics. Topics addressed by the Advisory Board include planning for future and ongoing County Fire projects, negotiations dissolving and reorganizing fire protection districts and alleviating community concerns. The Advisory Board provides feedback to proposed fee packages, deployment modeling, and the annual budget. The Board of Supervisors has taken action on specific recommendations from the from Advisory Board.

## 4. The Advisory Committee recommends that this Committee be (check one):

Continued

Deleted

Revised

## 5. If you recommend that the Advisory Committee's establishing authority be continued, please provide a justification for continuance and the appropriate goals and timetables for the term of continuance (attach a separate sheet, in the next question if needed)

It is recommended that the SDCFPD Advisory Board establishing authority be continued on an ongoing basis. The assistance of the Advisory Board is required by prior San Diego County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) conditions of dissolution of services for Pine Valley, Rural, Borrego Springs, and Julian-Cuyamaca Fire Protection Districts and the annexation of Ramona into the District.

**6. Justification for continuance** (Non-anonymous question)

Upload file

**7. What languages other than English, does your committee provide accessibility to for attendees and/or applicants? Check all that apply.**

Spanish

Tagalog

Vietnamese

Arabic

Korean

Persian

Somali

Chinese (Mandarin)

None

**8. Does your Board, Commission, or Committee have a webpage?**

Yes

No

**9. Please provide URL**

<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/sdc/sdcfa/fire-advisory-board.html>

**10. Are your meetings currently virtually accessible? Select "Other" for additional comments.**

Yes

No

**11. Are Agendas/Minutes posted online?**

Yes

No

**12. How many years of records are posted online?**

5

**13. Can members of the public phone in and/or comment remotely?**

Yes

No

**14. Can members of the public submit comments on agenda items online, such as using an eComment feature/service?**

Yes

No

**15. Are meeting recordings available online?**

Yes

No



**16.COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS: Please attach a sheet noting County costs for this Committee and benefits of the Committee to the County. The cost/benefit analysis should include the number of staff hours spent during Fiscal Year 2023-24 managing the committee. (Non-anonymous question)**

Upload file

[See attached](#)

**17.Are Staff allotted sufficient time to support the operations of the Committee?**

[Yes](#)

No

**18.Board Policy A-74 recommends development of an ordinance establishing the Committee within the County Administrative Code in those cases where the Committee is not currently a part of the Administrative Code. Please refer to your County Counsel for assistance.**

Committee is covered in the Admin. Code.

Committee is not covered, draft Ordinance is attached.

[Committee is not covered, placement in the Admin. Code is not recommended.](#)

Committee is not covered, staff will be preparing an ordinance at a later date.

**19.Is the appointing and nominating authority specifically designated in the bylaws? For example, do the bylaws indicate that the nominating authority is a specific District Supervisor or other entity? Select "Other" for additional comments.**

[Yes](#)

No

**20.FACT SHEET/ROSTER: Please review the fact sheet and roster on the COB website. Note any changes and attach. (Non-anonymous question)**

Upload file

[See attached](#)

**21.Please provide your e-mail address and phone number.**

[Nicole.deltoro@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Nicole.deltoro@sdcounty.ca.gov) ; 619-455-1819

**22.Please type your full name and title attesting to the completion of this form.**

[Nicole del Toro, Administrative Secretary III](#)

**SDCFPD  
Fire Advisory Board  
Sunset Review Report 2024  
County Costs Calculation**

**Estimated Cost for 6 Meetings during FY 24/25**

Activity	County Staff	Avg Time Spent (Hours)	Hourly Rate (Fully Burdened)	Cost
Meeting Preparation	Admin Sec III	18	\$58.38	\$1,050.84
Meeting Facilitation and Attendance	Admin Sec III	12	\$58.38	\$700.56
Meeting Follow-up	Admin Sec III	3	\$58.38	\$175.14
<b>Total Cost</b>				<b>\$1,926.12</b>

## #20 Attachment – FACT SHEET

### Fire Protection District Fire Advisory Board, San Diego County

**Type**A-74 Committee

**Description:** Former County Service Area No. 135 (now SDCFPD).

More information can be found at: [San Diego County Fire / Fire Protection District](#).

**Contact Name:** Nicole del Toro

**County Department:** San Diego County Fire Authority

**Mailstop**O-302

**Contact Phone**619-455-1819

**Contact Email Address**nicole.deltoro@sdcounty.ca.gov

**Legal Authority:** Resolution No. 14-147 adopted 10/21/14 (1). Amended 7/13/2021 (1)

**Members Appointed By & Composition:** Each of the members nominated are to be appointed by the SDCFPD Board of Directors.

The Fire Advisory Board shall have nine members distributed as follows:

- (i) One member nominated by the Director representing District One;
- (ii) Four members nominated by the Director representing District Two;
- (iii) One member nominated by the Director representing District Three;
- (iv) One member nominated by the Director representing District Four;
- (v) Two members nominated by the Director representing District Five.

A member of the Fire Advisory Board shall demonstrate an interest in, and knowledge of issues related to the fire service. While not required, residency or property ownership within the same District as the nominating Director is strongly preferred.

**Terms:** Each member of the Fire Advisory Board shall serve a term that runs concurrently with the Director who nominated the Fire Advisory Board member(s).

A vacancy shall be recognized before the expiration of the term of a member if the member:

- i. Is no longer able to serve,
- ii. Resigns,
- iii. Has unexcused absences for more than two (2) consecutive meetings, or
- iv. Is removed by a majority vote of the SDCFPD Board of Directors.

When a vacancy occurs as the result of iii. or iv. above, both the member and the nominating Director shall be notified of the vacancy by the Fire Advisory Board Chair. The new appointee shall be appointed pursuant to Article 2 of the Bylaws. If a vacancy occurs in mid-term, the new appointee shall serve for the expired term of the member being replaced.

**Duties:** Provide information and recommendations to the SDCFPD Board of Directors and organization regarding the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services throughout the County of San Diego.

Provide a forum for the public to plan, discuss, and implement changes that improve the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services throughout the County of San Diego.

Perform such other duties as the SDCFPD Board of Directors may assign.

**Meeting Date & Location:** Meet as often as necessary, please visit [www.sdcountyfire.org](http://www.sdcountyfire.org) for the current meeting schedule.

County Operations Center  
Office of San Diego County Fire  
5560 Overland Avenue, Suite 400  
San Diego, CA 92123

**Compensation:** Members shall serve without compensation and shall not be reimbursed for expenses incurred in performing their duties.

**Contact Person:** Nicole del Toro  
San Diego County Fire  
MS: O-302  
(619) 455-1819

**Revised Date:** August 8, 2024

## **#20. Attachment – Member Roster**

### **Fire Protection District Fire Advisory Board, San Diego County members:**

**Jason Shanley**

Seat 1 (San Diego County Fire Protection District), Concurrent

**Bret A. Sealey**

Seat 2 (San Diego County Fire Protection District), Concurrent

**Clifford Kellogg**

Seat 3 (San Diego County Fire Protection District), Concurrent

**Randy Lyle**

Seat 6 (San Diego County Fire Protection District), Concurrent

**Benjamin Tulloch**

Seat 7 (San Diego County Fire Protection District), Concurrent

#### 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.

**Recommendation:** Approve the draft responses and authorize County Fire staff to send feedback on behalf of the Fire Advisory Board.

#### Adopting the Ramona Municipal Water District Equivalent Dwelling Unit Code for the San Diego County Fire Protection—Pending Board of Directions 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.

**Recommendation:** Support the adoption of the EDU Ordinance into the San Diego County Administrative Code.

#### 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.

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

### Ramona High School Fire Science Career Technical Education Program—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.

**Recommendation:** Receive an update from County Fire staff.

### 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.

**Recommendation:** Receive an update from County Fire staff.