



South Lake County Fire Protection District
— in cooperation with —
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

P.O. Box 1360 Middletown, CA 95461 - (707) 987-3089

NOTICE OF A BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Located at the Middletown Fire Station Board Room,
21095 Highway 175, Middletown, CA 95461 and
1515 Ocean Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90401

Notice is Hereby Given, pursuant to California Government Code Section 54956, that the Chairperson of South Lake County Fire Protection District Board of Directors, State of California has called a regular meeting of said Board of Directors.

This regular meeting is for the purpose of discussing the following items:

1. Call to Order:
2. Pledge of Allegiance:
3. Roll Call:
4. Motion to approve agenda:
5. Citizens' Input: Any person may speak for three (3) minutes about any subject of concern provided it is within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and is not already on the today's agenda. Total period is not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes, unless extended at the discretion of the Board.
6. Communications:
 - 6.a. Fire Sirens
 - 6.b. Fire Safe Council
 - 6.c. Volunteer Association
 - 6.d. Chief's Report
 - 6.e. Finance Report
 - 6.f. Directors' activities report
7. Regular Items:
 - 7.a. Board President tasks Equipment and Facilities Committee with review of building permit application submission for Hidden Valley fire station.
 - 7.b. Appointment of Committee Members by Board President for Calendar Year 2025. Placed on the agenda by Board President
8. Consent Calendar Items: (Approval of consent calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. They will be acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. Any Board member may request that an item be removed from the consent calendar for discussion later.)

8.a. January 21, 2025 - Regular Meeting Minutes

8.b. Warrants – February

9. Motion to Adjourn Meeting:

Posted 2/13/2025 by Karin Collett at 21095 State Hwy 175, Middletown, CA 95461

Posted 2/13/2025 by Gloria Fong at 1515 Ocean Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90401

A request for disability-related modification or accommodation necessary to participate in the Board of Directors' Meeting should be made by emailing boardclerk@southlakecountyfire.org at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89348724389>

You can also dial in using your phone: +1 (669) 900-6833 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 893 4872 4389

Comments are allowed before any action is taken by the Board on each item. Comments may be made remotely by emailing boardclerk@southlakecountyfire.org, via ZOOM videoconference, or phone application.

**South Lake Fire Safe Council
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2025**

Call to Order: Lewis, Peek, Englander, Wenckus (via Zoom), Dan Frazier, Sandy Prescott and Josh Lau, Battalion Chief, present.

Previous Meeting Minutes: Approved.

President's Report: Sandy Prescott appointed to Board of Directors. Dan Frazier to do chipping inspections in Jerusalem Grade/Noble Ranch area.

Treasurer's Report:

Bank Balance: \$6,621.41

Expenses: \$50.00

Income: \$56.92

Correspondence:

Membership: 62

Committee Reports:

Chipping: 89

Web Site: Need to add section on Ingress/Egress Program. Meet next Wednesday to write.
Also need new photo for front page.

Facebook:

Publicity:

2024 Review

Chipping: 89 sites chipped

Access/Egress: Rainbow Drive Project

Memberships: 62

Community Meetings Attended:

Lunch at Senior Center

Earth Day

Fire Station Open House

Friday Market

Tribal Health Fair

Silver Senior Foundation Luncheon

2025 Preview:

Chipping Schedule: Proposed schedule -March 31- April 2, May 5 -7, June 16-18, September 8-10, October 20 – 22. Lewis to contact Timberline.

Meeting adjourned.

Chief Report 2/13/2025

North Division Operations:

Well... Winter staffing didn't last long. Our anticipated switch to Amador staffing occurred on schedule. However, January decided it wasn't ready to end fire season. The North Division ramped up with staffing of available equipment and overhead, which were rapidly sent to Southern California. Resources were committed for weeks, while back at home, the Unit transitioned back out of Amador, hired Firefighters, and readied equipment to meet the State Mission.

The North Division is happy to announce the hiring of a 3rd Battalion Chief. Chief Chris Aragon has assumed the role of the Middletown Battalion (Battalion 1417), serving the community of Middletown and surrounding areas. Chief Aragon will join Chiefs Lau and Avansino for coverage of the North Division.

Camp Operations:

Following the short-lived winter staffing, crews were dispatched to the Southern California fires, where they accomplished crew work and kitchen support. Today, we still have a crew assigned to kitchen support in Los Angeles, with our three fire crews being in-unit for project work.

South Lake Operations:

Our South Lake staff has also been busy supporting the fires in Los Angeles, sending the OES Engine for an extended stay.

The South Lake staff has also staffed up the Type 6 multiple times this winter, as Lake County has qualified under several staffing pattern 'prepositions.' These prepositions are approved by and funded through OES for severe weather events impacting the County.

Staff is working through repairing the Station 62 roof with the approved vendor and waiting for a weather window to complete the work.

A storage shed was purchased for the Fire Sirens and placed next to their building. The current shed at Station 63 will be emptied of tables and chairs and moved to the new shed at Station 60. The existing building at Station 63 will be demolished and removed from that facility, as it is in the footprint of the station construction and has reached its service life.

We will assist the Lake County Fire Chiefs with moving and installing a new repeater on Goat Mountain. This project has been over 10 years in the making and will significantly enhance the County communications system, especially in the northern portions of the district.

South Lake Events:

- Fire District Open House – Saturday, April 26th 10:00-15:00

End of Report, Paul



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P.O. Box 1360 Middletown, CA 95461 - (707) 987-3089

January 29, 2025

To: Board of Directors

From: Director Jim Comisky

Subject: Fire District Association of California (FDAC) "Fighting Fire with Funding: The Urgent Need for Adequate Fire Service Resources in California"

Attached is subject item for situational awareness, outlining how Fire Districts are so underfunded and the need to address the shortfall. FDAC's plan is for it to go to the Governor and Senate/Assembly.

Fighting Fire with Funding: The Urgent Need for Adequate Fire Service Resources in California

January 2025

Executive Summary

The California Fire Service is facing a critical funding shortfall that jeopardizes the safety and preparedness of communities statewide. Fire protection districts, which cover 125,782 square miles and serve over 39 million people, have seen service demands grow significantly over the last 50 years. Despite this, funding mechanisms have not kept pace, leaving fire agencies struggling to maintain staffing, equipment, and infrastructure. This document outlines key challenges and emphasizes the urgent need for action.

Key Issues:

- **Increased Service Demands:** Over the past five decades, fire districts have expanded their roles to include emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous materials incidents, and wildfire mitigation. This has led to increased costs for training, equipment, and specialized resources.
- **Rising Costs:** Labor, service, supply, and equipment costs have surged due to national standards, regulations, and climate change. These increased costs are not reflected in funding mechanisms, which have remained stagnant since the 1970s.
- **Funding Shortfall:** Fire agencies rely heavily on property taxes and service fees, which are insufficient to cover growing service costs. While special taxes and assessments are available, they are difficult to implement and unreliable for long-term planning.
- **Impact on Service Delivery:** Funding shortages have led to brownouts, increased response times, and deferred capital projects. The mutual aid system, which depends on local fire agencies, is becoming strained, risking a statewide vulnerability during major emergencies.

Call to Action:

- **Collaborative Solutions:** The California Fire Service must collaborate to identify solutions to this funding crisis. All stakeholders must consult fire service experts and avoid developing independent solutions. Established associations like the California Fire Chiefs Association and FIRESCOPE are already equipped to vet potential solutions.
- **Focusing on Funding, Not Equipment:** While fire engines are often prioritized, the key issue is funding, not equipment. The true need is to address historical underfunding and outdated legislative mechanisms that have led to this financial crisis. Solutions should focus on increasing funding to meet modern service demands, rather than adding more equipment without the resources to maintain it.

Conclusion:

Immediate action is needed to address the California Fire Service's funding shortfall. Solutions should be developed in collaboration with fire service experts. Ensuring fire districts are adequately funded is crucial to maintaining a safe and effective response system for all Californians and securing the service's future.

Fighting Fire with Funding: The Urgent Need for Adequate Fire Service Resources in California (January 2025), Continued:

Introduction:

Fire protection districts across the state of California—responsible for providing emergency response to a population of 39,327,546 and over a total service area of 125,782 square miles—now face a distinct crisis: a funding shortfall. The lack of necessary investments at the state, county, city, and district levels poses a genuine threat to public safety. This financial strain manifests in brownouts, increased response times, delayed infrastructure investments, layoffs, and station closures.

This funding challenge is not a recent development but has been compounded by decades of increasing the level of service without corresponding funding growth. The dynamic and evolving role of fire districts throughout the state—now responsible for mitigating a variety of risks and managing diverse resources—contrasts starkly with the restrictive and stagnant funding formulas set since the 1970s. With fully professionalized operations offering higher levels of service in a more regulatory and constrained environment, California’s fire districts find themselves on the brink of a financial crisis.

Secure and sufficient funding is crucial for ensuring fire districts can continue serving their unique communities and is also essential for safeguarding statewide emergency response capabilities. Bolstering available funding mechanisms is a pathway to enhanced training, staffing, and resources, ultimately contributing to a safer California for all.

1. Level of Service Provided by Fire Districts has Increased Significantly Over the Past 50 Years:

In the 1970s, fire suppression was essentially divided into two distinct categories: rural and urban. Today, due to changes in demand and professional standards, firefighters must be equally trained and operationally ready to respond to a variety of risks.

- Professional standards developed over the past 50 years have dramatically changed how service is delivered to the community today.
 - A statewide certification system was implemented in 1982 to standardize professional competency requirements for all firefighters (career and volunteer). Training requirements for firefighters continue to change to meet community needs and mitigate evolving risks.
 - Response and deployment standards memorialized at the national level in 2001 included new standards on minimum staffing levels, performance objectives, and reporting requirements. Standards for firefighting equipment, apparatus, and personal protective equipment have also changed how service is provided and resources are managed.
 - Labor standards have changed significantly since the 1970s, impacting wages, benefits, and working conditions. Some of the largest changes include advances in occupational health and safety standards to enhance protection of firefighters from injury and death.

Fighting Fire with Funding: The Urgent Need for Adequate Fire Service Resources in California (January 2025), Continued:

- Demand for service has significantly changed over the past 50 years. Gone are the days where fire districts predominantly provide only rural and urban fire suppression.
 - The National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS), a standardized reporting system implemented in the 1970's, now collects categorized data reflecting the dynamic response provided by fire agencies including fire, explosion, rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous conditions, severe weather, and natural disaster, among others.
 - Emergency medical service now accounts for the majority of call volume in the fire service. While EMS response was historically transport-only and, in many cases, provided by volunteer groups, today's fire service has adapted to meet the demand for sophisticated prehospital treatment and advanced life support (ALS) transport.
 - Over the past 50 years, shifting jurisdictional responsibilities and increased demand have cemented special operations into the scope of the fire service. Many fire districts throughout the state now bear the responsibility for hazardous materials response, water rescue, aircraft rescue firefighting, and search and rescue operations. This type of all-risk capability requires specialized training, vehicles, and equipment.
- Demand for wildfire response has skyrocketed over the past 50 years, reaching unprecedented levels in the past 10 years. In recent years, the statewide mutual aid system has been pushed to its limits, drawing record resources from local fire agencies to supplement response efforts.
 - Land use policy and climate change are contributing factors to the changing landscape in California as it pertains to wildfire risk. The expansion of wildland-urban interface (WUI) throughout the state has enhanced wildfire risk. Today, most jurisdictions are tasked with mitigating this enhanced risk in some capacity as more than 11 million Californians (approximately 25% of the population) are estimated to live in the WUI.
 - In the past, wildfire response was mainly ground attack and hand-dug fire lines. Now, to meet response demands, the fire service utilizes ground, air, and specialized equipment, including dozers, drones, etc., to combat the flames and safeguard life and property.

2. Policy Changes Have Impacted Cost to Provide Service:

Over the past 50 years, changes in the level of service provided by fire districts and policy changes at the federal and state levels have exponentially increased the cost of providing service. The impact of unfunded mandates is evident in ballooning labor costs, service and supply costs, and capital facilities and equipment costs.

Fighting Fire with Funding: The Urgent Need for Adequate Fire Service Resources in California (January 2025), Continued:

- **Labor Costs**
 - As national deployment standards have changed over the last 50 years, so have the minimum staffing levels recommended for meeting response performance objectives. The need for increased staffing levels has been further compounded as development continues throughout the state and urban sprawl necessitates new service needs.
 - In addition to the minimum competency requirements standardized for new firefighters in the early 1980's, fire agencies must also support the ongoing training needs required to maintain professional proficiency – including rank advancement and special operations like water rescue, HazMat, technical rescue, etc.).
 - Over the past 50 years, the cost of wages and benefits has increased significantly due to changing labor standards, inflation, and the need to remain competitive in an environment of recruiting shortages.
 - Occupational health and safety standards may reflect some of the most consequential changes pertaining to increases in labor costs, as ensuring firefighter safety continues to be a primary issue for fire agencies. Changes in this area over the years have led to increased workers' compensation costs and, more recently, mental health and wellness initiatives.

- **Service and Supply Costs**
 - Perhaps the most unpredictable costs are service and supply, which rise and fall with market changes. Public contracting requirements significantly impact how services and supplies are procured, often increasing costs.
 - Changing occupational health and safety standards and changes to national standards for personal protective equipment have increased the costs for outfitting and equipping firefighters.
 - The technology boom from 1990-2000 led to changes in how technology is used in the fire service. Many fire agencies were impacted by the cost of integrating technology into their operations and administration.

- **Capital Facilities and Equipment Costs**
 - Changes to community development statewide have permanently changed service needs and community risk. Land use and development policy changes, including open space requirements, development in the WUI, and high-density housing requirements, continue to significantly impact capital facilities and equipment costs as the need for new facilities and specialized equipment continues to grow.

Fighting Fire with Funding: The Urgent Need for Adequate Fire Service Resources in California (January 2025), Continued:

- In 1978, the state legislature implemented a single building code that ensured all building standards in the state were unified—the California Building Standards Code (Title 24). This code included various standards, including standards for structural integrity, safety, FFC ventilation, electrical systems, heating and air conditioning, accessibility, and many others. Title 24 has been repeatedly changed since then, most recently with added standards on energy efficiency and standards to combat climate change. These standards have significantly increased construction costs in California.
- In 1986, the state legislature determined that buildings providing essential services should be capable of delivering those services to the public after a disaster. Essential service buildings (like fire stations) must now be designed and constructed to minimize fire hazards and resist the forces of natural disasters like floods, earthquakes, and wind. This unfunded mandate has significantly increased fire station construction costs.
- In addition to building code and essential service facility requirements, added environmental investigation and mitigation requirements have increased construction costs and significantly impacted the planning and permitting process, extending project completion timelines.
- Cost increases are not isolated to new facilities; expansion and remodeling of fire stations are rapidly becoming cost-prohibitive as these projects are required to meet current building and environmental standards. The cost of bringing facilities “up to code” has led many fire agencies to defer necessary capital facility projects until the facility can be torn down and completely rebuilt.

3. Funding Has Not Kept Pace with Cost to Provide Service:

Fire service costs are primarily recovered through property taxes (fire suppression) and fees for service (EMS). Despite increases in the level of service and the growing costs to provide that service, mechanisms available to fire districts for recovering costs have not been responsive to these increases. The formula for funding fire suppression has been stagnant since the 1970s, and other available funding mechanisms don't offer the stability to implement long-term planning initiatives.

- **Property Taxes**

- Before the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978, fluctuations in local governments' cost of doing business were stabilized by the ability to locally adjust property tax rates to account for changes in the market. While Prop 13 aimed to stabilize property tax rates and provide relief to property owners, it left local governments, including fire districts, vulnerable to market volatility.

Fighting Fire with Funding: The Urgent Need for Adequate Fire Service Resources in California (January 2025), Continued:

- The property tax allocation method established in 1979 by Assembly Bill (AB) 8 was based on the existing level of service and did not provide a mechanism for adjusting allocations to accommodate future changes to professional standards for training, response, and labor; future changes to demand for services and increased risks; and future capital investments necessary to support these changes.
- As the level of service has expanded since the 1980s, the legislature's intent has been for fire agencies to be less reliant on property taxes and more on special taxes and fees for service.
- Fees for Service
 - EMS delivery has always been fee-based; however, it has been directly related to hospital transport. Historically, transport fees have not contemplated future changes in professional standards and demand for service, specifically related to ALS's response.
 - As demand increased and emergency rooms became more impacted, wait times have dramatically increased in recent years. As a result, more fire agencies are becoming less reliant on emergency room transports and are providing more robust prehospital services for which no reliable cost recovery mechanism exists. Only recently has the widespread implementation of first responder fees been imposed to offset the cost of response and treatment on scene.
 - Fees for special operations services outside of fire suppression and EMS have no formalized mechanism for cost recovery as a matter of policy. Instead, they largely depend on a fire agency's ability to lobby and negotiate with other local jurisdictions.
 - In the 1980s, California created the Unified Program to protect Californians from hazardous waste and hazardous materials by ensuring local regulatory agencies consistently apply statewide standards. Many local regulatory agencies contract with fire districts to provide mitigation responses to hazmat incidents. While fire districts are entitled to full reimbursement, this is often not the case.
 - Ensuring fees cover the service cost continues to challenge fire agencies. The Mitigation Fee Act states that agencies may only collect fees proportional to the current level of service and provides a path for taxpayers to challenge fees. Ensuring that fees comply with state law typically requires a fee study, which can be burdensome to smaller agencies and often results in fee calculations that don't provide full cost recovery, leaving agencies to somehow fill the gap.

Fighting Fire with Funding: The Urgent Need for Adequate Fire Service Resources in California (January 2025), Continued:

- Special Taxes and Assessments
 - While cities and counties can leverage sales and use tax measures to address funding shortfalls, special taxes and assessments are the only other cost recovery method available to fire agencies under existing state law, and have been used historically to finance infrastructure and public services throughout the state.
- In addition to changing how property taxes are assessed, Prop 13 also instituted restrictions on introducing new taxes – requiring a two-thirds vote by local governments and in some cases, by voters. Prop 218, passed in 1996, further restricted local agencies’ revenue-raising efforts by requiring taxpayers or voters to approve all new or increased taxes, special assessments, and some fees by a two-thirds vote and adding additional procedures local agencies are required to follow. It also enabled voters to utilize the initiative power to rescind objectionable taxes, assessments, and fees, which continues to pose challenges to fire districts today.

4. Cost Recovery Challenges Disproportionately Impact Fire Districts:

The fire service's mission to protect life and property doesn't stop when funding runs short. Unlike many other public services, the acceptable margin of service reductions is razor thin and not without consequential impact on the community's safety. Service and sacrifice are woven into the fire service's culture, evident not only in the individuals who put their lives on the line but also in the sacrifices fire districts are increasingly forced to make to deliver that service.

- In order to fulfill its mission, the level of service provided by fire agencies throughout the state must be responsive to the community's ever-changing needs.
- Policy-driven changes have impacted the level of service required to keep the community safe and have increased service costs.
- There is a disparity in cost recovery for fire districts compared to fire service partners at the city and county levels, as fire districts have fewer cost recovery methods available.
- Cost recovery for policy-driven changes to service levels is inadequate, as the primary mechanisms available to fire districts for recovering costs (property tax and service fee) do not account for these changes. Other available cost recovery methods to fire districts (special taxes and assessments) are burdensome to implement, under constant scrutiny, and less reliable as long-term funding sources, diminishing the ability for fire districts to actualize long-term strategic planning for services, station construction, etc.
- While services have continued to expand, funding has not grown at parallel levels. Budget constraints have led to challenges in maintaining staffing levels, upgrading equipment, and conducting necessary training programs.

Fighting Fire with Funding: The Urgent Need for Adequate Fire Service Resources in California (January 2025), Continued:

- Due to relentless funding challenges, fire districts have been forced to prioritize maintaining existing service levels and deferring necessary capital facility and equipment projects.
- Without addressing this funding crisis, fire districts may be unable to continue providing services that are responsive to community needs and in compliance with established standards.

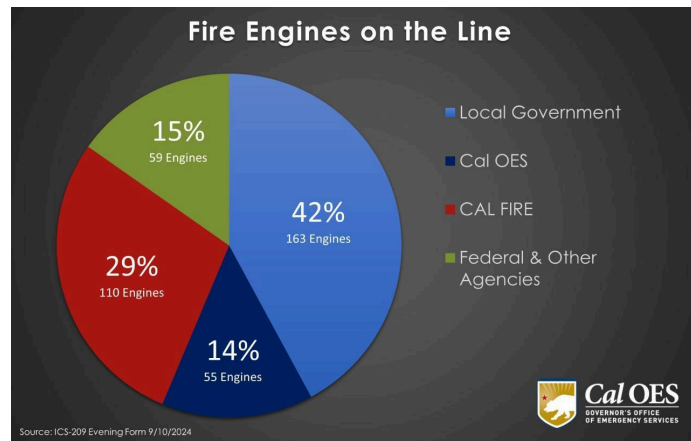
5. Adverse Impacts on Local Fire Agencies Increase Statewide Vulnerability

The statewide mutual aid system leverages the resources of local fire agencies to safeguard lives and property throughout the state. While fire districts are primarily responsible for protecting their own jurisdiction, there has been an increased reliance on inter-agency automatic and mutual aid to deliver service. The impact is felt regionally and throughout the state when local fire agencies suffer.

- Staffing shortages continue to be a challenge for local fire agencies, exacerbated in recent years by increasing service needs and the COVID-19 pandemic. These shortages impact the ability to provide resources for mutual aid response.
- Deferred investments in equipment and apparatus also continue to challenge local fire agencies, resulting in unprecedented gaps in the mutual aid system.
- The mutual aid reimbursement process is becoming increasingly burdensome to local fire agency budgets as reimbursement delays exacerbate existing funding shortfalls.
- Funding shortfalls at the local level strain local resources, adding to the burden on the mutual aid system and passing it on to other local agencies participating in the mutual aid system.
- Vulnerabilities to the mutual aid system are growing, as evidenced by how often local agencies are unable to fill (UTF) calls for additional resources for mutual aid response. In 2020, the fire service in California experienced a staggering 19,435 UTFs, and in 2021 – while slightly better – saw 11,422 UTFs.
- Strained resources at the local level impact not only local agency budgets but also costs to the state. When local and state resources are exhausted, the state is left with no option but to utilize costly resources from outside the state and even the country.
- When resources are inadequate to tackle an emergency, locally or statewide, lives will be threatened, property is at risk, and what was once a manageable crisis may devolve into an unmitigated disaster.

Fighting Fire with Funding: The Urgent Need for Adequate Fire Service Resources in California (January 2025), Continued:

This graphic highlights the crucial role that Local Government and Local Government-staffed OES engines play in California's firefighting efforts. With 42% of the total engines deployed coming from local agencies, it's clear that collaboration at all levels—federal, state, and local—is essential for effective wildfire response. Together, we can protect our communities and respond to the challenges of wildfire season.



Conclusion:

California's fire service—renowned for its emergency response capabilities—now grapples with a unique and pressing disaster: a pervasive funding crisis. This crisis, fueled by insufficient state, county, city, and district investments, poses a tangible threat to public safety. The situation's urgency is evident in the real-world cracks seen today, in higher response times, infrastructure delays, service reductions like brownouts and station closures, and even layoffs.

A critical aspect of the fire service's resilience lies in collaboration, with local fire agencies forming over 50% of the mutual aid system. However, due to funding gaps, this system has unprecedented shortcomings, putting lives and property at risk when responding to emergencies. These challenges are manifested at the state level as the number of response requests returned as Unable to Fill (UTF) has reached staggering numbers in recent years, further evidence of a breakdown in local fire agencies' operational capacity.

The roots of this funding problem extend over decades, where the fire service has continued to increase its level of service, yet funding formulas have stagnated since the 1970s. Continuous challenges to other cost recovery mechanisms for fire districts only exacerbate the issue. As fire districts stand at the precipice of a financial crisis, ensuring proper funding is crucial for safeguarding the diverse communities that fire districts serve and maintaining statewide emergency response capabilities. Training, staffing, and resources that are responsive to community needs are directly tied to sufficient and secure funding for fire districts and are what will pave the way for a safer California for all.

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South Lake County Fire Protection District
— in cooperation with —
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

P.O. Box 1360 Middletown, CA 95461 - (707) 987-3089

DATE: February 12, 2025
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Gloria Fong
Staff Services Analyst
SUBJECT: Appointment of Committee Members for Calendar Year 2025.

As per Board of Directors Policy Manual Section 4.3, the Board President shall appoint and publicly announce the members of the ad hoc committees for the ensuing year no later than the Board's regular meeting in February or when deemed necessary or advisable.

Committees consists of a maximum of two directors and any other persons as deemed necessary and desirable and will present reports and recommendations on their work to the full Board at regular meetings. The first director named shall be the chairperson thereof, and set meeting time and place, and recommendations should be submitted to the Board via a written or oral report, preferably written. Prior to the committee meeting, the duties of the ad hoc committees shall be outlined at the Board's regular meeting by the Board President, and the committee shall be considered dissolved when its final report has been made. Appointed members are reminded that these are ad hoc committees that shall only meet when duties are outlined by the Board President at a regularly scheduled meeting.

The ad hoc committees are 1) Equipment and Facilities Committee, assigned to review functions, activities, and or operations pertaining to the operation and maintenance of Fire District equipment and facilities; 2) Policy Review Committee, assigned to review functions, activities, and or operations pertaining to the Fire District policies; and 3) additional committees as deemed necessary or advisable by himself/herself and/or the Board.

Previously appointed at the February 20, 2024 meeting were Directors Bostock and Martinelli to the ad hoc Policy Review Committee and Directors Comisky and Stephenson to the ad hoc Equipment and Facilities Committee. The Board President may appoint same or different members for the calendar year 2025.



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P.O. Box 1360 Middletown, CA 95461 - (707) 987-3089

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.
Located at the Middletown Fire Station Board Room,
21095 Highway 175, Middletown, CA 95461

This regular meeting is for the purpose of discussing the following items:

1. *President Comisky called meeting to order at 7:00 pm.*
2. *Battalion Chief Lau led pledge of allegiance.*
3. *Present: Directors Rob Bostock, Stephanie Cline, and Madelyn Martinelli, and Vice President Matthew Stephenson and President Jim Comisky. Also present: Battalion Chief Josh Lau, Battalion Chief Chris Aragon, Battalion Chief Jorgensen and Chief Matt Ryan, and Office Technician Karin Collett.*
4. ***Martinelli / Bostock MOTION to approve agenda AYES: Bostock, Cline, Martinelli, Stephenson, Comisky. NOES: none. MOTIONED CARRIED.***
5. *Citizens' Input: Any person may speak for three (3) minutes about any subject of concern provided it is within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors and is not already on the today's agenda. Total period is not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes, unless extended at the discretion of the Board. None*
6. *Communications:*
 - 6.a. *Fire Sirens – Nothing to report*
 - 6.b. *Fire Safe Council – report attached*
 - 6.c. *Volunteer Association – Todd, right now hot and heavy in academy. We have 3 recruits in there, just finished PSFA and moving onto Hazmat. One recruit missed a few days because of his honeymoon, going to take some commitment. OES is down south on the Eaton fire. Two of last year's recruits are down there on the fire kicking butt. Gary Bevins has been working hard at the station to keep things up to date with qualification of PCFS.*
 - 6.d. *Chief's Report –*

Chief Ryan reports that for this district, staff got bids for both metal and comp roof for Station 62 roof replacement.

Cal Fire has 4 teams currently at fire down south and will keep presence through the recovery effort. Cal Fire has upstaffed through transitional staffing and is transitioning out of Amador as of yesterday.

Chief Lau reports that a few nights ago we had a trailer fire by trap shoot here in Middletown with normal response with staff out of stations 31, 62, 63, PCFs Bevins and Gass all showed up, and did a great job. At the same time a roll over

happened at Mount Saint Helena. Paid Call Fighter Bevins was released from trailer fire to go get the rescue to respond to the roll over. Ended up landing two copters at Station 60. I am impressed with how much the team can manage at one time. It does show we can use more Paid Call Firefighters and or drivers. Currently we are working on hiring a Fire Apparatus Engineer/Medic and two permanent Fire Captain/medic positions and one Limited Term Captain/Medic job.

Chief Aragon was introduced as new Battalion Chief 1417, previously held by Battalion Chief Pete Avansino and Mike Wink.

6.e. Finance Report – report attached, nothing to add.

6.f. Directors' activities report

Cline- She registered to attend Fire District Association of California (FDAC) annual conference in April in Napa.

Bostock- Nothing to report

Martinelli – She did another wire transfer to the State of California on the 15th.

Stephenson- He had a visit with Station 63 and was able to see what the employees have been dealing with over the years.

Comisky- FDAC next month finally completed the white paper for the lack of funds for the fire district in California. Equipment and facilities Committee met last week with some dialogue with Chief Duncan calling in. He contacted a vendor today to get to do a strategic plan for us. Last month about 4am he had difficulty breathing and ended up calling 911. He couldn't be prouder of our medic crews and also the engine crews from Kelsey Cobb.

7. Regular Items:

7.a. Consider and approve bids for new apparatus bay roof at Station 62 and Resolution No. 2024-25-13 A Resolution Appropriating Contingencies for New Apparatus Bay Roof at Station 62. Placed on the agenda by Chief Paul Duncan.

Director Cline explained her doubts about getting a metal roof and price, since it's taxpayers' money being spent for the roof. The difference between the quotes when it comes to warranties was discussed.

Chief Ryan states that they have used Humberto's on the Cal Fire side. Their craftsmanship is good and they are out of Lower Lake.

President Comisky states that he agrees that shingles is the best way to go because the building will not be there long enough for a metal roof.

Chief Lau explains that we can take some more time if needed to compare. Chief Avansino, who is in attendance via zoom, suggests looking at the quotes because all three cover the questions about warranties, plywood repair etc.

President Comisky suggests going with lowest bid and getting this expedited.

Bostock / Cline MOTION to approve 7a to award and expedite to lowest bidder Humberto's AYES: Bostock, Cline, Martinelli, Stephenson Comisky. NOES: none. **MOTIONED CARRIED.**

- 7.b. Election of President of the Board of Directors, Vice President of the Board of Directors, Secretary and / or Clerk to the Board of Directors for calendar year 2025. Placed on the agenda in accordance with Fire District Bylaws. (Outgoing President conducts election and adjourns tonight's meeting).

Director Martinelli nominates Director Stephenson for President. Director Bostock nominates Director Cline Vice President and Director Martinelli nominates Gloria Fong as Secretary/Clerk to the board. Nominations are closed and all members are in favor of nominations.

8. Consent Calendar Items: (Approval of consent calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. They will be acted upon by the Board at one time without discussion. Any Board member may request that an item be removed from the consent calendar for discussion later.)

8.a. December 17, 2024 - Regular Meeting Minutes

8.b. Warrants – January

Cline/Stephenson MOTION to approve accept consent calendar.

AYES: Bostock, Cline, Martinelli, Stephenson, Comisky. NOES: none. MOTIONED CARRIED.

9. ***Cline/Comisky MOTION to adjourn meeting at 7:36 pm. All members in attendance are in favor of adjournment.***

Respectfully submitted by
Karin Collett, Office Technician

READ AND APPROVED BY
Matthew Stephenson
President, Board of Directors

South Lake County
 Fire Protection District
 Cost Accounting Management System
 Invoice Audit Trail

UNAUDITED LIST

Detail Report by Vendor, Invoice
 Run Date: 02/13/2025 12:24:13pm By: KC

Selection Criteria:
 Include Inv Batch No: SLCF 02/21/2025

Check No	Vendor Name	Invoice	Inv Date	Invoice Description	Budget Exp Acct	Inv Total	Req No / Descr 2
	ACTION SANITARY	536129	01/29/2025	PORTABLE TOILET SERVICE	357-9557-795-14-00-60	60.00	
	ACTION SANITARY	536351	02/01/2025	HYGIENE SAFETY	357-9557-795-28-30-60	193.05	
	ALLSTAR FIRE EQUIPMENT INC	261438	01/10/2025	SCBA EQUIPMENT B1417A	357-9557-795-17-00-60	69.84	
	ALLSTAR FIRE EQUIPMENT INC	261715	01/23/2025	SCBA EQUIPMENT B1417A	357-9557-795-17-00-60	13,670.09	
	SAUL ANDRADE-GARCIA	SAUL012025	01/20/2025	REIMB SAFETY BOOTS	357-9557-795-11-00-B	572.01	
	ARCHILOGIX	ALX-93186	01/31/2025	ARCHITECTURAL SVCS 01/31/25	357-9557-795-23-80-SP	25,588.41	
	CALLAYOMI CO WATER DISTRICT	80 012925	02/05/2025	WATER USAGE	357-9557-795-30-00-W0	1,373.01	
	CALLAYOMI CO WATER DISTRICT	81 012925	02/05/2025	WATER USAGE	357-9557-795-30-00-WF	65.33	
	CASCADE SOFTWARE SYSTEMS	INV-02535	02/01/2025	ACCTG SFTWR CLOUD HOST MB 02/01/25	357-9557-795-28-30-60	190.00	
	KANDI L COTTER	CLEAN011925	01/21/2025	CLEANING STATION	357-9557-795-14-00-60	250.00	
	COUNTY OF LAKE SOLID WASTE	257 013125	01/31/2025	GARAGE DISPOSAL STA 60 01/08/25 (460LB)	357-9557-795-30-00-G0	16.60	
	COUNTY OF LAKE SOLID WASTE	257 013125	01/31/2025	GARAGE DISPOSAL FS 01/08/25 (720LB)	357-9557-795-30-00-GF	25.98	
	COUNTY OF LAKE SOLID WASTE	257 013125	01/31/2025	GARAGE DISPOSAL STA 60 1/29/25 (980LB)	357-9557-795-30-00-G0	35.37	
	COUNTY OF LAKE SOLID WASTE	257 013125	01/31/2025	GARAGE DISPOSAL FS 01/29/25 (1040LB)	357-9557-795-30-00-GF	37.53	
	BARBARA HORST	HORSTFEB2025	02/09/2025	OPEB REIMBURSEMENT	357-9557-795-03-30-R	626.74	
	BARBARA HORST	HORSTFEB2025	02/09/2025	OPEB REIMBURSEMENT	357-9557-795-03-30-R	-624.74	
	BARBARA HORST	HORSTFEB2025	02/09/2025	OPEB REIMBURSEMENT	357-9557-795-03-30-R	626.74	
	HUMBERTO'S ROOFING	513926	12/26/2024	NEW ROOF	357-9557-795-18-00-62	30,406.00	
	LIFE ASSIST INC	95461FPD 013125	01/31/2025	EMS SUPPLIES	357-9557-795-19-40-MS	2,801.82	
	LIFE ASSIST INC	95461FPD 013125	01/31/2025	EMS SUPPLIES	357-9557-795-19-40-MS	182.25	
	LIFE ASSIST INC	95461FPD 013125	01/31/2025	EMS SUPPLIES	357-9557-795-19-40-MS	3,888.67	
	LOCH LOMOND MUTUAL WATER	31 012325	01/24/2025	WATER USAGE	357-9557-795-30-00-W4	160.00	
	DENNIS DAVID MAHONEY	162	01/29/2025	LANDSCAPE SERVICE	357-9557-795-18-00-60	475.00	
	PERATON/BANK OF AMERICA	3897306	01/29/2025	CAD INTERFACE	357-9557-795-28-30-60	9,000.00	
	PERATON/BANK OF AMERICA	389920	01/29/2025	IMTRND MAINT YB 12/1/24	357-9557-795-28-30-60	1,050.00	
	PG AND E	699137074150120	01/21/2025	ELECTRIC CHGS STA 62 (2096.8804KWH)	357-9557-795-30-00-E2	876.21	
	PG AND E	699137074150120	01/21/2025	ELECTRIC CHGS FS (859.1730KWH)	357-9557-795-30-00-EF	379.97	
	PG AND E	699137074150120	01/21/2025	ELECTRIC CHGS STA 64 (511.5300KWH)	357-9557-795-30-00-E4	237.23	
	PG AND E	699137074150120	01/21/2025	ELECTRIC CHGS STA 60 (3235.2200KWH)	357-9557-795-30-00-E0	1,508.51	
	PG AND E	699137074150120	01/21/2025	ELECTRIC CHGS STA 63 (2333.2120KWH)	357-9557-795-30-00-E3	973.37	
	PG AND E	699137074150120	01/21/2025	ELECTRIC CHGS STA 60 LOAN PROGRAM CHARGE	357-9557-795-30-00-E0	339.44	
	RENE REYES	REYES011525	01/15/2025	REIMB SAFETY BOOTS	357-9557-795-11-00-B	445.86	
	TELEFLEX LLC	9509527949	01/29/2025	EMS SUPPLIES	357-9557-795-19-40-MS	589.88	

Check No	Vendor Name	Invoice	Inv Date	Invoice Description	Budget Exp Acct	Inv Total	Req No / Descr 2
	US BANK VOYAGER	8690837252504	01/24/2025	VEHICLE FUEL EX6021 12/31 (220 - 9.82 TAX EXEMI	357-9557-795-29-50-00	210.18	
	WITTMAN ENTERPRISES	2412043	01/27/2025	AMBULANCE BILLING DEC 2024	357-9557-795-23-80-AB	5,568.25	
	US BANK			VARIOUS (SEE ATTACHED)		2,714.80	
	U.S.BANK			VARIOUS (SEE ATTACHED)		35,995.82	
					TOTAL	140,579.22	

Check No	Merchant Vendor Name	Invoice	Inv Date	Invoice Description	Budget Exp Acct	Inv Total	Req No / Descr 2
	COSTCO	1165583137	12/31/2024	CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL TRNG	357-9557-795-28-30-TB	339.80	CAL FIRE TRAINING BUREAU
	JERI-CO GARAGE DOORS & OPERATORS	20378	12/18/2024	APP BAY DOOR REPAIR STA 60	357-9557-795-18-00-60	2,375.00	
					SUBTOTAL	2,714.80	
	AMAZON	0069064	03/03/2025	FTNESS EQUIPMENT	357-9557-795-17-00-63	247.71	
	ELVIARITAS CANTINA AND CATERING	013567	01/29/2025	CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL TRNG	357-9557-795-28-30-TB	1,500.00	CAL FIRE TRAINING BUREAU
	PAK N MAIL	026392	01/22/2025	TAX FORMS	357-9557-795-22-71-60	18.16	
	JAMF SOFTWARE LLC	101090941	02/10/2025	DEVICE MGMT SOFTWARE ME 03/09/25	357-9557-795-28-30-60	92.00	
	ARMED FORCE PEST CONTROL	110667	01/30/2025	PEST CONTROL	357-9557-795-18-00-62	80.00	
	MATHESON TRI GAS INC	12299 013125	01/31/2025	MEDICAL OXYGEN	357-9557-795-19-40-0	296.98	
	ICE WATER CO	128270	01/02/2025	HYDRATION FOR STATIONS STA 60 5 GAL (2) 01/02	357-9557-795-13-00-60	86.85	
	BOBS VACUUMS & JANITORIAL	13950	01/22/2025	STA 62 CLEANING SUPPLIES	357-9557-795-14-00-62	303.46	
	BOBS VACUUMS & JANITORIAL	13951	01/22/2025	STA 63 CLEANING SUPPLIES	357-9557-795-14-00-63	134.01	
	AW EQUIPMENT REPAIR INC	1494	01/14/2025	VEHICLE 90 DAY / C SERVICE E6221	357-9557-795-17-00-62	3,975.00	
	AW EQUIPMENT REPAIR INC	1500	01/11/2025	VEHICLE 90 DAY / C SERVICE WT6211	357-9557-795-17-00-62	4,050.00	
	AW EQUIPMENT REPAIR INC	1514	02/04/2025	VEHICLE 90 DAY INSPECTION E6011	357-9557-795-17-00-62	225.00	
	SANTA ROSA UNIFORM & CAREER APPAREL	151676	01/07/2025	UNIFORM APPAREL - GRAHAM	357-9557-795-11-00-U	521.20	
	SANTA ROSA UNIFORM & CAREER APPAREL	151800	01/25/2025	REPL UNIFORM APPAREL-LANNING	357-9557-795-11-00-U	296.27	
	SANTA ROSA UNIFORM & CAREER APPAREL	152271	01/04/2025	UNIFORM APPAREL-ANDRADE	357-9557-795-11-00-U	557.37	
	LAKE COUNTY WASTE SOLUTIONS	176565876U033	02/01/2025	STA 62 REFUSE/RECYCLE COLL	357-9557-795-30-00-G2	81.26	
	LAKE COUNTY WASTE SOLUTIONS	176565885U033	02/01/2025	STA 60 REFUSE/RECYCLE COLL	357-9557-795-30-00-G0	191.40	
	LAKE COUNTY WASTE SOLUTIONS	176565916U033	02/01/2025	STA 63 REFUSE/RECYCLE COLL	357-9557-795-30-00-G3	70.90	
	HARDESTERS	486097	01/31/2025	SUPPLIES STA 63 FLAG POLE ROPE	357-9557-795-18-00-63	19.29	
	HARDESTERS	492130	01/31/2025	SUPPLIES TRAINING	357-9557-795-18-00-T	137.11	
	HARDESTERS	492185	01/31/2025	SUPPLIES STA 63 STATION SUPPLIES	357-9557-795-14-00-63	43.93	
	HARDESTERS	491982	01/31/2025	SUPPLIES STA 63 HINGE	357-9557-795-18-00-63	19.29	
	HARDESTERS	489399	01/31/2025	SUPPLIES STA 60 KEYS FOR CHIEFS	357-9557-795-14-00-60	52.94	
	LAKE PARTS INC	148207	01/31/2025	VEHICLE MAINT SUPPLIES E6031 OIL	357-9557-795-17-00-60	57.06	
	LAKE PARTS INC	148340	01/31/2025	VEHICLE MAINT SUPPLIES R6031 SENSORS	357-9557-795-17-00-60	234.02	
	LAKE PARTS INC	148341	01/31/2025	VEHICLE MAINT SUPPLIES SC6211 - TRL-PAINT	357-9557-795-17-00-62	217.46	
	LAKE PARTS INC	148407	01/31/2025	VEHICLE MAINT SUPPLIES E6031 CLAMPS	357-9557-795-17-00-60	38.64	
	LAKE PARTS INC	148537	01/31/2025	VEHICLE MAINT SUPPLIES EX6021- SERVICE PARTS	357-9557-795-17-00-60	363.39	
	LAKE PARTS INC	076505	01/31/2025	VEHICLE MAINT SUPPLIES WT6211- FILTERS / OIL	357-9557-795-17-00-62	438.34	
	LAKE PARTS INC	149062	01/31/2025	VEHICLE MAINT SUPPLIES E6221 - OIL/FILTERS	357-9557-795-17-00-62	157.39	
	LAKE PARTS INC	78575	01/31/2025	VEHICLE MAINT SUPPLIES E6421 - OIL / FILTERS	357-9557-795-17-00-64	503.35	
	LAKE PARTS INC	76711	01/31/2025	VEHICLE MAINT SUPPLIES E6221 - FILTERS/ OIL	357-9557-795-17-00-62	314.16	
	LAKE PARTS INC	150316	01/31/2025	VEHICLE MAINT SUPPLIES E6031 RETURN CLAMP	357-9557-795-17-00-60	-20.54	
	ROSALES MARKET	199739	02/08/2025	AAR MEAL	357-9557-795-13-00-60	208.98	
	ALLSTAR FIRE EQUIPMENT INC	250310	01/30/2025	EQUIPMENT E6031	357-9557-795-17-00-60	2,201.69	
	AMAZON	2725837	03/03/2025	FTNESS EQUIPMENT	357-9557-795-17-00-63	1,080.95	
	GALLS LLC	28076169	11/15/2024	TRAINING PPE	357-9557-795-28-30-TB	1,095.31	CAL FIRE TRAINING BUREAU
	MEDIACOM	30128147 021625	01/07/2025	INTERNET SVC	357-9557-795-12-00-63	106.08	
	MEDIACOM	30165883 022625	01/17/2025	INTERNET SVC	357-9557-795-12-00-62	106.08	
	MEDIACOM	30173705 022625	01/17/2025	INTERNET SVC	357-9557-795-12-00-60	119.99	
	RANCHO LANDSCAPE SUPPLY	3160	02/07/2025	DRAIN ROCK	357-9557-795-18-00-62	84.73	
	QUILL LLC	42675480	01/31/2025	OFFICE SUPPLIES	357-9557-795-22-70-60	97.67	
	HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE CSD	50050000 013125	02/03/2025	WATER/SEWER	357-9557-795-30-00-W3	253.07	
	FERRELLGAS	5009088930	01/26/2025	STA 64 TANK RENTAL	357-9557-795-30-00-P4	50.00	

Check No	Merchant Vendor Name	Invoice	Inv Date	Invoice Description	Budget Exp Acct	Inv Total	Req No / Descr 2
	FERRELLGAS	5009088930	01/26/2025	STA 60 PROPANE FILL (272.6GAL)	357-9557-795-30-00-P0	610.95	
	FERRELLGAS	5009088930	01/26/2025	STA 62 PROPANE FILL (280.9GAL)	357-9557-795-30-00-P2	665.46	
	SKILES AND ASSOCIATES INC	513	02/04/2025	CONSULTATION 07/07/23-02/04/25	357-9557-795-23-80-SP	6,237.50	
	VERIZON WIRELESS	6104608054	01/27/2025	CELLULAR SVC ME 02/26/25	357-9557-795-12-00-62	1,094.02	
	CAMPOS CASUALS	62881	01/19/2025	SAFETY BOOTS	357-9557-795-11-00-B	400.00	
	AMAZON	7017048	03/06/2025	LIGHTING - LANDING PAD	357-9557-795-18-00-60	60.88	
	AMAZON	7441050	03/06/2025	LLIGHTING - LANDING PAD	357-9557-795-18-00-60	84.49	
	STERICYCLE INC	8009628042	01/17/2025	MEDICAL WASTE MB 02/01/25	357-9557-795-19-40-MW	204.68	
	ZOLL MEDICAL CORPORATION	90108419	01/15/2025	HEART MONITOR, AUTOPULSE, AED	357-9557-795-28-48-60	5,085.94	
	AMAZON	9567413	03/03/2025	FTNESS EQUIPMENT	357-9557-795-17-00-63	162.96	
	STREAMLINE SOFTWARE INC	D933AAE6-0024	02/01/2025	WEBSITE HOSTING MB 02/01/25	357-9557-795-28-30-60	500.00	
	ZOOM VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS INC	INV292573549	02/11/2025	BOARD MTG REMOTE ACS ME 03/10/25	357-9557-795-23-80-SP	15.99	
	SPACE EXPLORATION TECHNOLOGIES CORP	ME 031725	02/18/2025	MOBILE INTERNET ME 03/17/25	357-9557-795-12-00-60	165.00	
					SUBTOTAL	35,995.82	