

NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

330 S. Main Avenue • Fallbrook, California 92028-2938 • Phone: (760) 723-2005 • Fax: (760) 723-2072 • Web: www.ncfire.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RUTH HARRIS
BOB HOFFMAN
FRED LUEVANO
KENNETH E. MUNSON
JOHN VAN DOORN

STEPHEN J. ABBOTT - Fire Chief/CEO - sabbott@ncfire.org
ROBERT H. JAMES - District Counsel - roberthjameslaw@gmail.com
LOREN A. STEPHEN-PORTER - Executive Assistant/Board Secretary - lstephen@ncfire.org

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO
SUBJECT: BOARD MEETING PACKAGE
DATE: APRIL 28, 2020

Enclosed is your Board package for the Regular April Board Meeting. We have tried to include the information you will need to effectively consider and act on agenda items. **Due to the Covid-19 Outbreak and pursuant to the Declarations by Governor Newsome and the County of San Diego, until further notice, all Board Meetings will be TELEPHONIC ONLY.**

- The Board, Staff and Public may participate in the April meeting by calling into the following number: 1.408.419.1715. Meeting ID is 834 677 344, followed by #.
- All Board documents are on line at:
<https://www.ncfire.org/2020-04-28-board-tuesday-april-28-2020-regular-board-meeting>

Please note this month's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2020, beginning at **4:00 p.m.**

It is our goal to be prepared to respond accurately to Board questions and concerns. You can help us achieve this goal by contacting me prior to the Board meeting with your questions and concerns. This will allow time for the Staff and me to provide the appropriate information for review at the Board meeting.

To ensure a quorum is present, please call Loren in advance of the meeting if you will be unable to attend. She may be reached at (760) 723-2012.

Respectfully,



Stephen Abbott
Fire Chief/CEO



PROUDLY SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF FALLBROOK, BONSALE AND RAINBOW

DUTY ~ INTEGRITY ~ RESPECT



NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

AGENDA FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING

April 28, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Due to the Covid-19 Outbreak and pursuant to the Declarations by Governor Newsome and the County of San Diego, all further Board Meetings will be Telephonic ONLY.

The Board, Staff and Public may participate by calling into the following number:
1.408.419.1715. Meeting ID is 834 677 344, followed by #.

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<https://www.ncfire.org/2020-04-28-board-tuesday-april-28-2020-regular-board-meeting>

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AGENDA

For those joining us for the Public Activities Agenda, please feel free to depart at the close of the agenda. We invite you to stay for the remainder of the business meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. PUBLIC COMMENT — PRESIDENT LUEVANO

(pgs. 1-2)

- Standing Event: Members of the Public may directly address the Board of Directors on Events of interest to the Public provided no action will be taken on non-agenda Events. The Board President may limit comments to three minutes per speaker (Board of Directors Operations Policy § 4.7.2.1.2.).

ACTION AGENDA

CONSENT EVENTS:

All Events listed under the Consent Events are considered routine and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these Events prior to the Board action on the motion, unless members of the Board, Staff or public request specific Events be removed from the Consent Agenda.

2. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 2020

(pgs. 3-8)

- Standing Event: Review and approve minutes from March meeting as presented.

3. REVIEW AND ACCEPT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MARCH 2020

(pgs. 9-18)

- Standing Event: Review and Accept Financial Report for March as presented.

4. REVIEW AND ACCEPT POLICIES & PROCEDURES

(pgs. 19-20)

- Standing Event: See Item 7.

5. REVIEW AND ACCEPT EMERGENCY SERVICE OVERTIME TRACKING REPORT FOR THE THIRD QUARTER

(pgs. 21-24)

- Quarterly Report: Report demonstrates that annual industrial and other leave is down, however sick leave expenditures for the quarter are increased over the same quarter last year, with current overtime at 78.99% of budget. There are outstanding reimbursements for mutual aid of \$113,563, which will reduce overtime to 67.40% of the budget.

Note: The Americans with Disabilities Act provides that no qualified individual with a disability shall be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, District business. If you need assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District Office 72 hours prior to the meeting at (760) 723-2012.



AGENDA FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING

APRIL 28, 2020

PAGE 2 OF 3

6. REVIEW AND ACCEPT CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY PROGRAM RESULTS — FIRST QUARTER 2020 (pgs. 25-32)

- Quarterly Report: Report demonstrates 23% of surveys were returned; 95% of which were in the “excellent” category.

ACTION EVENTS:

All Events listed under the Action Events Agenda will be presented and discussed prior to the Board taking action on any matter. Time Certain Events will commence precisely at the time announced in the Agenda.

7. REVIEW AND APPROVE PAYROLL AND AP SPECIALIST JOB DESCRIPTION — DFC MAROVICH AND CHIEF ABBOTT (pgs. 33-38)

- New Item: Review and approve job description for new position.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

No action shall be undertaken on any Discussion Event. The Board may: acknowledge receipt of the information or report and make comments; refer the matter to Staff for further study or report; or refer the matter to a future agenda.

8. STRATEGIC DIRECTION DISCUSSION — CHIEF ABBOTT (pgs. 39-44)

- Recurring Item: Review and discuss Strategic Direction.

STANDING DISCUSSION EVENTS:

All Events listed under the Standing Discussion Events are presented every meeting.

- **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** (pgs. 45-48)
 - “California Governor Issues New COVID-19 Executive Order Impacting Local Government”
- **WRITTEN COMMUNICATION:** (pgs. 49-50)
 - BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM
- **NEWS ARTICLES:** As attached. (pgs. 51-116)
- **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:** (pgs. 117-118)
- **STAFF:**
 - Chief Abbott
 - Other Staff
- **BOARD**
- **BARGAINING GROUPS**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**

CLOSED SESSION

The Board will enter closed session to discuss Events as outlined herein. As provided in the Government Code, the public will not be present during these discussions. At the end of the Closed Session, the Board shall publicly report any action taken in Closed Session (and the vote or abstention on that action of every member present) in accordance with Government Code § 54950 et. seq.

CS-1. ANNOUNCEMENT — PRESIDENT LUEVANO: (pgs. 119-120)

- An announcement regarding the items to be discussed in Closed Session will be made prior to the commencement of Closed Session.



AGENDA FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING

APRIL 28, 2020

PAGE 3 OF 3

CS-2. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — MANAGEMENT GROUP

➤ **NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT:**

NCFPD MANAGEMENT GROUP

DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:

CHIEF ABBOTT, DISTRICT COUNSEL JAMES

CS-3. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — NON-SAFETY GROUP

NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT:

➤ FFA NON-SAFETY GROUP
NEGOTIATORS

DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:

CHIEF ABBOTT, DISTRICT COUNSEL JAMES

CS-4. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — SAFETY GROUP

NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT:

➤ FFA SAFETY GROUP NEGOTIATORS

DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:

CHIEF ABBOTT, DISTRICT COUNSEL JAMES

CS-5. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — UNREPRESENTED

INDIVIDUALS — CHIEF ABBOTT:

➤ EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/BOARD
SECRETARY

DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:

CHIEF ABBOTT, DISTRICT COUNSEL JAMES

CS-6. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION — PRESIDENT LUEVANO

ADJOURNMENT

SCHEDULED MEETINGS

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting is: Tuesday, **May 26, 2020**, 4:00 p.m. telephonically.

CERTIFICATION OF AGENDA POSTING

"I certify that this Agenda was posted in accordance with the provisions of the Government Code § 54950 et. seq. The posting locations were: [1] the entrance of North County Fire Protection District Administrative Offices, [2] Fallbrook Public Utility District Administrative Offices and [3] the Roy Noon Meeting Hall; [4] District's website at <http://www.ncfireprotectiondistrict.org>. The Agenda was also available for review at the Office of the Board Secretary, located at located at 330 S. Main Avenue, Fallbrook (760) 723-2012. Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the District after distribution of the agenda packet, are available for public inspection in the Office of the Board Secretary, located at 330 S. Main Avenue, Fallbrook (760) 723-2012, during normal business hours or may be found on the District website at <http://www.ncfireprotectiondistrict.org>, subject to the Staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting. The date of posting was **April 24, 2020.**"

Board Secretary Loren Stephen-Porter:



Date:

April 24, 2020



**NORTH COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE CHIEF/CEO**

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO
DATE: APRIL 28, 2020
SUBJECT: PUBLIC COMMENT

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- 1. Members of the Public may directly address the Board of Directors on items of interest to the Public provided no action will be taken on non-agenda items. The Board President may limit comments to three minutes per speaker (Board of Directors Operations – Elections, Officers and Terms SOG § 3.2.6.3.).*

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1 **March 24, 2020**

2 **REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**
3 **THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

4 President Luevano called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

5 **THE INVOCATION GIVEN BY CHIEF ABBOTT.**

6 **ALL RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

7 **ROLL CALL:**

8 **Present:** Directors Harris, Hoffman, Luevano, Munson and Van Doorn.

9 **Absent:** None.

10 **Staff Present:** Fire Chief/CEO Abbott, Attorney James and Board Secretary Stephen-
11 Porter. In the audience were: DFC Marovich, D/Cs Mahr and McReynolds, B/Cs
12 Krumwiede, Mann and Macmillan, F/M Fieri, presenters, members of the public and
13 Association.

14 **PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AGENDA**

15 1. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** President Luevano addressed the audience and inquired whether
16 there were any public comments regarding items not on the Agenda. It was noted the
17 following members of the public and presenters were present for the telephonic meeting:
18 Tom Frew, Paul Kaymark, Mike Meyer and Eric Scrivener. There being no comments, the
19 Public Comment Section was closed.

20
21 **ACTION AGENDA**

22 **CONSENT ITEMS:**

- 23 2. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 2020**
24 3. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 15, 2020**
25 4. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2020**
26 5. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

27 President Luevano inquired whether there were any questions on Consent Items 2-5. On
28 consensus of the Board, Item 5 was pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.
29 There being no other discussion, President Luevano asked for a motion to approve the

30 Consent Agenda. On a motion by Vice President Van Doorn, seconded by Director Munson
31 the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented passed unanimously.

32 Further discussion occurred regarding the Pending Funding Policy. Adoption of the Policy
33 is the first step in moving forward with POB. Mr. Meyers noted that lenders want to see that
34 the District is committed to paying down the UAL, will make regular payments and will
35 commit additional discretionary funds toward that end where practical. This will improve the
36 credit rating process, showing the District is utilizing best practices in reserve, debt and
37 pension management. Having the District's actions stated in Policy memorializes what the
38 District will do to ensure those payments are made. Discussion ensued regarding the impact
39 of the adoption of the Policy, credit rating impact and why it is needed, costs and timeline
40 development. On a motion by Director Hoffman, seconded by Director Munson, the motion
41 to approve the Pension Funding Policy as presented passed unanimously.

42
43 **ACTION ITEMS:**

44 6. **REVIEW AND APPROVE FINANCIAL AUDIT FOR FY 2018/2019 — CHIEF MAROVICH AND CHIEF**
45 **ABBOTT:** DFC Marovich introduced Paul Kaymark to present the Audit for FY 2018/2019 to
46 the Board. He presented the highlights and changes to the Board, noting the Audit received
47 a clean or "unmodified opinion" for the year audited. He directed the Board to page 44,
48 which reflects the full accrual, giving an overview of everything in consideration on a cash,
49 non-cash basis. He noted there was a 1.7 mil increase in revenue to the organization. He
50 discussed notable changes due to imposition of additional GASB requirements, looking at
51 overall OPEB, liability increases, the effect of the bond market, decreasing interest rates and
52 the opening of an OPEB trust account. At the conclusion of the discussion, on a motion by
53 Director Harris, seconded by Director Hoffman, the motion to approve the Financial Audit
54 for FY 2018/2019 passed unanimously.

55 7. **REVIEW AND APPROVE RESOLUTION 2020-04 OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE**
56 **NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT MAKING ANNUAL REQUIRED FINDINGS OF THE SAN**
57 **DIEGO COUNTY FIRE MITIGATION FEE PARTICIPATION ORDINANCE FY 2020/2021 – FM FIERI**
58 **AND CHIEF ABBOTT:** FM Fieri and Chief Abbott presented Resolution 2020-04 to the Board for

59 approval, noting this is a ministerial adoption that is required to allow the District to participate in
60 the County's Fire Mitigation Program. At the current time, the FMF rates are at \$0.58 psf, which
61 is anticipated to increase in the near future. When the County increases the rate, the District will
62 automatically receive funds at the increased rate pursuant to the Program parameters. On a
63 motion by Director Harris, seconded by Director Hoffman, the motion to approve Resolution
64 2020-04 as presented passed unanimously.

65 66 **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

67 8. There were no Discussion Agenda Items for the March 24, 2020, Board Meeting.

68 **STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

69 ● **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** Counsel James presented his report "Election Void for
70 Being Held on Improper Date, Court Holds." Brief discussion ensued about the drastic
71 results of a simple error when conducting your own election. This is informational only, no
72 action required.

73 ● **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** Brief discussion ensued regarding the items,
74 Informational only, no action required.

75 ● **BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

76 ● **NEWS ARTICLES:** Brief discussion ensued regarding articles. This is informational
77 only, no action required.

78 ● **COMMENTS:**

79 ● **STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES:**

80 ● **STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO:** Chief Abbott informed the Board of the overall
81 impact of COVID-19 on the District and his concerns that it will continue to impact for a
82 protracted period into the future. He informed the Board of the precautions the District has
83 instituted, which he expects to continue for the foreseeable future. As all non-essential
84 functions have been suspended, he requested the Board be patient with Staff responses
85 while they are working and responding from telecommuting sites. Chief Abbott updated the
86 Board on the status of those employees who have tested positive for COVID-19. Chief

87 Abbott opined it would be best to suspend Strategic Planning discussions until face-to-face
88 discussions could resume. Informational only, no further action required.

89 ● **CHIEF OFFICERS AND OTHER STAFF: DFC MAROVICH:** DFC Marovich thanked the
90 Board for approving the audit, lauding HR/Finance Specialist Juul for taking over the
91 process. Finance is in the process of another GEMT audit and will be meeting with the team
92 of lawyers in Sacramento on the matter. The District has confirmed the April apportionment
93 will not be delayed from the County. **D/C MAHR:** D/C Mahr updated the Board on the impact
94 of COVID-19 on staffing, with a 10% loss of personnel. Vacant shifts are being filled by
95 personnel, along with proper rest implementation. Personnel are taking temperatures three
96 times per day, have changed shopping habits, are using the station washers and dryers for
97 clothes and extractors for PPE to keep items clean. Across the County, Operations are
98 developing a contingency plan for 20-50% work reduction, with shift trades being considered
99 on a case-by-case basis. Supplies are being maintained and new supply, service and food
100 sources are being investigated and instituted. Work station cleaning and decontamination
101 procedures have been instituted. **D/C McREYNOLDS:** D/C McReynolds informed the Board
102 regarding of the IAP progress. He noted that mandates for training have not been reduced.
103 **FM FIERI:** FM Fieri noted that new construction continues to move forward. Staff has
104 instituted a method of no direct contact for accepting plans. State mandated inspections are
105 being completed, except for secondary levels. Abatement is continuing with the expectation
106 that LRA will be at 100% by the end of the season as staff has more time to complete them.
107 **B/C KRUMWIEDE:** B/C Krumwiede informed the Board he has observed that morale is good
108 and staffing is stable. **B/C MACMILLAN:** B/C Macmillan reported that he is feeling well after
109 his COVID-19 experience. **MSO MURPHY:** MSO Murphy updated the Board on the
110 procedures in place for employee and patient protections, including employee testing. She
111 noted there is ongoing daily discussions in the Zone regarding updates on procedures and
112 concerns. **BS STEPHEN-PORTER:** B/S Stephen-Porter informed the Board that with COVID-
113 19 expect to continue for some time, she will continue to look for ways to facilitate the Board
114 materials and meetings.

115

- 116 ● **BOARD: DIRECTOR HOFFMAN:** Director Hoffman expressed concerns regarding take
117 out foods and the delivery containers. MSO Murphy noted she would send information out
118 to the crews. Director Hoffman thanked Staff for the great work during the COVID-19 crisis.
119 **PRESIDENT LUEVANO:** President Luevano inquired regarding the social media outreach to
120 keep the public informed of COVID-19 issues within the District and in general. MSO Murphy
121 noted the PIO and Social Media Specialist had been doing a great job getting the information
122 out to the community on a regular basis.
- 123 ● **BARGAINING GROUPS:** No comments.
- 124 ● **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments.

126 CLOSED SESSION

127 CS-1. There were no Closed Session Items for this meeting.

129 ADJOURNMENT

130 A motion was made at 5:35 p.m. by Director Hoffman and seconded by Vice President Van
131 Doorn to adjourn the meeting and reconvene on April 28, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. The motion
132 carried unanimously.

133 Respectfully submitted,

134 
135 _____

136 Loren Stephen-Porter

137 Board Secretary

138 Minutes approved at the Board of Director's Meeting on: April 28, 2020

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**NORTH COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATION - BUDGET & FINANCE**

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: DFC CHIEF STEVEN MAROVICH, HR/FS CHERIE JUUL AND CHIEF ABBOTT
DATE: APRIL 28, 2020
SUBJECT: REVENUE & EXPENDITURES AS OF MARCH 31, 2020 (75%)

Revenue Sources	Budgeted	Collected	Over/Under	% of Budget
Property Taxes - FBK	15,476,356.00	9,020,063.00	(6,456,293.00)	58%
Property Taxes - RNBW	285,000.00	174,918.00	(236,911.29)	61%
Ambulance and Collections	1,945,000.00	1,740,442.42	(204,557.58)	89%
GEMT-State Supplement	130,000.00	-	(130,000.00)	0%
Prevention Fees	200,000.00	129,059.11	(70,940.89)	65%
Tower Lease Agreements	103,000.00	89,345.88	(13,654.12)	87%
Other Revenue Sources	50,000.00	112,150.63	62,150.63	224%
Interest	70,000.00	60,415.37	(9,584.63)	86%
Cost Recovery	70,000.00	57,436.02	(12,563.98)	82%
Fallbrook Healthcare District	181,637.00	34,454.00	(147,183.00)	19%
Community Facilities District (CFD)	149,079.00	53,233.26	(95,845.74)	36%
Strike Team Reimbursements	89,000.00	76,162.64	(12,837.36)	-
Other Reimbursements	150,000.00	36,665.55	(113,334.45)	24%
Mitigation Fees & Interest - FBK	300,000.00	323,808.88	23,808.88	108%
Donations & Grants	288,215.00	162,027.50	(126,187.50)	56%
Annexation fees	-	-	-	-
Transfers & Loans	-	-	-	0%
Total Revenue:	19,487,287.00	12,070,182.26	(7,417,104.74)	62%
	Budgeted	Spent	Over/Under	% of Budget
TTL Expenditures YTD thru 02-29-2020	18,541,468.00	15,048,637.51	(3,492,830.49)	81%
Revenue over Expenditures		(2,978,455.25)		

North County Fire Protection District
 For the Eighth Month Ending March 31, 2020
75% of Budget

COLOR KEY	
	Within/Below Budget
	Within 10% of Budget
	>10% of Budget (see notes)

Description	March Actual	Running Total	Annual Budget	Amount Remaining	% Used	Notes
TOTAL PERSONNEL	2,586,104.55	10,522,014.77	14,868,417.00	4,346,402.23	70.8%	
101 Total Board Administration	1,704.44	379,325.52	468,900.00	89,574.48	80.9%	Payment for Revenue Measure
102 Total Administration	29,699.95	631,538.39	1,090,029.00	458,490.61	57.9%	
103 Total Fire Prevention	7,837.28	30,914.77	70,400.00	39,485.23	43.9%	
104 Total Emergency Services	25,283.28	341,670.35	353,396.00	11,725.65	96.7%	FY'19-20 Facility/Vehicle insurance & Map Maintenance fees paid. Grant for PPE
105 Total Emergency Med Svcs	9,124.74	135,497.07	205,233.00	69,735.93	66.0%	
106 Total Reserves (note below)	441.85	6,407.18	62,995.00	56,587.82	10.2%	
107 Total Communications***	93,850.43	498,037.61	686,121.00	188,083.39	72.6%	
108 Total Shop/Maintenance	14,154.71	242,814.68	308,890.00	66,075.32	78.6%	
109 Total Training	14,431.08	63,956.82	75,000.00	11,043.18	85.3%	Formal Education
120 Total General Fund Reserve	-	-	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.0%	
GRAND TOTAL	2,782,632.31	12,852,177.16	18,389,381.00	5,537,203.84	69.9%	
200 Total Capital Expenditures	172,284.31	2,196,460.35	2,677,751.00	481,290.65	82.0%	Station 5 payoff (one time payment)

**NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Tax Apportionments FY 19-20**

DATE	APP #	GROSS	REFUNDS & ADJUSTMENTS	FY 19/20 NET	FY 19/20 RUNNING	FY 18/19 NET	FY 18/19 RUNNING	
08 13 2019	1	231,494.20	2,075.77	229,418.43	229,418.43	211,088.06	211,088.06	
09 10 2019	2	80,372.61	892.49	79,480.12	308,898.55	62,146.73	273,234.79	
10 8 2019	3	178,919.83	24,333.34	154,586.49	463,485.04	175,730.27	448,965.06	
11 5 2019	4	554,398.75	19,982.36	534,416.39	997,901.43	603,342.32	1,052,307.38	
12 10 2019	5	5,143,751.86	9,856.48	5,133,895.38	6,131,796.81	4,702,859.90	5,755,167.28	
01 21 2019	6	2,461,682.55	10,271.56	2,451,410.99	8,583,207.80	2,475,082.73	8,230,250.01	
02 25 2019	7	369,443.49	10205.12	359,238.37	8,942,446.17	373,592.56	8,603,842.57	
03 1 2019				-	-	-	-	
04 7 2019	8			-	8,942,446.17	3,842,704.38	12,446,546.95	
04 28 2019	9			-	8,942,446.17	1,803,479.65	14,250,026.60	
05 26 2019	10			-	8,942,446.17	129,786.35	14,379,812.95	
06 23 2019	11			-	8,942,446.17	231,038.97	14,610,851.92	
07 21 2019	12			-	8,942,446.17	77,727.25	14,688,579.17	
TOTAL YTD		9,020,063.29	77,617.12	8,942,446.17	8,942,446.17	8,603,842.57	8,603,842.57	
							Net Rev Increase	
							3.94%	

**RAINBOW FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Tax Apportionments FY 19/20**

DATE	APP #	GROSS	REFUNDS & ADJUSTMENTS	FY 19/20 NET	FY 19/20 RUNNING	FY 18/19 NET	FY 18/19 RUNNING	
08 13 2019	1	4,233.48	37.97	4,195.51	4,195.51	3,880.98	3,880.98	
09 10 2019	2	1,469.81	16.34	1,453.47	5,648.98	1,142.66	5,023.64	
10 8 2019	3	3,272.00	445.03	2,826.97	8,475.95	3,230.89	8,254.53	
11 5 2019	4	10,138.58	378.41	9,760.17	18,236.12	11,081.56	19,336.09	
12 10 2019	5	94,589.96	180.33	94,409.63	112,645.75	86,192.15	105,528.24	
01 21 2020	6	54,054.58	187.85	53,866.73	166,512.48	46,559.31	152,087.55	
02 25 2020	7	7,159.52	207.57	6,951.95	173,464.43	6,832.96	158,920.51	
03 1 2020				-	173,464.43	-	158,920.51	
04 7 2020	8			-	173,464.43	70,775.54	229,696.05	
04 28 2020	9			-	173,464.43	33,900.26	263,596.31	
05 26 2020	10			-	173,464.43	2,421.64	266,017.95	
06 23 2020	11			-	173,464.43	4,226.68	270,244.63	
07 21 2020	12			-	173,464.43	1,423.06	271,667.69	
TOTAL YTD		174,917.93	1,453.50	173,464.43	173,464.43	158,920.51	158,920.51	
							Net Rev Increase	
							9.15%	

**NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
AMBULANCE REVENUE FY 2019-2020**

MONTH	BILLED	CONTRACTUAL WRITE DOWNS	TOTAL AR		BAD DEBT WRITE-OFFS	REFUNDS	ADJ.AR	DEPOSITS RECIEVED	BILLING FEES	FY 19-20		FY 18-19	
			FY 19-20	FY 18-19						NET REVENUE	NET REVENUE		
07 31 2019	578,484.46	304,372.40	274,112.06	213,761.06	75,924.16	-	198,187.90	165,604.55	9,770.67	155,833.88	156,594.61		
08 31 2019	497,985.65	282,032.34	215,953.31	196,525.85	21,969.39	-	193,983.92	192,621.04	11,364.05	181,256.99	127,795.75		
09 30 2019	577,163.06	270,003.13	307,159.93	180,398.25	35,233.75	-	271,926.18	211,591.45	12,483.90	199,107.55	144,364.63		
10 31 2019	540,627.08	291,737.01	248,890.07	177,845.02	21,409.31	16,805.26	210,675.50	217,089.84	11,816.20	205,273.64	173,574.04		
11 30 2019	571,553.85	342,550.36	229,003.49	232,615.61	68,523.10	-	160,480.39	208,847.32	12,321.99	196,525.33	158,597.14		
12 31 2019	612,471.73	280,653.83	331,817.90	227,844.63	37,854.02	-	293,963.88	191,106.86	11,164.54	179,942.32	136,934.48		
01 31 2020	579,285.71	378,115.42	201,170.29	265,799.30	35,161.43	5,090.95	160,917.91	225,812.35	12,845.35	212,967.00	146,990.66		
02 28 2020	546,733.71	306,545.56	240,188.15	217,930.29	40,369.48	-	199,818.67	200,731.05	11,843.13	188,887.92	155,082.20		
03 31 2020	514,494.10	305,557.43	208,936.67	217,351.75	(1,668.92)	-	210,605.59	186,656.59	11,012.74	175,643.85	150,448.07		
04 30 2020				212,122.36							176,106.75		
05 31 2020				191,346.91							199,697.17		
06 30 2020				208,945.78							139,056.24		
TOTAL:	5,018,799.35	2,761,567.48	2,257,231.87	1,930,071.76	334,775.72	21,896.21	1,900,559.94	1,800,061.05	104,622.57	1,695,438.48	1,350,381.58	New Revenue Change	25.55%

NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT

March 31, 2020

FALLBROOK	BALANCE	INTEREST RATE	
County of San Diego/General Fund - FBK	277,501.78	0.01%	Operating
County of San Diego/General Fund - RNBW	1,033,462.39	0.01%	Operating
County of San Diego/Capital Reserve	396,145.79	0.01%	Capital Reserves
County of San Diego/Fire Mitigation Fund - FBK	520,716.00	0.01%	Mitigation Fees
County of San Diego/Fire Mitigation Fund - RNBW	4,013.24	0.01%	Mitigation Fees
Local Agency Investment Fund	2,126,425.97	1.912%	LAIF
Workers' Comp JPA	476,263.62	0.26%	PASIS Funds
Bank of America/PASIS	33,192.85	0.01%	
First National/Benefit Fund	153,884.41	0.70%	
First National/Payroll	304,307.54	0.70%	
First National/Accounts Payable	244,697.15	0.66%	
First National/Accounts Receivable	172,810.75	0.70%	
Pacific Western Bank/Accounts Receivable	1,146,106.07	0.00%	
TOTAL	6,889,527.56		

**NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
COST RECOVERY FY 2019/2020**

<u>Month</u>	<u>Billed</u>	<u>Collected</u>	<u>YTD % Collected</u>	<u>Billing Fees</u>	<u>Net Revenue 19/20</u>	<u>FY 18/19 Net Revenue</u>
7 31 2019	9,600.00	3,489.33	36.35%	697.87	2,791.46	9,132.00
8 30 2019	13,459.00	12,681.00	94.22%	2,536.20	10,144.80	5,129.88
9 30 2019	5,013.00	4,776.00	95.27%	955.20	3,820.80	6,630.40
10 31 2019	10,803.00	8,918.00	82.55%	1,783.60	7,134.40	6,263.39
11 30 2019	7,034.25	5,879.87	83.59%	1,175.97	4,703.90	6,981.22
12 31 2019	7,247.25	6,718.34	92.70%	1,343.67	5,374.67	4,120.80
1 31 2020	9,878.50	9,306.03	94.20%	1,861.21	7,444.82	3,653.60
2 28 2020	7,468.00	7,468.00	100.00%	1,493.60	5,974.40	6,160.00
3 30 2020	13,858.00	12,558.45	90.62%	2,511.69	10,046.76	2,764.80
4 30 2020			#DIV/0!	-	-	2,646.80
5 31 2020			#DIV/0!	-	-	5,687.20
6 30 2020			#DIV/0!	-	-	5,743.37
TOTAL:	84,361.00	71,795.02	85.10%	14,359.00	57,436.02	50,836.09
					Net Rev Increase	12.98%

therecoveryhub.com
Ncfd1109 Explorer

Document Date	Document Number	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Document Amount
03 1 2020	0005610537	Capital One Public Funding	Sta 5 loan pymt 13	119,396.25
03 1 2020	PYMT 3 OF 5	COMMUNITY LEASING PARTNERS	Amb Type II pymt 3 of 5	45,742.17
03 1 2020	STMT 03/2020	Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc.	Dental/Vision/Life 03/2020	8,325.87
03 1 2020	STMT 03/2020	Harry J. Wilson Insurance Center	LTD 03/2020	1,044.00
03 1 2020	LTD 03/2020	THE STANDARD	LTD 03/2020	577.50
03 1 2020	103709	DIGITAL DEPLOYMENT, INC	Web compliance	275.00
03 1 2020	37225949459	DIRECTV	03/01/20-03/21/20	152.99
03 1 2020	0476264-2793-5	Waste Management	Medical waste diposal	198.96
03 1 2020	STMT 03/2020	LEGAL SHIELD	ID protection 03/2020	612.10
03 1 2020	200319	OSTARI	IT support 03/2020	1,850.00
03 1 2020	9849456758	VERIZON WIRELESS	02/02/20-03/01/20	77.26
03 1 2020	174973	ADMINISTRATIVE SOLUTIONS	ASI Admin Fee 03/20	102.00
03 1 2020	099679306	XEROX - PASADENA	01/21/20-02/21/20	148.79
03 1 2020	099679307	XEROX - PASADENA	01/21/20-02/21/20	785.19
03 2 2020	0381472030220	TIME WARNER CABLE	03/02/20-04/01/20	1,142.93
03 2 2020	0381456030220	TIME WARNER CABLE	03/02/20-04/01/20	675.86
03 2 2020	00991575	BAB STEERING HYDRAULICS	Calipers	1,435.21
03 2 2020	32390	LineGear	Wildland Pants/pouch/gloves	21,360.36
03 2 2020	180121623	INTERSTATE BATTERY OF SD	Battery	769.43
03 3 2020	019805	Martinez Family Investments, Inc.	Install of vinyl plants	2,728.75
03 3 2020	04445	Across the Street Productions	(2) Blue Card Instructor	4,000.00
03 3 2020	36128523	MCMaster-CARR SUPPLY CO.	Clamps	166.35
03 3 2020	51970	Uniform Plus	Stratton uniform	69.64
03 3 2020	99523	UNIFORM SPECIALIST/ACE UNIFORMS	Beeghley uniform	62.77
03 4 2020	2/4/20-3/4/20-02	FALLBROOK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTR	02/04/20-03/04/20	292.79
03 4 2020	02/04/20-03/04/20-03	FALLBROOK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTR	02/04/20-03/04/20	259.22
03 4 2020	STMT 03/04/20	Fowler Pest Control	Bi-monthly pest control	540.00
03 5 2020	18663	BP Battery	Deka Grp 65 850cca	123.03
03 8 2020	0000007	John Corral, J	Sta. 1 drywall	870.00
03 9 2020	6198	PALOMAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Spring 2020 Fire 98	2,911.00
03 9 2020	78954106	WAXIE SANITARY SUPPLY	Sprayer bottle	603.83
03 10 2020	HUM1020	NICKOLAS QUINN	HUM1020	845.00
03 10 2020	819672	Southern Counties Lubricants	Oil/Drum cleaning	844.59
03 11 2020	11753	FOWLER PLUMBING	Admin rootered drain	150.00
03 11 2020	0417565031120	TIME WARNER CABLE	03/11/20-04/10/20	96.98
03 11 2020	36588328	MCMaster-CARR SUPPLY CO.	Rubber Foam pipe	58.55
03 12 2020	28148	FALLBROOK AWARDS	EE Appreciation awards 2020	1,408.83
03 12 2020	00C0036333755	READY FRESH	02/11/20-03/10/20	48.23
03 12 2020	9459	NU-VUE Window Films	Dry-erase boards Sta. 1	787.00
03 12 2020	11152	Nigro & Nigro	Audit FY18/19	6,000.00

Document Date	Document Number	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Document Amount
03 12 2020	VECTOR 7/1/19-6/30/2	SAN DIEGO COUNTY VECTOR CONTROL PROGRAM	Vector control 7/1/19-6/30/20	66.96
03 13 2020	PR AP 03/13/2020	LINCOLN NATIONAL	LINCOLN NAT'L 03/13/2020	2,490.69
03 13 2020	PR AP 03/13/20	FALLBROOK FIREFIGHTERS' ASSN	FBK FFA DUES 03/13/20	2,345.65
03 13 2020	PR AP 3/13/20	FALLBROOK FIREFIGHTERS' ASSN	FBK FFA SR DUES 03/13/20	25.74
03 13 2020	PR AP 03/13/2020	FIREFIGHTERS LEG. ACTION GRP	FLAG PMT 03/13/2020	82.00
03 13 2020	46205	ACTION MAIL	Weed abatement 2020	7,817.33
03 15 2020	ORD-166747-K2Y1Y2	DYNAMIC COMMUNITIES	GPUJG membership-Juul	450.00
03 15 2020	STMT 03/15/20	FALLBROOK OIL COMPANY	Fuel 03/01/20-03/15/20	3,665.29
03 15 2020	STMT 03/15/20	LEGAL SHIELD	ID protection 03/2020	679.90
03 16 2020	S-270 AIR OPS	AUGUST, PETER	S-270 Air ops	75.00
03 16 2020	59-0608770	A-Check America, Inc.	Bkgrd cks	441.85
03 17 2020	EMG5100	KEITH MCREYNOLDS	EMG5100	1,053.00
03 19 2020	39028114	Arrow Pipeline Repair, Inc.	Sta. 5 kitchen sink clear	165.00
03 23 2020	ORG5000	AUGUST, PETER	ORG5000	1,053.00
03 23 2020	MEDIC RENEW 20-22	JOSEPH BRADSHAW	CA Medic renew 20-22	200.00
03 23 2020	ENG1020	NICK CRILLY	ENG1020	810.00
03 23 2020	BUS2201	Mitch Iglesias	BUS2201	810.00
03 23 2020	ORG6000	MATHIEU LINDSEY	ORG6000	1,053.00
03 27 2020	PR AP 03/27/20-2	FALLBROOK FIREFIGHTERS' ASSN	PR AP 03/27/20-2	2,345.65
03 27 2020	PR SR 03/27/20-2	FALLBROOK FIREFIGHTERS' ASSN	PR AP 03/27/20	28.08
03 27 2020	PR AP 03/27/20-2	FIREFIGHTERS LEG. ACTION GRP	PR AP 03/27/20	82.00
03 27 2020	PR AP 03/27/20-2	LINCOLN NATIONAL	PR AP 03/27/20	2,423.51
03 31 2020	EDU FORUM-JUUL 19/20	AFSS NORTHERN DIVISION	AFFS Education Forum 19/20	350.00
03 31 2020	FY19/20 Q3 DISPATCH	NORTH COUNTY DISPATCH JPA	FY19/20 Q3 Dispatching	91,924.67

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**NORTH COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE CHIEF/CEO**

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: STEPHEN ABBOTT FIRE CHIEF/CEO

DATE: APRIL 28, 2020

SUBJECT: STANDING ITEM: POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

1. None.

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**NORTH COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES – BUDGET & FINANCE**

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: DEPUTY CHIEF MAROVICH AND CHIEF ABBOTT
DATE: APRIL 28, 2020
SUBJECT: THIRD QUARTER OVERTIME TRACKING REPORT

CONSENT AGENDA

BACKGROUND:

This report is designed to provide an overview of the overtime expenditures in comparison with the budgeted amounts and historical usage. In addition, this report documents overtime based on the leave that generates it and includes reimbursements from providing Mutual Aid.

DISCUSSION:

The attached charts provide multiple views of overtime usage and the leave that generates it. The reporting periods coincide with the month divisions and not pay periods. Therefore, there may be variations from month to month. An increase in overtime may be attributed to an additional pay period falling within that particular month or unusually high overtime due to an event or mutual aid activity. Two charts are included to give a quick visual comparison of the tracked areas:

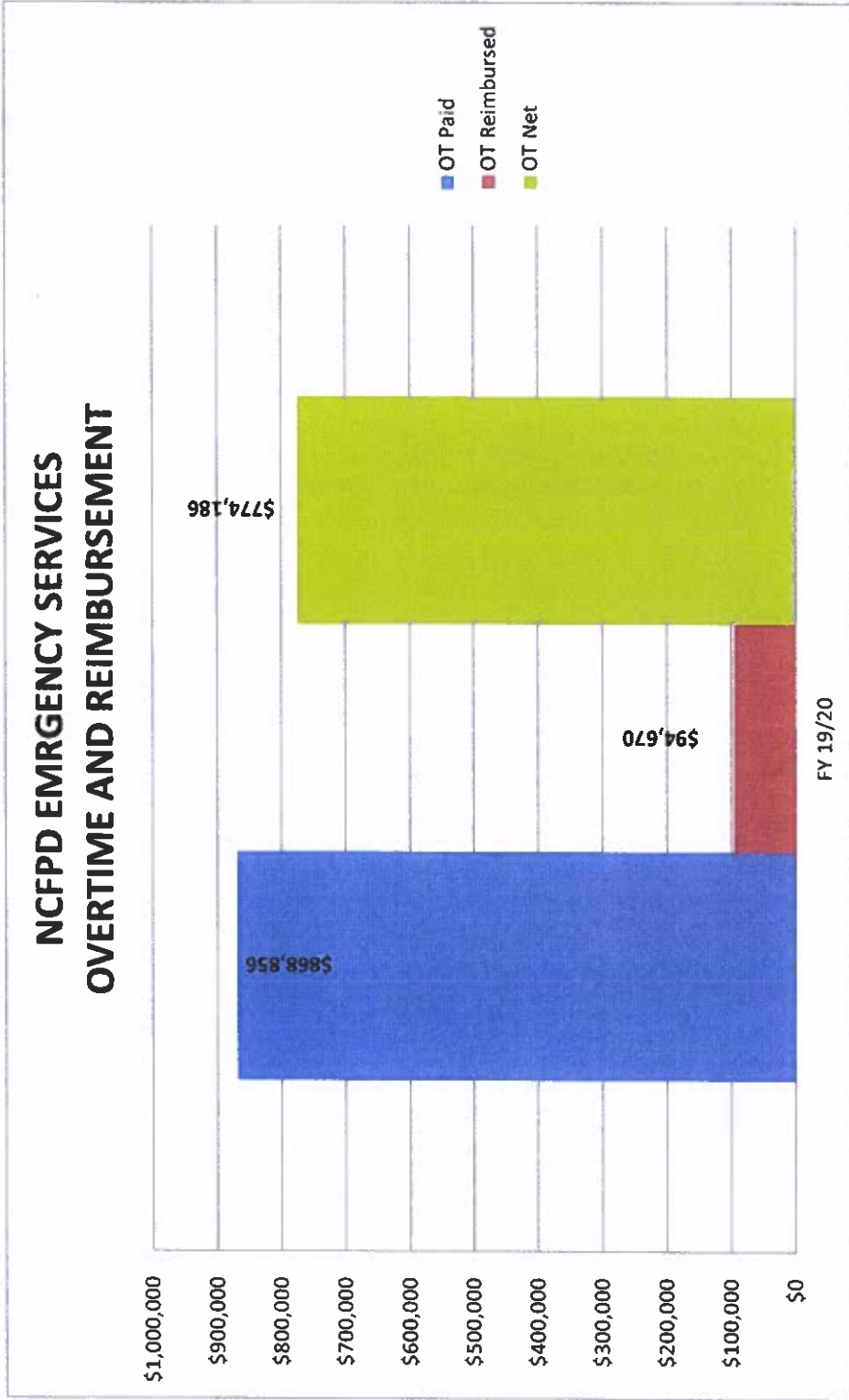
- Leave Analysis by Type
- Five Year Overtime History
- Total Overtime and Reimbursement

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

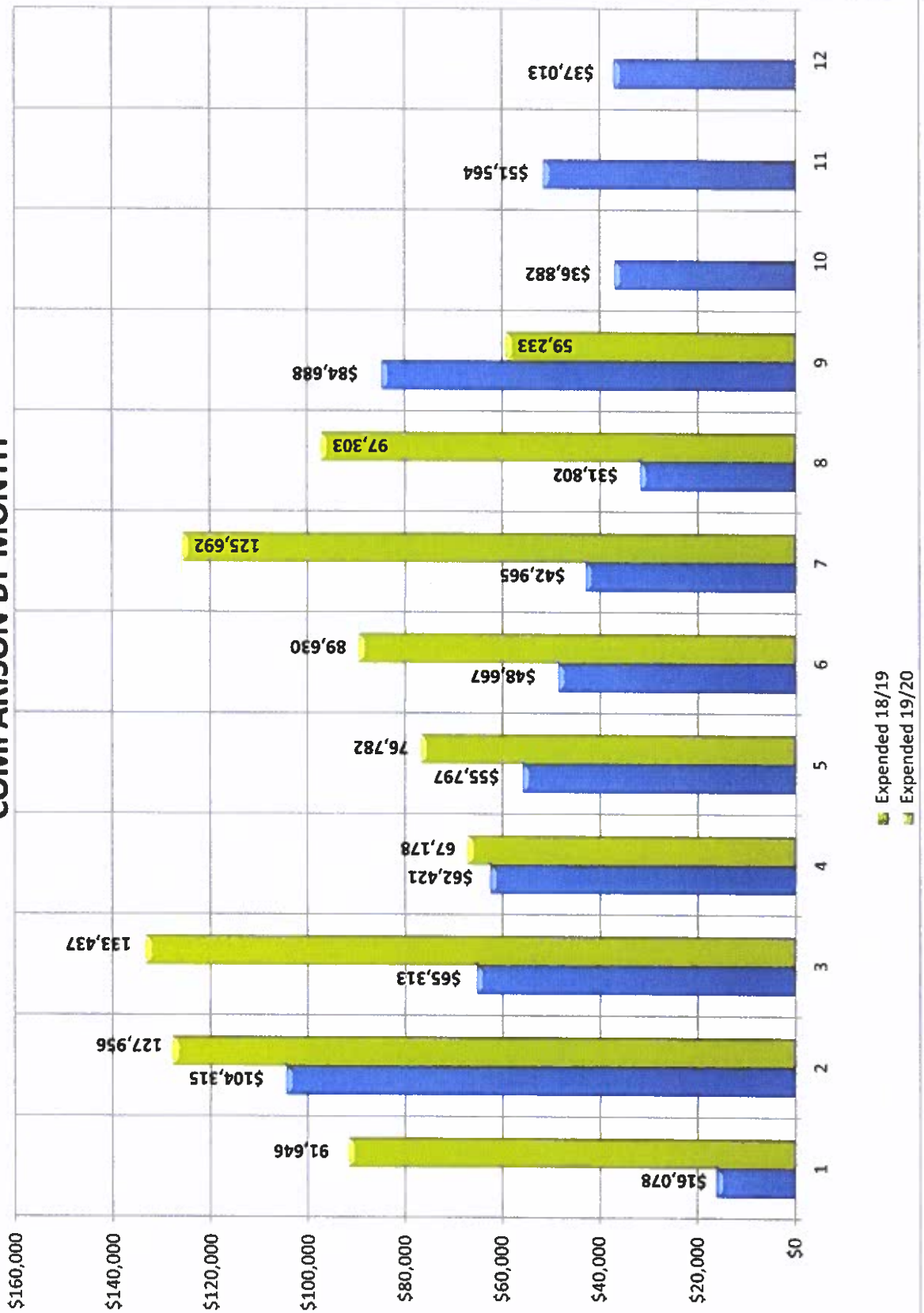
The District finished the 3rd quarter down in annual, industrial and other leave compared to the same quarter last year, but sick leave is up 28%. Current overtime is 78.99% expended but the District has outstanding reimbursements for mutual aid in the amount of \$113,563 which will reduce the overtime down to 67.40% of the budget. In the third quarter, the overtime is at 75% of the entire budget.

SUMMARY:

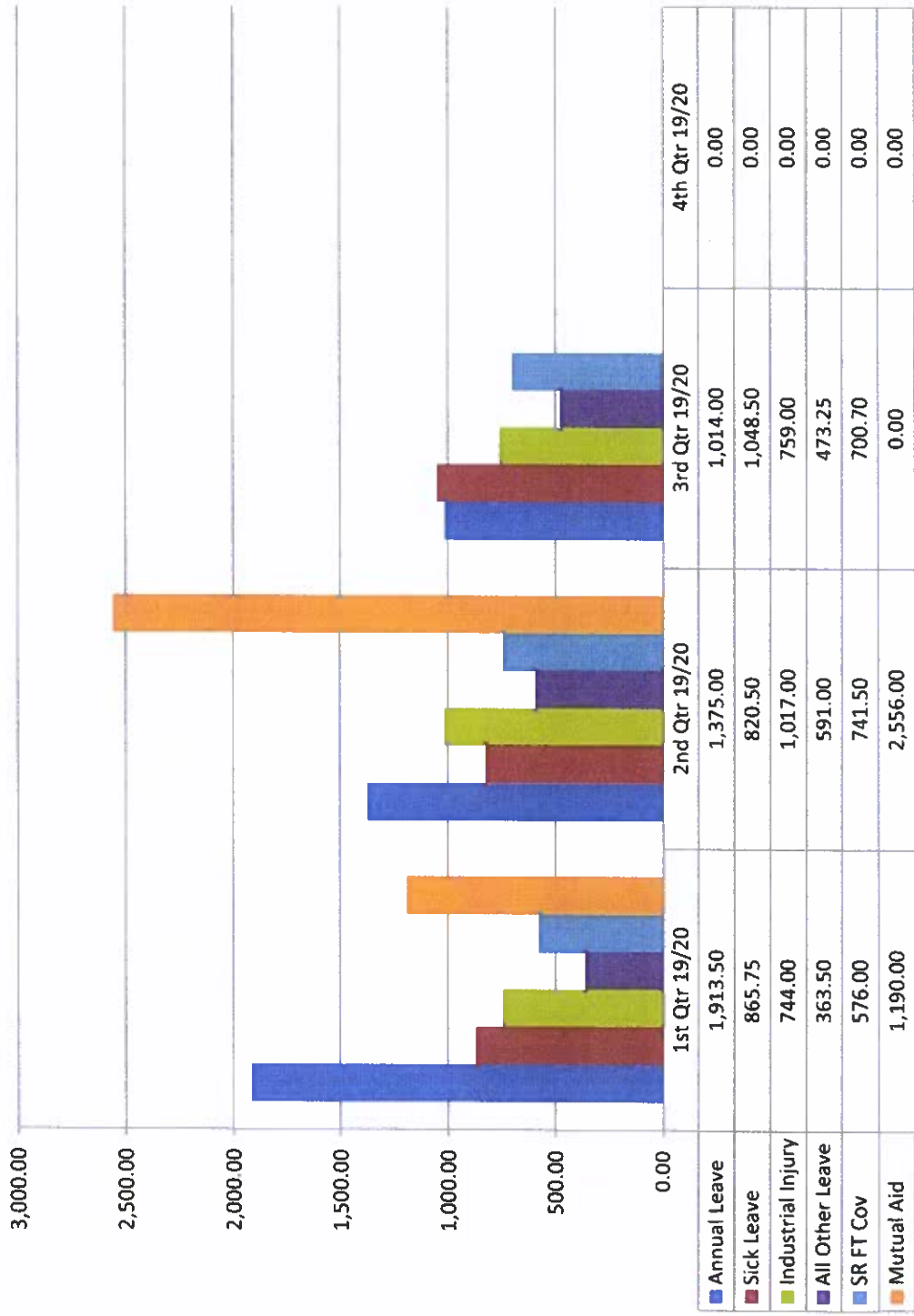
Information only, no action needed.



**NCFPD EMERGENCY SERVICES
TWO YEAR OVERTIME
COMPARISON BY MONTH**



**NCFPD EMERGENCY SERVICES
NUMBER OF HOURS BY TYPE
3rd QUARTER 19/20**





**NORTH COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT
OPERATIONS**

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Operations/EMS Division
DATE: Tuesday, April 28th, 2020
SUBJECT: Customer Satisfaction Survey Program, 2020 – 1st Quarter Results

CONSENT AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION:

Review the report as submitted. In looking at the overall percentage of satisfaction with our service, our customers continue to rate their level of satisfaction overwhelmingly in the “excellent” category.

BACKGROUND:

This report focuses on two areas, direct feedback based on surveys sent to patients transported by North County Fire and our Service/Sympathy card program. The distribution of the survey is based on the 2020 Payer Class percentages according to our ambulance billing company, Wittman Enterprises. This quarter's customer satisfaction results incorporate surveys received from Jan 1st, 2020 through Mar 31st, 2020. The following is a listing of the type and number of individual payer classes that are randomly mailed surveys on a monthly basis.

Private Commercial Insurance (includes Champus/Active Duty)	26
Medi Cal	10
Medicare (includes Senior HMO)	54
Cash	10
Total	100

DISCUSSION:

The survey results are reported on quarterly intervals to all safety employees. The sharing of this information with all employees provides a heightened awareness regarding our customer's experience in the field. If a system or human deficiency trend is noted, the management staff will coordinate any measures necessary to correct the problem.

Customer Satisfaction Survey Program

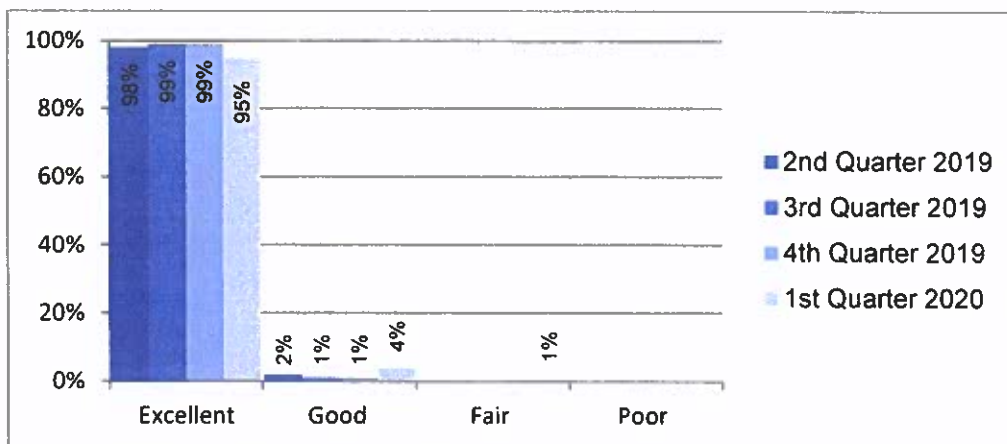
Tuesday, Jan 28, 2020

Page 2 of 3

The first section of the *Satisfaction Survey Form* evaluates the customer's overall satisfaction with our service by rating it from "Excellent" to "Poor." The second section of the form allows the customer to provide comments on their perception of the service they received. This quarter 300 surveys were mailed and 68 surveys were returned (23%).

Ninety five percent (95%), or 64, of the surveys returned indicated "excellent" customer satisfaction as indicated on the chart below:

2019-2020 Customer Satisfaction Results



The customer comment portion of the survey has proven to be most effective by allowing us to hear the customer's opinions or concerns firsthand, thus allowing us to mitigate any problems as quickly as possible. These comments are reported on *Attachment-A* of this report.

In order to maintain Continual Quality Improvement (CQI) for this program, the responses are reviewed for any unusual comments or areas of concern. When necessary, incident documents will be reviewed. If a poor rating or adverse report is noted, the Operations Chief reaches out to seek clarification and ultimately improve services. If indicated, this review may warrant further investigation or training to mitigate potential customer service issues.

SERVICE/SYMPATHY CARD PROGRAM:

The District continues to utilize a Service/Sympathy Card Program to promote excellence in our emergency delivery services. This particular program allows our firefighters to correspond with our customers by personally signing and mailing "Service Cards." This post-incident program has proven invaluable in maintaining a positive relationship with our community through personal contact between our firefighters and the customers they serve. The "Sympathy Cards" are utilized in the same way by corresponding concern with a deceased patient's family.

Customer Satisfaction Survey Program

Tuesday, Jan 28, 2020

Page 3 of 3

The following data identifies the total number of Service and Sympathy cards completed by each crew during this report's time frame:

	"A" CREW	"B" CREW	"C" CREW	TOTAL
1st Q 2020	90	101	84	275
4th Q 2019	211	121	98	430
3rd Q 2019	96	88	100	284
2nd Q 2019	70	124	104	298

The above numbers represent 32% of total cards sent by A Shift, 37% of total cards sent by B Shift and 31% of total cards sent by C Shift.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

The increased use of Service Cards has contributed to increased expenditures in both printing and postage. Annually, the Program costs approximately \$2,000.00 to operate. It is our belief that enhanced public relations and the benefits these cards represent is worth the expenditure.

SUMMARY:

The North County Fire Protection District takes seriously the demeanor and professional conduct of its employees while providing emergency services. Our Customer Survey Program provides a tool to measure and quantify this area and if necessary, implement and/or modify the emergency delivery system to ensure its ability to meet customer expectations. This program, which is now in its seventeenth year, consistently reflects a high degree of satisfaction with the services delivered by the employees of the North County Fire Protection District, beginning from the request for service up to and including final mitigation of the incident.



North County Fire Protection District
 Customer Satisfaction Survey
 First Quarter 2020
 January-March
 Attachment A



Intake Number	Date Received	Follow Up	Customer Comments
20-01-01	1/2/2020		The response to our call was excellent the 911 operator and the responders were thorough and patient. Our father is a stroke patient and has limited communication. They were slow and repeated the questions so that my father could understand. At the emergency room they did not abandon him until he was put in a room about 30-40 minutes later. The follow up "thank you" card put a smile on the entire family's faces. Thank you.
20-01-02	1/3/2020		Excellent.
20-01-03	1/6/2020		Everything went very smoothly, very happy with their expertise.
20-01-04	1/6/2020		Excellent.
20-01-05	1/6/2020		Excellent.
20-01-06	1/6/2020	✓	Please remove from mailing list.
20-01-07	1/7/2020		The entire team was terrific and took excellent care of our daughter. The team arrived in a timely manner and took immediate control of the situation. We are grateful for the team and how they helped our daughter.
20-01-08	1/16/2020		Excellent.
20-01-09	1/18/2020		Everything was performed thoroughly and professionally. Couldn't have asked for better service. Thank you for your excellent care again.
20-01-10	2/8/2020	✓	All were very professional and knowledgeable in what they were doing, very prompt also. Seemed like there were a few too many firemen for the job at hand.
20-01-11	2/10/2020		On several occasions you have been called upon to transport my mother to/from a hospital for urgent medical attention. On all occasions, your department has provided prompt and caring service. Thank you.
20-01-12	2/10/2020		Always excellent help. They are trustworthy and extremely kind and knowledgeable. We have had to call 911 many times in the last few years. We have always felt we were in safe hands. We love NCFPD and always speak highly of you. Friends of Fallbrook Facebook page is 100% supportive of you.
20-01-13	2/11/2020		The firemen were amazing! So patient and caring. Took the time to reassure me. Broke shoulder and arm and had a nerve injury.
20-01-14	3/5/2020		Very prompt rescue! Patient able to recover fast! Very knowledgeable team and experienced men!
20-01-15	3/5/2020		Very satisfied with the 911 operator, was very efficient and professional. The paramedics were very prompt, courteous and efficient.
20-01-16	3/5/2020		Excellent.
20-01-17	3/5/2020		Efficient and caring.
20-01-18	3/5/2020		Because of a serious ongoing disease, I have needed paramedics many times during the last ten years. The help we needed has always been the same: fast, efficient, caring and knowledgeable. Couldn't live without them! Literally!
20-01-19	3/5/2020		Excellent. As much of it as I can remember.
20-01-20	3/5/2020		Arrival of team was very fast, and all personnel were friendly, courteous and very professional. It is a great comfort to know that help, when you really need it, is just a phone call away. Thank you all!



North County Fire Protection District
Customer Satisfaction Survey
First Quarter 2020
January-March
Attachment A



Intake Number	Date Received	Follow Up	Customer Comments
20-01-21	3/5/2020		The crew responded to our needs efficiently and professionally. We were completely satisfied with the service provided.
20-01-22	3/6/2020		They were excellent. Thank you.
20-01-23	3/6/2020		Excellent.
20-01-24	3/6/2020		Excellent.
20-01-25	3/6/2020		Excellent.
20-01-26	3/6/2020		Excellent.
20-01-27	3/6/2020		I do not have any suggestions or comments. I am satisfied with the service that was provided to me at the moment. Thank you.
20-01-28	3/7/2020		I had a very excellent trip to the hospital. I knew the driver and the crew, and the staff at the emergency room, and most of the doctors and most of the nurses at the hospital itself. I was there years ago. Some of the staff also remembered me because of my famous golf hat. Also, the ambulance that took me to the hospital was my sons. I will thank them in person if I ever see them again. I hope not. Thanks again.
20-01-29	3/7/2020		Excellent.
20-01-30	3/7/2020		Nothing but professional. Made sure I was comfortable as it gets considering the circumstances. Even upon arrival, one EMT stood by my side until the nurses were able to care for me. Five stars.
20-01-31	3/9/2020		Great people you have. Thank you.
20-01-32	3/9/2020		Excellent.
20-01-33	3/9/2020	✓	Reduce your rates. Over \$1000 for 20 miles or so is NUTS!
20-01-34	3/9/2020		The firefighters arrived quickly and were professional and courteous. They assessed the situation with my husband's medical condition in a calm, friendly atmosphere. He was transported to Temecula Valley Hospital in a short period of time. I am very grateful they assisted with this situation. It is very comforting to know you can rely on these fine firefighters. Thank you.
20-01-35	3/9/2020		I got dehydrated and passed out. My wife called 911. The responding EMT team was fast, very professional and very nice. They hydrated me and transported me to the hospital. Excellent service. Thank you.
20-01-36	3/9/2020		Excellent.
20-01-37	3/9/2020		I was short of breath and scared. Your men were great – reassuring, kind, and very competent. Thank you so much.
20-01-38	3/9/2020		Excellent.
20-01-39	3/9/2020		The responders came quickly to help me and got me to the hospital. They were helpful courteous and all in all excellent at their jobs. Great guys. Thank you.
20-01-40	3/9/2020	✓	It was ok my only complaint is that when I got to the ambulance the guy in the back put the heart monitor on the wrong arm and only reason he changed it was because I had to tell him twice to switch.
20-01-41	3/9/2020		The firemen were very courteous and respectful. I have no complaints.



North County Fire Protection District
Customer Satisfaction Survey
First Quarter 2020
January-March
Attachment A



Intake Number	Date Received	Follow Up	Customer Comments
20-01-42	3/10/2020		They came, immediately assessed my situation and made the decision for appropriate treatment. They determined I needed emergency care. I have multiple medical problems which complicates a need for treatment! They were polite and efficient and made sure my house was secured when we left.
20-01-43	3/10/2020		Excellent.
20-01-44	3/11/2020		On this day the fire department took such great care of me and provided me with everything I needed to get me to the emergency room at Camp Pendleton. They were professional, kind, and made me feel at ease. They were such a comfort for me and easing my fears at that time. In the process, I know they also calmed my husband assured him I was going to be alright. I am so grateful they were close by because their timing meant everything to both me and my husband. Please thank them for me. I'm so glad they were there and able to assist my emergency.
20-01-45	3/11/2020		Excellent.
20-01-46	3/12/2020		They are very attentive, very caring, polite, respectful and their outgoing personalities are genuine. I felt comfortable and content in the care of all of them. Thank you so much for arriving promptly and all the true care that you provided
20-01-47	3/12/2020		Excellent.
20-01-48	3/13/2020		Everyone was friendly and understanding. Thank you!
20-01-49	3/13/2020		My experience with the fire protection district personnel for my daughter has been outstanding. We have been very lucky to have these people. Thank you.
20-01-50	3/14/2020		Excellent.
20-01-51	3/14/2020		Everyone was friendly and understanding. Thank you!
20-01-52	3/15/2020		While walking with our 7-month-old dog in the roughly non-developed section of our property, the dog ran into me, I fell and was unable to get up. My son called the fire department for help and they arrived in what seemed to be a matter of minutes. Because I was lying on rough terrain, it was not easy for them to check me over before moving me onto a stretcher. However, they managed to do it quickly and efficiently while still being thoughtfully aware of the pain I was experiencing from the fall. Once I was in the ambulance, one of the paramedics made sure I was comfortable and was experiencing as little pain as possible. This special attention continued until we reached the hospital and I was placed in the care of the hospital personnel. It turned out I had to have a hip replacement and considering that I just celebrated my 89 th birthday, I'm pleased to report that I'm doing very well! You ask if there are any suggestions for improvement-I can't imagine the paramedics doing anything more than they did. I am so grateful that the fire department provides this service and I have the highest regard for these fine men who we can count on to help us in the community when the need arises. Thank you.



North County Fire Protection District
Customer Satisfaction Survey
First Quarter 2020
January-March
Attachment A



Intake Number	Date Received	Follow Up	Customer Comments
20-01-53	3/15/2020		My apartment complex locked me in the hot tub gate from the outside with some sort of master key. The firefighters couldn't even use my keys! So, 3 men held a ladder and helped me climb over the gate in my bathing suit. I was so embarrassed, but they were so gracious to help. Thank you for coming to my rescue, gentlemen! I would've been stuck there all night!
20-01-54	3/15/2020		Excellent.
20-01-55	3/16/2020		Thank you for sending out the inquiry, I didn't know where to send my thanks. My husband, a seemingly healthy 89-year-old, suffered a stroke as we were putting away Christmas decorations. I saw what was happening and dropped him against our car and managed to call 911. In no time flat we were surrounded by pleasant professional men who took charge efficiently and in a kindly manner. My profound thanks for their help. One important thought, I was made aware it is far better to call for help than drive the patient to the ER yourself. They can identify the problem and notify the hospital, so its people are prepared for the incoming patient, as well as doing whatever is required while in route. I was so appreciative of the good work.
20-01-56	3/16/2020	✓	All was good. However, it was WAY TOO EXPENSIVE! Especially when are on a limited, fixed income.
20-01-57	3/19/2020		Excellent.
20-01-58	3/20/2020		Excellent.
20-01-59	3/23/2020		Our Fallbrook fire department is wonderful. A big thank you to all those who came to my grandfather's aid.
20-01-60	3/23/2020		I can't think of any improvements the fire department could make. They are all very professional and caring. Thank you for all you do.
20-01-61	3/25/2020		Great team, put me at ease, very thorough with my husband, the patient.
20-01-62	3/26/2020		I was taken in at the station where I was promptly attended to by well trained professionals. Thank you so very much. PS. It would've been nice if I was served coffee and donuts during the ride to the hospital.
20-01-63	3/27/2020		Excellent.
20-01-64	3/28/2020		The firemen were professional and kind. I had pneumonia but thought I was having a heart problem. They kept me calm.
20-01-65	3/28/2020		Thank you for being there!
20-01-66	3/30/2020		Well informed and trained.
20-01-67	3/30/2020		Excellent.
20-01-68	3/30/2020		I recently had prostate surgery. A blood clot blocked my ability to urinate. Retention in the bladder was causing extreme pain. I called 911 because I couldn't stand the pain any longer, they arrived in a very short time, checked my vitals and assessed the problem. An ambulance arrived quickly, which took me too Temecula Valley Hospital. I was in so much pain by that time that I was ready to pass out. The blood clot was cleared. I should have called 911 sooner. But the NCFPD was wonderful. Many thanks!

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NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: CHIEF ABBOTT AND DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF MAROVICH
DATE: APRIL 28, 2020
SUBJECT: PAYROLL AND AP SPECIALIST

ACTION AGENDA

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of the Payroll and AP Specialist job description and plan to fill this position in June/July.

BACKGROUND:

The District currently operates the Human Resources (HR)/Finance division with a Deputy Fire Chief who oversees two staff members. This division is responsible for all HR & Financial planning and operations. Each member of the team serves as a check and balance for verifying many different processes throughout all operations. Risk management and financial viability is of the utmost importance to the District and the division's processes insure the BOD's direction.

DISCUSSION:

The Deputy Fire Chief retires in October 2020 and the District has decided to do a reorganization at that time. The division will split between HR and Finance into two divisions as much as possible. With the workload of finance, it is imperative to have three individuals operating all the processes in place. The loss of the Deputy Chief will require one additional individual. Attached is a description of the job duties the new person would perform. This position would allow the department to continue to complete the finance division to the current standard.

FISCAL ANALYSIS:

After analysis on the current departments used for comparisons, the starting wages annually would be approximately \$48,000.

SUMMARY:

The HR & Finance division will go through a significant change by the retirement of current Deputy Fire Chief, which requires to create an additional position in the finance side. This allows the proposed reorganization of splitting the division while allowing the same high standards.



NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

ADMINISTRATION
RULES AND REGULATIONS
JOB DESCRIPTIONS

SECTION 225.29
APRIL 28, 2020
PAGE 1 OF 4

PAYROLL & AP SPECIALIST

1.0. **PURPOSE:**

- 1.1. To provide a general description of the duties and responsibilities, qualifications and physical requirements for the classification of Payroll & AP Specialist.

2.0. **POLICY:**

- 2.1. Members classified in the position of Payroll & AP Specialist are intended to meet the general personal and professional qualifications, perform the stated duties and responsibilities and other duties as assigned.

3.0. **INTENT:**

- 3.1. The intent of this Policy is to provide an overview of the general attributes and abilities necessary to perform the classification of Payroll & AP Specialist. It is also the intent of the Policy to provide an overview of the typical duties and responsibilities of the position. This Policy is not intended to delineate every facet of the classification. Other duties and responsibilities may be assigned as appropriate to fulfill the mission of the District.

4.0. **GENERAL ATTRIBUTES:**

- 4.1. This assignment is a full-time work classification. The Payroll & AP Specialist classification is considered a "Non-Exempt" employee as defined by FLSA and is overtime eligible. Specifics of compensation and benefits are described in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Non-Safety bargaining group and the District. The position is a Non-Safety position as defined by PERS.
- 4.2. Under the direction of the Finance Manager, performs payroll and AP functions according to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles; processes employee benefits; enters and validates data, processes technical and financial documents and transactions. Ensures the validation and accuracy of payroll & AP operations; assists in interpreting a variety of rules and regulations for payroll compliance; prepares W-2's and quarterly tax reports; assists with research to resolve pay related issues and/or discrepancies; interacts with management, supervisors and employees; sets up and maintains earning and deduction codes; and administers deferred compensation retirement plan contributions and all other available employee benefits.



NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

ADMINISTRATION
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SECTION 225.29
APRIL 28, 2020
PAGE 2 OF 4

PAYROLL & AP SPECIALIST

- 5.0. **TYPICAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** *The following duties are typical for this classification. Incumbents may not perform all of the listed duties and/or may be required to perform additional or different duties from those set forth below to address business needs and changing business practice.*
- 5.1. Processes payroll and related transactions in compliance with all applicable Federal, State and NCFPD rules and regulations; enter data into computer systems and maintains information system database; assesses and validates data, compiles documentation; generates technical payroll reports for government agencies; reviews and makes changes to employee information for taxes and benefit deductions, wage assignments, garnishments and other miscellaneous payments.
- 5.2. Generates various reports which compile hours worked, overtime, benefits and leave tracking; researches and analyzes data for special reports, surveys, union issues and budgeting process; traces transactions to locate and resolve discrepancies; prepares journal entries and updates database and control spreadsheets.
- 5.3. Responds to employee questions and assists employees with benefits enrollment, program updates and retirement planning; explains rules, policies and procedures; explains the proper use and completion of forms and documents; assures that all deductions for PERS, Federal tax, State tax, FICA, union dues and other deductions are made and submitted to appropriate agencies.
- 5.4. Updates and tracks a variety of electronic and paper files, records, reports and related documents; maintains file integrity and confidentiality by monitoring and assuring compliance to NCFPD policies and procedures; assures the accuracy of the electronic and paper filing systems.
- 5.5. Performs general ledger accounting and batch processing functions; reviews source documents for compliance to rules and regulations; determines proper handling of accounting transactions and processes transactions within designated limits; maintains accounting system database; posts revenues and expenses, reconciles and resolves differences, transfers and deposits funds as authorized, and assures the accuracy of the financial records.



NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

ADMINISTRATION
RULES AND REGULATIONS
JOB DESCRIPTIONS

SECTION 225.29
APRIL 28, 2020
PAGE 3 OF 4

PAYROLL & AP SPECIALIST

- 5.6. Prepares financial and technical statements, such as financial reports, statements of revenues and expenditures and special tax returns; assists with technical information tracking programs and reports as assigned. Assists with annual audit and prepares financial reports as necessary.
- 5.7. Perform accounting and clerical duties related to the efficient maintenance and processing of accounts payable transactions.
- 5.8. Conducts and coordinates assigned projects; identifies and resolves problems within scope of authority; assists Financial Manager with administrative issues as needed.
- 5.9. Provides information and assistance to employees; explains nature of programs, policies, procedures and services; responds to requests for information within the span of authority; maintains absolute confidentiality of work-related issues, records and NCFPD information.
- 6.0. **EXPERIENCE/KNOWLEDGE/ABILITIES:**
- 6.1. **KNOWLEDGE OF:** Payroll and accounting rules, regulations and procedures; accounting and bookkeeping principles and methods; principles of record keeping and records management; principles and practices of government fund accounting; business English usage, spelling, grammar and punctuation; personal computer hardware and software, including Microsoft Office; principles and practices of effective customer service.
- 6.2. **ABILITY TO:** Make mathematical calculations and enter numerical and accounting information into a computer system with skill and accuracy; maintain accurate and interrelated financial records; maintain and balance a variety of financial records, ledgers and accounts; manage multiple projects, duties and assignments; interpret and apply policies, procedures and regulations; conduct research and prepare accounting reports; understand and carry out written and oral instructions, keep accurate and detailed records; establish and maintain effective relationships with other employees.
- 6.3. **EXPERIENCE:** Two year's payroll and accounting experience, preferably in government operations, is required. HR experience deemed highly desirable.
- 6.4. **EDUCATION:** A high school diploma or GED equivalent, supplemented by an AA in applicable subject matter or a related field is required. BA in a related field deemed highly desirable.



NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

ADMINISTRATION
RULES AND REGULATIONS
JOB DESCRIPTIONS

SECTION 225.29
APRIL 28, 2020
PAGE 4 OF 4

PAYROLL & AP SPECIALIST

- 6.5. **LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS:** Must have and maintain a valid Class "C" California Driver's License. Must be insurable and maintain this status with the District's all-risk insurance carrier.
- 7.0. **PHYSICAL DEMANDS:**
- 7.1. Employee is required to meet applicable "Support Staff" physical requirements.
- 8.0. **ENVIRONMENTAL:**
- 8.1. Work is performed in a standard office environment. Work environment is both formal and informal, team and autonomously oriented, having both routine and variable tasks, with variable pace and moderate pressure at times. Some tasks may be fast paced.
- 9.0. **COMMUNICATIONS:**
- 9.1. **VISION:** (may be correctable) to drive a vehicle.
- 9.2. **HEARING:** of alarms and warning devices; to understand conversations.
- 9.3. **SPEAKING:** to give instructions, present classes; communicate with staff and representatives of other agencies.
- 9.4. **WRITING:** to complete records, reports, meeting notes and documentation.
- 9.5. **READING:** reports, records and computer screens.



**NORTH COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE CHIEF/CEO**

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: CHIEF ABBOTT
DATE: APRIL 28, 2020
SUBJECT: Strategic Direction Discussion

DISCUSSION AGENDA

BACKGROUND:

With the failure of Proposition A, earlier this year the District embarked upon a new Strategic Plan, and had presented to the Board during the February meeting findings from its SWOT analysis. Subsequently, with the COVID-19 pandemic, which is anticipated to continue through the balance of the year, it was determined that staff would lack sufficient time and resources to complete such a plan. For this reason, as part of our discussion on declaration of a local emergency, strategic planning efforts were suspended. It is recommended that for the next year we revert to our historical strategic direction planning process, which priorities key objectives for the forthcoming 1-2 year period. Below is a synopsis of those recommended priorities:

DISCUSSION:

1. **FINANCIAL PLANNING/RESTORATION OF RESERVE FUNDS:** As of this year's financial audit, the District has achieved approximately 70% of its target minimum funding level of 3 months cash reserves on hand. The District has now initiated a budgeted deposit to replenish these reserves and will augment with rollover funds. In order to minimize interest expenses, the District recently paid off one of the loans on construction of Station #5. To address future newly acquired pension UALs, the District will also be pursuing a Pension Obligation Bond and set up a Pension Stabilization Fund ("115 Trust"). With the failure of Prop A, like many other public safety funding measures throughout the State the Fire Districts Association of California is establishing a task force/working group to explore alternative sources of funding. The District has also engaged CSUSM graduate students to also explore alternative funding sources. It is recommended that we actively support these working groups.

2. **RESTORATION OF ADMINISTRATIVE CAPACITY/STATION STAFFING:** The District has largely restored administrative capacity and will make future modifications in the coming months to create additional savings in order to fund the 15th Firefighter position at Station 3, which is dependent upon continued forward progress of the Meadowood subdivision. At present we still appear to be on target for implementation at year's end. As this succession plan involves elimination of a Chief Officer position,

STRATEGIC DIRECTION DISCUSSION

APRIL 2020

PAGE 2 OF 3

creation of a professional development plan from B/C to D/C is recommended. This restructuring will also result in creation of a new Payroll & Accounts Payable position and reclassification of one HR/Finance Specialist to Finance Officer. An updated organizational chart has been included in this report for reference. Staff continues to develop a comprehensive succession plan to incrementally continue with transfer of institutional knowledge and job responsibilities.

3. **FACILITIES:** With the failure of Proposition A, the District will need to reevaluate its facility needs and develop an alternative plan. As the original facilities study (aka reserve study) was based upon replacement via conventional construction, this alternative plan will need to seriously explore alternative materials and methods, which could include use of modular facilities, extensive remodeling and/or changes in station location(s). It will also need to identify an alternative funding mechanism, which, while preliminary, will most likely necessitate increasing and/or adding service fees. As there is an immediate need to address the living conditions at Stations 3 and 4, it is recommended to task the Facilities Committee with exploring those options. Depending upon the extent of proposed work, this may likely necessitate retaining an architect and/or engineer and will require pursuing an RFP for construction of those facilities or portions thereof.

4. **INTEGRATION WITH NORTH ZONE AGENCIES:** Over the past year substantial progress has been achieved with zone integration, particularly in the areas of strategic planning and promotional testing. Integration was accelerated with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the coming year it is likely this will spur additional changes, primarily in the EMS arena. Some of these include recruitment and retention of single role EMS personnel, development of a BLS overlay and implementation of call triage and priority medical dispatch.

5. **VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM:** With over three years of experience operating this program, the program has been found to be unsustainable in its current configuration beyond expiration of the SAFER II grant. The original program goals of (1) recruiting and retaining local citizens and providing a career path toward entry into a full-time position with this organization, and (2) providing a 3rd fully trained position for the Rainbow station have provided limited results at best. This outcome is chiefly the result of rapid turnover within these ranks. During the COVID outbreak Volunteer shifts have been suspended. It is recommended that this program be terminated at the end of the SAFER II grant period.

6. **MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTH (“MIH” or COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE):** MIH has been a component of the Strategic Direction report since 2016. The District is on the cusp of implementing an arrangement with the Fallbrook Regional Health District to establish a non-medical transport program. Separately, response to the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated many MIH concepts at the County level on a trial basis. It is likely those measures deemed successful during the pandemic will require further modification to be incorporated on a permanent basis. As these measures help to

streamline operations and contain costs, it is recommended to continue support of the several staff members that are working locally and regionally to implement them.

7. DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PLAN: For many years the District has attempted to augment its disaster planning efforts, however the process has been sporadic and therefore incomplete. Experience has demonstrated that this community must rely primarily on the resources at its immediate disposal, and furthermore, that this agency must remain as self-reliant as possible as mutual aid is not always available. With the recent restructuring of administrative responsibilities, we now have a Battalion Chief whose responsibilities include disaster preparedness. What is needed immediately is a continuity of operations plan (COOP) and hazard-specific appendices for the major disasters we can reasonably expect to encounter here.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Discussion item; fiscal impact would depend upon specific action steps determined by the Board for each area of focus. Note that the fiscal impacts identified on the attachment in black font are currently funded; those in green would be funded with existing designated funds or new ongoing revenue, those in gold are likely achievable in the near future, and those in red have only a limited source of funds.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Does the Board concur with our immediate short-term strategic priorities and plan to address them?
2. Does the Board wish to pursue any additional initiatives now or in the immediate future?

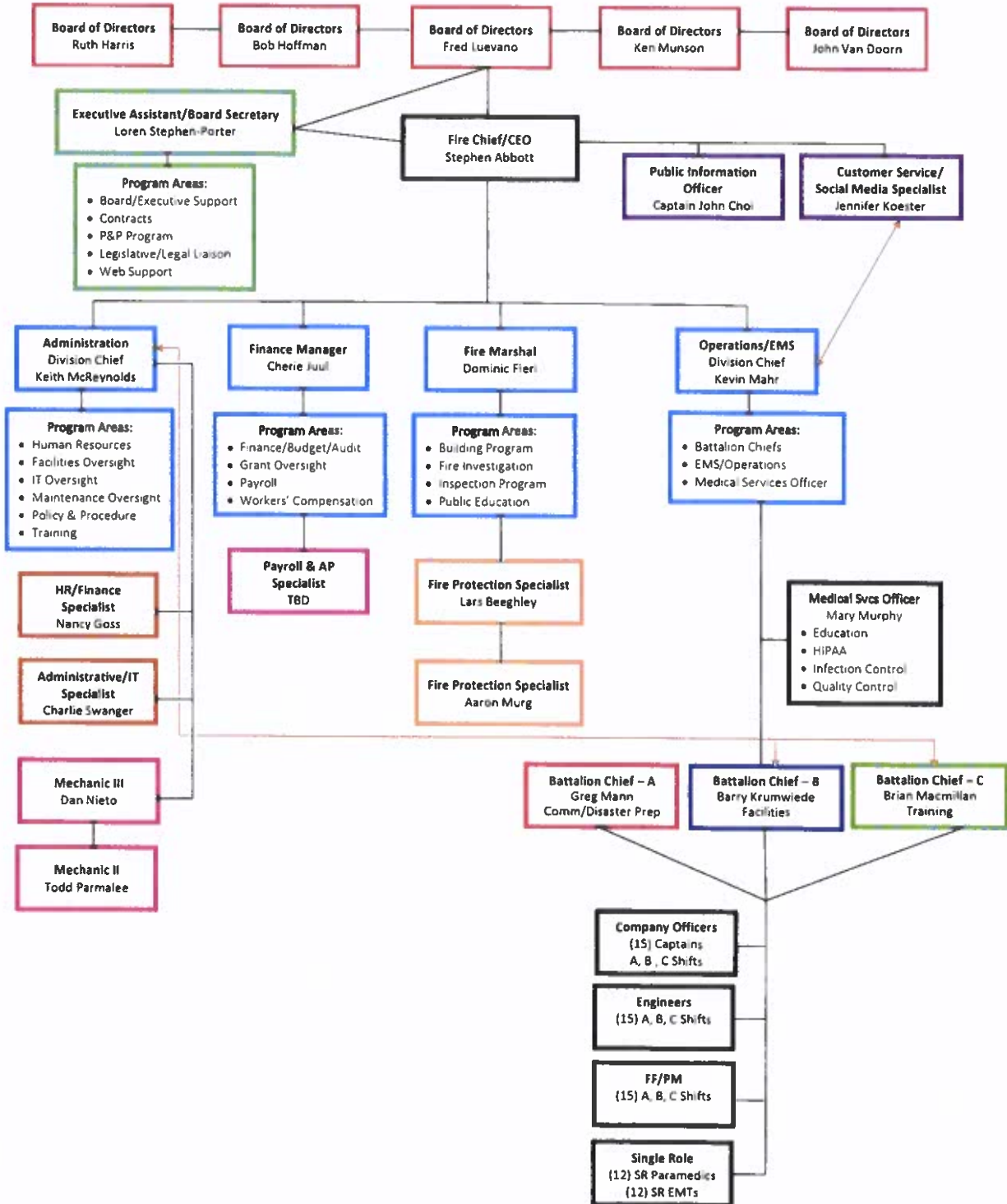
Strategic Priority #3: Maintain & update facilities in a manner that support District operations

Objective & Action Steps	Person Resp.	Target Impl. Date	Fiscal Impact	Resources needed	Resource cost	Source of Funds	Justification	Outcome if no action
Objective #1: Develop implementation plan for facility reserve study repairs	Krumwiede	Jun 20	0	Staff time	0	N/A	Minimize equip. failures, facility closures	Increased accumulated deferred maint.
Objective #2: Replace Station #3 living quarters	Krumwiede	Jun 21	500,000	Living quarters	500,000	Rainbow Reserve Funds	Facility exceeds life expectancy, does not meet op. needs	Impact to morale, red. efficacy of operations
Action Step 1: Identify site constraints pertaining to open space, setbacks, storm water runoff	Krumwiede	Jun 20	15,000-25,000	Site plan analysis-civil engineer	15,000-25,000	Fire Mitigation Fund	Open space, BMP, & as-built permit issues	Will slow down project completion, adding costs
Action Step 2: Develop building design; est. total cost of construction	Krumwiede	Jul 20	10,000-15,000	Building plans-architect	10,000-15,000	Fire Mitigation Fund	Requires custom design to meet op. needs	Generic floorplan that will not meet op. needs
Action Step 3: Develop bid specification/conduct competitive bid process	Marovich	Sep 20	5,000	Architect to develop spec.	5,000	FY 20/21 Budget	Requires competitive bid unless sole source determined	N/A-required to follow Calif. Govt. Code
Action Step 4: Award project, initiate construction	Marovich	Dec 20	0	Staff time	0	N/A	Meet Dec-2019 implementation deadline	Project delays
Develop financing plan for Station 4 construction	Abbott	Dec 20	3,000,000-6,000,000	Living quarters & app. bay	3,000,000-6,000,000	New Prev. & Amb. Fees	Facility exceeds life expectancy, does not meet op. needs	Impact to morale, red. efficacy of operations
Summary: Will need to commit all restricted facility funds to address short-term facility needs								



North County Fire Protection District Organization Chart

(Effective 12-01-2020)



Legend:

Direct Report: —————

Oversight or Secondary Report: <—>

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TELEPHONE
(760) 723-9018

April 1, 2020

**Board of Directors
North County Fire Protection District**

Re: General Counsel Board Report for April 1, 2020

California Governor Issues New COVID-19 Executive Order Impacting Local Government

In a continued effort to address the COVID-19 state of emergency, California Gov. Gavin Newsom issued Saturday a new Executive Order, N-35-20. For local government agencies, there are four sections of the Order that are particularly relevant:

1. Emergency Updates Do Not Violate the Brown Act.

The Order suspends the Brown Act to the extent that Government Code section 54952.2 would prevent a federal, state or local government official from providing updates on emergency response collectively to the entire city council or agency board. Members of the city council or agency board may ask questions of the official providing the briefing. However, the council or board members still cannot discuss or deliberate on any matters or take any action. Effectively, this enables a council or board to receive a single, efficient update from other officials, but the council or board members will have to be cautious to only ask clarifying questions and not discuss or make policy. It must only be a briefing. To the extent potential council or board actions are to be considered or even discussed, the city or other agency should still call an open and public Brown Act meeting.

2. Local Ordinances that Restrict Essential Deliveries are Suspended.

The Order suspends any local ordinances, including noise limitations, that restrict, delay or otherwise inhibit the delivery of food products, pharmaceuticals and other essentials. Many cities may have ordinances that prohibit delivery trucks from making deliveries or idling during certain hours, and it appears the Order is intended to suspend such restrictions to ensure that retail providers are timely stocked. The Order may be more broad than this, and cities and other agencies should review this provision carefully before enforcing any local ordinance that could restrict deliveries of essentials.

3. Time-Based Limitations Imposed on Working After Retirement are Suspended.

Section 3 of the Order confirms that retirees working under the working after retirement rules for local governments are also exempt from the time-based limitations referenced in Executive Order N-25-20 Section 7, issued March 12, if they are hired or retained in employment to ensure adequate staffing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is consistent with the position

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CalPERS took in Circular Letter 200-015-20, in response to Executive Order N-25-20: that CalPERS retirees working for CalPERS employers, otherwise referred to as retired annuitants, are exempt from the time-based limitations. Specifically, the following exceptions will apply to any retiree subject to the working after retirement rules (not just CalPERS retirees) if the retiree is employed to ensure adequate staffing to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Hours worked between March 4, 2020 and the date the state of emergency is lifted will not count toward the 960-hour per fiscal year limitation,
- The 180-day waiting period will be suspended and
- The 60-day waiting period under the bona fide separation rules will also be suspended.

The California Department of Human Resources must be notified of any individual employed under these exemptions. Notification should be sent to CAStateofEmergency@calhr.ca.gov.

4. The Time for Presenting a Government Claim is Extended 60 Days.

In general, claimants against local public agencies must properly submit a Government Claim within either 6 months or 1 year, depending on the nature of the claim. This Order adds 60 days to the claim submission deadline. Though the time for the State to respond to claims was extended for 60 days as well, Newsom did not make a similar extension for local government agencies. Cities and districts will, as of now, still have to respond to claims within the standard 45-day period.

This is not an exclusive summary of Executive Order N-35-20, which addresses other topics as well. In particular, it also contains provisions that impact school districts and agencies delivering health care.

ROBERT H. JAMES
Attorney at Law



Robert H. James, General Counsel for the
North County Fire Protection District

RHJ/km
cc: Chief Steve Abbott

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ROBERT H. JAMES
Attorney at Law



Robert H. James, General Counsel for the
North County Fire Protection District

RHJ/km
cc: Chief Steve Abbott



**NORTH COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE CHIEF/CEO**

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO
DATE: APRIL 28, 2020
SUBJECT: WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

- **WRITTEN COMMUNICATION:**
 - None.
- **BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM:** See No. 6

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Camp Pendleton Preparing For Wildfires, Week 1: Evacuation Plans And Emergency Preparedness Kits

[community corner](#)

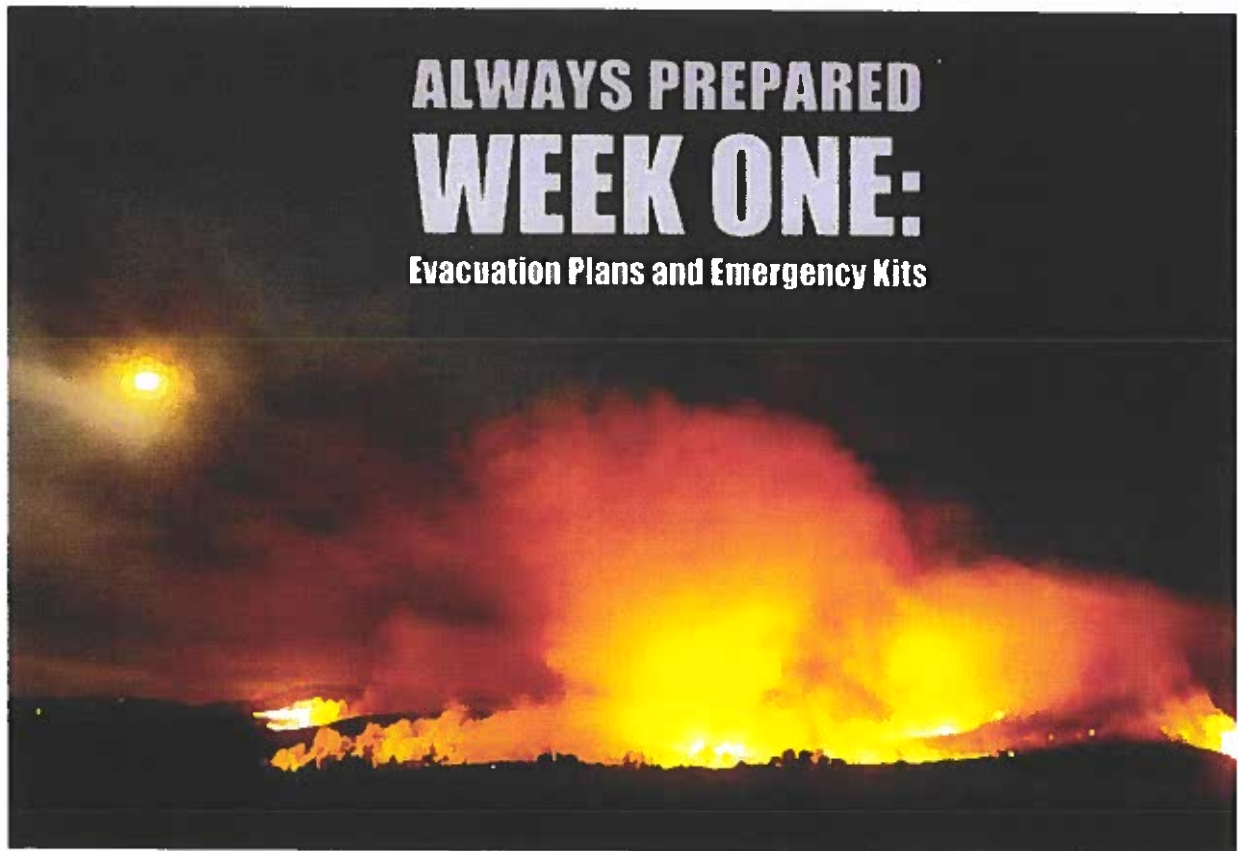
Week One of our Always Prepared series focuses on Evacuation Plans, Evacuation Centers and Emergency Preparedness Kits.

By [Press Release Desk, News Partner](#)

Apr 22, 2020 10:01 pm PT

[Press release from the U.S. Marine Corps:](#)

April 21, 2020



Always Prepared: Week One

Fire season is fast approaching and while training areas are at the highest risk for fires, areas of the base with overgrown vegetation are also at risk during dry spells of weather.

Every year, Camp Pendleton firefighters extinguish nearly 300 wildfires on base. Last year, more than 24,062 acres of land burned which is twice more than the acreage burned in 2013.

In our Always Prepared series, we give information on wildfires that occur on base and what you can do to mitigate the damage caused by them.

Week One of our Always Prepared series focuses on Evacuation Plans, Evacuation Centers and Emergency Preparedness Kits.

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. --

Fire season is fast approaching and while training areas are at the highest risk for fires, areas of the base with overgrown vegetation are also at risk during dry spells of weather.

Every year, Camp Pendleton firefighters extinguished approximately 101 wildfires on base. Last year, more than 6,743 acres of land burned in 2019.

In our Always Prepared series, we give information on wildfires that occur on base and what you can do to mitigate the damage caused by them.

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Evacuation Plans and Evacuation Centers

"Emergency Services will work with the Emergency Operations Center to coordinate the details of an evacuation plan during the case of the wildfire," said Chief Robert Johnson, Deputy Chief for Fire Prevention at Camp Pendleton's Security & Emergency Services Section.

For the May 2014 Fire that started at the Naval Weapons Center near Fallbrook, residents of the De Luz and O'Neill Housing Areas were evacuated to the Paige Fieldhouse. Information was disseminated by the Emergency Operation Center, and Provost Marshal's Office military police were utilized to let people know they needed to be evacuated. The EOC also utilized the "Giant Voice", a system of speakers on base to inform residents of the evacuation plan.

In case of an emergency, Johnson urges families to bring the essentials: medication, food and water, blankets. Some of this stuff may be provided at the evacuation center. The EOC will coordinate an evacuation plan for students on and off-base depending on the situation. Normally, PMO will provide sentry and direction to incoming personnel to make sure roads are not crowded and that emergency vehicles can go to and from housing areas. He also advises evacuees to call the evacuation center to ensure that small pets are allowed.

Fire Preparedness Kit

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection has outlined how to put together a Fire Preparedness kit on their website at <http://www.readyforwildfire.or...> They recommend that the emergency supply kit is put together long before a wildfire occurs and to keep it accessible so that it can be easily retrieved in case of an evacuation.

They recommend using backpacks for storing these items (except food and water) as they are quick to grab. Storing food and water in a tub or chest on wheels will make it easier to transport. Keep the packs light enough to be able to lift it into your car.

Emergency Supply Kit Checklist:

- Three-day supply of non-perishable food and three gallons of water per person.
- Map marked with at least two evacuation routes
- Prescriptions or special medications
- Change of clothing
- Extra eyeglasses or contact lenses
- An extra set of car keys, credit cards, cash or traveler's checks
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Battery-powered radio and extra batteries
- Sanitation supplies
- Copies of important documents (birth certificates, passports, etc.)
- Don't forget pet food and water!
- Always keep a sturdy pair of shoes and a flashlight near your bed and handy in case of a sudden evacuation at night

In addition to building an emergency supply kit, they urge evacuees to develop a Family Communication Plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case of separation. It is easier to call or message one person and let them contact others than to try and call everyone when phone, cell, and internet systems can be overloaded or limited during a disaster. Johnson also advises residents to sign up for the Emergency Notification System to get updates on your mobile phone and/or e-mail at: http://entry.inspironlogistics.com/camp_pendleton/wens.cfm.

"The best plans are the ones well-prepared long in advance," said Johnson. "Know what to do, where to go, what you need to take with you when you leave

and making sure that when you do leave your residence due to an evacuation, you can make contact with your family members. Let them know what your conditions are and where you're located."

This press release was produced by [the U.S. Marine Corps](#). The views expressed here are the author's own.

[Next on Patch](#)

Coronavirus: LA County opens COVID-19 testing for first responders

KABC By John Gregory

LOS ANGELES (KABC) -- Frontline workers in Los Angeles County can now get tested for COVID-19 regardless of symptoms.

Those eligible for testing are defined as workers who come in contact with the public, including first responders, health care professionals, grocery stores workers or critical government personnel.

The Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles Fire Department have been plagued with cases. Officials say 71 LAPD employees and 20 LAFD members have contracted the virus.

RELATED: [Hundreds of thousands of LA County residents may have been infected with coronavirus, study finds](#)

LAPD Chief Michael Moore said the testing will give frontline workers a peace of mind.

"We lost, just two weeks ago, a young wife of one of our detectives who he was asymptomatic positive with COVID, wasn't aware of it and his wife came down with the virus and unfortunately tragic loss of her life as she was unable to recover from it," Moore said during a press conference.

Testing will be made available at sites across the county beginning Thursday.

RELATED: [Coronavirus test: How to get tested for COVID-19 in Southern California](#)

L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti said workers should contact their employers about how to get the priority testing. People can sign up for the testing online at coronavirus.lacity.org/testing, and the tests can be done at any of the more than 30 centers in operation across L.A. County.

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No immediate need to remove yard wood if far enough away from structures

Village News

The closure of beaches means that homeowners cannot currently have bonfires to get rid of the wood in their yards from trimmed trees or branches blown off, but Dominic Fieri, fire marshal of North County Fire Protection District, said he doesn't see such wood as a fire hazard during the spring if it is far enough away from structures.

"At this particular time, it isn't a concern," Fieri said.

During hotter and drier conditions, the wood would become a fire hazard, but if bonfires are delayed until late spring that won't likely be the case.

"It needs to cure anyway before it can burn," Fieri said.

A safe distance from the house will further minimize the risk to structures.

"The first thing we're doing is separating it from the house," Fieri said. "We like to keep it 30 feet from the house."

That separation includes a house on an adjacent lot. Wood stored too close to another property but more than 30 feet away from a structure can cause complaints from neighbors although that is usually due to vermin rather than to the fire hazard.

"It's usually more the complaints with rodents," Fieri said. "It's not a fire thing."

The fire department activity during a wildfire includes "prep and go" in which protective gel is placed on a home while patio furniture or other nearby flammable items are removed. A small amount of wood can be moved, but a large amount of wood too close to the structure would take too much time at the expense of other properties, so the fire department will not protect a structure in that situation.

Wood far enough away from the house thus reduces the need of fire suppression personnel to remove that combustible item.

"It eliminates the man-hours when time is so precious during those vegetation fires," Fieri said.

Fieri added that a small amount of wood used for near-term burning in a fireplace may be acceptable.

"We're more concerned with typically anything over that two cords of wood

storage,” Fieri said.

The fire code limits firewood to two cords with the pile dimensions no more than 4 feet in height, 4 feet in width and 16 feet in length.

“It’s quite a lot of wood at that point,” Fieri said.

Those are the fire department’s standards.

“The insurance companies can be really strict about it,” Fieri said.

A controlled burn permit may also be obtained to burn wood on one’s property although wind or air pollution issues may prevent burning on a particular day.

“If it’s anything over a ton then they need to go through Cal Fire,” Fieri said.

Storage varies by property.

“Every property is unique,” Fieri said.

If the fire department feels that an abatement notice is warranted the process will begin with a warning. A property owner who receives such a notice can contact the fire department for storage suggestions. A property owner who has not received an abatement notice may also seek guidance from the fire department.

“We’ll just advise them for that particular lot that they’re on the best location to store it,” Fieri said.

Yard vegetation also includes grass.

“Right now, the moisture is really high, so we’re not necessarily worried about that grass at this moment,” Fieri said.

The North County Fire Protection District had planned to send out weed abatement notices before the March rains.

“February was really dry, and January was really dry,” Fieri said.

Those who use Republic Services for waste disposal were provided with a message which included the sentence: “Until further notice, Republic Services will be suspending bulk item pickup and yard waste services in accordance with the state mandate that only essential services be provided during this time.”

EDCO Disposal, which bought out Fallbrook Refuse Service, has not announced such a stoppage.

“It’s business as usual for them,” Fieri said. “In Fallbrook, they’re still picking up green waste.”

Even if disposal companies cease to take green waste, cut grass is not currently a fire hazard.

“As you mow it, you can leave it on the ground,” Fieri said. “We actually encourage that they mow often.”

Fieri doesn't recommend mowing once the grass has dried.

“That can create its own fire hazard,” he said, explaining that if a moving blade hits a rock that rock can be an ignition source.

Although grass on slopes should also be cut, Fieri recommends keeping approximately 6 inches of grass on slopes so that the slope shape can be retained.

“It's a fine balance,” he said.

Joe Naiman can be reached by email at jnaiman@reedermedia.com.

Crash near Fallbrook closes lane of I-15; no injuries reported

Village News

FALLBROOK - A three-vehicle crash on Interstate 15 near Fallbrook closed one lane of the freeway Friday afternoon, but left no one with serious injuries, an official said.

The crash was reported just before 2 p.m. on southbound I-15 just before Mission Road, according to information from the California Highway Patrol.

One vehicle is reported to have rolled over, the North County Fire Department reported on Twitter.

North County Fire Capt. John Choi said none of the occupants of any of the vehicles required medical attention.

The No. 4 lane of southbound I-15 was closed as of 2:30 p.m.

Will Fritz can be reached by email at wfritz@reedermedia.com.

Fire Chief shares concerns

Village News

Like most people, the North County Fire Protection District are concerned about what challenges await us during this COVID-19 pandemic and at the same time cautiously optimistic.

While the district was among the first within the regional fire service community to be directly impacted, we are also among the furthest along in adjusting our operations accordingly.

Many of our staff are heavily engaged at the regional level to provide guidance to others on how to best address these challenges, from alterations in our dispatch, response and treatment guidelines.

You may notice our personnel will be dressed differently and handling calls differently; this adjustment is to ensure everyone's safety. Because this situation is so dynamic and largely unprecedented, we continue to develop plans for a variety of contingencies, which may warrant future changes.

What we do know is that the "stay at home" and "social distancing" orders have been shown to be effective in curtailing the spread of disease. We need look no further than the "tale of two cities" during the Spanish Flu pandemic a century ago, with two major metropolitan cities – Philadelphia and St. Louis – responding very differently to the same pandemic.

Philadelphia largely delayed such public health orders, whereas St. Louis aggressively instituted them. Not surprisingly, St. Louis experienced a far more favorable outcome.

We implore our community to be like St. Louis, so that we too can "flatten the curve." The collective hope is that the sooner we can slow the spread, the sooner we can return to life as normal.

In the interim, I would challenge us to think of ways that we can continue to adapt our daily lives so that we can continue to support our community, local businesses and nonprofits.

It means persistence and patience on all our parts. As North County Fire has long been an advocate of emergency preparedness, we might suggest that you use this time to better prepare yourselves not only for this crisis, but the coming fire season that is only months away.

Chances are, many of us have dusted off our emergency storage and disaster supplies; if not, now would be a good time to do so, as this pandemic can be expected to occur in waves that could extend into the new year.

We encourage you to visit <https://www.ReadySanDiego.org> for more information on how to develop a comprehensive emergency plan, and follow through. To put it in perspective, our personnel must keep our families fully prepared at all times, as we can often be gone for weeks at a time during fire season.

Literature from the World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention both indicate that for many, COVID symptoms are mild. However, for those with chronic health ailments, the illness may be more serious.

Please know that if you have mild symptoms, you will be encouraged to stay home and treat yourself with cough suppressants and expectorants, fever reducing medications, rest and fluids.

We are being advised that hospitals will only test patients for COVID that have symptoms significant enough to warrant hospitalization, such as shortness of breath, high fever, etc.

Countywide, emergency response agencies have actually seen a 10% reduction in call volume because of the coronavirus. If your symptoms are mild, we highly encourage you to seek care with your primary care provider, or if you do not have one, a local urgent care or clinic.

Naturally, if you or a family member are experiencing more significant symptoms, call 911.

Stock market swing should raise alarms about California's pensions woes

After congressional leaders agreed to a \$2 trillion stimulus package, the Dow Jones Industrial Average held its biggest three-day rally since the Great Depression. Stocks soared more than 1,300 points, but still are trading way below their peak.

Meanwhile, record unemployment claims — along with continuing uncertainty over the coronavirus-related slowdown — could dampen any newfound exuberance.

Despite the encouraging rebound, the stock market's recent tumble should provide a sense of foreboding for California state and local officials, who are dependent on a booming national economy to keep their budgets and the various pension systems humming.

Following the initial stock freefall, the California Public Employees' Retirement System's fund balance had plummeted \$69 billion from its recent high of \$404 billion. Those numbers have rebounded a bit, but funding levels at CalPERS and at the California State Teachers' Retirement System (CalSTRS) were low even before the tumult.

There are deeper problems, too. As the Reason Foundation's Marc Joffe noted, the declines "may understate the financial damage suffered by CalPERS this year because it does not include impacts on private equity, real estate, infrastructure" and other large investments by these pension-fund portfolios. The economy could get much worse before the markets stabilize given the expected length of these stay-at-home orders.

Expect California officials to complain about the unexpected nature of this financial storm. Indeed, no one could have predicted a worldwide pandemic would grind economic activity to a virtual standstill. That doesn't leave the funds, or lawmakers, entirely off the hook. No one can ever predict the precise cause of a recession, but prudent people realize that downturns always are a likelihood — and make preparations for that eventuality.

The state has failed to make sufficient plans. Actually, that's not harsh enough. California's political leaders have simply refused to trim back pension costs and reform those systems even though they have had more than a decade to prepare. That's when the last recession obliterated pension earnings. It led to years of falling funding levels, soaring pension payments for cities and school districts and severe cutbacks in public services.

Local governments and school districts have enjoyed record-setting sales- and property-tax revenues, yet continue to cry poormouth. During the March primary, California voters faced 231 local tax and bond measures. They'll see more in the general election, including a statewide proposition that would remove Proposition 13's tax protections from commercial properties and boost taxes by as much as \$12 billion. Soaring pension costs are driving these tax pleas.

We've mentioned it before, but it bears repeating.

During the boom in 1999, California legislators passed a retroactive pension increase that ultimately was adopted by cities and counties across the state, with the promise that stock-market gains would fund the new commitments. Then recession hit and the state still is digging out from that mess.

Unfortunately, lawmakers continued with business as usual, acting as if flush economic

times would go on forever. They refused to seriously reform the pension system by, say, changing a rule that forbids reductions of future benefits. Even if the market rebounds to its recent heights, its volatility should remind lawmakers of the dangers of doing nothing.

They've been warned before and are warned again. The question is whether they will learn the right lessons this time.

Borenstein: CalPERS unprepared for the coronavirus recession

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State residents could face higher taxes or reduced government services because more than \$41 billion of investment losses this year have left the California Public Employees' Retirement System at nearly the same precarious funding level reached during the Great Recession.

During the last economic downturn, assets of the nation's largest pension system dropped over two years from 101% of what was needed to pay government workers' retirement benefits to 61%.

This year, CalPERS was in much worse shape going into the recent downturn. Consequently, after just one month of coronavirus-induced stock market plunge, CalPERS must try to crawl out of another deep hole.

If the market doesn't radically rebound by June 30, look for the pension system to turn to already-strapped local governments and their taxpayers to cover the shortfall over the next 20 years. Once again, we're passing current pension costs onto a future generation.

Before the latest downturn, many local government agencies were already facing roughly a doubling of annual pension contributions over an eight-year period from 2018 to 2026, in large part to make up for past investment losses. Now it could be much worse.

The sudden economic downturn also places CalPERS uncomfortably close to the point of a financial death spiral, in which it lacks enough assets to invest. And it exposes the failure of the pension system's board members during the past decade to fix structural problems.

California government workers are promised overly generous pensions. And public pension systems like CalPERS fail to require adequate funding, instead trying to buffer local governments from the true cost by relying on unrealistic forecasts of investment returns.

When those forecasts don't pan out, local governments and the state must make up the difference. In the Bay Area, CalPERS provides pensions for employees of Santa Clara County and most cities except San Jose and San Francisco.

CalPERS actuaries bake in a rosy assumption that the system can earn 7% annual investment returns. For the current fiscal year, they've instead lost about 5%, as of Thursday. In other words, they're 12 percentage points off their optimistic annual target.

CalPERS treats such a shortfall as long-term debt rather than recouping it quickly. Which helps explain why, even though the Great Recession ended more than a decade earlier, CalPERS had only 73% of the funds it should have had at the end of 2019, leaving it poorly positioned for the financial wallop it's now experiencing.

As of the end of the day Thursday, even after four days of recovery that included a record single-day gain, CalPERS was only about 63% funded. That presents two major concerns.

First, if the funding level falls below 50%, the pension system would have little chance of recovering. That's because a system that depends on investment returns for survival needs money to invest. And it must simultaneously pay out \$24 billion a year in benefits to retirees.

Hence, the dreaded death spiral that CalPERS and other pension system administrators fear. The only thing that saved CalPERS from devastation during the Great Recession was entering the downturn fully funded, at 101% of needed assets. Otherwise, it would have never survived the ensuing 40-point drop.

That same drop would wipe out CalPERS today.

Second, CalPERS officials have no good options for shoring up the fund. They should tamp down the overly optimistic investment predictions, but that would mean asking already-strapped local governments to put even more money into the system.

State lawmakers could also stop digging the hole deeper by reducing the cost of benefits. Unfortunately, the state Supreme Court, with its so-called California Rule, has made that nearly impossible. Unlike in the private sector, once California public employees start work, the rate and the terms under which they accrue pension benefits cannot be reduced.

Specifically, benefits workers have already earned cannot be reduced, which is only fair. But the rate at which workers earn benefits for future labor is also locked in, which is ridiculous. The Supreme Court is currently reviewing the California Rule. Let's hope they restore some sanity.

Meanwhile, without a strong recovery by June 30, CalPERS will have to recover the fiscal year's losses. GovInvest, an actuarial forecasting firm, estimates that would require increasing local government pension contributions by 2026 by about an additional 25% — on top of the current doubling.

Once again, we see that California's public employee pension system is unsustainable. Maybe someday, before it's too late, we'll fix it.

Stay up to date on the latest Coronavirus coverage in your area.

Sign up for the Coronavirus Update newsletter



Rancho Monserate residents need another exit

Village News

Rancho Monserate Country Club is located off Old Hwy 395 and Dulin Road. This mobile home park is for individuals aged 55 and over and has approximately 232 residences.

It was part of the 2017 Lilac Fire, where 157 homes were destroyed at a cost of \$8.9 million and 47 horses were killed due to no escape route.

Fast forward: Ocean Breeze community plans to build 396 single family residences and 18 estate horse ranches to go along with 200 existing Bonsall single family residences and the 232 Monserate Mobile Home Park residences and now a park is being designed at the end of the mobile home park.

Dulin Road is the only entrance and exit for Rancho Monserate Country Club homeowners and will also be used in case of an emergency evacuation from the Ocean Breeze community if a wildfire comes from the west.

I have reviewed the "Conceptual Wildland Fire Evacuation Plan for Ocean Breeze Community dated Nov. 1, 2019, prepared for the North County Fire Protection District. Below are some bullet points in the fire evacuation plan that give me concern:

"These evacuation routes would be available to Ocean Breeze, residents of the Monserate Mobile Home Park and other area residents including individuals using the park during a wildfire evacuation. Short notice events, where a fire ignites close to the area may affect evacuation route availability. Each potentially available evacuation route includes varying degrees of potential exposure to wildland fire and, therefore, varying likelihood that it may or may not be available in a short notice evacuation."

"History indicates that most human fatalities from wildfires are due to late evacuations when evacuees are overtaken on roads; it is prudent to consider a contingency option.

"Even with roadways that are designed to code requirements, it may not be possible, or necessary, to move large numbers of persons at the same time.

"The 4.1 Evacuation of Special Populations Vogt of 1990 and 1991 defines special populations as those groups of people who, because of their special situations or needs, require different planning strategies from those of the general population. Special needs populations include those in institutions or special facilities, those with disabilities in homes, those who need care." Rancho Monserate residents are seniors who would hold up traffic in trying to evacuate, due to their age, disabilities and special needs – like the Paradise fire killing 85 people.

In my opinion, there needs to be another entrance and exit other than Dulin Road.

We have requested many times for a road to be established, and Dulin Road would be a secondary entrance and exit. I have attended many public meetings and found the officials are not willing to entertain a new road; due to cost, state or country property and environmental issues.

How much is a life worth? Put a road in that will save lives.

Cheryle Clinite

Latest Coronavirus Impacts and More: Positive Case ID'd at Assisted Living Facility

What to Know

- County health officials said they are investigating COVID-19 exposure at two assisted living facilities where positive cases have been reported
- All city parks, beaches, bays, lakes, trails and boardwalks will be closed in the city of San Diego, Mayor Faulconer announced Monday. Other cities around the county issued similar orders.
- There have been 242 total positive cases of the coronavirus as of Tuesday, including several military service members based in San Diego.

Text "COSD COVID19" to 468311 to receive updates and alerts from the county.

[Click here](#) to find different ways to help your community during the pandemic.

COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus that first appeared in Wuhan, China in 2019, has spread across the globe, officially being declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11.

San Diego County began to feel the effects of the disease's spread in mid-February when a local military base was chosen to house people in need of quarantine to prevent its spread.

Here's what has happened so far in San Diego County and what has been affected by the coronavirus pandemic:

Public Health Order

County leaders have been updating [legally enforceable mandates](#) and recommendations for day-to-day activities and business operations that will remain in effect until at least March 31.

- Public or private schools are not allowed to hold activities
- Gatherings of 10 or more people are prohibited, and non-essential gatherings of any size are strongly discouraged
- Bars and adult entertainment establishments that serve alcohol and don't serve food are ordered to close.
- On-site dining at restaurants is not allowed, but pick-up, delivery and drive-through services are allowed.
- Anyone coming into San Diego County on flights connected to or originating from countries under the Level 3 Travel Advisory shall be subject to a 14-day home quarantine.
- [Click here](#) for complete details of the latest Public Health Order.

San Diego County would like to remind everyone if you or someone you care about is experiencing a suicidal or mental health crisis, please call the Access and Crisis Line at (888) 724-7240.

Patients in the County

San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) officials confirmed there have been 297 total [positive COVID-19 cases](#) since Feb. 14. The county cautioned that the number of people actually infected with the disease is [likely much higher](#) because not everyone needs to be tested, including positive patients' close contacts who are presumed to have the disease. Eric McDonald, Medical Director with the County Epidemiology Immunization Branch, estimated the actual number of people with COVID-19 is around ten times the reported total.

Other Data: *Is San Diego County "flattening the curve?"; COVID-19 case totals by [city of residence](#); Statistics regarding [hospitalized patients](#).*

The county's total includes several San Diego-based military service members who have tested positive.

It has not been confirmed whether all the following cases reported directly to NBC 7 have been included in the county's case count.

March 25: The county updated its COVID-19 case numbers, confirming 297 total cases.

County health officials launched COVID-19 exposure investigations at the Stellar Care assisted living facility in the College Area and at La Vida Real retirement community in Rancho San Diego after positive cases involving residents or staff were reported there.

Another "cluster" of patients was identified at the Mission Valley VA office, how many are in the cluster was not specified.

A person connected to Coronado Middle School has also tested positive, the county said.

March 24: The county updated its COVID-19 case numbers, confirming 242 total cases. The update included a second COVID-19 death -- a 76-year-old man with significant health issues, Dr. Wooten said.

The county also reported its first positive infant cases: a 6-week-old boy and a 4-month-old girl. Both are currently isolated in their homes, Dr. Wooten told NBC 7.

U.S. Navy Special Warfare said two San Diego-based sailors who tested positive for COVID-19 are the unit's first cases in the southwest region. This story first reported the sailors were SEALs, but Navy Special Warfare did not confirm this.

Three U.S. Navy sailors assigned to San Diego-based USS Theodore Roosevelt [tested positive for COVID-19](#), the Navy said. The ship [deployed in January](#) and its most recent port call was in Vietnam about 15 days ago.

"These are our first three cases of COVID-19 on a ship that is deployed," Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly said.

Naval Base Coronado confirmed a civilian employee working at the Naval Air Station North Island Child Development Center tested positive for COVID-19 on March 22. The base said the person is "at home taking proper precautions."

March 23: The county updated its COVID-19 case numbers, confirming 230 total cases in the county. Moving forward, the county will stop separately listing cases that originated from federal quarantine.

A UC San Diego on-campus student [has tested positive for COVID-19](#), the university said, adding, "The student resident has self-isolated and remains isolated while receiving care."

A firefighter with the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department has [tested positive for](#)

[COVID-19](#). SDFD Chief Colin Stowell said 29 firefighters and three lifeguards are under quarantine and isolation, awaiting tests for themselves or from patients they have been exposed to.

Four individuals with the San Diego Police Department are showing symptoms after being exposed to COVID-19, Chief David Nisleit said. Of those four, two officers are awaiting test results and two department members have not yet been tested, Lt. Shawn Takeuchi told NBC 7. Eleven additional individuals that may have been exposed are under self-quarantine, Takeuchi said.

March 22: The county updated its COVID-19 case numbers, confirming 194 total cases in the county plus 11 federal quarantine cases. One San Diego County resident [has died](#). The individual was a man in his early 70s receiving care in Santa Clara County after returning from a trip to Hawaii, Dr. Wilma Wooten said.

The active duty parent of a young child who attends the Fairhaven Child Development Center on Naval Base San Diego [tested positive for COVID-19 on March 17](#), the base said.

Five additional sailors assigned to San Diego-based ships tested positive for COVID-19 on March 21, the Navy announced.

County officials announced San Diego has been [selected by the state for a mobile field hospital](#) which could provide up to 250 additional beds.

March 21: The county updated its COVID-19 case numbers, confirming 148 total cases in the county plus 11 federal quarantine cases.

A firefighter-paramedic with Vista Fire Department has tested positive for COVID-19, the department said. The individual was recently on duty but was asymptomatic. They are currently self-isolated at home and resting, according to the department.

Kelvin Barrios, a candidate for San Diego City Council District 9, [tested positive for COVID-19](#).

San Diego County Democratic Party Chair Will Rodriguez-Kennedy posted on his Facebook page that he was [hospitalized for the novel coronavirus](#).

March 20: The county updated its COVID-19 case numbers, confirming 120 total cases in the county plus 11 federal quarantine cases. There were 1,049 reported tests, as of March 20.

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar confirmed a third Marine stationed at the base tested positive for COVID-19 on March 19.

The U.S. Navy announced two sailors assigned to separate San Diego-based ships tested positive for COVID-19 on March 19.

Another sailor assigned to Commander, Naval Air Forces in San Diego tested positive for COVID-19 on March 18, the Navy said.

Port of San Diego officials said no new [cruise ship tours would be departing](#) from San Diego Bay until at least mid-April. One ship out on tour, the Celebrity Eclipse, is scheduled to arrive in San Diego on March 27, according to officials.

March 19: The county updated its COVID-19 case numbers, confirming 97 total cases in the county plus eight federal quarantine cases.

Councilman Steve Padilla was admitted to UCSD Thornton Hospital and placed on a respirator in its intensive care unit Thursday night after experiencing worsening

symptoms of COVID-19, his daughter, Ashleigh, [said in a statement](#).

The North County Fire Protection District reported [four employees who had prolonged contact with a positive employee](#) all tested positive for COVID-19. Patients the employees may have come in contact with have been notified, the department said.

March 18: The county updated its COVID-19 case numbers, confirming 75 total cases in the county plus five federal quarantine cases.

CRSSD Festival organizers said two people who attended the concert March 7-8 tested positive for COVID-19. They are believed to have contracted the disease outside the festival. Attendees have been notified.

The U.S. Navy said a second sailor assigned to USS Boxer, homeported in San Diego, tested presumptive positive for COVID-19 on March 17. Both sailors were on leave at the time of diagnosis.

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar confirmed a second Marine stationed at the base has tested positive for COVID-19.

March 17: The county updated its COVID-19 case numbers, confirming 55 cases in the county plus five federal quarantine cases.

The cases include a "cluster" of seven patients who had contact with each other during a ski trip in Colorado, and a cluster of four connected to a Navy member, according to the county.

The U.S. Navy said a sailor attending a course at Naval Base San Diego tested positive for COVID-19 on March 14. The sailor was assigned to USS Essex (LHD 2), which was ported in San Diego at the time.

The U.S. Navy said a sailor assigned to USS Coronado, home ported in San Diego, tested positive for COVID-19.

The HHS told the San Diego Unified School District a person connected to several schools in the La Jolla community tested positive for COVID-19. The schools include Bird Rock Elementary, La Jolla Elementary, and La Jolla High School.

Anyone connected to those schools should take extra precautions, the district said.

The San Diego City Council [unanimously approved the Mayor's State of Emergency declaration](#).

March 16: The county updated its COVID-19 case numbers, confirming 51 cases in the county plus four federal quarantine cases.

A U.S. Navy Sailor from Naval Base Point Loma tested "presumptive positive" for COVID-19 pending confirmation by the CDC, the U.S. Navy reported. The individual is in quarantine and others who came into close contact have been notified and are self-isolating, according to the U.S. Navy.

An Escondido firefighter paramedic tested positive for COVID-19, according to the Escondido Fire Department. The firefighter reportedly came in contact with people who subsequently tested positive. Other EFD staff who were in contact with the paramedic at work did not have symptoms and tested negative, but remained in quarantine for monitoring, the department said.

March 15: The county updated its COVID-19 case numbers, confirming 35 cases in the county plus four federal quarantine cases.

The U.S. Navy said [a sailor assigned to USS Boxer](#), home ported in San Diego, tested presumptive positive for COVID-19 on March 13. It was the first positive case involving a sailor aboard a Navy ship.

Encinitas Union School District (EUSD) sent a note out to families saying [an individual at Olivenhain Pioneer Elementary](#) has tested presumptive positive for COVID-19. The district said the individual is in home isolation and is being monitored by the HHS.

March 14: [A second U.S. Marine stationed at MCAS Miramar](#) tested positive for COVID-19, the U.S. Marine Corps confirmed. Both Marines that tested positive did not come in contact with each other, officials confirm.

Later in the day, Navy region Southwest Officials [confirmed a U.S. Sailor](#) from Naval Base San Diego tested presumptive positive for the novel coronavirus.

Two health workers at UC San Diego Health tested positive for COVID-19, due to exposure and infection in the community, [according to UC San Diego Health](#).

Chula Vista City Council Member Steve Padilla also [disclosed he tested positive for COVID-19](#), becoming the first government leader in San Diego County to do so. In announcing his positive test, the council member said it is his "duty to be transparent for the entire community."

North County Fire Protection District reported a firefighter/paramedic employee who was asymptomatic at work and became symptomatic at home has [tested presumptive positive for COVID-19](#). The employee presented a low risk to the public and is quarantining at home, the district said Saturday night.

The San Diego Jewish Academy sent a note to parents Saturday stating that a parent in the community had tested positive for COVID-19. They said the parent was at school during the past week and they have children in first, third and sixth grades.

March 13: The HHS confirmed four new cases of COVID-19, including:

- A man in his 40s who is hospitalized and in isolation and traveled to New York and Philadelphia
- A man in his 30s who is in isolation at home and traveled to Chicago
- A woman in her 70s who is at home in isolation
- An SDSU study abroad student who recently returned from Italy and is now self-quarantined at home out of the county

The University of San Diego said they were notified by HHS that a graduate student at the University of San Diego also tested positive for COVID-19. The student was living off-campus and no other students or staff have been exposed "based on the circumstances surrounding this confirmed case," according to the HHS.

Editor's Note: At one point this story reported there were 11 people being monitored by county health officials when, at that time, officials were monitoring only nine patients.

March 12: County and public health officials held a press conference to announce [five more cases of the new coronavirus](#) and the U.S. Marine Corps announced one case, which included:

- A man in his 50s who is at a local hospital in isolation. He may be the county's first case of community spread because of his lack of travel
- A woman in her 70s who was in federal quarantine at MCAS Miramar after arriving via plane from the Grand Princess Cruise Ship in Oakland. The woman was transferred to a local hospital where she is in isolation

- A man in his 40s who may have a history of travel to Colorado. he is in self-quarantine at home
- A man in his 50s with a history of travel to Colorado
- A woman in her 70s who recently traveled on the Diamond Princess Cruise ship and was reported to HHS by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She is in self-quarantine at home
- A U.S. Marine stationed at [MCAS Miramar who recently traveled to Washington tested positive](#), the USMC said. A second Marine is currently under investigation

The U.S. Marine Corps also confirmed on March 12 that a Marine stationed at MCAS Miramar tested presumptive positive for COVID-19. At least one other Marine at the base was under investigation.

March 9: A woman in her 50s who recently traveled overseas was the region's [first COVID-19 patient](#). She tested "presumptive positive" with the HHS March 9 and is awaiting final confirmation from the Centers for Disease Control.

The patient had contact with one person in her home and that person is under self-quarantine, but there was no suspected contact with the general public, according to Eric McDonald, Medical Director with the County Epidemiology Immunization Branch.

February: Two Americans who were evacuated from the center of the novel coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, China tested positive for COVID-19 while under federal quarantine at MCAS Miramar. The two patients, who were not county residents, were treated at local hospitals and released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Note: On March 16, county health officials said they would no longer describe HHS-administered tests not confirmed by the CDC as "presumptive positive." Going forward, tests conducted by the HHS are considered final. After local healthcare facilities and commercial testing centers surpass a certain number of positive or negative tests, their tests will also be considered confirmed.

Quarantine Operations

On March 18, a 151-room Ramada hotel in Kearny Mesa was chosen to house quarantined patients held at MCAS Miramar.

The hotel along Kearny Mesa Road, which has been secured from public access since March 16, was tapped by the U.S. government because of its "location, security, and established protocols to support COVID-19 quarantine individuals," according to the Ramada by Wyndham.

The Federal Government Health and Human Services and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services will oversee the quarantine, the hotel said.

More than 480 passengers from a coronavirus-ridden cruise ship that docked at the Port of Oakland were flown to MCAS Miramar March 10-12 to complete a [mandatory 14-day federal quarantine](#).

The quarantine for these passengers finishes on Tuesday, March 24.

As of March 19, 244 of the 489 brought to the base were still there, but 38 were scheduled to leave the base on Friday. The remaining quarantine group included 136 California residents and two San Diego County residents.

Anyone quarantined at the base who tests positive for the virus will be removed from the

base, but only those requiring hospitalization will be isolated at a hospital. The county said off-base facilities would house others who test positive but do not need hospital services.

In mid-February, the Department of Defense selected MCAS Miramar to house patients who need to be quarantined for their potential exposure to the coronavirus.

Planes with more than 230 American evacuees from the center of the coronavirus outbreak in Wuhan, China arrived at the base in mid-February.

A handful of patients showed symptoms of cough and fever and were tested for the disease. Two were later admitted to area hospitals for treatment of COVID-19. Since their cases were handled by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it was unclear whether either was a San Diego County resident. All quarantined individuals have since been released.

Schools and School Districts

Free prepared meals will be handed out to students at eight schools within the city of San Diego. To see a full list and more detailed information, [click here](#).

On March 13, San Diego Unified School District Superintendent Cindy Marten [shut down the second-largest school district](#) in California until April 6.

It was the first district closure in San Diego County but within minutes, other school districts followed suit. Within a few hours, [every school district in the county](#) had closed. For a full list of closed schools and school districts, and closure dates, [click here](#).

See SDUSD's [coronavirus update page](#) for more information.

San Diego Bishop Robert McElroy announced March 13 all schools within the San Diego Catholic Diocese would close starting March 16.

Training Support Command at Naval Base San Diego was [temporarily closed](#) on March 14 due to three Sailors testing positive for COVID-19.

Colleges and Universities

The following universities and colleges made changes after the virus appeared in San Diego County, like moving classes online and canceling or postponing events on campus. Click the links to see specific changes and effective dates.

[UC San Diego](#), [San Diego State University](#), [California State University San Marcos](#), [Point Loma Nazarene University](#), [University of San Diego](#), [San Diego Community College District](#), [Southwestern College](#), [Palomar College](#), [Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District](#)

Impacted Events, Activities and Attractions

A list of impacted local events and activities can be [found here](#). Some popular [San Diego attractions](#) have also been closed.

Beaches, parks, boardwalks and other open spaces in San Diego County were [ordered to](#)

[close](#) March 23 to restrict unsafe gatherings prohibited by state and local laws.

On March 18 San Diego-area tribal governments announced the closures of the Golden Acorn Casino, Jamul Casino, Sycuan Casino, Barona Resort and Casino, and Viejas Casino and Resort through at least the end of March, effective March 20.

Gyms and fitness centers were also [ordered to close](#).

All daily and Sunday masses in the San Diego Catholic Diocese are [canceled until further notice](#), effective March 16. Parishes will remain open. Mass will be streamed live in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese weekly at sdcatholic.org starting March 15.

Rock Church San Diego services are canceled until further notice, effective March 12, but will be [streamed online](#).

Impacted Restaurants and Retail Stores

On March 18, the Las Americas outlets, the Fashion Valley and Mission Valley malls, and several other major shopping centers were either [closed completely](#) or limited to only essential retail.

On March 16 San Diego County closed down bars and adult establishments that serve alcohol, as well as in-restaurant dining.

City of San Diego officials also laid out enforceable mandates through an executive order for gatherings, bars, and dining establishments, following the county's updated guidelines.

Celebrity chef [Brian Malarkey](#) announced he would temporarily close all nine of his restaurants across San Diego County on March 15. To see the full list, [click here](#).

[Urban Outfitters](#) and [Brandy Melville USA](#) announced they are closing their local stores until further notice.

Sports

Numerous sports agencies, both college and professional, announce season suspensions and cancellations amid concerns of the novel coronavirus. [NBC 7 SportsWrap](#) has been tracking what games, events, and openings are affected, including the San Diego Padres home opener.

Coronavirus

North County Fire Protection District Reports 4 More Employees With COVID-19

Several days after the North County Fire Protection District confirmed a [firefighter had tested positive for the novel coronavirus](#), the agency said four additional employees now also have the virus.

The North County Fire Protection District said Thursday night the four new cases are all staffers who had “close and prolonged contact” with the firefighter involved in the first case.

All four employees are now quarantined at home, each reporting mild symptoms, the agency said.

Local





The NCFPD said it has notified others who were in contact with these employees and is taking guidance from local public health officials on how to best handle “employee isolation, personal protective equipment, and protective procedures for our patients, employees, and citizenry.”

The NCFPD said it has implemented steps to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within the agency and the community. Every employee is required to have their temperature checked as they come on duty, during their shift and when going off duty.

“All equipment and stations throughout the district are being disinfected three times a day. Crew members are maintaining social distancing from each other and all training activity that requires close contact with one another has been cancelled,” the agency said in a press release.

The NCFPD said last weekend it had also suspended of all “nonessential interactions with the public” and increased precautions during 911 calls.

The firefighter involved in the first case of COVID-19 was asymptomatic at work and later became symptomatic at home, the NCFPD said. The firefighter was quarantined at home, the agency said on March 14.

On March 15, NCFPD Capt. John Choi confirmed the firefighter was doing well. Investigators were still trying to determine how and where the firefighter may have contracted the coronavirus, Choi said.

“Every person that the employee made contact with has been notified and documented in the system,” he said.

North County Fire Protection District operates out of five stations located throughout Fallbrook and Bonsall.

Four more North County Fire employees test positive for coronavirus

Village News

FALLBROOK - Four more North County Fire Protection District employees have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, the district announced on Friday.

The positive tests come after the district's announcement on Saturday, March 14, that one firefighter had tested positive for the virus.

All the four new cases come from employees who "had close and prolonged contact with an employee who later tested positive for COVID-19," North County Fire said in a statement.

The four employees are all quarantined at home and report mild symptoms, the fire district said.

"We have expanded notifications to the patients with whom these employees had encountered," the statement said.

"We have been in close communication with the San Diego Department of Public Health on how to best handle employee isolation, personal protective equipment, and protective procedures for our patients, employees, and citizenry."

The fire district said it has implemented multiple steps to reduce the spread of the coronavirus within the district and the wider community, including by suspending all non-essential interactions with the public, which it announced shortly after its first coronavirus case.

The district will also require all employees to have their temperature checked when coming on duty, during their shift and when going off duty. Crew members are also maintaining social distancing from each other, and all training activity that requires close contact has been cancelled.

"The health and safety of our community remains our highest priority," North County Fire Department Chief Stephen Abbott said. "We will continue to respond to 911 calls and have implemented protective procedures for our patients and crew members as outlined by CDC. Please continue to follow Federal, State and County guidelines including social distancing if you must leave your home, and always practice good hygiene including thoroughly washing your hands."

4 North County Fire Protection District employees test positive for coronavirus

By: Jermaine Ong

FALLBROOK, Calif. (KGTV) – Four employees with the North County Fire Protection District are quarantined at home after testing positive for the coronavirus, fire officials said.

The four people “had close and prolonged contact with an employee who later tested positive with COVID-19,” according to NCFPD officials.

The employee in question, identified as a firefighter/paramedic, [tested positive for the virus on March 14](#).

The affected employees were placed under quarantine and reported mild symptoms, and officials said, “We have expanded notifications to the patients with whom these employees had encountered. We have been in close communication with the San Diego Department of Public Health on how to best handle employee isolation, personal protective equipment, and protective procedures for our patients, employees, and citizenry.”

To slow the spread of the coronavirus, NCFPD officials said the department suspended all non-essential interactions with the public.

Officials added, “Every employee is required to have their temperature checked coming on duty, during their shift, and going off duty. All equipment and stations throughout the district are being disinfected three times a day. Crew members are maintaining social distancing from each other and all training activity that requires close contact with one another has been cancelled.”

As of March 19, there are 105 confirmed coronavirus cases in San Diego County.

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Calpers, Largest U.S. Pension, Loses \$67 Billion Since January

By Romy Varghese

March 19, 2020, 3:43 PM

The California Public Employees' Retirement System lost about \$67 billion in market value since January as the coronavirus pandemic roiled global financial markets.

The largest U.S. pension had a market value of about \$402 billion in January, according to a news release at the time. It now stands at about \$335 billion as of Thursday's market close.

The pension typically updates its figure regularly but it took about a week for it to do so before its latest update Thursday afternoon. There was "no particular reason except there are so many more important things to deal with at this time,"...

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Solo crash reported on South Mission Road

Village News

Authorities were responding to reports of a single-vehicle crash on South Mission Road in Fallbrook Friday evening.

The car involved in the crash is believed to have careened off the roadway near Mission Creek Road just after 5:15 p.m.

North County Fire Protection District Capt. John Choi said the driver was trapped in the car, which came to rest about 25 feet off the side of the road, and the person had to be extricated.

Paramedics took the driver to Palomar Medical Center for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

Lanes of South Mission Road were shut down for a time while firefighters conducted their rescue operation, but were being reopened as of about 6 p.m.

Will Fritz can be reached by email at wfritz@reedermedia.com.

5:40 p.m. Friday: This story was updated with additional information from North County Fire Capt. John Choi.

6:05 p.m. Friday: This story was updated with additional information from North County Fire Capt. John Choi.

Man Killed in Fallbrook Car Accident on East Mission Road near Fallen Leaf Lane

News Staff

Fallbrook, California – A 62-year-old Murrieta man was killed in a car crash in Fallbrook on Wednesday afternoon.

The deadly collision happened on East Mission Road between Fallen Leaf Lane and Hamilton Lane at about 1 p.m. March 18, the California Highway Patrol reported.

A delivery van was traveling eastbound on East Mission Road when it drifted into the westbound lanes and collided head-on with an Isuzu NRR two-axle commercial truck.

The van driver had to be extricated from the vehicle by officials from the North County Fire Protection District.

The unidentified man [died while being transported to the hospital](#).

The 62-year-old Lake Forest man who was driving the truck was unhurt.

No additional information was provided.

An investigation into the [accident](#) is ongoing.

What to Do At the Accident Scene

Nobody is ever prepared for an accident. However, knowing what to do in case you are involved in the accident is very crucial. The following steps will help you ensure your safety and the safety of others.

1. Stay at the scene and don't panic.
1. Check for injuries and immediately call for an ambulance if anyone is hurt.
2. Notify the police even if no one is injured. The police will examine the scene and document the accident. At this point, it is important to record accurate information. You can later request a police report.
3. If the accident is minor, it is advisable to move the vehicles to the shoulder and turn on your vehicle's hazard lights to ensure the safety of other motorists.
4. Gather information about the other drivers involved in the accident. Also, talk to witnesses and get their information.
5. If possible, take photos of the damage to your car and the surrounding area.
6. Do not admit fault or discuss the accident with anyone. Do not sign any papers unless requested by the police.
7. Do not leave the accident scene until the police have left.

After leaving the accident scene,

1. Contact your insurance company as soon as possible.
2. Get a copy of the accident report from the police.
3. Get a property damage valuation.
4. If you were injured in the accident, keep detailed notes of your injuries and track your medical treatment.

North County firefighters to suspend most public interactions - The Coast News Group

by Coast News wire services

REGION — In the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, fire officials in North County today suspended most firefighter and paramedic interactions with the public except to answer 911 emergency fire and medical aid calls, authorities said.

In a Twitter statement at about 2:30 p.m., the North County Fire Protection District said it has suspended all non-essential interactions with the public.

“We deeply care for the safety of our community members and will still be responding to your 911 calls with the use of every precaution possible,” the statement said.

District officials have decided to close all fire station tours, suspend the youth Explorer program, stop all ride-alongs and conduct a lot fewer building inspections, according to Capt. John Choi of the NCFPD.

Firefighters will no longer go to supermarkets to shop for dinner, Choi said. Instead, meals will be delivered. The district’s management team, along with a medical safety officer, met to decide on the new rules, he said.

A North County firefighter tested positive for the coronavirus disease on Saturday and is currently under quarantine at home, Choi said.

Orange County’s fire department took similar steps and closed all its fire stations to all visitors, he said.

Coronavirus tests are free for 1.5 million people with CalPERS health insurance

By Daniel Kim

Newsom on efforts to get coronavirus testing done without patients 'getting a huge bill'

California Gov. Gavin Newsom talks about efforts to lower costs for coronavirus testing after he voted at the California Museum in Sacramento on Tuesday, March 3, 2020.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom talks about efforts to lower costs for coronavirus testing after he voted at the California Museum in Sacramento on Tuesday, March 3, 2020. By [Daniel Kim](#)

The 1.5 million people with CalPERS health insurance won't have to pay for medically necessary coronavirus tests, according to a spokeswoman for the retirement system.

The CalPERS policyholders won't have to pay deductibles or co-pays for screening or tests for COVID-19, the disease that can result from coronavirus, spokeswoman Deborah Reyman said.

Gov. Gavin Newsom and state Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara last week [ordered insurers to waive cost-sharing](#) for people who need the tests.

Those orders applied to about 24 million Californians, according to the announcement, including people with Medi-Cal health plans and 2 million people with private insurance.

Excluded from the order were many people who get their insurance through the "self-insured" health plans offered by many large employers.

About 1 million people with CalPERS health plans have HMO plans, which are covered by the order. The other half-million have PPOs, most of which are self-insured plans offered through insurer Anthem.

Deductibles and co-pays are waived for both groups of CalPERS plans.

About [160 people have tested positive](#) for COVID-19 in California and four people have died, including one person in Sacramento County and one person Placer County. Public officials around the state are beginning to cancel public events to try to slow the virus's spread.

CalPERS pensions to grow slightly in 2020 with cost-of-living increase for retirees

Jay Mather

The California Public Employees' Retirement System is a \$380 billion public pension fund.

The California Public Employees' Retirement System is a \$380 billion public pension fund. Sacramento Bee file

Most people with CalPERS pensions will receive cost-of-living increases of 1.81 or 2 percent in 2020, according to newly published numbers from the retirement fund.

The Consumer Price Index, on which the annual increase is based, increased 1.81 percent in 2019, according to documents prepared for an upcoming meeting of the California Public Employees' Retirement System's board. The increase is added to pension checks in May.

This year's increase is a little below the 20-year average rate of 2.17 percent, [according to the documents](#).

Retirees from California government agencies receive the increase every year the index goes up by at least 1 percent. If it's lower than that, they don't get the COLA.

The percentage increase varies depending on the year employees retired and the agency from which they retired.

More than 95 percent of CalPERS retirees will receive an increase of either 1.81 percent or 2 percent, according to CalPERS.

The rest, including those who retired before 1979, are eligible for increases up to a maximum of 3.62 percent. Members who retired in 2019 are not yet eligible for an increase.

About 700,000 people, including retirees, their beneficiaries and survivors, receive CalPERS pensions. The pensions average \$37,000 per year.

Arcata Fire District freezes 3 vacant positions to curb layoffs after tax failure

Arcata Fire District will not rehire for three unfilled positions in a money-saving move to prevent some of its forthcoming layoffs of full-time firefighters, the district's board president said Wednesday.

The district had warned that it would soon need to cut three firefighters and demote three battalion chiefs to captain status. But a recent departure of two firefighters and the retirement of a battalion chief will ease some of the blow, though layoffs are still very likely coming, board of directors President Nicole Johnson said.

In addition, the district will let go of an overflow hire who had filled in for an employee out on disability. Overtime compensation is also now a thing of the past for the district's staff.

"This is stuff we had been putting off to see the results of Measure R," Johnson said, referring to the district's proposed residential tax that did not appear to receive enough votes of support in last week's election. "We are in a fiscal emergency and need to make changes right away."

There are still thousands of outstanding ballots that are not part of the current count, but it's unclear whether they are in Arcata Fire District's service area/

It's been over a week since the district's proposed residential tax [didn't receive enough votes to pass](#) in early election results, an outcome that hasn't changed with additional returns in the days since. The tax — which would have spiked residential contributions to the local fire agency — needed two-thirds majority support to pass. It received just over 60% of the vote in the last election update.

Without the tax, the district said, up to six full-time firefighters would be cut, multiple battalion chiefs demoted and one of the district's three stations consolidated. Johnson said Wednesday that one station will now effectively be "browned out," or left unused when there isn't staff available for it.

The district will flex between each of its three stations — two in Arcata and one in McKinleyville — so that all of them have some staffing, some of the time.

At its regular meeting on Tuesday night, the district's board decided to postpone its big-picture discussion of priorities and contingency planning. The board continued to the discussion to a March 24 special meeting, in order to allow more time for the community to hear about it.

Although it's called Arcata Fire District, the agency covers more than just the city, spanning across McKinleyville, Manila, Bayside and Jacoby Creek. The larger service area, combined with a recent spike in emergency calls, had prompted the district to place the tax on last week's ballot.

It was a steep asking price: A single-family home would pay an additional \$98 each year for fire services, a mark-up of 91%.

Since it's a special district, the agency is unaffiliated with local governments like the city of Arcata, which means it can't easily rely on the municipality to buoy its budget. Arcata Mayor Michael Winkler said Wednesday he confirmed with Fire Chief Justin McDonald

that [rising pension costs](#) are to blame for the district's financial struggles.

"Although I voted for the tax and supported it, the underlying reason (the district's) finances are tight is because of the contributions they need to make for retirement costs," Winkler said. "Until we as a state address this underlying pension crisis, this is going to keep happening."

The district had promised dark times for emergency response in the event of the tax not passing. Johnson said that with less staffing at its stations, the district will have an easier time "aggressively tracking" its response times and the direction in which they trend.

"It's not going to be business as usual," Johnson said, adding that the loss hurt more because 60% of the district's residents had agreed with the tax.

The district could again ask its residents to pay a higher tax as early as the November election, but Johnson said those discussions are premature — "That's the meat and potatoes of what we're talking about on the 24th," she said.

Shomik Mukherjee can be reached at 707-441-0504.

If you go

What: Arcata Fire District Board of Directors special meeting

When: Tues., March 24 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Arcata Fire District downtown station, 631 Ninth St., Arcata

Measure I appears headed for defeat

The votes are still being counted throughout California, including San Bernardino County following the March 3 primary. The latest results show just below 50 percent of the votes have been counted in most races.

As of 4:30 a.m. Measure I to add additional funding for Big Bear Fire Department is losing. With 42.4 percent of the votes counted, 58.9 percent have voted no, 41.9 percent yes. To pass, the measure needs a two third majority.

Supporters gathered on election night to wait for results and seemed hopeful. If the measure fails, a fire station is slated to close, staffing reduced and response times are expected to increase. Fire Department officials have said that without the additional funding, the current level of service is not sustainable as calls for service continue to increase.

In other races affecting Big Bear, Dawn Rowe looks to avoid a runoff to hold on to her seat on the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, The appointed incumbent has garnered 56.15 percent of the votes with 27.86 percent of the votes counted. If she holds on to the lead of more than 50 percent, she will win outright avoiding a runoff in November.

Jay Obernolte will remain on the campaign trail in his bid to head to Washington, D.C. and the House of Representatives, Obernolte leads the field of candidates running for District 8 with 35.5 percent. Christine Bubser follows with 27.9 percent followed by Tim Donnelly with 22 percent.

Rick Herrick is also headed for a runoff with Thurston "Smitty" Smith for the State Assembly seat being vacated by Obernolte. Smith leads the race with 39.2 percent. Herrick is in second with 18.5 percent.

The race for State Senate District 23 is a tight race among Abigail Medina, 25.3 percent, Rosilic Ochoa Bogh, 24.2 percent, and Lloyd White at 24.9 percent. As of 4:30 a.m. 51.1 percent of the votes have been counted.

Prop 13 has failed with 93 percent of the votes counted. No votes account for 56 percent and 44 percent yes.

Look for more election results as updates are provided, All results are unofficial.

Cal Fire awards \$43.5M in local fire prevention grants

Posted By: Deb Anderaos

CALIFORNIA – Cal Fire awarded \$43.5 million to local organizations to reduce the risk of wildfires to homes and communities across California.

55 local fire prevention projects are receiving funding for hazardous fuel reductions, wildfire preparedness planning and fire prevention education, Cal Fire announced Tuesday in a press release.

“We have doubled down on our efforts to clear brush, inspect homes for defensible space and reduce the risk of wildfires,” Cal Fire Director, Chief Thomas Porter said. “These 55 local projects will play a critical role in augmenting our fire prevention efforts.”

Butte and Shasta County are on the list to receive funds.

Butte County Fire Safe Council was awarded \$509,762 for its Cohasset Fuels Reduction Project. It will reduce the total amount of wildfire emissions by implementing forest thinning, mastication, chipping and grazing. The benefit to greenhouse gas reduction is the decrease in GHG's emitted during wildfire events, according to the council. [Read More](#)

The McConnell Foundation in Shasta County was awarded \$3,880,786 for its Wildfire Hazard Mitigation and Fuel Reduction project.

The project site is located in the mixed-conifer foothills in eastern Shasta County. Historical wildfire events in this region, such as the 1992 Fountain Fire - which is the 16th most destructive fire in California – have burned at a moderate to high severity, the foundation said. [Read More](#)

“Cal Fire’s Fire Prevention Grant Program is part of the California Climate Investments,” Cal Fire said. “It’s a statewide program that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment – particularly in low income and disadvantaged communities.”

Since 2014, Cal Fire has funded over 430 local fire prevention grants totaling over \$150 million.

Scroll for more content...

LAFCO continues to apply pressure for VC to give up fire independence | Valley Roadrunner

By David Ross | on March 06, 2020

[If you read our front page article on LAFCO](#), you will see that the Local Agency Formation Commission is continuing its steady pressure to try to move the Valley Center Fire Protection District (VCFPD) toward merging with the San Diego County Fire Authority.

This time, this pressure brought out a united front from Valley Center organizations, included the VC-3 coordinating council, which spoke to the board at its monthly meeting.

Although the board backed off at Monday's meeting, it is obvious that this is going to be a continuing project that the staff will pursue. In the minds of bureaucrats such as LAFCO's permanent staffers, big is always better and the concept of local control is quaint but antiquated and should be swept aside for the good of the conglomerate. As *Star Trek's* hive-like aliens the Borg used to put it, "Resistance is futile. You will be assimilated."

Fortunately, our Fifth District Supervisor, Jim Desmond, who also serves on the board of LAFCO, is a solid supporter of VCFPD. That's a contrast to his predecessor, who was trying to ram the Fire Authority down the throats of every community in the County, whether it was an appropriate fit or not.

But Desmond won't be our supervisor forever, and preserving Valley Center's independence will be an ongoing project for decades to come.

Remember, if Valley Center doesn't preserve its local institutions and local control it will lose its identity as a separate place and will eventually be absorbed by Escondido. It definitely does make a difference whether the person who takes your complaint is based at a fire headquarters on Lilac Road, where they answer to an elected board. Or whether—as will soon be the case for our local parks—the person who takes your complaints is a career civil servant who answers to a vast bureaucracy that reports to five supervisors of a county that is larger than several small nations.

On the other hand, as long as our local school system maintains its excellence, and the fire district and water district are such an integral part of our lives, the name Valley Center will always be a watchword for a place where people make a difference and generally cooperate for the greater good of the community.

***Note: Opinions expressed by columnists and letter writers are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the newspaper.**

Could Risk of COVID-19 Merit Adjustments to Special District Board Meetings?



California's special districts are committed to ensuring that their business is conducted in open and public meetings where all persons are permitted to attend and participate. In the wake of concerns regarding the novel COVID-19 coronavirus, a recent thread on [CSDA's Open Forum](#) contemplated the options available under the Brown Act should health and safety conditions within a community require a special district to reconsider how it conducts board meetings. An accurate understanding of the parameters under state law is necessary to help special districts develop plans that permit for the conduct of ongoing business, reduce health risks, and ensure legal requirements are met for open and public meetings.

The fundamental principle of the Brown Act is that, "all meetings of the legislative body of a local agency shall be open and public, and all persons shall be permitted to attend any meeting of the legislative body." Given this requirement, how can special districts reduce health risks should an emerging situation, such as COVID-19, evolve in a manner that could jeopardize the health of meeting participants?

The Brown Act provides local governments a degree of flexibility in determining the time, place, and manner in which meetings are conducted. Should local conditions warrant them based on guidance from state and federal authorities, special districts may seek to reduce the potential for exposure to COVID-19 for board members, staff, and the public by:

- 1. Increasing Sanitation Efforts:** Many businesses, including airlines and hotels, are dedicating increased resources to sanitizing frequently touched spaces. Special districts may seek to adopt similar procedures for public meetings.
- 2. Adjusting Meeting Space:** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet). Therefore, special districts may seek to adjust board meeting space to allow for greater physical distance between participants. This may require changing to a different meeting location

within the boundaries of the district. In doing so, districts must meet all notification standards. (Government Code § 54954).

3. **Affording Virtual Public Engagement:** Special districts may choose to provide alternative means for viewing proceedings and submitting public input, such as using an Internet-based livestream and dedicated email address or text line. While the board meeting may not be legally closed to the public except when in closed session, taking such steps could encourage vulnerable populations, and residents who may have been exposed to COVID-19, to engage the board without physically attending the meeting.
4. **Allowing Board Members to Teleconference:** Depending on the meeting space available, board members within identified vulnerable populations may feel more comfortable participating from an alternative location via teleconference. The Brown Act permits such participation so long as:
 1. The agenda specifies all teleconference locations and is posted at each teleconference location;
 2. Public access is provided at each teleconference location;
 3. Public opportunity to speak is provided at each teleconference location;
 4. All votes are taken by roll call; and
 5. At least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participate within the boundaries of the district.
5. **Communicating Proactively with the Public:** One of the best tools for public health remains active communication with residents. Some businesses, arenas, places of worship, and other venues are sharing the steps they are taking regarding COVID-19, and are also proactively encouraging those who are experiencing symptoms, or who believe they may have been exposed, to stay home and not visit public spaces. Such communication, in combination with the availability of online or virtual public engagement, may help reduce the potential COVID-19 risk at public meetings.
6. **Providing Staff with Flexibility to Operate and Inform the Board:** Special district boards may choose to delegate enhanced authority permitted under the law to their general manager to handle district business on an interim basis in a manner that could reduce the frequency and duration of board meetings.
7. **Cancelling or Delaying Non-Essential Business:** A last resort for special districts may be to simply cancel or delay non-essential board-related business as necessary. However, districts should be careful to monitor their respective minimum meeting requirements and understand that all applicable statutory requirements remain in effect.

As conditions evolve regarding COVID-19 it may be appropriate for special districts to reassess these steps and consider other approaches. **This communication is not intended as medical or legal advice and all districts are encouraged to consult their legal counsel when developing policies.** Special district officials may also wish to obtain a copy of CSDA's [Brown Act Compliance Manual](#) for Special Districts for a more detailed analysis of California's open meeting laws.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is actively working with the White House, CDC, local governments, health facilities, and health care providers across the state to prepare and protect Californians from COVID-19. For the latest information and updates, please visit:

- **Guidance and Information:** For a complete [list of guidance](#) documents available for employers and other entities, please visit the [CDPH website](#).

- **Public:** For more information on COVID-19, please visit the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website](#).
- **Coronavirus News Releases:** For the latest information on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), please see the CDPH [News Releases](#)

[#FeatureNews](#)

Fire department update includes weed abatement and homeowner's insurance

Village News

Chief Stephen Abbott

North County Fire Protection District

With long-range weather forecasts predicting an early start to the fire season, which is increasingly becoming a year-round threat, a number of steps are being taken now to maximize community's preparedness.

To begin, in the near future the annual weed abatement notices will be mailed districtwide. Please note that the date for compliance is May 15, a full month earlier than last year. Fire prevention personnel will begin compliance inspections after that deadline has passed.

Additionally, the timeframe for completion has also been shortened, so residents are asked not to delay when they receive a notice. Accordingly, if assistance is needed with mowing, the fire district suggested making arrangements now with weed abatement contractors to ensure properties will be in compliance by this deadline.

Currently, there are no free chipping days available due to the lack of grant funding which has historically supported this program.

As result of the lessons learned from the "Camp Fire" in Paradise, the San Diego County Office of Emergency Services will expand access to the Wireless Emergency Alert system for local government agencies, such as North County Fire, to directly provide immediate updates to the public.

Residents who have not already done so are asked to register their mobile devices with AlertSanDiego. Although this system is separate from the WEA network, it is another way to ensure you are getting up to date information during an emergency.

In the near future, the district will be working with local insurance professionals and legislators to identify ways to collectively assist homeowners in addressing challenges with obtaining and retaining homeowner's insurance, which has become a problem for many residents in California.

Finally, the fire district has received several inquiries regarding what its next steps will be in light of Proposition A's failure. The district has initiated a comprehensive strategic planning process to evaluate all aspects of current fire and emergency services delivery, which will naturally include addressing some rather significant deferred facilities maintenance challenges.

This strategic plan will include a number of strategies and may include a combination of

those outlined in various outreach materials that were distributed over the last year.

For example, the district will consider alternative materials and methods of fire station construction that can be employed to address at least some facility deficiencies and what lasting impacts will remain as a result of implementing these options.

The district will explore the latest methods of enhancing revenues to recover costs by engaging the California State University San Marcos "senior experience" program to determine what other fire departments across country are doing. Some of these methods may include debt service restructuring in order to capitalize on historically low interest rates.

There are many recent and pending legislative changes at both state and federal level that need to be taken into consideration. As it will take several months to obtain findings from the university, evaluate the impacts of recent legislative changes, and develop comprehensive goals and objectives for each strategy, the district anticipates it will take approximately six months to complete the strategic plan, which will be designed to cover a five-year planning horizon.

Crews Contain Fire on Edge of North County

Cal Fire San Diego and the North County Fire Protection District responded to the scene between Deluz and Temecula.

By 10:37 a.m., Cal Fire San Diego estimated the blaze to be a half-acre in size.

In a tweet, crews said the fire had a "slow rate of spread" with moderate fuels in the area near the intersection of Sandia Creek Drive and Rock Mountain Road.

By 10:42 a.m., the fire's forward rate of spread had been stopped, the North County Fire Protection District said.

No other information was available.

Please refresh this page for updates on this story. Details may change as more information becomes available.

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Los Angeles County Fire District, California, Measure FD, Parcel Tax (March 2020)

A **parcel tax measure** was on the ballot for Los Angeles County Fire District voters in Los Angeles County, California, on March 3, 2020.^[1] It was **defeated**.

- A **"yes"** vote supports authorizing the district to levy an annual parcel tax of \$0.06 per square foot of structural improvements on property up to 100,000 square feet and excluding parking areas.
- A **"no"** vote opposes authorizing the district to levy an annual parcel tax of \$0.06 per square foot of structural improvements on property up to 100,000 square feet and excluding parking areas.

A two-thirds (66.67 percent) supermajority vote was required for the approval of Measure FD.

**Los Angeles
County Fire
District
Measure FD**



Election date
March 3, 2020

Topic
California parcel
tax

Status
✘ *Defeated*

Type **Origin**
Referral Lawmakers

Election results

Los Angeles County Fire District, California, Measure FD, Parcel Tax (March 2020)		
Result	Votes	Percentage
Yes	174,745	52.44%
✘ No	158,491	47.56%

Source

Text of measure

Ballot question

The ballot question was as follows:^[1]

- “ Shall an ordinance ensuring local firefighter/paramedic emergency response, involving house fires, wildfires, heart attacks, strokes, and car accidents, to hire/train firefighter/paramedics, upgrade/replace aging firefighter safety equipment, vehicles, facilities, life-saving rescue tools, and emergency communications technology, by levying 6 cents per square foot of certain parcel improvements, providing \$134 million annually, limited to 2% annual adjustment, until ended by voters, exempting low-income seniors, with independent citizens oversight, be adopted?^[2] ”

Impartial analysis

The following impartial analysis of the measure was prepared by the office of the Los Angeles County Counsel:^[1]

- “ Approval of Measure FD (“Measure”) would authorize the Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (“District”) to levy a special tax (“Tax”) annually on improved parcels within the 56 cities and unincorporated areas of the County of Los Angeles (“County”) in the District identified in the Measure, commencing with fiscal year 2020-21. The Tax shall be levied at a rate of 6 cents per square foot of structural improvements up to 100,000 square feet, excluding square footage of improvements used for parking, on all taxable parcels. The rate shall be adjusted by 2 percent (2%) annually, or by the California Consumer Price Index, whichever is less. The Tax has no expiration date. This Measure was placed on the ballot by resolution of the County and District.

Tax proceeds as designated by the ordinance will be used by the District to hire and train firefighters, paramedics, and staff, maintain, upgrade, and replace emergency response infrastructure, safety equipment, vehicles, aircraft, facilities, life-saving rescue tools, and communications technology.

Full text

The full text of the measure is available here .

Path to the ballot

See also: Laws governing local ballot measures in California

This measure was put on the ballot through a vote of the Los Angeles County Fire District Board and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.^[1]

See also

First responders train during active shooter drill at Fallbrook High

Village News

While students were away from school Tuesday, Feb. 18, the North County Fire Protection District hosted an active shooter drill at Fallbrook Union High School.

The full-scale exercise included representative participants from North County Fire Protection District, Vista Fire, Camp Pendleton Fire, Pala Fire, Cal-Fire and North Comm., as well as San Diego County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, United States Customs and Border Protection and the Oceanside Police Department.

Representatives from FUHS and the district were in attendance and [Fallbrook High](#) students from the JROTC participated in the drill as victims.

"These aren't real fun drills to put on, especially for school officials; they are hoping we are never here doing this. Hopefully, we're not," NCFPD Division Chief Keith McReynolds told fire and paramedic participants during a briefing before the drills. "One of the learning points in the after actions of the Vegas shooting was the importance of law enforcement and fire to train together. We do not do a good job in our country of training enough with law enforcement.

"There are not going to be a lot of surprises, this is not a ready-set-go type of training, we're going to walk through exactly what we're hoping to see, we're going to set everybody up for success," McReynolds said.

McReynolds mapped out the drill and the approach they would use that day, slightly different from the one they did three or four years ago at the school.

"We want to set up a triage unit right in front of the theater," he said. "Because the reality is if we created a triage unit in front of the school, we probably wouldn't be able to get our ambulances in there and the front of the school is going to be a mess anyway.

"Be thinking at the 30,000-foot level view, be thinking big picture. I want everyone to be thinking much bigger than that, be thinking big picture, be thinking whole school property," he said.

NCFPD Medical Service Officer Mary Murphy quizzed and informed the group before sending the group off to their respective positions.

"It's easy to go in and think we have a lot of high school students who look like they're injured but they can walk because you know it's fake and not treat it as if it's real," she said. "But this is the only chance you get to practice until it is real. So, if we make them get up and walk because we can't be bothered to carry them or we can't figure out the logistics that won't work on the day. We need to be able to figure this out and treat it for real. There are too many cases escalating all the time. Yes, we hope this never happens here, but we want everyone to be ready when it does."

When the drill kicked off, representatives from the Sheriff's Departments worked the campus to neutralize the threat while securing student victims where they were grouped.

Fire personnel swooped in to gather the students and walk and carry them back to the

triage station where more personnel evaluated the student victims, putting them into spaces that indicated the severity of their injuries.

Others were carried to spots where ambulances would then theoretically carry them to local hospitals for care.

Watching the entire process was [Fallbrook High](#) Principal Dr. Narciso Iglesias who was grateful for the effort put forth by the first responders.

"I think for me the partnerships that we have with our first responders is critical," he said. "Every day as a school we work with them one way or the other, whether it's a medical issue, whether it's some concerns that we may have, just being able to have that collaboration is critical."

San Diego County Sheriff's Department Fallbrook substation commander Lieutenant Arnold Aldana was observing the drill from in front of the school's administration offices.

"This training is bringing together fire and (law enforcement) response to a situation that we hopefully don't have to respond to, but the reality is it happens," he said. "And if we can work together, to iron out the kinks, so then if it does happen the response is much more efficient than just complete chaos. From my perspective, this training is beneficial just so that we can collaborate with each other, so that we know that fire is ready to go when we're ready to go and vice versa."

Lt. Aldana said the training transcends an active shooter situation.

"It's always better to train with other departments so that you get to know each other," he said. "So that there is no chaos that is inherent in situations like this."

Jeff Pack can be reached by email at jpack@reedermedia.com.

10 New Bills Target Special District's Development Impact Fees



The week of February 24th was a busy week in the State Legislature regarding development impact fees (DIFs). DIFs are those fees that local agencies can charge to mitigate the impact of new development on essential services such as parks, fire protection, flood control, and other vital infrastructure and services.

Due to the affordable housing and homelessness crisis in California, the Legislature is considering restricting, capping, or eliminating the fees associated with residential development as a means to incentivize home construction.

Early last week, a group of legislators held a press conference to announce a package of eight new DIF related measures. This is in addition to two others that CSDA is currently tracking.

Later that same week, the four respective State Senate and Assembly Committees for housing and local government held a joint informational hearing on DIFs titled "The Price of Civilization" which resulted in a robust discussion about the role that fees play, or don't play, in the production of housing stock and livable communities. Watch the [Full Video Here](#). You may also download the [agenda](#) and [briefing paper](#).

Two special district representatives spoke before the joint legislative hearing on a panel entitled, "Getting what you pay for: how are impact fees spent?" Watch the special district panelist presentations below:

- [Steph Sanders, PLA, ASLA, Landscape Architect and Park Planner, North of the River Recreation and Park District](#)
- [Cheryl Clary, Executive Director of Finance and Administration, Irvine Ranch Water District](#)

Below are the active development impact fee bills CSDA is currently tracking:

[AB 1484](#) (Grayson): Provides a comprehensive reform of the nexus standards that cities and counties use to determine their fees.

[AB 1924](#) (Grayson): Requires jurisdictions to assess fees on a per-square-foot basis, giving developers the option to build smaller, more affordable units without being penalized with multiple fees.

[AB 3144](#) (Grayson): Provides state funding to reimburse local governments who waive impact fees on affordable projects.

[AB 3145](#) (Grayson): Establishes a ceiling for development fees based on the median home price in a jurisdiction. Cities and counties that exceed this ceiling will be required to seek approval from the Department of Housing and Community Development, and justify the need to do so.

[AB 3146](#) (Bonta and Grayson): Requires cities and counties to report a wide variety of essential housing data to the Department of Housing and Community Development, including the number of new housing units that have been issued a completed entitlement, a building permit, or a certificate of occupancy. Housing data that is accurate, valuable, and timely will support smart solutions to our housing affordability crisis.

[AB 3147](#) (Gabriel): Ensures that certain impact fees are payable under protest. This allows for a developer to pay a fee they consider to be unreasonably high so they can continue construction, even as they negotiate for a more reasonable amount.

[AB 3148](#) (Chiu): Reduces the impact fees paid on affordable housing units that are built using the state's density bonus program.

[AB 3149](#) (Gloria): Modernizes the way that local agencies notify interested parties prior to levying a new fee or service charge or prior to approving an increase in an existing fee or service charge.

[AB 831](#) (Grayson) Department of Housing and Community Development: study: local fees: new developments. Also introduced in 2019.

[AB 2722](#) (McCarty) Development fees and charges: deferral. Prohibits a noncompliant local agency that imposes any fees or charges on a qualified development, from requiring the payment of those fees or charges until 20 years from the date of the final inspection, or the date the certificate of occupancy is issued.

If your district receives development impact fees, and you have any concerns, questions, or feedback regarding this legislation, please email CSDA Legislative Representative Anthony Tannehill at anthonyt@cdda.net.

On May 19-20 hundreds of special district officials will gather in Sacramento to learn about and advocate on public policy issues affecting special districts, such as development impact fees. The early bird registration for Special Districts Legislative Days is April 20. Visit legislatedays.cdda.net to learn more.

[#FeatureNews](#)

[#AdvocacyNews](#)

Fire concerns grow as California gets even drier

Olga R. Rodriguez, The Associated Press Published 2:17 p.m. PT Feb. 27, 2020 | Updated 5:31 a.m. PT Feb. 28, 2020

A dry beginning of the year has left most of California abnormally parched and officials are bracing for the possibility of an early and intense wildfire season amid record-breaking temperatures.

Drought has expanded from just under 10% last week to nearly a quarter of the state, mainly in central California, the heart of the state's agricultural sector, according to a U.S. Drought Monitor map made public Thursday. The map released weekly shows 70% of the state is now abnormally dry.

Ventura County's dryness rating this week stayed the same as last week: "Abnormally dry."

Climate: [S. California's dry winter could pave way for early wildfire season, experts say \(/story/news/environment/wildfires/2020/02/27/south-california-dry-winter-could-pave-way-for-early-wildfire-season-experts-say/4868543002/\)](#)

This month is shaping up to be the driest February on record for much of the state. Chances of light showers are on the horizon Saturday and Sunday, but not again until March 10.

Sierra Littlefield, a National Weather Service meteorologist in Sacramento, said there is a strong chance the state's capital will see a rainless February — something that has not happened in recorded history.

Downtown San Francisco is on its way to its first rain-free February since 1864, according to the weather service.

The lack of rain this year comes after a wet 2019 that capped mountains with snow, delivering water to reservoirs and helping to boost vegetation that can quickly turn into fuel for wildfires during dry, windy conditions.

About 75% of California's annual precipitation typically occurs from December through February, mostly from what's known as atmospheric plumes of moisture originating far out in the Pacific Ocean.



Dry grasses cover the hills along a trail at Rancho Sierra Vista in Newbury Park on Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2020. (Photo: ANTHONY PLASCENCIA/THE

But a high-pressure system parked in the Pacific has blocked storms from reaching California and instead steered them to the Pacific "California and parts of the Southwest dried out while the Northwest observed surplus precipitation," wrote NOAA meteorologist David Legler in the report issued this week's Drought Monitor report.

Ventura County coverage:

- [County supervisors vote to support added protections for local mountain lions \(/story/news/special-reports/outdoors/2020-county-board-of-supervisors-protections-mountain-lions/4870515002/\)](#)
- [This may typically be the rainy part of year, but county is 'abnormally dry' \(/story/news/special-reports/outdoors/2020/02/2/abnormally-dry-parts-california-shift-toward-drought/4766632002/\)](#)
- [Owl rescued after Maria Fire released by firefighter into the wild \(/story/news/local/2020/02/27/maria-fire-animal-rescue-o-wild-somis-area/4837431002/\)](#)

A similar high-pressure system led to a statewide drought from 2011 to 2017 that prompted then-Gov. Jerry Brown to order California' people to cut water use by 25% — the first mandate of its kind in the state.

Californians heeded the call, taking shorter showers and ripping out their lawns during the five-year drought.

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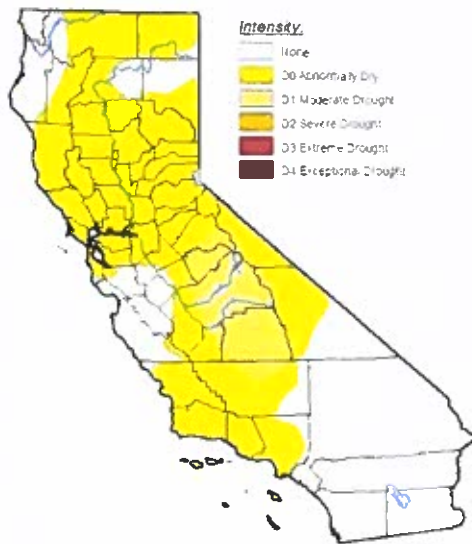
State water officials said it's too early to consider conservation measures and pointed out reservoirs statewide are either at or above their long-term averages for this time of year.

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FEB. 25, 2020



FEB. 18, 2020



"A few dry months really doesn't make a drought," said Chris Orrock, spokesman for the Department of Water Resources. "If we have dry years, then we start looking at what additional conservation measures we need."

In another sign of California's dry conditions, state officials on Thursday conducted a survey of the Sierra Nevada snowpack and four March average at the Sierra's Phillips Station.

The first reading on Jan. 2, found the snowpack was 97% of the January average. But dry conditions since then have hurt the snowpack about 30% of California's water.

"February rain and snow were quite disappointing," said Sean de Guzman, chief of the department's snow surveys and water supply. "We'll most likely end this water year below average. We just don't know how far below."

Also Thursday, U.S. Forest Service crews were battling a fire in brush and timber at Mendocino National Forest in Northern California. California firefighters quickly knocked down several brush fires on Wednesday.

State firefighters have responded to 280 small wildfires since the beginning of the year. In the same period last year, there were just 8 said Scott McLean, a spokesman with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Earlier this month, the Forest Service battled a blaze at the 4,000-foot level, where there should be snow at this time of year, McLean

McLean said California is prepared with aircraft and firefighters ready to be deployed if needed, and officials have been implementing programs.

Read or Share this story: <https://www.vcstar.com/story/news/local/2020/02/27/fire-concerns-grow-california-gets-even-drier/48965580>

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Chula Vista considers pension obligation bonds to reduce future pension costs

By Gustavo Solis

Chula Vista's rising pension costs — which city officials say is the main reason behind a growing projected budget deficit — are so high that the city is considering turning to pension obligation bonds as a way to stabilize future payments.

David Bilby, the director of finance, introduced the idea of a pension obligation bond to the City Council last week during a presentation on the city's long-term fiscal outlook that projected a \$9.5 million budget deficit by fiscal year 2025.

"We just wanted to start the conversation," Bilby said, noting that it would take anywhere from 9 to 12 months to get to the point of actually issuing bonds.

Pension obligation bonds are taxable bonds that cities and some states around the country have issued as part of a larger strategy to cover their unfunded pension liabilities.

Chula Vista has an unfunded pension liability of \$355 million and pays a certain amount of that to the California Public Employees' Retirement System, or CalPERS, each year. Because of the way CalPERS's debt service is structured, the amount of money Chula Vista has to pay varies greatly every few years.

For example, the city has to pay about \$25 million to CalPERS this year. That amount is expected to be about \$30 million a few years down the road.

Pension obligation bonds, Bilby said, could stabilize that CalPERS payment by decreasing the interest rates, which are currently at 7 percent.

He compared pension obligation bonds to refinancing a mortgage.

"We owe CalPERS essentially a 7 percent mortgage, just like the mortgage on our homes," Bilby told the City Council. "We have an opportunity to refinance our mortgage at 3 percent. This would save the city tens of millions of dollars over the life of the debt."

Pension obligation bonds have been viewed as risky in the past, Bilby said. But, part of what makes them so appealing right now is the record low interest rates of less than 2 percent, he said.

Additionally, the city can pass safeguards that prevent the City Council from

spending bond money on anything other than debt payment, Bilby added.

“We could conceivably solve 60 percent to 70 percent of the structural problems for our next decade by considering this as an option,” he said.

Mayor Mary Casillas Salas said the idea sounded promising and encouraged city staff to look into it.

“As one member of this Council, I am really favorable for you exploring this further and bringing us more information,” she said. “I think it’s really interesting.

The mayor stressed that if Chula Vista moves forward with this, she would like to reduce the risk of pension obligation bonds by requiring bond money be spend on debt repayments instead of other things such as hiring staff or construction projects.

Councilwoman Jill Galvez asked future presentations on pension obligation bonds to include projections showing whether a bond could help the city shorten the length of the pension liabilities — which is currently about 24 years.

Apart from starting the conversation about pension obligation bonds, last week’s budget presentation also revealed that Chula Vista is on pace to have a \$1.2 million surplus during the 2020 fiscal year budget cycle, according to a staff report.

Part of that is because sales tax revenues are anticipated to increase by \$1.4 million — or about 4 percent — over the adopted budget.

Additionally, both Measure A and Measure P sales tax revenues were each budgeted for \$18.3 million, but have been revised to generate \$19.8 million, which is an overall increase of \$3 million to both tax measures combined.

Even though the city still anticipates growing budget deficits, Bilby said those deficits have become a little smaller because Chula Vista has made progress in addressing the structural deficit.

“This is much improved from the previous versions the council saw last year,” he said. “We continue to make progress solving some of the structural issues.”

Three dead, 18 injured in bus rollover on I-15 near Fallbrook

Phil Diehl and Kristina Davis The San Diego Union-Tribune (TNS)

NORTH COUNTY, Calif. — A charter bus rolled down an embankment off a rain-slicked Interstate 15 in North San Diego County Saturday morning, killing three people and injuring 18 others.

The crash occurred in the southbound lanes south of state Route 76 about 10:20 a.m., according to the North County Fire Protection District.

The bus, carrying adults and children, had departed from the Los Angeles area and was headed to San Ysidro, said California Highway Patrol Officer Mark Latulippe.

It was raining when the bus driver swerved and lost control. The vehicle slid down an embankment and landed on its roof, said Latulippe.

Emergency crews rescued several people trapped in the wreckage.

Three people died at the scene, with one of the deceased still trapped inside the bus, said Fire Chief Stephen Abbott. Eighteen others were transported to hospitals — Palomar Medical Center, Temecula Valley Hospital and Inland Valley Medical Center, officials said.

One of the patients was in critical condition while three others suffered major injuries, Latulippe said.

Their ages were not released.

The bus driver, a man from Whittier, suffered minor injuries and initially remained at the scene, Latulippe said. He was later taken to a station for questioning.

Fire district spokesman John Choi said it did not appear that any other vehicle was involved.

Authorities declined to identify the owner of the bus. The bus was carrying a total of 22 people but had a capacity to hold at least a dozen more, Abbott said.

Units from Cal Fire, Vista, Camp Pendleton and Pala assisted in the rescue.

Southbound freeway traffic was expected to be slow and difficult for hours. One lane of I-15 remained closed, according to CHP.

Crews were working to pull the bus from the embankment and recover the body still inside.

As pensions break the bank, Californians face more tax hikes

The highest annual pension paid last year by the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) went to one of the managers of the pension fund itself.

Curtis Ishii announced his retirement in 2018 from his position as managing investment director for global fixed income. Last year, he collected a pension of \$418,608, almost \$50,000 more than the \$372,280 pulled down by the previous title-holder, former Solano County administrator Michael Thomas.

The figures come from Transparent California, which has just released 2019 pension payout data. Transparent California's Robert Fellner says Ishii is the first CalPERS pensioner to "legitimately" break the \$400,000 mark. A retired Vernon city manager was collecting \$551,000 until CalPERS declared that his pension was illegally "spiked."

There's no allegation of pension spiking against Ishii, 64, who spent his 40-year career at CalPERS and managed a portfolio that included \$80 billion in fixed-income investments and another \$30 billion in currency and other types of lending and credit programs. During the 2017 fiscal year, according to state payroll data, Ishii earned total compensation of \$805,132, of which \$397,635 was a salary.

Taxpayers might wonder how a public employee can be paid a salary of \$397,635 in 2017, retire in 2018 and take home an annual pension of \$418,608 in 2019.

Transparent California reports that 35,598 CalPERS beneficiaries collected six-figure pensions in 2019, 15% higher than the previous year and up 143 percent from 2012.

Oakland led the list of cities with the most retirees collecting pensions of \$100,000 or more, a total of 740. Two Southern California cities, Long Beach and Anaheim, took the second and third spots with 533 and 431, respectively.

In the March 3 primary election, Oakland is asking voters to approve Measure Q, a 20-year parcel tax of \$148 for single-family properties and \$101.08 per unit for multi-family buildings. Long Beach is asking voters to approve two tax increases: Measure A, which would permanently continue a temporary 1% sales tax increase that is set to expire in 2027, and Measure B, which would raise the city's hotel bed tax from 6% to 7%. Anaheim already taxes hotel guests at 15%.

None of these taxes are labeled, "For Pensions." But if the cities didn't have to pay so much for pensions, they'd have more money to pay for the needs they're now trying to meet with higher taxes.

This crisis is only going to get worse as even more longtime employees retire and collect on the overpromised benefits that state lawmakers recklessly increased in 1999. At the time, with the stock market in a tech bubble, CalPERS claimed the higher pension payouts would not cost “a dime of additional taxpayer money.” That was almost immediately wrong and quickly catastrophic.

Intensifying the problem for taxpayers is a series of court decisions establishing the “California rule,” which prohibits changes to the pensions that are promised to workers on their first day of employment, unless a compensating benefit, such as a wage increase, is offered.

The people who pay the taxes are living in a different world, one in which defined-benefit pensions and post-employment health benefits rarely, if ever, exist.

A world in which public pensions break records every year and taxes are endlessly raised is the one that can’t continue to exist. This is not sustainable.

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NTSB coming to San Diego to investigate Pala Mesa bus crash

Author: City News Service, Monique Griego (Reporter)

PALA MESA, Calif. — A 5-year-old boy critically injured in [Saturday's deadly charter bus crash](#) in Pala Mesa was airlifted to a Riverside County hospital Sunday, authorities said. Also on Sunday, the National Transportation Safety Board reported it will be sending a team to San Diego to investigate the crash.

The boy was among the 21 passengers in a charter bus traveling from El Monte to Tijuana that crashed Saturday morning on rain-slicked southbound Interstate 15 south of State Route 76 in Pala Mesa, said California Highway Patrol Officer Mark Latulippe.

[RELATED: 3 dead and 18 injured after bus rolls off freeway near SR-76](#)

Three women were killed in the crash and 17 others were taken to hospitals, including Palomar Medical Center in Escondido, Inland Valley Medical Center in Wildomar and Temecula Valley Hospital, Latulippe said. Three passengers suffered major injuries, he said, and officials were determining the other injured patients' conditions Sunday morning.

The boy was airlifted from Inland Valley Medical Center to the Riverside University Health System Medical Center in Moreno Valley to be treated for a head wound, Latulippe said.

The accident happened at about 10:30 a.m. Saturday when a charter bus owned by Executive Lines Inc., based in El Monte, slid off I-15 in a heavy rainstorm, down an embankment and landed on its roof. Most of the injured passengers were either ejected or escaped from the bus, which was equipped with seat belts, the CHP said. Few passengers were wearing seat belts, Latulippe said.

George and Soo Chen said they were still in shock after witnessing the crash.

"We saw it swerve a little bit and then when it hit the side of the road it just flipped, tumbled over and flipped like six or seven times," said George. "It looked like it went down a hill."

The Chens rushed over to help as did many other drivers. A friend of theirs who is a physician tried to administer CPR on one of the women who didn't survive.

Federal investigators said Sunday they would send a team to investigate the charter bus crash. Officials with the National Transportation Safety Board

tweeted that a team of four was being dispatched to the area. A spokesperson told News 8 they will look at three broad areas for their investigation: "the human, the machine and the environment."

The human in this instance would be the driver and investigators will look at their hours of service and training.

The bus driver, from Whittier, was questioned by officials at a station and voluntarily gave a blood sample, Latulippe said. The driver, whose name was not released, cooperated fully with investigators, he said.

NTSB will also look at the weather and roadway conditions at the time of the crash and look at the bus itself.

The U.S. Department of Transportation website said that the bus company's records show no reports of crashes and that it passed all inspections over the past two years.

Latulippe said the bus was stabilized by firefighter crews so that it could be raised and allow crew members to extricate the body of a woman who was pinned underneath. The bus was towed to a CHP evidence yard for processing to see if there were any steering and braking problems.

North County Fire Protection District officials said they were assisted in the accident rescue by crews from Cal Fire, Vista, Camp Pendleton, CHP and Pala.

Editor's note: A previous version of this story incorrectly indicated that 18 injured victims were transported to hospitals.

Village News - Also serving the communities of De Luz, Rainbow, Camp Pendleton, Pala and Pauma

Streamline the permitting process



By [Supervisor Jim Desmond](#)
5th District

We've all heard it; there's a shortage of housing in San Diego County. Every day, families spend hours in their car, stuck in traffic as they make their way to and from work. Many of these folks are not living in San Diego County.

It's a sad day when you realize your children, many of whom are college graduates, can't afford to buy a starter home in this county. While there is a shortage of housing, there is no shortage of government regulations.

Young families, our veterans, our children and grandchildren are being forced out of San Diego County for the lack of housing. The permit process is a large cost to building homes and while some regulations are necessary for fire safety and code over time, some regulations become outdated or overburdening, therefore increasing the cost of housing.

Last week, the San Diego Board of Supervisors voted on a plan to reduce regulations on building houses, in San Diego County. The plan is designed to reduce regulations on landscape plans, grading plans and the permitting process. The plan allows certifications by outside qualified licensed engineers of minor grading plans, driveways and roads, while streamlining the process, saving time and money.

We have pushed our workforce and young families further and further away to more affordable areas such as Hemet and Temecula, which leads to more traffic congestion and emission.

I want residents today and future generations living, working and playing in San Diego County.

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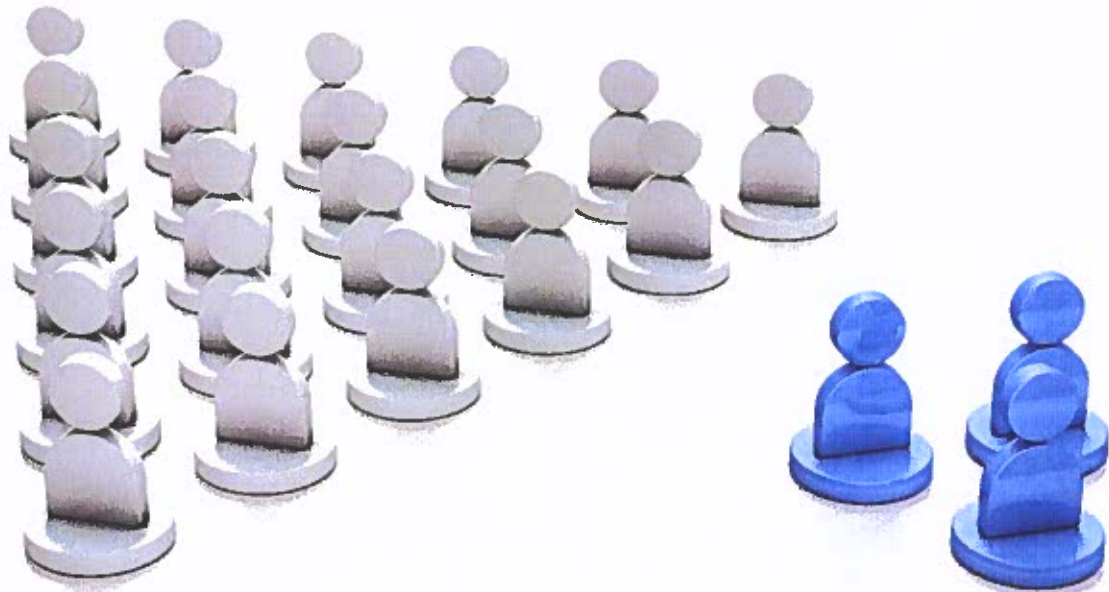
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Determining a “Super Majority” When Council Members are Missing



In determining what makes a “super majority” of a governing body, a California appellate court said the entire number of seats on the body must be considered — not just the number of officials voting on the matter.

The Fifth District Court of Appeal’s decision stemmed from a dispute over how the City of Madera’s Municipal Code applied to a Planning Commission permit denial appeal. The Code says that a super majority of the City Council was required to overturn a Planning Commission decision, and states: “[A] five-sevenths vote of the whole of the Council shall be required to grant, in whole or in part, any appealed application denied by the Commission.”

In dispute was an application submitted to obtain conditional use permits to sell tobacco products, beer and wine that the Planning Commission denied. The applicant appealed the denial to the seven-member City Council, which voted four-to-one to grant his appeal — with one councilmember recused and another council seat vacant. The appeal was denied for lack of five votes.

The applicant took the issue to court, arguing that the local ordinance requirement of a five-sevenths vote of those councilmembers present and voting was met with the four votes received.

As originally enacted, the applicable Municipal Code provision provided:

“A four-fifths vote of the whole of the Council shall be required to grant, in whole or in part, any appealed application denied by the Commission.”

When first adopted in 1961, the Council consisted of five members. Because the number of councilmembers increased to seven in 2012, the City amended the ordinance. The City Council adopted a resolution to amend the subsection to read:

“A five-sevenths vote of the whole of the Council shall be required to grant, in whole or in part, any appealed application denied by the Commission.”

In recommending the adoption of the new ordinance, City staff recommended the five-sevenths standard (71 percent) because it more closely aligned with the original four-fifths standard (80 percent). Staff found that the standards more closely aligned with the purpose and intent of the ordinance, which is not necessarily to restrict Council reevaluation of a Planning Commission action, but instead to allow for fair reevaluation of Commission decisions when appealed to the City Council.

The court concluded that the ordinance confirmed that the City intended the “whole of the Council” to mean the seven-member Council, regardless of the actual number of voting councilmembers. The 71 percent requirement, based on the total number of councilmembers, indicated that the City intended the whole of the Council to be factored and not just those members voting in an appeal. Accordingly, the applicant was required to obtain five votes in favor of granting his appeal to reverse the Planning Commission’s decision to deny his application.

The applicant also contended that the lack of having a full council deprived him of a fair hearing because of the recused councilmember and vacant seat.

The court found that, under California law, a vacant council seat is included in determining whether a quorum exists. Thus, the court reasoned it was proper to include the vacant city council seat in determining whether the applicant obtained sufficient votes to grant his application.

Another option would have been for the applicant to request a continuance of the hearing until the vacant seat was filled to better increase his chance of prevailing.

The decision was filed in the case of [Lateef v. City of Madera](#).

For more information about this decision and how it may impact your organization, contact the authors of this Legal Alert listed at the right in the firm's [Municipal Law](#) practice group or your [BB&K attorney](#).

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**NORTH COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE CHIEF/CEO**

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO
DATE: APRIL 28, 2020
SUBJECT: COMMENTS, REPORTS AND UPDATES

● **STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS/UPDATES:**

● **STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO:**

● **CHIEF OFFICERS & STAFF:**

● **BOARD:**

● **BARGAINING GROUPS:**

● **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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**NORTH COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT
FIRE CHIEF/CEO**

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FROM: STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO
DATE: APRIL 28, 2020
SUBJECT: CLOSED SESSION

CS-1. ANNOUNCEMENT — PRESIDENT LUEVANO:

- *An announcement regarding the items to be discussed in Closed Session will be made prior to the commencement of Closed Session.*

CS-2. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — MANAGEMENT GROUP NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT:

NCFPD MANAGEMENT GROUP DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:
CHIEF ABBOTT, DISTRICT COUNSEL JAMES

CS-3. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — NON-SAFETY GROUP NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT:

➤ FFA NON-SAFETY GROUP DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:
NEGOTIATORS CHIEF ABBOTT, DISTRICT COUNSEL JAMES

CS-4. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — SAFETY GROUP NEGOTIATIONS – CHIEF ABBOTT:

➤ FFA SAFETY GROUP NEGOTIATORS DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:
CHIEF ABBOTT, DISTRICT COUNSEL JAMES

CS-5. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957.6 — UNREPRESENTED INDIVIDUALS — CHIEF ABBOTT:

➤ EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/BOARD DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:
SECRETARY CHIEF ABBOTT, DISTRICT COUNSEL JAMES

CS-6. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION — PRESIDENT LUEVANO

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