

# NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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

330 S. Main Avenue

• Fallbrook, California 92028-2938

• Phone: (760) 723-2005

• Fax: (760) 723-2072

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

STEPHEN J. ABBOTT - Fire Chief/CEO - [sabbott@ncfire.org](mailto:sabbott@ncfire.org)  
ROBERT H. JAMES - District Counsel Robert James - [roberthjameslaw@gmail.com](mailto:roberthjameslaw@gmail.com)  
LOREN A. STEPHEN-PORTER - Executive Assistant/Board Secretary - [lstephen@ncfire.org](mailto:lstephen@ncfire.org)

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**FROM:** STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO

**SUBJECT:** BOARD MEETING PACKAGE

**DATE:** December 10, 2019

Enclosed is your Board package for the Regular December Board Meeting. We have tried to include the information you will need to effectively consider and act on agenda items. The Board meeting will be held at **FALLBROOK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT, 990 EAST MISSION ROAD, FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA.**

Please note this month's meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2019, 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



# NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## AGENDA FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING

DECEMBER 10, 2019

4:00 p.m.

### LOCATION:

**FALLBROOK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT  
990 EAST MISSION ROAD  
FALLBROOK CALIFORNIA**

## 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

- *STANDING ITEM:* 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 Presiding Officer may limit comments to three minutes per speaker (Board of Directors Operations Policy § 4.7.2.1.2.). (pgs. 1-2)

#### 2. CHALLENGE COIN AWARD – D/C McREYNOLDS AND DFC MAROVICH

- *New Item:* Present Challenge Coin and Award to Bart Harris as Community Partner. (pgs. 3-4)

## ACTION AGENDA

### PRIORITY ACTION ITEMS:

*All items listed under the Priority Action Items must be conducted at the beginning of the meeting as per Section 2.2.1. of the Elections, Officers and Terms Policy.*

#### 3. BOARD ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS FOR 2020 – DFC MAROVICH AND COUNSEL JAMES

- *ANNUAL ITEM:* Select President and Vice President for calendar year 2020. (pgs. 5-6)

## ACTION AGENDA

### CONSENT ITEMS:

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

#### 4. APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, OCTOBER 2019

- *STANDING ITEM:* Review and approve minutes from October meeting as presented. (pgs. 7-14)

#### 5. REVIEW AND ACCEPT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2019

- *STANDING ITEM:* Review and Accept Financial Report for October as presented. (pgs. 15-24)

#### 6. REVIEW AND APPROVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:

- *Standing Item:* GOVERNANCE – MANUAL ORGANIZATION AND USE – PREPARATION OF POLICIES & PROCEDURES: Revised into new P&P format, divided into separate Policy and Procedures. Revised to define responsibilities for revision handling and approval process. (pgs. 25-40)

**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

DECEMBER 10, 2019

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### ACTION ITEMS:

All items listed under the Action Items Agenda will be presented and discussed prior to the Board taking action on any matter. Members of the public may comment on items at the time they are presented. Time Certain Items will commence precisely at the time announced in the Agenda.

7. **CONSIDER REPRESENTATIVE(S) TO NCDJPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS — DFC MAROVICH** (pgs. 41-42)  
➤ *Recurring Item:* Consider whether Directors Munson and Harris will continue to serve as primary and secondary representatives for the Dispatch JPA Board.
8. **SALE OF SURPLUS VEHICLES — D/C MAHR AND DFC MAROVICH** (pgs. 43-44)  
➤ *Recurring Item:* Consider and declare vehicles surplus to allow for disposal via District policy.
9. **CONSIDER AND SELECT NOMINEES FOR SAN DIEGO LAFCO 2019 SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS — DFC MAROVICH** (pgs. 45-70)  
➤ *Recurring Item:* Consider and select nominees and cast vote for election; appoint President to cast vote.
10. **SET SPECIAL BOARD MEETING TO CERTIFY PROPOSITION “A” ELECTION RESULTS AND ADOPT ORDINANCE 2019-02 AUTHORIZING THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR CFD 2019-01** (pgs. 71-72)  
➤ *New Item:* Set Special Board Meeting for December 12, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. to certify results of Prop A election and if election is successful, Adopt Ordinance 2019-02.

### DISCUSSION AGENDA

No action shall be undertaken on any Discussion item. 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.

11. There are no Discussion Items for the December 10, 2019 Board Meeting. (pgs. 73-74)

### STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:

All items listed under the Standing Discussion Items are presented at every meeting.

- **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** (pgs. 75-76)
  - “Public Agency Access to Data Does Not Make the Data Disclosable Under PRA.”
- **WRITTEN COMMUNICATION:** (pgs. 77-84)
  - BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM
- **NEWS ARTICLES** (pgs. 85-180)
- **COMMENTS/QUESTIONS:** (pgs. 181-82)
- **STAFF:**
  - DFC Marovich
  - Other Staff
- **BOARD**
- **BARGAINING GROUPS**
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**



# AGENDA FOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING

## DECEMBER 10, 2019

### PAGE 3 OF 3

## CLOSED SESSION

The Board will enter closed session to discuss items 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. 183-84)

- 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 REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR — GOVERNMENT CODE § 54956.8 — DFC MAROVICH:**

- **PROPERTY LOCATION:** 4157 Olive Hill Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028;
- **PARTIES:** North County Fire Protection District (Seller);
- **UNDER NEGOTIATION:** Terms of Purchase;
- **DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:** Chief Abbott, District Counsel James

### CS-3. **EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE – Government Code § 54957 - DFC Marovich:**

- *Engineer/PM Erin S. McInerney* CHIEF MAROVICH

### CS-4. **EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE – Government Code § 54957 - DFC Marovich:**

- *Fire Chief/CEO* **DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:**  
DISTRICT COUNSEL JAMES

### CS-5. **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION — PRESIDENT LUEVANO**

**CONVENE TO OPEN SESSION:** The Board will return to Open Session at the conclusion of Closed Session to Report on Closed Session Matters and to Hear Remaining Agenda Items, if any.

### 12. **REVIEW AND APPROVE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION FOR CHIEF ABBOTT — DISTRICT COUNSEL JAMES AND DFC MAROVICH**

- *Recurring Item:* Review and approve Chief Abbott's employment contract and compensation; authorize President to execute agreement.

## ADJOURNMENT

### SCHEDULED MEETINGS

The next *regularly* scheduled Board meeting is: **Tuesday, January 28, 2020, 4:00 p.m.**

### 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, during normal business hours or may be found on the District website, subject to the Staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting. The date of posting was **December 5, 2019.**"

Board Secretary Loren Stephen-Porter:

Date:

December 5, 2019





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

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 10, 2019  
**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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**NORTH COUNTY FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT  
STAFF REPORT**

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** D/C McREYNOLDS AND CHIEF ABBOTT  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 10, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** CHALLENGE COIN AWARD

## **PUBLIC AGENDA**

### **BACKGROUND:**

North County Fire Protection District has created a recognition program for members of the community who go above and beyond to assist the organization and/or fellow townspeople in times of need. The first recipient of an NCFPD community challenge coin will be Fallbrook resident Bart Harris who assisted NCFPD during a recent trail rescue.

### **SUMMARY:**

On the evening of October 24, 2019, North Comm. Dispatch received a 9-1-1 call reporting a person in CPR status on the Monserate Mountain Trail. As NCFPD and SDSO units arrived and personnel began ascending the hill to reach the victim, we had multiple rigs that had been left unattended at the trailhead on Horse Creek Ranch Road. Personal protective equipment had also been left on the side of the road so that a Staff truck could be used to shuttle additional equipment to the scene via a dirt service road off Rice Canyon.

Fallbrook Resident Bart Harris was standing at the trailhead as the incident was unfolding and was asked to assist with unit and equipment security while crews hiked to the scene. For over 1.5 hours Mr. Harris, faithfully stood by and maintained a presence of security over NCFPD rigs and equipment.

That evening, Mr. Harris proved a valuable community partner, one who kindly offered his assistance to help his fire department and fellow citizens. I would like to formally recognize and thank Mr. Harris and present him with an NCFPD Community Challenge Coin for his selfless act of service.

## Loren Stephen-Porter

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**From:** Keith McReynolds  
**Sent:** October 29, 2019 07:52  
**To:** Kevin Mahr  
**Cc:** Loren Stephen-Porter  
**Subject:** FW: Agency Challenge Coins



Kevin,

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 North Comm. received a 911 call reporting a person in CPR status on the Monserate Mountain Trail. As NCF and SDO units arrived and personnel began ascending the hill to the victim we had multiple rigs that had been left unattended at the trailhead on Horse Creek Ranch Road. Personal protective equipment had also been left on the side of the road so that a staff truck could be used to shuttle additional equipment to the scene via a dirt service road off Rice Canyon. Fallbrook Resident Bart Harris was standing at the trailhead as the incident was unfolding and was asked to assist with unit and equipment security while crews hiked to the victim. Mr. Harris faithfully stood by for over 1.5 hours and maintained a presence of security over our rigs and equipment while personnel were rendering aid to the victim. That evening Mr. Harris proved a valuable community partner who kindly offered his assistance to help out his fire department and fellow citizens. I would like to present Mr. Harris with an NCFPD Community Challenge Coin for his selfless act of service.

**Keith McReynolds** | Division Chief – Training, Safety & HR  
North County Fire Protection District | 330 S. Main Ave – Fallbrook, CA 92028  
T: (760) 723-2080 - C: (760) 497-2568 - F: (760) 723-2045  
[kmcreynolds@ncfire.org](mailto:kmcreynolds@ncfire.org) | [www.ncfire.org](http://www.ncfire.org)

*Proudly serving the communities of Fallbrook, Bonsall and Rainbow ~ Duty, Integrity and Respect*

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# NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** CHIEF ABBOTT  
**DATE:** December 10, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

## **PRIORITY ACTION AGENDA**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

To elect Board members to serve as President and Vice President for the 2020 year.

### **BACKGROUND:**

North County Fire Protection District has adopted a policy which provides that at the first meeting following the election or appointment of new director(s), or at the last scheduled meeting of the calendar year (during a non-election year), the Board shall elect a President and Vice President, to serve until the election of his or her successor (Health & Safety Code § 13853). Assumption of the Board Officer positions is effective at the conclusion of this Board meeting. Once elected, Board members shall serve in their nominated position for a one-year term.

### **DISCUSSION:**

As this meeting constitutes the last scheduled meeting of the year, the terms of office for President Luevano and Vice President Harris will be complete at the conclusion of the meeting. Therefore, it is time for election of Board Officers for President and Vice President.

### **FISCAL ANALYSIS:**

None.

### **SUMMARY:**

To assist with the election of Board of Director Officers, the meeting would be turned over to Counsel James for the purposes of accomplishing the election of President of the Board. After selection of the office of President, President Luevano will resume meeting control, conducting the remainder of the election and meeting; then conclude his 2019-year term at the end of the meeting.

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1 **October 22, 2019**

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 DEPUTY CHIEF MAROVICH.**

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, FM Fieri and  
12 members of the public and Association.

13  
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. Ms. Jeanne Allen  
17 addressed the Board to discuss Prop A and the information on the Prop A. website regarding  
18 the establishment of a CFD. Chief Abbott informed the audience that the election for Prop  
19 A falls under the Mello-Roos Act and that is why the District is following those rules for this  
20 election. Discussion ensued regarding why this is not just a landowner vote, with Chief  
21 Abbott noting the rule that when more than 12 properties are involved, it goes to an “all  
22 registered voter” election. Director Van Doorn arrived at 4:05 p.m. Next, Ms. Peggy Wells  
23 addressed the Board and noted she was part of a group that monitors the integrity and  
24 transparency of election procedures. She discussed David Tassuig’s group as being known  
25 for being consistent and methodical. Ms. Wells requested an overview of the process, with  
26 Chief Abbott providing an outline of the process. Ms. Suzanne Hern spoke next spoke  
27 regarding her concerns about the report evaluating the District’s facilities and questioned  
28 why there was a variance between \$630,000 to \$1.3 million a year for upkeep. Chief Abbott  
29 explained the replacement project plan, the structures to be upgraded or replaced and noted

30 that the report opined that the District would need approximately \$26 million to bring the  
31 District facilities up to date. He noted that at the estimated \$1 million per year to be realized  
32 from the election in 20 years, the District would still remain at least \$6 million below the  
33 needed amount to maintain facilities. Ms. Hern questioned whether all items on the list for  
34 upgrade had been completed, with Chief Abbott noting they had not been. Ms. Lauren  
35 Brimmer spoke next opining that there had been a lack of transparency in Proposition A,  
36 without information regarding who would vote, exactly how the funds would be used and a  
37 letter explaining the process for the sample and final ballot. She expressed concerned about  
38 the District letting Bonds, that no details of the funding mechanism had been provided. The  
39 Board informed her that no Bonds were involved in Prop A as they had been informed that  
40 up to 50 percent of the Bonds would go to pay out for interest on the Bond. Under the current  
41 plan, the money realized from the taxes will be collected directly by the County, who will  
42 place it directly into the District account, which will be utilized according to CFD and County  
43 policy. At 4:25 p.m., when there was no further public comment, the public comment section  
44 was closed.

## 46 ACTION AGENDA

### 47 CONSENT ITEMS:

- 48 2. REVIEW AND ACCEPT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 2019
- 49 3. REVIEW AND ACCEPT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2019
- 50 4. REVIEW AND ACCEPT POLICIES & PROCEDURES
- 51 5. REVIEW AND ACCEPT 1ST QUARTER EMERGENCY SERVICE OVERTIME TRACKING REPORT
- 52 6. REVIEW AND ACCEPT 3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY PROGRAM
- 53 RESULTS

54 President Luevano inquired whether there were any questions on Consent Items 2-6 .Vice  
55 President Harris requested that Item 4(c) be pulled from the Agenda for further discussion  
56 at a later date. By consensus Item 4(c) was pulled from the Agenda and there being no  
57 discussion, President Luevano asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. On a



58 motion by Director Hoffman, seconded by Director Van Doorn, the motion to approve the  
59 Consent Agenda as modified passed unanimously.

60  
61 **ACTION ITEMS:**

62 7. **APPROVE MEETING SCHEDULE AND PLACE FOR NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
63 **BOARD MEETINGS FOR THE YEAR 2020 — CHIEF ABBOTT AND B/S STEPHEN-PORTER:** Chief  
64 Abbott presented the plan for the 2020 Board meetings, noting that FPUD continues to be  
65 an appropriate venue for NCFPD Board meetings. On a motion by Director Munson,  
66 seconded by Director Hoffman, the motion to approve the meeting schedule for 2020 as  
67 presented passed unanimously.

68 8. **PUBLIC HEARING DATE/TIME CERTAIN — OCTOBER 22, 2019 (4:15 P.M.) — FOR**  
69 **ADOPTION OF THE 2019 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE WITH CERTAIN AMENDMENTS, ADDITIONS AND**  
70 **DELETIONS — APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2019-01 — CHIEF ABBOTT AND FM**  
71 **FIERI:** President Luevano called the Public Hearing to order at 4:35 p.m., asking if there  
72 were any public comments. There being no public comments, the Public Hearing was  
73 closed. Chief Abbott presented the Ordinance for the second and final reading, giving an  
74 overview of the major changes from previous Code adoptions. He indicated that as much  
75 as possible, the County agencies are attempting to keep standards consistent throughout  
76 the County, with local amendments as needed. Therefore, the District made only such  
77 changes as were necessary to address local issues. He supported Board adoption of the  
78 Ordinance, indicating this would continue the consistency between the District and local,  
79 County and State Fire codes. On a motion by Director Munson, which was seconded by  
80 Director Van Doorn, the Board unanimously approved Ordinance 2019-01 as presented and  
81 directed publishing as required, with the following roll call vote: **Ayes:** Directors Harris,  
82 Hoffman, Luevano, Munson and Van Doorn; **Noes:** None.

83  
84 **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

85 9. **COMMUNITY MEDICINE OVERVIEW — CHIEF ABBOTT, D/C MAHR AND MSO MURPHY:**  
86 Chief Abbott made a presentation regarding Community Paramedicine, bringing the Board

87 up to date regarding the concerns in emergency medicine pushing this idea to the forefront.  
88 He defined Community Paramedicine (CP), also called Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) as  
89 the concept of improving community health delivered by pre-hospital providers (nurses,  
90 paramedics and EMTs) through more successful navigation of the healthcare system. CP  
91 is not a new concept; however, it has not been utilized in California. He noted that the  
92 traditional emergency response, plus the physician shortage, emergency room  
93 overcrowding and high wait times for emergency responders is causing responders to adopt  
94 CP out of necessity. In addition, it is estimated 60% of patients transported by ambulance  
95 would rather go by other means, if they were available. Chief Abbott also noted that  
96 insurers, especially Medicare, are now assessing medical necessity for the level of services  
97 rendered. If the insurer feels the care rendered exceeds the level of necessity, the patient  
98 is left to pay what the insurer will not.

99 Chief Abbott noted cost and man-hour savings the District has implemented to make the  
100 system more efficient, such as District partnerships with healthcare providers and social  
101 service networks. He also outlined Zone activities that embrace CP concepts, including  
102 tiered response and health services referral program. Chief Abbott noted the Zone is taking  
103 a regional approach including obtaining a medical director, implementing call triage,  
104 implementing a medical priority dispatch system, instituting a BLS overlay, as well as  
105 considering other alternatives.

106 Director Munson inquired if we were constrained by law to the response model we have at  
107 this time. Chief Abbott replied there are some aspects that can be implemented, although  
108 they would have to be assured call triage was appropriate. President Luevano inquired  
109 whether any change would be accounted for in this year's budget and if not, it could be  
110 considered at the next year's review. Chief Abbott noted the entire fleet did not have to be  
111 ALS response, but some could be BLS. The Zone is waiting to see the cost-savings  
112 Oceanside will realize, although he estimated it would be approximately  
113 \$10,000/year/personnel. Vice President Harris inquired whether the District would be  
114 required to participate in anything if the Zone decided to implement. Director Van Doorn  
115 inquired whether different types of vehicles, such as squads and quick response vehicles

116 are being considered. He expressed concerns about reduction in resources, delays in care  
117 and the need to adjust level of response. Discussion to continue as new information is  
118 available. No action required.

119  
120 **STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

121 ● **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:** Counsel James presented his report “The Brown Act  
122 Conference Exception.” Brief discussion ensued regarding caution when discussing items  
123 at conferences and to ensure discussion are not about District business. This is informational  
124 only, no action required.

125 ● **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:** Brief discussion ensued. Informational only, no  
126 action required.

127 ● **BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM**

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

130 ● **COMMENTS:**

131 ● **STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES:**

132 ● **STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO:** Chief Abbott noted that SB 438 has been signed  
133 by the Governor. The bill would prohibit a public agency from delegating, assigning or  
134 contracting for “911” emergency call processing services for the dispatch of emergency  
135 response resources unless the delegation or assignment is to, or the contract or agreement  
136 is with, another public agency. He noted that AB 96, which defines a basic system to be  
137 911 systems, including, Next Generation 911 and the subsequent technologies, and  
138 interfaces needed to deliver 911 voice and data information from the 911 caller to the  
139 emergency responder and the subsequent technologies, and interfaces needed to send  
140 information, including, but not limited to, alerts and warnings, to potential 911 callers is still  
141 under consideration. AB 932, which extends worker’s coverage to firefighters who are  
142 performing said duties when not under the direction of their employer and injury, disability  
143 or death incurred and such shall be deemed to have arisen out of, and been sustained in,  
144 the course of employment for purposes of workers’ compensation and all other benefits, is

145 under consideration. Finally, SB 542, which defines certain mental conditions arising out of  
146 employment and provides for peer support, has been signed by the Governor.  
147 Informational only, no further action required.

148 ● **CHIEF OFFICERS AND OTHER STAFF: DFC MAROVICH:** DFC Marovich noted the District  
149 is bringing on four new Single Role Medics (SRM) after three had recently terminated. The  
150 District is planning on hiring extra in order to ensure there is no overtime required. He noted  
151 the District is losing SRM to other agencies when they are eligible to become FF/PMs. For  
152 this recruitment, they have had ten applicants.

153 ● **BOARD:** No comments.

154 ● **BARGAINING GROUPS:** Captain Harrington informed the Board the Firefighter  
155 Association had completed their campaign for Prop A. They reached every precinct, with  
156 100% participation from its members. He said they learned a lot through the event and he  
157 commented he was very proud of the membership and their participation.

158 ● **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments.

## 160 **CLOSED SESSION**

### 161 ● **OPENING CLOSED SESSION:**

162 At 5:40 p.m., President Luevano inquired whether there was a motion to adjourn to Closed  
163 Session. On a motion by Vice President Harris, seconded by Director Hoffman the motion  
164 to go into Closed Session was approved. President Luevano read the items to be discussed  
165 in Closed Session and the Open Session was closed. A short break ensued after the reading  
166 of the Closed Session Items. At 5:45 p.m., and the Board entered Closed Session to hear:

#### 167 CS-1. **ANNOUNCEMENT — PRESIDENT LUEVANO:**

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

#### 170 CS-2. **CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR — GOVERNMENT CODE**

#### 171 **§ 54956.8 — CHIEF ABBOTT:**

172 PROPERTY LOCATION: 4157 Olive Hill Road – Station 3, Fallbrook, CA 92028;

173 PARTIES: North County Fire Protection District (Seller);



174 UNDER NEGOTIATION: Terms of Sale;  
175 DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS: Chief Abbott, District Counsel James  
176 CS-3. EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957:

177 Fire Chief/CEO District Counsel James

178 CS-4. **REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION — PRESIDENT LUEVANO**

179 • REOPENING OPEN SESSION:

180 On a motion by Director Munson, which was seconded by Director Hoffman and which  
181 passed unanimously, the Board returned Open Session at 6:31 p.m., the following items  
182 were reported out to the public:


183 CS-2. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR — GOVERNMENT CODE  
184 § 54956.8 — CHIEF ABBOTT: No reportable action.

185 CS-3. EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE – GOVERNMENT CODE § 54957 - Fire Chief/CEO: No  
186 reportable action.

## ADJOURNMENT

188 A motion was made at 6:35 p.m. by Director Hoffman and seconded by Director Munson to  
189 adjourn the meeting and reconvene on December 10, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. The motion carried  
190 unanimously.

191 Respectfully submitted,

192  
193 

194 Loren Stephen-Porter

195 Board Secretary

196 Minutes approved at the Board of Director's Meeting on: December 10, 2019

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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:** DECEMBER 10, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** REVENUE & EXPENDITURES AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2019 (33%)

Revenue Sources	Budgeted	Collected	Over/Under	% of Budget
Property Taxes - FBK	15,476,356.00	490,786.64	(14,985,569.36)	3%
Property Taxes - RNBW	285,000.00	3,272.00	(236,911.29)	1%
Ambulance and Collections	1,945,000.00	799,862.90	(1,145,137.10)	41%
GEMT-State Supplement	130,000.00	-	(130,000.00)	0%
Prevention Fees	200,000.00	60,902.47	(139,097.53)	30%
Tower Lease Agreements	103,000.00	15,987.29	(87,012.71)	16%
Other Revenue Sources	50,000.00	2,217.11	(47,782.89)	4%
Interest	70,000.00	17,998.76	(52,001.24)	26%
Cost Recovery	70,000.00	23,891.46	(46,108.54)	34%
Fallbrook Healthcare District	181,637.00	-	(181,637.00)	0%
Community Facilities District (CFD)	149,079.00	32,787.77	(116,291.23)	22%
Strike Team Reimbursements	89,000.00	7,892.89	(81,107.11)	-
Other Reimbursements	150,000.00	4,479.99	(145,520.01)	3%
Mitigation Fees & Interest - FBK	300,000.00	-	(300,000.00)	0%
Donations & Grants	288,215.00	27,597.00	(260,618.00)	10%
Annexation fees	-	-	-	-
Transfers & Loans	-	-	-	0%
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>19,487,287.00</b>	<b>1,487,676.28</b>	<b>(17,999,610.72)</b>	<b>8%</b>
	<b>Budgeted</b>	<b>Spent</b>	<b>Over/Under</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>TTL Expenditures YTD thru 10-31-2019</b>	<b>18,541,468.00</b>	<b>6,886,444.47</b>	<b>(11,655,023.53)</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Revenue over Expenditures</b>		<b>(5,398,768.19)</b>		

North County Fire Protection District  
 For the Fourth Month Ending October 31, 2019  
**33% of Budget**

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

Description	October Actual	Running Total	Annual Budget	Amount Remaining	% Used
<b>TOTAL PERSONNEL*</b>	2,606,425.48	5,765,473.59	14,868,417.00	9,102,943.41	38.8%
101 Total Board Administration	30,622.20	154,646.78	468,900.00	314,253.22	33.0%
102 Total Administration	51,950.27	269,525.26	1,090,029.00	820,503.74	24.7%
103 Total Fire Prevention	2,259.41	11,903.41	70,400.00	58,496.59	16.9%
104 Total Emergency Services**	17,534.63	271,083.06	353,396.00	82,312.94	76.7%
105 Total Emergency Med Svcs	18,359.08	54,743.60	205,233.00	150,489.40	26.7%
106 Total Reserves (note below)	-	4,662.83	62,995.00	58,332.17	7.4%
107 Total Communications***	5,054.50	228,158.22	686,121.00	457,962.78	33.3%
108 Total Shop/Maintenance	15,732.71	107,045.16	308,890.00	201,844.84	34.7%
109 Total Training	5,629.88	19,202.56	75,000.00	55,797.44	25.6%
120 Total General Fund Reserve	-	-	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.0%
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2,753,568.16</b>	<b>6,886,444.47</b>	<b>18,389,381.00</b>	<b>11,502,936.53</b>	<b>37.4%</b>
* Includes Q1 Work Comp pymt and PERS UAL payment					
** FY19-20 Facility/Vehicle insurance & Map Maintenance fees paid					
*** FY19-20 Dispatch Q1 services paid					
Note: SAFER grant will provide reimbursement					
<b>200 Total Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>7,145.89</b>	<b>305,175.88</b>	<b>2,677,751.00</b>	<b>2,372,575.12</b>	<b>11.4%</b>



**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			-	463,485.04	603,342.32	1,052,307.38	
12 10 2019	5			-	463,485.04	4,702,859.90	5,755,167.28	
01 21 2019	6			-	463,485.04	2,475,082.73	8,230,250.01	
02 25 2019	7			-	463,485.04	373,592.56	8,603,842.57	
03 1 2019				-	-	-	-	
04 7 2019	8			-	463,485.04	3,842,704.38	12,446,546.95	
04 28 2019	9			-	463,485.04	1,803,479.65	14,250,026.60	
05 26 2019	10			-	463,485.04	129,786.35	14,379,812.95	
06 23 2019	11			-	463,485.04	231,038.97	14,610,851.92	
07 21 2019	12			-	463,485.04	77,727.25	14,688,579.17	
<b>TOTAL YTD</b>		<b>490,786.64</b>	<b>27,301.60</b>	<b>463,485.04</b>	<b>463,485.04</b>	<b>448,965.06</b>	<b>448,965.06</b>	
							<b>Net Rev Increase</b>	
							<b>3.23%</b>	

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

DATE	APP #	GROSS	REFUNDS & ADJUSTMENTS	FY 18/19 NET	FY 18/19 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			-	8,475.95	11,081.56	19,336.09	
12 10 2019	5			-	8,475.95	86,192.15	105,528.24	
01 21 2020	6			-	8,475.95	46,559.31	152,087.55	
02 25 2020	7			-	8,475.95	6,832.96	158,920.51	
03 1 2020				-	8,475.95	-	158,920.51	
04 7 2020	8			-	8,475.95	70,775.54	229,696.05	
04 28 2020	9			-	8,475.95	33,900.26	263,596.31	
05 26 2020	10			-	8,475.95	2,421.64	266,017.95	
06 23 2020	11			-	8,475.95	4,226.68	270,244.63	
07 21 2020	12			-	8,475.95	1,423.06	271,667.69	
TOTAL YTD		8,975.29	499.34	8,475.95	5,648.98	5,023.64	5,023.64	
							<b>Net Rev Increase</b>	
							12.45%	

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 RECEIVED	BILLING FEES	FY 19-20		FY 18-19	
			FY 19-20	FY 18-19						NET REVENUE	NET REVENUE	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	-	227,480.76	217,089.84	11,816.20	205,273.64	173,574.04		
11 30 2019			-	232,615.61			-			-	158,597.14		
12 31 2019				227,844.63			-			-	136,934.48		
01 31 2020				265,799.30			-			-	146,990.66		
02 28 2020				217,930.29			-			-	155,082.20		
03 31 2020				217,351.75			-			-	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		
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>2,194,260.25</b>	<b>1,148,144.88</b>	<b>1,046,115.37</b>	<b>768,530.18</b>	<b>154,536.61</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>891,578.76</b>	<b>786,906.88</b>	<b>45,434.82</b>	<b>741,472.06</b>	<b>602,329.03</b>	<b>23.10%</b>	<b>New Revenue Change</b>

<p><b>NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT</b></p> <p><b>MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT</b></p>
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**October 31, 2019**

<b>FALLBROOK</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>	<b>INTEREST</b>	
		<b>RATE</b>	
County of San Diego/General Fund - FBK	179,941.14	0.01%	Operating
County of San Diego/General Fund - RNBW	860,312.59	0.01%	Operating
County of San Diego/Capital Reserve	392,483.63	0.01%	Capital Reserves
County of San Diego/Fire Mitigation Fund - FBK	398,135.22	0.01%	Mitigation Fees
County of San Diego/Fire Mitigation Fund - RNBW	3,976.14	0.01%	Mitigation Fees
Local Agency Investment Fund	3,958,610.39	2.28%	LAIF
Workers' Comp JPA	464,728.73	0.26%	PASIS Funds
Bank of America/PASIS	21,727.50	0.01%	
First National/Benefit Fund	155,285.09	0.70%	
First National/Payroll	507,180.23	0.70%	
First National/Accounts Payable	361,837.43	0.70%	
First National/Accounts Receivable	221,520.02	0.66%	
Pacific Western Bank/Accounts Receivable	572,288.33	0.00%	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>8,098,026.44</b>	



**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			#DIV/0!	-	-	6,981.22
12 31 2019			#DIV/0!	-	-	4,120.80
1 31 2020			#DIV/0!	-	-	3,653.60
2 28 2020			#DIV/0!	-	-	6,160.00
3 30 2020			#DIV/0!	-	-	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
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>38,875.00</b>	<b>29,864.33</b>	<b>76.82%</b>	<b>5,972.87</b>	<b>23,891.46</b>	<b>27,155.67</b>
					<b>Net Rev Increase</b>	<b>-12.02%</b>

therecoveryhub.com  
Ncfd1107

Document Date	Document Number	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Document Amount
10 1 2019	EBA 10/2019	Employee Benefit Specialists, Inc.	Dental/Vision/Life 10/2019	8,233.62
10 1 2019	STMT 10/2019	Harry J. Wilson Insurance Center	LTD 10/2019	1,011.00
10 1 2019	STMT 10/2019	THE STANDARD	LTD 10/2019	577.50
10 1 2019	1944NCF101901	Strategy Research Institute	Consulting 10/2019	4,600.00
10 1 2019	PERMIT 10/19-10/20	County of San Diego DEH	Wastewater treat 10/19-10/20	383.00
10 1 2019	36757827169	DIRECTV	10/01/19-10/31/19	145.98
10 1 2019	CABLE JUL-OCT '19	FALLBROOK FIREFIGHTERS' ASSN	Cable July-Oct 2019	2,826.60
10 1 2019	01102019	GROSSMAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOC., INC.	Psych testing	1,950.00
10 1 2019	098275101	XEROX - PASADENA	08-21-19 to 09-20-19	158.31
10 1 2019	098275102	XEROX - PASADENA	08-21-19 to 09-21-19	749.91
10 1 2019	STA. 1 DEPOSIT FENCE	FRONTIER FENCE CO, INC.	Chainlink Fence Sta. 1 deposit	8,000.00
10 1 2019	RATERS LUNCH 10/19	Nancy Goss	Raters lunch	30.07
10 1 2019	EMBROIDERY 10/19	GREGG HOLDRIDGE	Embroidery for uniform	16.00
10 2 2019	9/5/19-10/2/19	FALLBROOK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTR	09/05/19-10/02/19	411.21
10 2 2019	09/05/19-10/02/19	FALLBROOK PUBLIC UTILITY DISTR	09/05/19-10/02/19	272.23
10 2 2019	92268409	Linde Gas North America LLC	Oxygen refill	79.75
10 2 2019	0381456100219	TIME WARNER CABLE	10/02/19-11/01/19	337.93
10 2 2019	0381472100219	TIME WARNER CABLE	10/02/19-11/01/19	1,142.93
10 2 2019	X1-12027	CUMMINS PACIFIC	Washer, sealing	41.64
10 3 2019	6097	PALOMAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Fall 2019 Fire 98 Class #77833	3,010.00
10 4 2019	KOCH AL BUYOUT	LINCOLN NATIONAL	Koch cash out 07/2019	17,500.00
10 4 2019	STA. 1 10/04/19	North County Window and Door	Sta. 1 window replacement	2,959.39
10 4 2019	92311402	Linde Gas North America LLC	Oxygen refill	127.22
10 4 2019	92311401	Linde Gas North America LLC	Oxygen refill	159.58
10 4 2019	92311400	Linde Gas North America LLC	Oxygen refill	211.36
10 4 2019	R73851	VALLEY POWER SYSTEMS, INC	Sensor, Pwr cool	168.49
10 5 2019	92328817	Linde Gas North America LLC	Oxygen refill	103.50
10 5 2019	LEGAL FEB-SEPT	Reeder Media	Public legal notices	1,250.00
10 6 2019	RUN 541464	AARRE SILVOLA	Ambulance refund	1,441.31
10 6 2019	RUN 125652	AETNA HEALTHCARE	Ambulance refund	81.14
10 6 2019	RUN 288740	A. BURDICK	Ambulance refund	136.81
10 6 2019	RUN 218882	BLUE SHIELD OF CA	Ambulance refund	72.71
10 6 2019	RUN 24458	BLUE SHIELD OF CA	Ambulance refund	1,791.25
10 6 2019	RUN 78590	BLUE SHIELD OF CA	Ambulance refund	173.25
10 6 2019	RUN 179938	BLUE SHIELD OF CA	Ambulance refund	2,118.61
10 6 2019	RUN 223938	BLUE SHIELD OF CA	Ambulance refund	290.09
10 6 2019	RUN 209419	BRADLEY HARRIS TTEE	Ambulance refund	120.06
10 6 2019	RUN 63908	JAMES BRINEY	Ambulance refund	114.41

Document Date	Document Number	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Document Amount
10 6 2019	RUN 158370	KAISER PERMANENTE	Ambulance refund	587.53
10 6 2019	RUN 78587	KAISER PERMANENTE	Ambulancer refund	1,727.15
10 6 2019	RUN 326057	KAISER PERMANENTE	Ambulance refund	1,416.18
10 6 2019	RUN 234503	KAISER PERMANENTE	Ambulancer refund	1,827.55
10 6 2019	RUN 176364	KAISER PERMANENTE	Ambulance refund	1,848.73
10 6 2019	RUN 51337	MARGARET LEONELLI	Ambulance refund	1,872.06
10 6 2019	RUN 278430	MARGARET LEONELLI	Amb. refund	500.00
10 6 2019	RUN 505241	AIDA M OTERO	Ambulance refund	45.01
10 6 2019	2018071292005090029	RADY CHILDREN'S	Ambulance refund	641.41
10 6 2019	FSC3120	Sam Russell	FSC3120	810.00
10 8 2019	LAIF 10/2018	NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT	TX from Mitigation to LAIF	500,000.00
10 8 2019	86192	FALLBROOK PROPANE GAS CO.	Propane Sta. 5	185.18
10 8 2019	51891-19	Meza Automotive Paint	Eng detergent	111.04
10 8 2019	10/09/19-11/08/19	AT&T U-VERSE	10/09/19-11/08/19	146.30
10 8 2019	67488	SDRMA	Added 2019 Pierce pumper/Eng	5,469.84
10 9 2019	FUEL ERROR 10-2019	Fallbrook Village Rotary Club	Fuel purchse in error	100.00
10 9 2019	STMT 10/09/2019	LIFE-ASSIST, INC	Medical supplies	4,260.47
10 9 2019	FSC 4753	BRIAN MACMILLAN	FSC 4753	810.00
10 9 2019	81337472	SAFETY-KLEEN CORP	Vac service	2,097.00
10 9 2019	496208	SOUTH COAST EMERGENCY VEHICLE SERV	Strap, roller	162.62
10 9 2019	51007	Uniform Plus	Lindsey uniform	271.88
10 10 2019	0002262800	DIAMOND ENVIRONMENTAL SVS	Lavatory FBK St.	313.49
10 10 2019	95986	UNIFORM SPECIALIST/ACE UNIFORMS	D. Helman uniform	404.68
10 10 2019	78623478	WAXIE SANITARY SUPPLY	Hand clnr/spray bottles	1,808.39
10 10 2019	201019	OSTARI	IT services	1,993.75
10 11 2019	0002228829	DIAMOND ENVIRONMENTAL SVS	Open house bathroom rental	325.00
10 11 2019	36723386077	DIRECTV	09/21/19-10/20/19	134.52
10 11 2019	PR AP 10/11/19	LINCOLN NATIONAL	PR AP 10/11/19	2,431.22
10 11 2019	PR AP 10/11/19	FALLBROOK FIREFIGHTERS' ASSN	PR AP 10/11/19	2,408.25
10 11 2019	PR AP 10/11/19-SR	FALLBROOK FIREFIGHTERS' ASSN	PR AP 10/11/19	26.91
10 11 2019	PR AP 10/11/19	FIREFIGHTERS LEG. ACTION GRP	PR AP 10/11/19	86.00
10 11 2019	19-1010-6695	S&R TOWING	Demo Fire Prev.	400.00
10 11 2019	19-1011-6749	S&R TOWING	Tow from Sta. 1 to Airport	218.00
10 11 2019	0417565101119	TIME WARNER CABLE	10/11/19-11/10/19	89.98
10 13 2019	287294515164X1021201	AT&T	09/17/19-10/13/19	321.27
10 14 2019	SHOES FY19/20	ERIC AYERS	Running shoes FY 19/20	30.00
10 14 2019	OES MEAL 10/2019	ED JONES	OES MEAL	64.31
10 15 2019	STMT 10/15/19	FALLBROOK OIL COMPANY	Fuel 10/01/19-10/15/19	3,394.11

Document Date	Document Number	Vendor Name	Transaction Description	Document Amount
10 15 2019	STMT 10/15/2019	POSTAL ANNEX #25	Postage	30.97
10 15 2019	STMT 10/15/19	LEGAL SHIELD	ID protection 10/15/19	612.10
10 16 2019	62	FALLBROOK CAR WASH	Abbott car wash	41.85
10 17 2019	HAZMAT 1C	MATHIEU LINDSEY	Hazmat 1C	300.00
10 17 2019	496295	SOUTH COAST EMERGENCY VEHICLE SERV	Seal/washer	73.92
10 17 2019	496292	SOUTH COAST EMERGENCY VEHICLE SERV	Connector	5.43
10 21 2019	4701-6901	FALLBROOK HTG & AIR CONDITIONING, INC	Sta. 2 air cond repair	267.00
10 22 2019	HAZMAT 1C	BRACCI, JASON	Hazmat 1C class	300.00
10 22 2019	09/19/19-10/18/19-71	SDG&E	09/19/19-10/18/19	27.18
10 23 2019	17756	DCS Testing & Equipment, Inc	FY 19/20 Hose testing	8,462.75
10 24 2019	9839131960	VERIZON WIRELESS	09/02/19-10/01/19	77.26
10 25 2019	PR AP 10/25/19	LINCOLN NATIONAL	LINCOLN NAT'L PMT 10/25/19	3,880.87
10 25 2019	PR AP 10/25/19	FALLBROOK FIREFIGHTERS' ASSN	FFA DUES PR 10/25/19	2,374.95
10 25 2019	PR AP 10/25/2019	FALLBROOK FIREFIGHTERS' ASSN	FFA SR DUES 10/25/19	23.40
10 25 2019	PR AP 10/25/19	FIREFIGHTERS LEG. ACTION GRP	FLAG PMT PR 10/25/19	86.00
10 25 2019	2019 FIRE PREV WK	John Choi	Flyers - Fire Prevention	39.51
10 25 2019	AUGUST 353.22	US BANK GOVERNMENT SERVICES	Fire hose direct	353.22
10 25 2019	FIERI 26.64	US BANK GOVERNMENT SERVICES	Garage door	26.64
10 25 2019	JONES 181.88	US BANK GOVERNMENT SERVICES	NETC Meal ticket	181.88
10 25 2019	MURG10.72	US BANK GOVERNMENT SERVICES	Amazon	10.72
10 25 2019	NIETO801.15	US BANK GOVERNMENT SERVICES	Glass/Bolts/	801.15
10 25 2019	REES268.50	US BANK GOVERNMENT SERVICES	OES meals/hotel	268.50
10 25 2019	SAHAGUN268.50	US BANK GOVERNMENT SERVICES	Facilites	268.50
10 25 2019	FEES2.80	US BANK GOVERNMENT SERVICES	Fees	2.80
10 25 2019	KRUMWIEDE159.59	US BANK GOVERNMENT SERVICES	Facilities	159.59
10 31 2019	01773-2014-RI-2019	CO OF SD -AIR POLLUTION CONTROL	Permit fees 10/2019-10/2020	460.00
10 31 2019	Q2 ADMIN FEES 19/20	CITY OF SAN MARCOS/KISER	PASIS Q2 Admin Fees 19/20	38,747.00





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

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 10, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** APPROVAL OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

The following Policies and Procedures are being presented for review and approval:

1. Governance: Manual Organization and Use: Preparation of Policies & Procedures:
  - Revised into new P&P format, divided into Policy and Procedure. Revised to define responsibility for revision handling and approval process.

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## Preparation of Policies and Procedures

### 100.1 PURPOSE

To establish a systematic procedure for the preparation or modification of District policies and procedures.

### 100.2 POLICY

It shall be the policy of this Department, in so far as possible, to establish in writing the guiding principals and acceptable methods of action to be used by our personnel.

The establishment of policies and procedures shall be a Management prerogative except that participation may be sought from employees in the development of those policies concerning conditions of employment, and/or procedures and methods of an operational nature.

### 100.3 INTENT

To provide policy, procedure and guidelines relative to the preparation, change and distribution of District policy.

To provide a limited list of policy and procedure terms.

It is intended that these policies and procedures are to provide internal consistency.

It is the intent of the District to review Policies on a regular basis as needed, with the goal of a three year review cycle.

### 100.4 RESPONSIBILITY

All Supervisors/Managers shall be responsible for communicating and enforcing established policies and procedures to all North County Fire Protection District employees under their direct supervision. Said individuals shall also be responsible for the generation and maintenance of the policies and procedures which are assigned to their respective Divisions or major areas of responsibility.

Through the Administrative Division, the Executive Assistant shall distribute the draft version Policy or Form to the next level of review.

### 100.5 PLEASE SEE THE PROCEDURE MANUAL FOR PREPARATION OF POLICIES PROCEDURES

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## Preparation of Policies and Procedures

### 101.1 POLICY PREPARATION

Those members involved in the preparation or change of policies and procedures must correctly follow the prescribed standard actions listed in this text. This is essential in order to ensure uniformity and continuity of District policy. The following procedure shall be followed when developing a new policy or processing an unscheduled change in policy.

When a need for change is realized or a new policy or procedure is desired, the proposed policy or procedure should be formatted into a draft by the Program Manager. Note that changes in policies and procedures must occur at the policy-making level; intra-departmental memoranda may only serve to initially and temporarily signify such forthcoming changes. Refer to the Memoranda Development Policy.

The Program Manager may seek input from the pertinent stakeholders for any new or revised Policy or Procedure.

Pertinent stakeholders, when consulted, will forward either their comments or a “no comment” of the proposed policy or procedure to the Program Manager.

The Program Manager will make the final changes to the original draft, forwarding it to the Leadership Team for review and approval.

### 101.2 DISTRIBUTION

The original electronic version of a policy or procedure will reside in the Policy Software Program. The District’s network will contain the legacy version of the P&P manual within the “Policy and Procedure” folder.

The Training Department will advise employees of additions or revisions to any policy and/or procedure.

### 101.3 FORMAT

The Policy Software program and/or the agency designee may make ministerial changes Policies and Forms without the requirement of formal review. Such changes include, but are not limited to:

- Updating format;
- Grammar changes;
- Spelling corrections;
- Hyperlink changes;
- Reference updates.

### 101.4 POLICY DEFINITIONS

Although not inclusive, the Headings of the policy may include:

# North County Fire Protection District

## North County Fire Protection District Procedures Manual

### Preparation of Policies and Procedures

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- **PURPOSE:** The general goal of the policy stated in such a manner that indicates why the policy is necessary.
- **POLICY:** A “policy” shall be defined as a declared intent or objective that shall be used as a basis for decision and action.
- **INTENT:** Specifically what the policy hopes ‘to accomplish’ in light of its purpose or general goal.
- **SCOPE:** The parameters of the subject.
- **DEFINITIONS:** Words descriptive of the processes within the policy.
- **AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY:** For purpose of implementing the policy and insuring its effective operation, authority and responsibility must be clearly defined. Because of the nature of the policy, authority may be treated separately from responsibility.
- **PROCEDURE:** A “Procedure” shall be defined as a prescribed or acceptable method or routine method of performing or implementing a desired course of action. Generally, the procedure shall be stated at the end of the policy, and comprise the bulk of the policy. The procedure(s) indicate(s) the steps to follow to complete a specified task or function.
- **GUIDELINE:** A “Guideline” shall be defined as a suggested or routine method of performing or implementing a desired course of action.
- **OTHER HEADINGS:** Other functional sub-headings that are appropriate to the subject matter may be used as necessary, to provide continuity.

#### **101.5 LEADERSHIP TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES**

At the conclusion of the review and drafting of the Policy or Form, and if deemed appropriate by the Fire Chief/CEO, the document will be forwarded by the Executive Assistant to the Leadership Team for review and approval.

The Program Manager will review the draft or amendment to ensure it is usable, in regulatory compliance and compatibility with District needs, as well as uniform in format and not in conflict with existing governing documents and guidelines.

The Program Manager or Division Head will make any revisions to the draft or amendment based on recommendations made by the Leadership Team.

Upon the Leadership Team’s approval, the Program Manager will make the final changes to the original draft. If no “meet and confer” issues are identified by the Leadership Team, the policy or procedure will be approved by the Fire Chief/CEO. The policy or procedure will be forwarded for inclusion in the Policy & Procedure Manual and distributed.

If “meet and confer” issues are identified by the Leadership Team, the draft will be forwarded in final format to the Labor/Management for consideration of any “meet and confer” issues.



# North County Fire Protection District

## North County Fire Protection District Procedures Manual

### Preparation of Policies and Procedures

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#### **101.6 MEET AND CONFER REQUIREMENTS**

Prior to consideration to adopt or amend any Policy, Procedure, Rule, Resolution or Memorandum of Understanding that deals with wages, benefits, rules or regulations, hours of work or other issues that impact or affect personnel, such personnel through their representatives, shall have an opportunity to meet, confer and provide input in accordance with the provisions outlined within the applicable sections of the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act.

In his/her discretion, the Fire Chief/CEO may choose to submit a policy that does not require meet and confer, to the Labor/Management Committee for the Committee's input.

The Labor/Management will generally be the mechanism the District uses to conduct the review under "meet and confer" guidelines.

The Executive Assistant will make any changes resulting from the "meet and confer" meetings.

The Executive Assistant will forward the draft or amendment to either the Fire Chief/CEO or the Board of Directors for approval.

#### **101.7 FINAL REVIEW PROCESS**

Final approval of Policies or Procedures is completed either by the Board of Directors or the Fire Chief/CEO. Only Policies having meet and confer requirements, or those dealing with Board procedures or its financial policy will be submitted to the Board. All others may be approved directly by the Fire Chief/ CEO.

Request for consideration of a new or revised Policy and/or procedure may be initiated by the any member of the Leadership Staff, Program Manager or Fire Chief/CEO. Recommendations from Committees or employees shall be presented through one of these routes.

DEVELOPMENT OR AMENDMENT TO A POLICY OR FORM: The proposed recommendations to draft or amend a Policy or Form is initiated by either:

- Completing a request for Development/Update of Policy or Form to the Program Manager or Division Head.
- The Program Manager or Division Head will initiate development or changes.
- The Program Manager or the Division Head will initiate review of development or review of the Policy or Form.

All items in the Policy manual will be reviewed on a rotating three year cycle.

#### **101.8 APPROVAL PROCESS**

FIRE CHIEF/CEO: The power to rescind, alter or amend the Rules and Regulations is vested in the Fire Chief/CEO, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, as provided by State Law (see Rules and Regulations).

For matters NOT having "meet and confer" requirements, the Fire Chief/CEO may use discretion to approve drafts and amendments without submission to the Board of Directors.

# North County Fire Protection District

## North County Fire Protection District Procedures Manual

### Preparation of Policies and Procedures

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The Fire Chief/CEO may use discretion to approve minor non-substantive changes after review (e.g. updating the format) without further review.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** Before considering adoption or amendment of any draft or amendment that requires Board approval, Directors shall have the opportunity to review the proposed draft or amendment.

Copies of the proposed draft or amendment shall be included in the agenda information packet for any meeting of consideration.

Adoption of a draft or amendment shall require a majority affirmative vote of the Board.

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:** The Executive Assistant will be responsible for moving the draft or changes through the approval process, including final update of the Policy & Procedure Manual or other document.



# NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

GOVERNANCE  
MANUAL ORGANIZATION AND USE

SECTION 130.03  
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### PREPARATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

#### 1.0. PURPOSE:

- 1.1. To establish a systematic procedure for the preparation or modification of District policies and procedures.

#### 2.0. POLICY:

- 2.1. It shall be the policy of this Department, in so far as possible, to establish in writing the guiding principals and acceptable methods of action to be used by our personnel.
- 2.2. The establishment of policies and procedures shall be a Management prerogative except that participation may be sought from employees in the development of those policies concerning conditions of employment, and/or procedures and methods of an operational nature.

#### 3.0. INTENT:

- 3.1. To provide policy, procedure and guidelines relative to the preparation, change and distribution of District policy.
- 3.2. To provide a limited list of policy and procedure terms.
- 3.3. It is intended that these policies and procedures are to provide internal consistency.
- 3.4. It is the intent of the District to review Policies on a regular basis as needed, with the goal of three year review cycle.

#### 4.0. RESPONSIBILITY:

- 4.1. **All Supervisors/Managers shall be responsible for communicating and enforcing established policies and procedures to all North County Fire Protection District employees under their direct supervision.** Said individuals shall also be responsible for the generation and maintenance of the policies and procedures which are assigned to their respective Divisions or major areas of responsibility.
- 4.2. Through the Human Resources Division, the Executive Assistant shall distribute the draft version Policy or Form, along with the tracker and cover memo to employees for review.



# NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

GOVERNANCE  
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SECTION 130.03  
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### PREPARATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

#### 5.0. **PROCEDURE:**

- 5.1. Those members involved in the preparation or change of policies and procedures must correctly follow the prescribed standard actions listed in this text. This is essential in order to ensure uniformity and continuity of District policy. The following procedure shall be followed when developing a new policy or processing an unscheduled change in policy.

#### 6.0. **POLICY PREPARATION:**

- 6.1. When a need for change is realized or a new policy or procedure is desired, the proposed policy or procedure should be formatted into a rough draft by the Program Manager. **Note that changes in policies and procedures must occur at the policy-making level; intra-departmental memoranda may only serve to initially and temporarily signify such forthcoming changes.** Refer to the [Memoranda Development Policy](#).
- 6.1. The Program Manager may seek input from the pertinent stakeholders for any new or revised Policy or Procedure.
- 6.2. Pertinent stakeholders, when consulted, will forward either their comments or a “no comment” of the proposed policy or procedure to the Program Manager.
- 6.3. The Program Manager will make the final changes to the original draft, forwarding it to the Leadership Team for review and approval.
- 6.4. Upon the Leadership Team’s approval, the Program Manager will make the final changes to the original draft. If no “meet and confer” issues are identified by the Leadership Team, the policy or procedure will be approved by the Fire Chief/CEO. The policy or procedure will be forwarded for inclusion in the Policy & Procedure Manual and distributed as indicated in Section II.
- 6.5. If “meet and confer” issues are identified by the Leadership Team, the draft will be forwarded in final format to the Labor/Management Committee for consideration of any “meet and confer” issues.

#### 7.0. **DISTRIBUTION:**

- 7.1. The original electronic version of a policy or procedure will reside in the District’s network, within the “Policy and Procedure” folder.





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## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

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### PREPARATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 7.2. The Human Resources Department will advise employees of additions or revisions via electronic mail to all personnel. When such e-mail is sent, a cover memo shall preface the policy with any pertinent instructions. Personnel assume accountability for any new or revised policy upon distribution of this e-mail.
- 7.3. All policy updates shall be forwarded to the Training Division for review in the monthly training schedule through Target Safety.
- 8.0. **FORMAT:**
  - 8.1. The appropriate standard format and letterhead shall be used when finalizing and composing the final draft with any given policy or procedure. All numbering and coding shall be consistent with existing policies.
  - 8.2. The Executive Assistant may make ministerial changes Policies and Forms without the requirement of formal review. Such changes include, but are not limited to:
    - 8.2.1. Updating format;
    - 8.2.2. Grammar changes;
    - 8.2.3. Spelling corrections;
    - 8.2.4. Hyperlink changes;
    - 8.2.5. Reference updates.
  - 8.3. **HEADERS:** Headers shall be created Utilizing the following format:



# NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Major Section (e.g. GOVERNANCE)  
Section (e.g. MANUAL ORGANIZATION & USE)  
Subsection (e.g. HEALTH & SAFETY)

SECTION  
DATE APPROVED  
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**POLICY NAME**



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### PREPARATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 8.4. This format is located in the [Policy & Procedure Manual](#) (See Policy & Procedure Header Format.)
- 8.5. OUTLINE FORMAT: All policies will follow standard legal outline format as follows:
- 1.0. FIRST LEVEL
  - 1.1. SECOND LEVEL
  - 1.1.1. THIRD LEVEL
  - 1.1.1.1. FOURTH LEVEL
  - 1.1.1.1.1. Fifth Level
- 8.6. TEXT: Text shall be "Arial" 12pt.
- 8.7. POLICY HEADINGS:
- 8.7.1. These headings shall be written in 12pt. "Arial" bold caps and underlined.
  - 8.7.2. Although not inclusive, the Headings of the policy may include:
  - 8.7.3. PURPOSE: The general goal of the policy stated in such a manner that indicates why the policy is necessary.
  - 8.7.4. POLICY: A "policy" shall be defined as a declared intent or objective that shall be used as a basis for decision and action.
  - 8.7.5. INTENT: Specifically what the policy hopes 'to accomplish' in light of its purpose or general goal.
  - 8.7.6. SCOPE: The parameters of the subject.
  - 8.7.7. DEFINITIONS: Words descriptive of the processes within the policy.
  - 8.7.8. AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY: For purpose of implementing the policy and insuring its effective operation, authority and responsibility must be clearly defined. Because of the nature of the policy, authority may be treated separately from responsibility.



# NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

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### PREPARATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 8.7.9. **PROCEDURE:** A “**Procedure**” shall be defined as a **prescribed or acceptable** method or routine method of performing or implementing a desired course of action. Generally, the procedure shall be stated at the end of the policy, and comprise the bulk of the policy. The procedure(s) indicate(s) the steps to follow to complete a specified task or function.
- 8.7.10. **GUIDELINE:** A “**Guideline**” shall be defined as a **suggested or routine** method of performing or implementing a desired course of action.
- 8.7.11. **OTHER HEADINGS:** Other functional sub-headings that are appropriate to the subject matter may be used as necessary, to provide continuity.
- 8.7.12. **REVIEW NOTATION:** All policies will have a footer on the final page noting the last date of review and approval, and linking the Policy to the Tracker sheet as follows:

LAST REVIEW:  
LAST UPDATE:  
FC/BOD APPROVAL:  
TRACKER:

L/M Review:

- 8.7.13. **REFERENCES:** A notation, direction or statement of law in a policy or form containing pertinent or directional information upon which the policy or form is based or is referenced. The References will be hyperlinked to the reference materials. See example:

- 8.7.13.1. **REFERENCES:**  
8.7.13.1.1. **GOVERNMENT CODE:**

- 8.7.13.1.1.1. [Section 8597](#)  
8.7.13.1.1.2. [Section 8598](#)

- 8.7.14. **RELATED POLICIES:** A policy or form containing pertinent or directional information referenced in the instant policy or form. The Related Policies will be hyperlinked to the reference Policy or Form. See example:

- 8.7.14.1. **RELATED POLICIES/FORMS:**
- 8.7.14.1.1. [Arson Investigation Manual](#)  
8.7.14.1.2. [Fire Investigations](#)  
8.7.14.1.3. [Law Enforcement Support Policy](#)



# NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

GOVERNANCE  
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### PREPARATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

#### 9.0. REVIEW PROCESS:

9.1. Final approval of Policies and Procedures is completed either by the Board of Directors or the Fire Chief/CEO. Only Policies having meet and confer requirements, or those dealing with Board procedures will be submitted to the Board. All others may be approved directly by the Fire Chief/CEO.

9.2. Request for consideration of a new or revised Policy may be initiated by the Policy & Procedure Committee (P&P Committee), any member of the Leadership Staff, Program Manager or Fire Chief/CEO. Recommendations from Committees or employees shall be presented through one of these routes.

9.3. DEVELOPMENT OR AMENDMENT TO A POLICY OR FORM: The proposed recommendations to draft or amendment a Policy or Form is initiated by either:

9.3.1. Completing a request for Development/Update of Policy or Form to the Executive Assistant.

9.3.2. The Program Manager or Executive Assistant will initiate development or changes.

9.4. The P&P Committee, Program Manager or the Executive Assistant will initiate review of development or review of the Policy or Form.

9.5. All items in the Policy & Procedure Committee will be reviewed on a rotating three year cycle, as recommended by the P&P Committee.

#### 9.6. LEADERSHIP TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES:

9.6.1. At the conclusion of the review and drafting of the Policy or Form, the document will be forwarded by the Executive Assistant to the Leadership Team for review and approval.

9.6.2. If other than the Program Manager develops the draft or amendment, the Executive Assistant will provide the draft or amendment to the Program Manager for review and approval prior to submission to the Leadership Team.





# NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

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### PREPARATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

9.6.3. The Leadership Team will review the draft or amendment to ensure it is usable, in regulatory compliance and compatibility with District needs, as well as uniform in format and not in conflict with existing governing documents and guidelines.

9.6.4. The Executive Assistant will make any revisions to the draft or amendment based on recommendations made by the Leadership Team.

#### 9.7. MEET AND CONFER REQUIREMENTS:

9.7.1. Prior to consideration to adopt or amend any Policy, Procedure, Rule, Resolution or Memorandum of Understanding that deals with wages, benefits, rules or regulations, hours of work or other issues that impact or affect personnel, such personnel through their representatives, shall have an opportunity to meet, confer and provide input in accordance with the provisions outlined within the applicable sections of the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act.

9.7.1.1. In his/her discretion, the Fire Chief/CEO may choose submit a policy that does not require meet and confer, to the Labor/Management Committee for the Committee's input.

9.7.2. The Labor/Management Committee will generally be the mechanism the District uses to conduct the review under "meet and confer" guidelines.

9.7.3. The Executive Assistant will make any changes resulting from the "meet and confer" meetings and update the Tracker Form.

9.7.4. The Executive Assistant will forward the draft or amendment to either the Fire Chief/CEO or the Board of Directors for approval.

9.7.5. While under revision and review, the most current version of the item under consideration will be located in the "Under Construction" section of the P&P Manual on the server.

#### 9.8. APPROVAL PROCESS (See Attachment A):

9.8.1. FIRE CHIEF/CEO: The power to rescind, alter or amend the Rules and Regulations is vested in the Fire Chief/CEO, subject to the approval of the Board of Directors, as provided by State Law (see [Rules and Regulations](#)).





# NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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### PREPARATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- 9.8.1.1. For matters NOT having “meet and confer” requirements, the Fire Chief/CEO may, use discretion to approve drafts and amendments without submission to the Board of Directors.
- 9.8.1.2. The Fire Chief/CEO may use discretion to approve minor non-substantive changes after review (e.g. updating the format) without further review.
- 9.8.2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Before considering adoption or amendment of any draft or amendment that requires Board approval, Directors shall have the opportunity to review the proposed draft or amendment.
- 9.8.2.1. Copies of the proposed draft or amendment shall be included in the agenda information packet for any meeting of consideration.
- 9.8.2.2. Adoption of a draft or amendment shall require a majority affirmative vote of the Board.
- 9.8.3. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: The Executive Assistant will be responsible for moving the draft or changes through the approval process, including final update of the Policy & Procedure Manual or other document.

10.0. REFERENCES: None.

11.0. RELATED POLICIES/FORMS:

11.1. POLICIES:

11.1.1. [Memoranda Development Policy](#);

11.1.2. [Rules and Regulations](#).

11.2. FORMS: None.



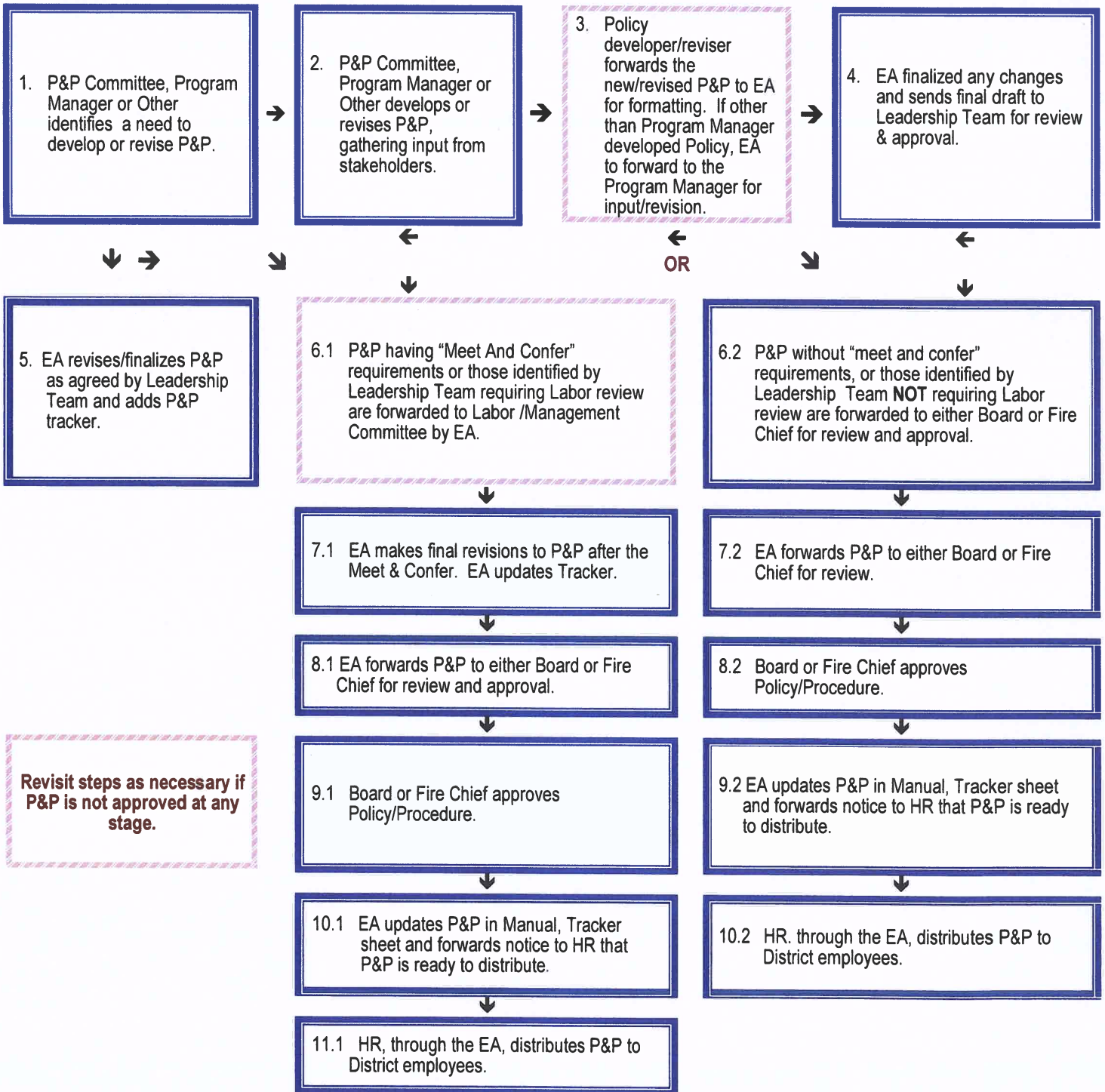
# NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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### PREPARATION OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



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

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** CHIEF ABBOTT  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 10, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE(S) FOR NCDJPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**ACTION AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Determine whether Directors Munson and Harris will continue to serve as primary and alternate representatives to the North County Dispatch Joint Powers Authority (NCDJPA) Board of Directors.

**BACKGROUND:**

As a member agency of NCDJPA, the District has one voting seat on this eight member Board, which meets quarterly at the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Department Headquarters. Heretofore, Director Munson has been serving on this Board as the primary representative, with Vice President Harris serving as the alternate to Director Munson.

**DISCUSSION:**

Since 2018, both Director Munson and Vice President Harris have been serving as the primary and alternate representatives respectively. Routinely, the Board ascertains whether members wish to continue in this role or considers other representatives to be appointed to serve in these positions.

If there is interest among current serving Board members to step down from their respective roles, it would be prudent to decide of which Board members will serve as primary and alternate representatives prior to the next NCDJPA meeting. If no change is desired, no further action is required.

**FISCAL ANALYSIS:**

No fiscal impact.

**SUMMARY:**

Staff recommends consideration of whether NCFPD Board members Munson and Harris wish to continue as primary and alternate representatives to serve on behalf of the District. If so, no further action is required. Otherwise, new representatives should be selected.

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**NORTH COUNTY FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
OPERATIONS DIVISION STAFF REPORT

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** DIVISION CHIEF MAHR AND CHIEF ABBOTT  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 10, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** SALE OF SURPLUS VEHICLES

## **ACTION AGENDA**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

It is the recommendation of Staff that the Board of Directors deem four District-owned vehicles as surplus.

### **BACKGROUND:**

On occasion and usually after the purchase of new vehicles, the District will evaluate the Reserve Fleet of vehicles and determine if any unused and/or older vehicles should be sold as surplus, as they no longer have the ability to meet the District's Mission. In most cases, these vehicles will be sent to the San Diego County or other approved auction.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The assessment described above was recently conducted by Operations and NCF Fleet Services personnel. It was determined that one 1997 HME Type 1 fire engine and one 1990 General-Spartan Type 1 fire engine should be sold as they are no longer serviceable within the District. Additionally, one 2002 Model 25 / Type 3 Pierce fire engine and one 2009 Pierce Mini-Pumper/Squad should be sold as they have been deemed excess inventory. In accordance with NCF Policy Section 217.04 and these vehicles having an anticipated value of greater than \$1000.00, Staff is requesting the Board deem these vehicles as surplus to the District's needs, so they may be released for sale.

### **FISCAL ANALYSIS:**

It is anticipated that these vehicles will have a combined value of approximately \$37,000.00.

### **SUMMARY:**

By the approval of this request, the District would remove these surplus vehicles from the fleet and dispose of them via an approved method.



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

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 10, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** SAN DIEGO LAFCO 2019 SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ELECTION

## **ACTION AGENDA**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board of Directors authorize the President to cast a ballot in the 2019 San Diego LAFCO Special District Advisory Committee Election as described in the attached communication from LAFCO.

### **BACKGROUND:**

On a regular basis, the Board of Directors has the opportunity cast a ballot in the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) elections. As in previous years, nominations were solicited late in 2019. The time has now come to vote and submissions are due by **January 6, 2020**.

### **DISCUSSION:**

There are eight (8) seats open on the LAFCO Special District Advisory Committee Members for the next four-year term. There are now ten nominees for these positions, five of which are incumbents: Jack Bebee (FPUD); Robert Thomas (Pomerado Cemetery District); Tom Kennedy (Rainbow MWD); Mark Robak (Otay Water District) and Kimberly Thorner (Olivenhain MWD).

In addition to the incumbents, there are five additional nominees: Michael Sims (Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District); James Gordon (Deer Springs Fire Protection District); Albert Lau (Santa Fe Irrigation District); Courtney Provo (Mission Resources Conservation District) and Brian Boggeln (Alpine Fire Protection District).

On November 19, 2019, the District received notice that Richard S. Williamson from Yuima Municipal Water District was no longer eligible as a nominee and his name is no longer under consideration. On November 27, 2019, the District received notice that Fred Cox, Fire Chief of Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is also a "write-in" candidate for the election.

Full nomination materials are available in the attached LAFCO package.

**FISCAL ANALYSIS:** No fiscal impact.

### **SUMMARY:**

The Board should determine which nominees it wishes to support and authorize the President to cast ballots for the 2019 LAFCO election.



**BALLOT FORM**

November 4, 2019

TO: Independent Special Districts in San Diego County  
 FROM: Tamaron Lockett, Executive Assistant  
 SUBJECT: **Ballot Form | Election to Special Districts Advisory Committee**

On August 12, 2019, the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) solicited nominations pursuant to Government Code Section 56332(1) to fill eight open seats on the 16-member Special Districts Advisory Committee. A total of eleven nominations were received following a 60-day filing period. All terms on the Advisory Committee are four-years.

San Diego LAFCO is now issuing ballots to all 58 independent special districts in San Diego County and inviting each district to cast a ballot selecting up to eight eligible nominees. Write-in candidates are permitted, and spaces have been provided for that purpose. **Only cast one vote for each nominee on the ballot and vote certification form; a ballot that is cast for more than indicated number of positions the vote will be disregarded.** The ballot and vote certification form along with nominee resumes provided by the candidates are attached.

State Law specifies a district’s vote is to be cast by its presiding officer, or an alternate member designated by the board and a valid signature is required on the ballot. **A ballot received without a signature will be voided.** A minimum of **30** ballots must be received to certify that a legal election was conducted. A candidate for a special districts advisory committee member must receive at least a majority of the votes cast to be elected. The ballots will be kept on file in this office and will be made available upon request.

Ballots may be submitted by mail, courier, hand delivered, FAX or via email to [tamaron.lockett@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:tamaron.lockett@sdcountry.ca.gov). The deadline for receipts of the ballots by LAFCO is **Monday, January 6, 2020**, any ballots received after the deadline will be voided. All election materials are available on the website: [www.sdlafco.org](http://www.sdlafco.org).

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (858) 614-7755.

**Attachments:**

- a) Ballot and Vote Certification Form
- b) Nominees resumes

**Administration**  
 Keene Simonds, Executive Officer  
 County Operations Center  
 9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200  
 San Diego, California 92123  
 T 858.614.7755 F 858.614.7766  
[www.sdlafco.org](http://www.sdlafco.org)

Jim Desmond  
 County of San Diego

Dianne Jacob, Vice Chair  
 County of San Diego

Greg Cox, Alternate  
 County of San Diego

Mary Casillas Salas  
 City of Chula Vista

Bill Wells  
 City of El Cajon

Paul McNamara, Alternate  
 City of Escondido

Mark Kersey  
 City of San Diego

Chris Cate, Alternate  
 City of San Diego

Jo MacKenzie, Chair  
 Vista Irrigation

Barry Willis  
 Alpine Fire Protection

Enn Lump, Alternate  
 Rincon del Diablo MWD

Andy Vanderlaan  
 General Public

Harry Mathis, Alternate  
 General Public



San Diego County  
 Local Agency Formation Commission  
 Regional Service Planning | Subdivision of the State of California



**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Independent Special Districts

**FROM:** Tamaron Lockett, Executive Assistant

**SUBJECT:** Special Districts Advisory Committee Election Ballot and Vote Certification Form Amendment

On November 4, 2019, San Diego LAFCO issued ballots to all independent special districts for the election of nominated candidates to serve on the Special Districts Advisory Committee. The ballot identified eleven nominated candidates. LAFCO has subsequently been informed one of the nominated candidates – Richard S. Williamson – is no longer eligible to serve on the Special Districts Advisory Committee as a result of ending employment with the sponsoring special district. Please adjust your voting accordingly.

Should you have any questions please call me at (858) 614-7755.

Tamaron Lockett

Administration  
 Keene Simonds, Executive Officer  
 County Operations Center  
 9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200  
 San Diego, California 92123  
 T: 858.614.7755 F: 858.614.7766  
 www.sdlafco.org

Administrative Services  
 Jennifer L. Hays  
 Jennifer.L.Hays@sdco.org  
 9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200  
 San Diego, CA 92123

Business Development  
 Jennifer L. Hays  
 Jennifer.L.Hays@sdco.org  
 9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200  
 San Diego, CA 92123

Community Development  
 Jennifer L. Hays  
 Jennifer.L.Hays@sdco.org  
 9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200  
 San Diego, CA 92123

Engineering  
 Jennifer L. Hays  
 Jennifer.L.Hays@sdco.org  
 9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200  
 San Diego, CA 92123

Finance  
 Jennifer L. Hays  
 Jennifer.L.Hays@sdco.org  
 9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200  
 San Diego, CA 92123

**ATTACHMENT A  
SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBER  
ELECTION BALLOT and VOTE CERTIFICATION**

**VOTE FOR ONLY EIGHT NOMINEES**

- Richard S. Williamson (Yuima Municipal Water District) [ ]
- Michael (Mike) Sims (Bonita-Sunnyside Fire Protection District) [ ]
- \* Jack Bebee (Fallbrook Public Utility District) [ ]
- James E. Gordon (Deer Springs Fire Protection District) [ ]
- \* Robert Thomas (Pomerado Cemetery District) [ ]
- Albert C. Lau (Santa Fe Irrigation District) [ ]
- \* Thomas (Tom) Kennedy (Rainbow Municipal Water District) [ ]
- Courtney G. Provo (Mission Resources Conservation District) [ ]
- \* Kimberly A. Thorner (Olivenhain Municipal Water District) [ ]
- Brian Boggeln (Alpine Fire Protection District) [ ]
- \* Mark Robak (Otay Water District) [ ]

**Write-Ins**

- Fred Cox (Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District) [ ]
- \_\_\_\_\_ [ ]

I hereby certify that I cast the votes of the North County Fire Protection District  
(Name of District)

for the Special Districts Advisory Committee Election as:

- [  ] the presiding officer, or
- [        ] the duly-appointed alternate board member.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature)

Fred Luevano  
(Print name)

President, Board of Directors  
(Title)

December 10, 2019  
(Date)

NOTE: The Nominating Committee believes all candidates are equally qualified and recommends each special district proceed with voting as they see fit. Additionally, a candidate’s forum is tentatively scheduled for November 21, 2019 as part of the quarterly meeting of the San Diego Chapter of the California Association of Special Districts.

Return Ballot and Vote Certification Form to:  
San Diego LAFCO  
Tamaron Lockett  
9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200  
San Diego, CA 92123  
(858) 614-7755 (office) · (858) 614-7766 (FAX)  
Email: [tamaron.lockett@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:tamaron.lockett@sdcounty.ca.gov)

\* Incumbent member



# RICHARD S. WILLIAMSON

951-297-0373

richwmson@gmail.com

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## EXPERIENCE

**1979 – 1982**

**DRINKING WATER PROGRAM MANAGER, STATE OF ARIZONA, DHS**

- Developed program Regulations and Compliance Strategies for the State's compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- Managed State's implementation of Electronic Data Processing of program data.
- Coordinated with the Governor's office on the implementation of the Groundwater Management Act and contracts for the use of Central Arizona Project water.

**1982 - 1985**

**GENERAL MANAGER/DISTRICT ENGINEER, NORTHERN GILA COUNTY SANITARY DISTRICT**

- Managed construction of new innovative nutrient removal plant.
- Obtained grant funds for project, and negotiated a waiver from more restrictive standards.
- Developed Strategic Plan, budgets, policies, built reclaimed water line which eliminated any stream discharge from the facility.

**1985 - 2002**

**PRESIDENT/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, UTILITY SYSTEMS GROUP, INC.**

- Formed first Contract Operations firm in Arizona for water and wastewater systems, which managed municipal and private water and wastewater facilities.
- Purchased twenty-seven water and wastewater utility companies and became largest Arizona-owned private provider of water and wastewater services in the State.
- This Holding Company owned the utilities cited above, as well as providing for contract operations services, engineering consulting and licensed contracting for treatment, pipeline and excavation projects.

**2002 - 2006**

**PLANNING AND ENGINEERING MANAGER, TUCSON WATER DEPARTMENT**

- Oversaw development of the City of Tucson 50-year Water Plan.
- Coordinator between the Water Department and the Mayor's office, as well as the liaison with the Pima County Wastewater Management Department.
- Negotiated over \$200 million in system improvements with area developers to allow for extension and improvements in service.

**2006 - 2008**

**GENERAL MANAGER, RED ROCK UTILITIES, INC.**

- Developed all the administrative and field protocols for this start-up utility.
- Served new communities developed by the parent company.
- The housing collapse in 2007 and 2008 slowed growth in this company, and left for more active challenges and opportunities with a new position.

**2008 - 2010**

**GENERAL MANAGER/DISTRICT ENGINEER, BORREGO WATER DISTRICT**

- Initiated a series of studies to determine the water supply sustainability of the Borrego groundwater basin which determined community only had a 35-year supply.
- Developed new Strategic Plan and partnerships with federal and local water agencies to address the water supply sustainability issues.
- Directed the consolidation of the District with a smaller Community Services District and took over wastewater, recreation, and solid waste services in the community.

**2010 - 2015**

**ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER, RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT**

- Responsible for filling in for the General Manager in his absence for this utility located in Temecula, CA.
- Primary responsibilities included development and implementation of the District's Strategic Plan, oversight of the Integrated Water Resource Management Planning efforts in Southern Riverside County, manage the Water Conservation program, coordinate activities with other local agencies including federal, state and local governments.
- Direct oversight of the District's Groundwater Management efforts, and author of the Groundwater Protection Plan for the area.

**2015 - 2017**

**WATER UTILITY MANAGER, CITY OF CARLSBAD, CA**

- Overall responsibility for the operation and maintenance of the City's water and reclaimed water activities.
- Coordinated with Mayor's office on regional issues.
- Developed and managed water conservation program during the severe drought that California experienced during this period.

**2017 - PRESENT**

**GENERAL MANAGER/DISTRICT ENGINEER, YUIMA MUNI. WATER DISTRICT**

- Total administrative and operations responsibility to the Board of Directors.
- Assisted with development of the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). Serve as Administrator of the GSA
- Oversee Capital Improvements program; setting policies and insuring consistency with the District Strategic Plan.

## **EDUCATION**

**JUNE, 1975**

**WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES**

**APRIL, 1979**

**MASTER BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION, GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY**

20 units of credits toward degree, when transferred to Arizona. Specialized in organizational behavior, accounting and marketing.

## **SKILLS**

- Strategic Planning for Organizations in the Infrastructure Sector.
- Excellent Communication Skills, with experience in Expert Witness Testimony and Seminars.
- Results driven with integrity and experience
- Strong Governmental and Private Sector experience
- Team organizer to address all facets of an issue in the Industry.
- Utilization of Networking from experience in the geographic area and subject matter.

## **REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSES**

- Registered Civil Engineer (California and Arizona)
- Registered Land Surveyor (California and Arizona)
- Certified Water System Operator (Arizona) non-active status
- Certified Wastewater System Operator (Arizona) non-active status
- Licensed Commercial Contractor, Pipelines, Treatment Plants, Excavation (Arizona) non-active

## **Michael Sims**

(619) 479-2346

msims@bonitafd.org

4900 Bonita Road, Bonita CA 91902

Bonitafd.org

### **Objectives**

Serve on the LAFCO Special District Advisory Committee

### **Education**

Columbia Southern University

***Bachelor Degree in Public Administration***

### **Experience**

Fire Chief

Bonita Sunnyside Fire Protection District

Hired in 1995 as a firefighter and worked through the ranks of Captain, Deputy Chief and was selected as Fire Chief in 2018

### **Special Assignments**

San Diego County Fire Chiefs Liaison to the County Training Officers Section

San Diego County Fire Chiefs - Executive Board - Member at Large

As the past Chair of County Training Officers Section I helped to revitalize countywide participation and collaboration on all manor of training topics in our local fire service by investing in and utilizing the vast talents of the fire training officers in our region.

FAIRA Board Member

PASIS Board Member

**SUMMARY:** Over twenty years experience in the management of operations, design and planning of water and wastewater infrastructure, including water treatment, distribution and wastewater collections and reclamation facilities. Oversee entire District operation with a staff of 68 FTE's with 11 direct reports in my current position as both General Manager for the Fallbrook Public Utilities District.

**EXPERIENCE:** **Fallbrook Public Utilities District** **9/2017-Present**  
**General Manager**

Oversee all District functions including Finance, Customer Service, Public Relations, Human Resources, Operations, and Engineering. Responsible for establishing a productive and positive work environment. Facilitates development and implementation of the Board of Directors overall vision for the District. Communicates and Coordinates District operational needs with the Board of Directors.

**EXPERIENCE:** **Fallbrook Public Utilities District** **2013-Present**  
**Assistant General Manager/District Engineer**

Oversee all operations, engineering and planning functions of the District including maintenance/construction, meter services, purchasing, water system operations and wastewater treatment/water reclamation. Responsible for Planning and setting goals for each department and monitoring performance. Responsible for developing and implementing all capital projects.

**EXPERIENCE:** **Fallbrook Public Utilities District** **2009-2013**  
**Engineering and Planning Manager**

Served as the head of Engineering and Planning Department. Responsible for planning and overseeing all capital improvements projects for the District Facilities and supporting wastewater and water Operations. The projects include a new groundwater treatment plant and major wastewater reclamation plant rehabilitation as well as water distribution, storage and wastewater collections construction.



**EXPERIENCE:** **Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.** **2000-2009**  
**Environmental Engineering Consulting**  
**Sr. Project Engineer/Project Manager**

Served as project Manager and/or Design Manager on 5-10 projects at any time. Managed overall project budget and resources for projects. Coordinated design and start-up with operations staff. Responsible for technical quality on numerous design projects valued at \$6 to \$50 million dollars in construction. Developed planning studies for facilities or agencies to guide future improvements, detailed design drawings for civil and mechanical and instrumentation and control disciplines and oversee construction of facilities.

**EDUCATION:** **California State University – San Marcos** **2005-2007**  
Masters of Business Administration

**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign** **1998-2000**  
M.S. Environmental Engineering

**Washington and Lee University** **1994-1998**  
B.S. Physics-Engineering

**LISCENCES:** Professional Civil Engineer, State of California.  
Grade 4 Water Distribution Operator  
Grade 4 Water Treatment Operator  
Grade 4 Wastewater Treatment Operator

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/COMMITTEES:**

American Water Works Association – Chair of the Management and Leadership Division: as chair of the Division lead efforts to plan, develop and review standards, manuals and presentations for industry best practices for utility management.

San Diego LAFCO – Advisory Group Member

ACWA, CSDA, WateReuse, California Water Environment Association - Member

San Diego County Water Authority – Board Member



**James E. Gordon**  
**Director, Deer Springs Fire Protection District**  
**415.852.1086**  
[Jegordon888@gmail.com](mailto:Jegordon888@gmail.com)

### **Professional History**

- Director, Berkeley Research Group; October 2012 to 2014
- Managing Director, Navigant Consulting Asia; March 2005 to October 2012.
- Vice President of Pinkerton Consulting & Investigations; March 2001 to March 2005.
- Executive Vice President and CEO of OnlineSecurity; March 2000 to March 2001.
- Managing Director of Kroll Associates; March 1999 to March 2000.
- Managing Director of The Investigative Group, Inc.; June 1990 to March 1999.
- Partner, Philips & Gordon, Litigation Consulting Firm: May 1980 to June 1990.

### **Former Professional Associations**

- American Bar Association (Associate Member)
- Inter-Pacific Bar Association
- High Technology Crime Investigator Association (HTCIA)

### **Professional Designations**

- Licensed Private Investigator in California
- Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU0)

James Gordon retired in 2014 after a successful international consulting career and is serving his second term (till 2022) as a Director of the Deer Springs Fire Protection District. Mr. Gordon's professional career includes more than 25 years of experience and expertise advising clients faced with complex high stakes business disputes, litigation and investigations, especially in cross-border matters. Mr. Gordon has served as a consulting and testifying expert as well as a third-party neutral in a diverse range of business and discovery disputes.

Mr. Gordon was based in Hong Kong from 2009 to 2012 as Managing Partner for a global expert services and consulting firm. Mr. Gordon was the consulting expert and project lead on a diverse range of complex matters, including: special committee forensic investigations for Boards of U.S. listed Chinese companies; cross-border discovery; allegations of business fraud; undisclosed related third party asset transfers; Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) investigations; deep-dive M&A and FCPA due diligence; international arbitration; royalty disputes; intellectual property rights (IPR); and dumping/trade issues.

Mr. Gordon worked on many of the highest-profile regulatory and enforcement investigations in US history, including: the Wall Street IPO Securities Litigation; Tyco; WorldCom; Parmalat; HealthSouth; and Enron. His work involved matters throughout Asia, China, Canada, UK and the United States

advising clients and their counsel in responding to investigations by: U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ); Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE); NASDAQ; Federal Trade Commission (FTC); United States International Trade Counsel (USITC) and Congressional and Senate Investigations.

Mr. Gordon was a frequent presenter at In-House Corporate Counsel events, American Bar Association conferences and at the International Pacific Bar Association on topics critical to managing business risks and resolving cross-border disputes including: *"Anti-Corruption and Fraud Investigations in Asia," "Managing Counterparty Business Risk with Business Intelligence and Analytics," "Developing Cost Effective Strategies for Managing Cross-Border Discovery," "Electronic Discovery in Asia-U.S. Cross-Border Disputes,"* and *"Evidentiary Issues in CIETAC Arbitrations."*

### Representative Client Assignments

#### Special Committee Investigation for Chinese Board of US Listed Company

- For a US listed Chinese company, Mr. Gordon was retained by the Board of Directors to conduct an internal investigation in response to whistle blower allegations. Mr. Gordon led an extensive investigation throughout China to drill down on allegations of accounting irregularities; numerous dealings with related undisclosed third parties; and the sale of one of the company's manufacturing facilities that was not an arm's length transaction. Based on Mr. Gordon's investigation, the company restated its financial statements, changed auditors and Mr. Gordon presented his team's findings to US based regulatory agencies.

#### Audit Committee Internal Bank Investigation

- Mr. Gordon worked with the bank's general counsel and the auditors pertaining to a wide-ranging internal investigation which included: investigating whistle blower allegations; an in-depth information technology review; investigation of an external data breach; and investigation of internal misconduct. The summary of Mr. Gordon's findings was provided to numerous regulatory and law enforcement agencies as well as the AMEX and NASDAQ stock exchanges resulting in no adverse impact to the client.

#### Major US Financial Institution – Breach of Contract Dispute

- Mr. Gordon was retained as the Court appointed Third-party Neutral Expert in a matter pertaining to allegations of a breach of an Insurance Recovery Agreement for thousands of real estate properties owned by the bank. Mr. Gordon led a team in analyzing hundreds of millions of fields of data from disparate sources including bank loan foreclosure and real estate owned ("REO") property records, asset manager records, hazard insurance recovery provider data, and insurance claims. The case successfully resolved within a week of Mr. Gordon's testimony.

**Robert Thomas**  
**POMERADO CEMETERY DISTRICT**

14361 Tierra Bonita Road  
Poway, CA 92064  
858.748.5760  
bobtpcd@gmail.com

August 28, 2019

RE: Resume for Special District Advisory Committee

To Whom It May Concern:

My professional career consists of working in local government for twenty-seven years in both northern and southern California.

The last year thirteen years before I retired, I was the Community Services Director for the City of Poway overseeing the parks, recreational and cultural activities of the City.

I have been a Trustee of the Pomerado Cemetery District since 2004 appointed by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. Dearborn Cemetery is a public cemetery serving the communities of Poway, Rancho Bernardo, and portions of North County and Inland San Diego.

I am now completing my first four year term on the Special District Advisory Committee.

Sincerely,

Robert Thomas



# Albert C. Lau, P.E., MBA

## Qualification Summary

Over 25 years of progressively responsible and successful engineering, planning, and utility management experience, including 18 years in leadership and senior management capacity overseeing in-house staff, consultants, and contractors. In my current position as the General Manager with Santa Fe Irrigation District, I am responsible for interfacing with elected officials, regulatory agencies, and other public agencies. I am also responsible for, under direction of the Board of Directors, planning, organizing, directing and reviewing the overall activities and operations of the District. I receive policy direction from the Board of Directors, and advise and assist the Board of Directors. Additionally, I represent the District's interests at local, regional, State and Federal levels, and coordinates activities with outside agencies and the community.

## Education

- ◆ M.B.A. (2004), San Diego State University, San Diego, CA
- ◆ M.S. Civil Engineering (1994), University of Colorado, Boulder, CO
- ◆ B.S., Civil Engineering (1992), California Polytechnic State University, Pomona, CA

## Professional Experience

Position/Employer/Dates	Dates	Responsibilities
<b>General Manager</b> Santa Fe Irrigation District Rancho Santa Fe, CA	March '19 to present	Directly responsible for the development of District-wide work plans; assign work activities, projects and programs.
<b>Director of Engineering and Planning</b> Padre Dam Municipal Water District Santee, CA	July '9' to March '19	Member of the executive team for PDMWD. Successful re-organized the department to improved efficiency and effectiveness that has received numerous project awards.
<b>Engineering Manager</b> Padre Dam Municipal Water District Santee, CA	Sep '00 to July '09	Directly responsible for capital project implementation and increased the quality, timeliness, responsiveness, efficiency, and overall production of my working group.
<b>Senior Engineer</b> Dudek & Associates Encinitas, CA	Apr '98 to Sep '00	Project manager/engineer consistently completed assignments/ projects on time and within budget. Maintained strong working relationships with public agencies and clients.
<b>Project Manager/Engineer</b> Tetra Tech, Inc. San Diego, CA	July '94 to Apr '98	Project engineer in charge of civil works for various projects.

## Key Accomplishments

- Provided leadership, under policy directions from the Board of Directors, to develop a fair and equitable rate structure that would fit the unique and diverse consumption profile of Santa Fe Irrigation District.
- Directed the implementation of the East County Advanced Water Purification Program, a partnership between Padre Dam, County of San Diego, Helix Water District and City of El Cajon. This is a \$500M surface water augmentation program, one of the first in the State of California. This regional water supply program will produce up to 30% of East San Diego County drinking water supply locally and provide long term price certainty and enhance local control for the program partners. To date, this program had received



approximately \$40M in grants and over \$101M in State Revolving Fund and received conditional regulatory approvals. Served as media spokesperson for interviews and conducted key elected official briefings.

- Served on the statewide advisory panel for the State Water Resources Control Board and Division of Drinking Water to investigate and report to the Legislature on the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse and reservoir augmentation.

#### Professional Memberships, Registration, and Certifications

- ◆ Registered Professional Engineer - Civil (CA 59053)
- ◆ Member, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- ◆ Committee member, Water and Environment Committee, ASCE region 9
- ◆ Member, American Water Works Association (AWWA)
- ◆ Committee member, CA-NV AWWA, Advanced Water Operator Certification Committee
- ◆ Member, Water Reuse Association
- ◆ Member, Water Environment Federation & California Water Environmental Association
- ◆ Member, California Special District Association (CSDA)

#### Recent Professional Recognitions, Publications, and Presentations

- 2016 Leadership Award, Water Environmental Federation, White House Water Summit.
- WaterReuse California (2017) “Maximizing Disinfection Infrastructure for Both Potable and Non-Potable Reuse”, San Diego, CA, in March, 2017.
- IWA International Conference on Water Reclamation and Reuse (2017) “Modifying Existing Infrastructure to Maximize Pathogen Control for Potable and Non-Potable Reuse”, Long Beach, CA in July, 2017.
- WaterReuse Symposium (2017) “Potable Reuse Case Study for Full-scale Predesign of RO with 95% Recovery”, Phoenix, AZ in September, 2017.
- Lau, A., Huston, P. & Pecson, B., 2016. Padre Dam's Advanced Water Purification Program: Building a Better Future Inspired by Creativity from the Past. J. - AWWA, 108:11:68.
- IWA International Symposium: Potable Reuse (2016) “Reducing the Need for the Environmental Buffer: Results from Padre Dam's Advanced Water Purification Testing”, Long Beach, CA, in January, 2016.
- WaterReuse California (2016) “Dual Pursuit of Surface Water Augmentation and Groundwater Recharge at Padre Dam”, Santa Rosa, CA, in March, 2016.
- WaterReuse Symposium (2016) “Maximizing Product Water through Brine Minimization”, Tampa, FL in September, 2016.
- AWWA California-Nevada Annual Fall Conference (2016) “Maximizing Product Water through Brine Minimization”, San Diego, CA in October, 2016.
- WaterReuse California (2015) “Breaking IPR Boundaries at Padre Dam's Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Project” by Brian Pecson, Los Angeles, CA, in March, 2015.
- AWWA Annual Conference and Exhibition (2015) “Pushing the Boundaries of IPR at Padre Dam's Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Project”, Anaheim, CA, in June, 2015.

## **KEY ATTRIBUTES**

Experienced practitioner regarding all things related to Special Districts. Deep understanding of LAFCO laws and intergovernmental relations.

## **EDUCATION**

**Bachelor of Science, Aerospace Engineering, with emphasis on Flight Mechanics and Propulsion, San Diego State University, 1989**

**Masters in Public Administration, with emphasis in Public Finance, California State University at Fullerton, 2000**

## **EMPLOYMENT**

### **2014 TO CURRENT**

**General Manager, Rainbow Municipal Water District**

### **2007 TO 2014 (and 1999 TO 2005)**

**Operations Manager, Olivenhain Municipal Water District**

### **2006 TO 2012**

**Non-Revenue Water Consultant (Offshore projects – side work)**

### **2005-2006**

**Vice President, Business Solutions, Nobel Systems**

### **2003 - 2006**

**Water Treatment Plant Design Consultant (US based projects – side work)**

### **1999 TO 2005**

**Operations Manager, Olivenhain Municipal Water District**

### **1991 – 1999**

**Water Superintendent, City of Vernon**

## **AFFILIATIONS**

**President, San Diego Chapter of the California Special Districts Association – 2016 to present**

**Member, San Diego LAFCO Special District Advisory Committee – 2015 to present**

**Member, San Diego County Water Authority Board of Directors, 2015 to present**

**Advisory Member CSDA Formation and Reorganization Expert Feedback Team**

**President, Bonsall Rotary (2018-2019)**

**Former Chairman of the GE Water and Process Technology Drinking Water User Group**

**Member American Water Works Association serving on several National Committees**

## COURTNEY G. PROVO

Courtneyrios@gmail.com | (760) 310-0161

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### **Executive Management**

*Strategic Planning • Public Sector Engagement • Budget Development • Contract Administration*

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#### **PROFILE SUMMARY**

Accomplished executive with extensive experience in the public sector. Highly skilled in planning, organizing and implementing functions from conception to completion, including business retention, business attraction and diversified programs. Regularly coordinates with various political subdivisions to facilitate change in the community to support organizational objectives. Possess adept skills in budgeting, management of operational services, interdepartmental project supervision, and human resources. Review of analytical data and delivering information in a comprehensible manner. Strong background in relationship management, and team building.

#### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

##### **MISSION RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

*General Manager, July 2018 – Present*

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- Strengthening the District's visibility through proactive networking, community engagement, workshops and public presentations.
- Works directly with diverse stakeholders, including other conservation districts, local, state and federal agencies.
- Directs all services and activities of the District, that includes the expanding and diversifying of staff and additional program opportunities.
- Supervising grant and contract activities such as monitoring deliverables; development and coordination of staff and sub-contractors and building relationships with internal & external stakeholders to sustain future efforts.
- Analyzing of existing economic conditions relative to business operations and program expansion; reviewing modern techniques for implementation to increase employee retention and streamlined operations.
- Coordinating with other agencies to leverage program development and further grant opportunities.
- Preparation of requests for proposal for necessary contract work, including the interview process and compliance with all provisions concerning public works and prevailing wage.
- Development of business proposals to secure District contracts, that consists of proposal presentations, contract negotiations and ongoing monitoring of deliverables.
- Coordinating with various departments in preparation of the District's annual budget, including fiscal year-end activities.
- Implementing necessary marketing efforts to increase visibility of the District's programs
- Monitoring of the District's day-to-day activities and reports directly to the Board of Directors.
- Preparation of monthly Board reports and regular attendance to all meetings, including the preparation of agendas, recommendations with supporting materials and corresponding meeting minutes.

**COLLINS COLLINS MUIR + STEWART**  
*Legal Assistant, March 2016 – June 2018*

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- Works directly with Partner and Associate level attorneys at varying skills levels and managing their day-to-day calendars and cases.
- Responsible for overseeing status of all pending case deadlines to ensure both legal compliance and timely submittal.
- Conducts research concerning State and Federal rules to ensure compliance with submission of legal pleadings.
- Reviews and edits pleadings prior to submittal to State, Federal, Appellate and Supreme Courts.
- Collaborates with multiple attorneys and staff on as-needed work with little to no direction.

**SEMNR & HARTMAN LLP**  
*Legal Assistant/Office Manager, May 2013 – March 2016*

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- Manages all office operations and day-to-day activities, included, but not limited to hiring and training of additional personnel.
- Maintains various attorney's calendars; calendaring all appearances and corresponding deadlines.
- Researching all applicable local State and Federal rules to ensure proper compliance with jurisdictional authority.
- Maintain client accounts and expenses; assists in firm bookkeeping.
- Responsible for maintaining the life cycle of an entire caseload from conception to completion, which includes overseeing all pending deadlines and maintaining client retention.

**KHASHAYAR LAW GROUP**  
*Legal Assistant/Office Manager, August 2008 – March 2016*

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- Development and implementation of a records management system.
- Corresponds with diverse individuals and administrations; attorneys, staff, clientele and various government agencies.
- Manages attorney's day-to-day calendar and caseload to ensure timely completion of pending projects, in addition to daily office maintenance and activities.
- Prepares and reviews all pleadings and other legal correspondence prior to submission.
- Researches local authority to ensure compliance with legal process and procedure.

**EDUCATION**  
**MA, Public Administration**  
*Ashford University*

**BS, Criminal Justice Administration**  
*University of Phoenix*

# Kimberly A. Thorner, Esq.

Carlsbad, CA 92009

kthorner@olivenhain.com

## NATIONALITY

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US Citizen, Born on US Army Base, Berlin, Germany

## SKILLS

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- Chief Executive Officer
- Public Agency Manager
- Lawyer
- Legislative Advocate
- Project Manager
- Community Relations
- Financial Management

## EXPERIENCE

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Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Encinitas, CA

2007- Current

*General Manager*

- Management of approx. half billion dollar net worth public agency
- Water Supply Planning, Treatment and Maintenance, Wastewater Collection and Treatment, Recycled Water
- Parks and Recreation
- Legal
- Financial
- Engineering
- Human Resources
- Legislative (State & Federal)
- Community Relations
- Risk & Safety

Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Encinitas, CA

2002 - 2006

*Assistant General Manager*

- Management of public agency
- Oversight of main functions of District

Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Encinitas, CA

1996 - 2002

*Project Manager*

- Project Management
- Constructed World's Largest Immersed Membrane Treatment Plant
- Project Team on the Olivenhain Dam
- Environmental Compliance
- Contract Negotiations
- Public Relations
- Budget Oversight and Management



## EDUCATION

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### Thomas Jefferson School of Law, San Diego, CA

- Juris Doctorate, May 1995
- Editor for "The Restater" Law School Newspaper 1993-1995
- Teaching Assistant, Legal Analysis 1993-1994
- President-Student Bar Association-1994-1995
- Academic Chairperson-Student Bar Association-1993-1994

### University of Colorado, Boulder, CO

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, May 1992
- Secondary Emphasis - German
- Active member of CU Law Club; CU Election Poll Manager -1991

## ACHIEVEMENTS & PROFESSIONAL BOARDS (Last 10 years)

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- Certified Special District Administrator from the Special District Leadership Foundation (2008 – present)
- WaterReuse California Board of Directors (2018 to present)
- 2015 California WaterReuse Advocate of the Year
- Founding member and lead for the North San Diego County WaterReuse Coalition (2010 to present)
  - Testified before the San Diego Grand Jury which resulted in a commendation for the coalition (2015/2016)
- Association of California Water Agencies Federal Affairs Committee (2006 to present)
- San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission Advisory Committee (2008 to present)
  - Elected Chair (2014 to present)
- Board of Directors of the San Diego North Economic Development Council (SDNEDC) (2007 to present)
  - Elected Chair (2013-2014)
- Integrated Regional Water Management Regional Advisory Committee (2008 to present)
- California Best Places to Work (2007 and 2008)
- Sponsored AB 869 to promote water recycling in California (2017)
- OMWD bond rating increased from A- to AAA under my tenure as General Manager, while our rates remained in the lower third in the region for the average user. (2007 to present)
- Issuance of over \$250 million in bond financing and refunding
- Oversaw unprecedented OMWD safety record of over 10 years of no lost time preventable injuries (2007 to present)

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

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- Water for People (San Diego Core Committee) Emcee at Annual Lunch (2013 to present)
- Lead Planner and Host for the North County Water Summit with the SDNEDC (2015)
- Board of Management – Magdalena Ecke YMCA (2007 - 2017)
  - Finance Committee – Magdalena Ecke YMCA (2007 - 2015)
  - Alga Norte task Force – Magdalena Ecke YMCA (2014-2016)
- Board of Directors (President) – Arroyo Vista Homeowner's Association (2009 to present)
- Classroom Volunteer – Olivenhain Pioneer Elementary – 2012 to 2018
- Hands On San Diego Volunteer
- [hikeboss@summitfriends.com](mailto:hikeboss@summitfriends.com) Annually guide personal and professional friends on ambitious day hikes, including Rim to Rim of the Grand Canyon and Mt. Whitney

**2020 LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION  
NOMINATION / RESUME**

<b>NOMINATED BY:</b>	
District Name:	Olivenhain Muncipal Water District
District Phone:	(760) 753-6466
<b>NAME OF NOMINEE:</b>	
Name:	Kimberly A. Thomer
Address:	1966 Olivenhain Road, Encinitas, CA 92024
Phone:	(760) 753-6466
<b>NOMINATED FOR:</b>	
<i>Please check <u>one</u> box Refer to the List of Incumbents.</i>	<b>LAFCO POSITION:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Regular Special District Member (Term expires in 2017) <input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Special District Member (Term expires in 2019)
	<b>SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE POSITION:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special Districts Advisory Committee (Term expires in 2019)
<b>DISTRICT EXPERIENCE:</b>	Ms. Thomer began her tenure with Olivenhain Municipal Water District in October 1996, becoming General Manager on January 1, 2007. Under her direction, OMWD provides water, wastewater services, recycled water, hydroelectricity, and park/recreation facilities on behalf of approximately 86,000 customers over 48 square miles in northern San Diego County.
<b>LAFCO EXPERIENCE:</b>	Ms. Thomer currently serves as Chair of the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission's Special Districts Advisory Committee (SDAC). She has served on the SDAC for the past 12 years. She has participated and provided input and guidance on dozens of important LAFCO issues during her tenure and has spoken at many LAFCO hearings on behalf of the SDAC.
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:</b>	Ms. Thomer earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Colorado (Boulder) and her Juris Doctorate from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. She is past Chair of the San Diego North Economic Development Council's Board of Directors, past member of the Ecke Y Board of Directors, past Chair of the Ecke Y Board Finance Committee, on the WaterReuse California Board of Trustees, and the SDCWA Fiscal Sustainability Task Force. Since 2008, she holds her Special Districts Administrator certification from the Special District Leadership Foundation and recently completed the Special District Leadership Academy.

## Brian Boggeln

1364 Tavern Rd • Alpine, CA 91901  
Phone: 619-445-2635 • E-Mail: [bboggeln@alpinefire.org](mailto:bboggeln@alpinefire.org)

### Education

- A.S. Degree – Fire Protection Technology
- California State Fire Marshal Fire Officer
- California State Fire Marshal Chief Officer
- California State Fire Marshal Fire Instructor I

### Experience

- 2018 – present            Division Chief of Operations – Alpine Fire Protection District
- 2004 – 2018            Fire Captain/Paramedic
- 2001 – 2004            Firefighter/Paramedic
- 1997 – 1999            Firefighter Cadet

### Special Assignments

- Emergency Medical Services Coordinator – Alpine Fire Protection District
- Chair of Central Zone Training Officers Association
- Chair of Central Zone Operations Chiefs
- Central Zone Representative to San Diego County Regional VHF Radio Project

### Experience

- Division Chief of Operations – Alpine Fire Protection District – Oversee the daily operations of the Alpine Fire Protection District. Supervise the twelve operational personnel in fulfilling the mission of the District.
- Fire Captain – Supervise six personnel in daily activities on an engine company. Provide command and control of emergency incidents.
- Emergency Medical Services Coordinator – Supervise the emergency medical operations of the Alpine Fire Protection District.

# Mark Robak

619-778-3800

MarkRobak@icloud.com

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## WATER INDUSTRY – ELECTED OFFICE

**2005 - Present Otay Water District**

**Spring Valley, CA**

**Board Member, Former President, Vice-President & Treasurer**

- Oversee a public agency with \$132M annual budget, providing water and sewer and recycled water to 224,000 customers in a 126 square mile service area. Represent all of the District sewer ratepayers.
- Chair of Finance and Administration Committee. Provide guidance to finance department staff for annual budget cycle and instrumental in Board audits of District finances.
- Head of current Labor Negotiations Committee.
- Former Chair of Engineering Committee. Fully engaged in oversight of key District CIP projects.
- Chief advocate at Board level for continuing development of District strategic plan and benchmarking study, including advocating for peer review as presented by AWWA.
- Instrumental in securing a feasibility study to bring recycled water to northern service area of the District. Public speaking on expansion of recycling water to the media, including local television.
- Represented District to Water Reuse Association, attending local, state and national level conferences.
- Had District rejoin ACWA in 2017 after a long hiatus.
- Been the Board member involved in Water for People events.
- Was instrumental in the recent introduction of live streaming of Otay Board meetings.

**2005 – Present Water Conservation Garden**

**El Cajon, CA**

**Board Member/Former President**

- Oversaw a joint-powers authority comprised of six public agencies creating an award winning five-acre display area that showcases water conservation to the general public and landscaping professionals.
- Was involved with the Garden when it opened in 1999 and have the most background of any individual.

**1997 - Present San Diego Metro Wastewater Joint Powers Authority**

**San Diego, CA**

**Board Member/Former Chairman/Longest serving Board Member**

- Oversaw a joint-powers authority comprised of 15 other cities and districts that pay for 35% of the upkeep and capital costs of the City of San Diego's regional wastewater facilities, with 2.2 million customers in a 450 square mile service area, treating 180 million gallons a day.
- Former Member of the Independent Rates Oversight Committee (IROC) for City of San Diego.
- Former member of the Finance Committee, that reviewed and advised on City of San Diego Bond offerings affecting Municipal and Metro systems (approx. \$1.2B placed - May 2009)
- Former head of Strategic Ad-Hoc Committee charged with shaping vision and mission for the organization, along with a plan to achieve those goals.
- Assisted in development of a communications plan and design of organization website.
- Participant in American Assembly II process in 2005 that endorsed Indirect Potable Reuse.
- Developed a Twitter site for them.

**1996 - 2001 Padre Dam Municipal Water District**

**Santee, CA**

**President, Treasurer, Board Member**

- Oversaw public agency with \$40M annual budget, providing water, sewer and recycled water to 135,000 customers in an 85 square mile area.
- While President of the Board the Board (1998), championed a Competitive Challenge program that was instituted comparing the agency to best management practices of the private sector. Has saved Padre Dam ratepayers \$1,800,000 annually to date.
- Represented Santee Lakes area and helped develop a Master Plan for 190-acre Santee Lakes Park & Campground, allowing it to become self-supporting and enhance recreational benefits for the community.
- Assisted in negotiations with employee bargaining unit in securing a new labor agreement.

## WATER INDUSTRY

### **Water Conservation Garden**

- Led formation and recruitment of Board Members that led to creation of *Friends of the Garden* foundation to assist in fundraising for the operation of the facility. This entity became the management structure for the Garden effective January 2011 and exists to this day. Our goal when we formed it was to achieve at least half of our funding from outside the industry, which the Garden did achieve.
- Obtained signage on Jamacha Road through my political connection with former Senator Dennis Hollingsworth. The Garden had previously been rebuffed by Caltrans who has jurisdiction on road.
- Started and maintained their Facebook site, which I turned over to them, as well helping start other social media sites.

### **Water-Wise AA Degree program/Cuyamaca College**

- During my tenure (4 years) as President of the Water Conservation Garden, I was the chief advocate getting a new Water-Wise AA Degree program implemented in conjunction with Horticulture Department at Cuyamaca College. Worked with the College and SDCWA staff to achieve it.
- The program is a model for junior colleges throughout the state.

### **YesToTap on Twitter**

- Developed and maintain the leading Tap Water advocacy site in San Diego County.
- Averages 3,000+ impressions per month. Followers throughout U.S. and world.
- Developed a tapwater pledge for organizations.
- Goal is to develop website and other advocacy methods.

### **Conservation Action Committee**

- Bought the [www.ConservationActionCommittee.org](http://www.ConservationActionCommittee.org) for the organization and helped developed their website working with SDCWA staff
- Developed both their Facebook and Twitter sites
- Main promoter of their programs in social media

### **Otay Mark**

- Have the leading water Twitter site (non SDCWA) in San Diego averaging approximately 30,000 views per month with a high of approximately 90,000. Followed by opinion leaders throughout the state.
- Leading advocate of SDCWA's member agencies on their specific accomplishments.
- Also have a website, with Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Flickr.

### **Television & Media**

- Have appeared in interview format on local news on water and wastewater issues
- Have relationships with local print, online and television reporters
- Was guest curator for a week on Voice of San Diego's Instagram page for water issues

### **Political**

- Have advised locally elected officials on water issues, including Senator Joel Anderson, when first elected to Padre Dam, prior to higher office.
- Have extensive connections with locally elected officials throughout San Diego County.
- Have helped develop social media strategy for locally elected officials.

### **Social Media Instruction**

- Taught social media with a focus on Twitter to agencies at the San Diego Chapter of the California Special Districts Association. Analyzed all water agencies for their social media effectiveness.
- Started the Chapter's Facebook and Twitter sites.
- Advised agencies on areas of improvement including SDCWA.

### **Water & Wastewater Technology Program**

- Completed Water Distribution Systems – WWTR 130 – Grade A
- Completed Wastewater Collection Systems – WWTR 132 – Grade A



**Board of Directors**

Edmund K. Sprague, President  
Robert F. Topolovac, Vice President  
Lawrence A. Watt, Treasurer  
Robert M. Kephart, Secretary  
Christy Guerin, Director



**General Manager**  
Kimberly A. Thorner, Esq.  
**General Counsel**  
Alfred Smith, Esq.

November 18, 2019

**RE: LAFCO Special Districts Advisory Committee Elections – Requesting Your Vote**

Dear Board President:

At its September 18, 2019 regular meeting, the Olivenhain Municipal Water District (OMWD) board of directors unanimously nominated General Manager, Kimberly Thorner for the Special Districts Advisory Committee position. We are writing to respectfully request your vote and support.

Ms. Thorner's desire to continue serving on the Special Districts Advisory Committee (SDAC) is also well-supported by her outstanding background and experience. She has served on the SDAC since 2007 and presently serves as the SDAC Chair. She has participated and provided input and guidance on dozens of important LAFCO issues during her tenure and has spoken at many LAFCO hearings on behalf of the SDAC.

In her role as General Manager for the Olivenhain Municipal Water District (OMWD), which she has held since January 1, 2007, Ms. Thorner provides water, wastewater services, recycled water, hydro-electricity, and park/recreation facilities services on behalf of approximately 86,000 customers over 48 square miles in northern San Diego County. She earned a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Colorado (Boulder) and her Juris Doctorate from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in San Diego. Ms. Thorner is past Chair of the San Diego North Economic Development Council's Board of Directors, currently serves on the WaterReuse California Board of Directors, leads the North San Diego Water Reuse Coalition, and is a current member of the San Diego Integrated Regional Water Management Regional Advisory Committee. She holds her Special Districts Administrator certification from the Special District Leadership Foundation since 2008 and has completed CSDA's Special District Leadership Academy.

Your support for Ms. Thorner is encouraged and greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edmund K. Sprague".

Edmund K. Sprague  
OMWD Board President



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**NORTH COUNTY FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** DFC MAROVICH AND B/S STEPHEN-PORTER  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 10, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** SET SPECIAL MEETING TO CERTIFY ELECTION RESULTS

**ACTION AGENDA**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

To set December 12, 2019 Special Meeting to Certify the Election Results.

**BACKGROUND:**

For approximately the last 18 months, the District has been working toward completion of the CFD that resulted in the Prop A Election. In order to complete the process and notify the public of the results by the end of the year, Staff is requesting a Special Board Meeting be set.

**DISCUSSION:**

Representatives from DTA have continued with the final steps of signature verification, with the expectation to be completed by **December 9, 2019**.

The last step of the signature verification, is to provide an opportunity for verification of the vote of those voters whose signatures did not match the Registrar of Voters signatures. To that end, DTA has mailed a Letter of Certification with instructions, to individuals whose signatures could not be verified. The signed Letter of Certification must be **received** by no later than **December 9, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

DTA will begin the ballot counting will begin on **December 10, 2019 at 8:00 a.m.** at the District's Scout Hut. They expect to have the ballot counting completed by December 11<sup>th</sup>, no later than noon. That will allow for sufficient time to put together the Special Meeting materials and distribute them to the Board for the December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**FISCAL ANALYSIS:**

Costs associated with the additional meeting will be \$ 500.

**SUMMARY:**

It is the recommendation of Staff to approve Special Board Meeting as presented.

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**NORTH COUNTY FIRE  
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**FIRE CHIEF/CEO**

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** STEPHEN ABBOTT, FIRE CHIEF/CEO  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 10, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** DISCUSSION AGENDA

There are no Discussion Agenda Items for the December 10, 2019, Board Meeting.



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**ROBERT H. JAMES**

ATTORNEY AT LAW

ROBERT H. JAMES, Esq.  
roberthjameslaw@gmail.com

3668 KATIE LENDRE DRIVE  
FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA 92028

TELEPHONE  
(760) 723-9018

December 1, 2019

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

Re: General Counsel Board Report for December 1, 2019

**Public Agency Access to Date Does Not Make Data Disclosable Under PRA**

A city's ability to access electronically stored data does not equal possession of that data under the Public Records Act, a California appellate court recently ruled. In *Anderson-Barker v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County*, an individual submitted a PRA request to the Los Angeles Police Department for vehicle towing and impoundment records. The LAPD agreed to provide records in its possession. However, it declined to provide records owned and maintained by an association of privately owned towing companies that contracted with the City of Los Angeles.

The requester filed a writ petition asking the court to order the City of Los Angeles to disclose records from the towing companies' electronic databases. She argued that the City had access to the towing companies' data. The requester issued discovery requests that led to litigation and resulted in a ruling that the Civil Discovery Act applies to PRA proceedings. (See *City of Los Angeles v. Superior Court of Los Angeles County, et al.*) On the merits of the requester's petition seeking the towing companies' data, however, the trial court found that the City did not "possess or control" the records stored in the association's databases.

The requester appealed the trial court's ruling, but the Second District Court of Appeal affirmed the lower court's decision. An agency has constructive possession within the meaning of the PRA if it has the "right to control the records." The City successfully showed that it did not control the records by presenting evidence that the City does not direct what data is put into the towing companies' databases and could not modify the data in any way.

The appellate court thus held mere access to privately held information is not sufficient to establish possession or control of that information such that a public agency would have to release the records pursuant to a PRA request.

**ROBERT H. JAMES**

ATTORNEY AT LAW

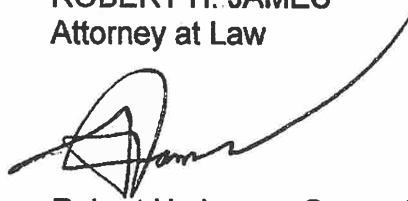
ROBERT H. JAMES, Esq.  
roberthjameslaw@gmail.com

3668 KATIE LENDRE DRIVE  
FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA 92028

TELEPHONE  
(760) 723-9018

This is a favorable decision to public agencies that may have access to many electronic databases in this digital age. The court recognized the danger of a contrary ruling, which would have transformed any privately held information to which an agency has access into a disclosable public record.

ROBERT H. JAMES  
Attorney at Law

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. James', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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:** DECEMBER 10, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

● **WRITTEN COMMUNICATION:**

- **NOVEMBER 5, 2019:** Results of San Diego LAFCO Voting for Appointment of Representatives

● **BOARD RECOGNITION PROGRAM:**

- **NOVEMBER 12, 2019 THANK YOU NOTE:**

B/C Mann

Captain Harrington  
Engineer Harlin  
FF/PM Anderson  
FF/PM Rivera

- **OCTOBER 29, 2019 THANK YOU NOTE:**

Engine 111:

Captain Benoit  
Engineer Helman  
FF/PM De Brauwere

Medic 111:

PM Adamson  
EMT Pena

- **OCTOBER 21, 2019 THANK YOU NOTE:**

Engine 112:

Captain Berry  
Engineer Crilly  
FF/PM Gonzalez

Medic 114:

EMT Saldana  
EMT Truman

- **MARCH 18, 2019 – THANK YOU NOTE:**

Medic 111:

PM Medica  
EMT Pena

- **UNDATED – THANK YOU NOTE:**

No information on call to match crew.

- **UNDATED - THANK YOU NOTE:**

Engine 111:

Captain Choi  
Engineer Glasgow  
FF/PM Gonzalez

Medic 111:

PM Jacobo  
EMT Castillo



**MEMORANDUM**

November 5, 2019

**TO:** Independent Special Districts in San Diego County

**FROM:** Tamaron Luckett, Executive Assistant

**SUBJECT:** **San Diego County Consolidated Redevelopment Oversight Board | Ballot Election Results**

The deadline for receipt by LAFCO of the ballots to elect one representative to the San Diego County Consolidated Redevelopment Oversight Board was extended to October 30, 2019. A minimum of 30 ballots were needed in order to certify that a legal election was conducted. A candidate for the San Diego County Consolidated Redevelopment Oversight Board member position must have received at least a majority of the votes cast to be elected.

Thirty-nine districts returned election ballots by October 30<sup>th</sup> deadline and therein established a voting quorum. The results of the election provide: Mark Baker (Lakeside Fire Protection District) with 17 votes will be the voting representative board member. A summary of the remaining votes is as follows: Mitchell Thompson (Otay Water District) received 16 votes and William (Bob) Ayers (Grossmont Healthcare District) received six votes.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (858) 614-7755.

**cc:** Special Districts Advisory Committee  
 Brian Hagerty, Group Finance Director, Community Services Group  
 Natalia Bravo, CAO Staff Officer, County of San Diego Community Services Group

<b>Administration</b> Keene Simonds, Executive Officer County Operations Center 9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200 San Diego, California 92123 T 858.614.7755 F 858.614.7766 www.sdlafco.org	Jim Desmond County of San Diego  Dianne Jacob, Vice Chair County of San Diego  Greg Cox, Alternate County of San Diego	Mary Casillas Salas City of Chula Vista  Bill Wells City of El Cajon  Paul McNamara, Alternate City of Escondido	Mark Kersey City of San Diego  Chris Cate, Alternate City of San Diego	Jo MacKenzie, Chair Vista Irrigation  Barry Willis Alpine Fire Protection  Erin Lump, Alternate Rincon del Diablo MWD	Andy Vanderlaan General Public  Harry Mathis, Alternate General Public
--	---	---	--	--	--



11.15.19

dear north county fire  
protection district,

thank you for your hard work  
battling the **kincadee fire**. you  
have reminded us all once again  
that you really are real-life  
superheroes. we are so fortunate  
to have such courageous + selfless  
first responders as yourselves.

I immensely appreciate every  
single sacrifice that each of  
you makes on a daily basis.  
I am also very grateful for your  
loved ones' sacrifices.

I cannot express the true depth  
of my gratitude.

thank you again.

love, katie pell

SAN FRANCISCO CA 940

18 NOV 2019 PM 6 L



North County Fire <sup>CO:</sup> **HARRINGTON**  
Protection District **E: HARLIN**  
330 S. Main Ave. **FT. ANDERSON**  
Fallbrook, CA 92028 **FT. RIVERA**

**Bc: G. Mann**





Our families would like to extend our most heartfelt thanks to all the firefighters/paramedics who came to my parents home on 10/29/19 @ 0330. They performed CPR for over 30 minutes. They made every lifesaving effort possible. They were all so caring and compassionate. A special thank you to the paramedic who knelt down and prayed with us. You just don't see that anymore but it was



E III: BENOIT  
HELMAN  
DE BRAUNWERE

M III: PENA  
ADAMSON

Just saying "thank you"

doesn't seem enough.

I hope you know

how appreciated you

really are.

so much needed, especially for my mom. We are forever grateful to all. We are so very fortunate to have men/women of this caliber serving our community. Gratefully,

ENGINE 112: CAPTAIN BERRY, ENGINEER CRILLY, FF/PM GONZALEZ  
M114: SALDANA, TRUMAN

I don't have any dates  
as I lost my memory.  
In my desk calendar I  
have no memory for the  
weeks of Oct 21 thru ~~Nov 7<sup>th</sup>~~

Thank you again - I continued  
having high in my home all my  
exams as they never diagnosed me  
as anything wrong - odd -

Thank you all so very  
much for your help in  
getting me to hospital.

I would like you to know  
that I am feeling much better.  
Sincerely yours.

3/18/19

Dear Men & Women ~

A heartfelt "THANK YOU" To all for being there when we needed help!

My nosebleed was a very scary & messy event which you all handled calmly & did your best to alleviate.

Letting us leave our dog at the station while we went to the hospital was such a relief! We knew he was in good hands.

We appreciate the ambulance driver & paramedic for doing all they could to negotiate flooded roads & perform medical procedures on bumpy terrain.

We also thank God for giving us a good ending!

The hospital had a special long tampon type item that could be inserted high in the sinuses & then inflated. That stopped the bleeding!

I was so glad it was over!

THANK YOU - THANK YOU - for your part in the solution!

Bob & I are grateful that you were there for us on Feb. 4th.

Sincerely ~

NO INCIDENT FOUND TO MATCH CREW.  
- CHARLIE

Dear Station 1 "A" Crew,  
What can I say? You guys saved  
my life. My GP has been saying  
for years that I would live forever  
and NEVER have a heart attack!  
He's actually embarrassed now.  
You were so thorough & gentle, so  
calm & professional. I'm alive  
because of your know-how. I've  
recovered so quickly with little damage  
because of your speedy reply.  
Thank you so much!



NCF 2019-4062  
CHOI, GLASSON, GONZALEZ (EIII)  
ENRIQUE JACOBO, CASTILLO (MIII)

Thank you to North County  
Fire Protection District - Paramedic  
Teams for responding to our  
call late Sunday night 9/1/19  
Special Thanks to Rick -  
(I believe I heard his name  
mentioned with the ER nurse)  
He was able to insert an IV  
in the moving ambulance on  
the way to Palomar Medical  
Center - 1st time - painless -  
very stable! Then the  
hospital nurses kept telling

me they had to only leave  
this in 24 hours. So they  
had to insert another one in  
my left arm. After 7 tries,  
3 nurses & bruising afterward  
they finally managed this.  
"Rick's IV lasted 4 days -  
throughout pacemaker surgery -  
punctured lung & severed  
heart blood vessel. -

Thank you all for  
responding & being able  
GIVE Life to those in need.

## North County Fire again pushes back timeline for Prop A results announcement

*Village News*

North County Fire Protection District officials again pushed back the timeline for when results may be available for the district's special election for Proposition A, Nov. 22.

The fire district initially said the outcome of the election – a referendum on a new tax of \$5 per month, per parcel of owned property, to pay for construction, maintenance and improvements to fire stations – would be known by the beginning of November.

Fire officials announced Nov. 1 that it was taking longer to tally up all the votes than they had anticipated, and the outcome would not be known for another two to three weeks.

Almost three weeks after that announcement, Nov. 20, the fire district said the signature verification process for ballots cast in the election was continuing to cause delays, and that ballots will not begin to be tallied before early next month.

Officials now say, however, that it's taking longer to tally all the votes up than they had predicted, and the outcome may not be known for another two to three weeks.

The fire district said in its Nov. 1 announcement that the firm that is counting the votes, David Taussig and Associates, is employing a "comprehensive signature verification" process to verify all of the votes are legitimate.

"This has turned out to require a significant amount of time," NCFPD Chief Stephen Abbott said at the time. "But, well worth the time, since we want to be certain that every detail has been properly addressed in the vote counting process."



Seven of the North County Fire Protection District's 11 facilities – including four of its five fire stations – are nearing or past the end of their originally-intended life span of 50 years, according to a newsletter published by NCFPD ahead of the Proposition A election.

Proposition A must be approved by at least two-thirds of voters participating in the special election to pass.

The new tax, which amounts to \$60 per year for all properties in the fire district boundaries, is necessary because many of the district's facilities are outdated, fire officials said. There's a documented need for at least \$26.5 million to meet facility standards, fire officials said in a newsletter published ahead of the election.

Seven of NCFPD's 11 facilities – including four of its five fire stations – are nearing or past the end of their originally-intended life span of 50 years, according to the newsletter.

If passed, Proposition A is expected to raise about \$1 million per year, or \$20 million over the 20 years it will be in effect.

Ballot counting is currently slated to begin at 8 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 10, at NCFPD's Scout Hut, located at 231 E. Hawthorne St. in Fallbrook.

Will Fritz can be reached by email at [wfritz@reedermedia.com](mailto:wfritz@reedermedia.com).

# **Pedestrian, 68, fatally struck by SUV in Fallbrook**

*By Alex Riggins*

A 68-year-old man died Tuesday night after he was struck by an SUV on South Mission Road in Fallbrook, authorities said.

The victim was crossing South Mission Road in front of the Rodeway Inn, a little north of Rocky Crest Road, when a full-sized SUV struck him around 6:35 p.m., North County Fire Protection District spokesman Capt. John Choi said.

Medics from North County Fire Protection District and Camp Pendleton's fire department responded and started performing CPR on the victim at the scene, then took the him to a hospital, Choi said.

The victim, a resident of Westminster in Orange County, died shortly after 8 p.m., California Highway Patrol Officer Kevin Smale said in a news release Wednesday.

The 78-year-old driver of the SUV, a 2013 GMC Yukon, stopped and cooperated with investigators, Smale said. He said the driver was not under the influence of substances.

Lanes were intermittently closed at the site, but the road was fully reopened by about 10 p.m.

*Staff writer Karen Kucher contributed to this report.*

## Julian fire station once manned by volunteers now belongs to county

*By J. Harry Jones*

The new, two-bay fire station off state Route 79 in Julian that had become a symbol of the struggle between residents wanting to maintain the old ways and those wanting to modernize is now home to the county's professional firefighters. They moved in last week, eight months after the community voted to dissolve the region's last volunteer fire department.

Gone are the volunteers who manned the station for the Julian-Cuyamaca Fire Protection District and protected the popular tourist destination for nearly 40 years. Despite briefly locking themselves into the station last spring and refusing to leave to protest the takeover, they eventually were forced from the property after a series of legal setbacks.

Though some still hold out a sliver of hope they will one day regain the property and their oversight of the rural area, the lawsuit challenging the district's dissolution was dismissed a few weeks ago, finally freeing the county to move in.

"The court has said the dissolution was done properly and won't be set aside," Senior Deputy County Counsel Josh Heinlein said.

As of Wednesday, the San Diego County Fire Authority's firefighters/paramedics have been based out of the station on a full-time basis, just as the first big snow of the year hit the mountainous town.

After San Diego Superior Court Judge Randa Trapp issued a final ruling two weeks ago that ended a lawsuit filed by the supporters of the volunteer department, the county towed away more than a half-dozen fire trucks and other vehicles that had been sitting unused inside the station while the court processed various legal challenges.

Most of that old volunteer department's equipment will be sold for salvage, Fire Authority and local Cal Fire Chief Tony Mecham said. "Some of those vehicles will cost more to repair than they are worth. Some are at the end of their lifespan. Others may be repaired and put back in service," he said.



The county also recently hauled away a load of firewood that had been stored near the station which the volunteers kept available for members of the community to pick up should they run low in the winter. This outraged a few of the supporters of the volunteers who have been very critical, especially on social media, of everything county-related since early 2018.

Mecham said because the volunteers refused to meet with the county to discuss the transition, the county didn't know why the firewood was there. Nevertheless, he said, "as a county and as Cal Fire, we do not disperse firewood to families. That's not the role of government."

The truckload of wood was taken to other fire stations that had wood-burning stoves.

Legally, it could still be a year or longer before everything connected to the transition is resolved in court. Two appeals remain and a lawsuit concerning who owns the land the volunteer station sits upon may still be forthcoming.

But injunctions and restraining orders that had kept things in limbo for much of the year no longer apply. Ever since April, the county has been providing medical and structure fire protection for the community using firefighters based in two Cal Fire stations in the area.

A brief history of how Julian got to this point:

The volunteer department was formed in the 1980s after the county disbanded a county fire department in the 1970s, leaving much of the backcountry to fend for itself. The volunteer department has been a source of pride, one of the things that bound the community together.

But in recent years the volunteer department had struggled financially. Attempts to raise property taxes to support the department failed, and staffing at times became an issue.

Following the firestorms of 2003 and 2007, the county formed a new county fire department, the Fire Authority, which contracts with Cal Fire. The Authority eventually took control of every volunteer department in the region except Julian, which stubbornly hung on to its independence.

The concept was to create a county fire department that would replace the backcountry volunteer agencies with professional firefighters and upgraded equipment.

In early 2018, after rejecting overtures from the county and being told some support the county was presently giving the volunteers would be

withdrawn, the board of directors in control at that time decided to seek dissolution over the loud objections of volunteers and many of their supporters.

Eventually, the Local Agency Formation Commission decided to dissolve the department, but under rules never used before, a protest was launched. Enough signatures were gathered in the area to force a special election, which was held in March. The result: 54 percent of local voters opted for county control. After the certification of the election, on April 8, LAFCO dissolved the department even as attorney Cory Briggs told members of the commission a lawsuit was being filed that day by the volunteers and everything they were doing was illegal.

Volunteers locked themselves into the station until the last day of May. After they left, the county changed the locks. A volunteer fire truck also reappeared after having gone missing weeks earlier.

There are still those in the community very upset about what has transpired, though Mecham and others with the authority say they think those still making a fuss are limited to a vocal dozen or so.

“I think the bad feelings involved a very small number of people,” Mecham said. “The people of Julian are supportive. They wave. They buy our firefighters coffee.”

Chris Resnick, a Cal Fire fire apparatus engineer assigned to the Julian station, said the community has been very supportive. He said the fighters now assigned to the station are focused on service and not on any lingering controversy.

# Passenger dies when car crashes into ambulance

## One Dead In Crash On 1-15 Near Fallbrook

SAN DIEGO -- A 73-year-old woman was killed and a man was seriously injured on Interstate 15 near Fallbrook Thursday when their vehicle slammed into an ambulance responding to a previous crash on the freeway.

The initial crash happened at around 10:10 a.m. when a Ford Mustang spun out and crashed into the center divider on southbound Interstate 15, south of Mission Road, according to North County Fire Protection District spokesman John Choi.

While emergency crews attended to the Mustang's driver and his two juvenile passengers, the driver of a Ford Crown Victoria lost control and crashed into an ambulance at the scene at 10:32 a.m., Choi said.

The Crown Victoria's passenger -- an unidentified 73-year-old woman -- was killed at the scene, while its driver -- an unidentified 66-year-old man from Rancho Cucamonga -- suffered major injuries and was taken to Palomar Medical Center in Escondido.

The ambulance's occupants -- who included the Mustang driver, two female juveniles, two firefighters, a California Highway Patrol officer and other emergency personnel -- were taken to a hospital for complaints of pain, according to CHP Officer Mark Latulippe.

While rain from ongoing countywide storms was falling during both crashes, it's unclear how much of a role it played in either crash. Latulippe said alcohol and/or drugs were not believed to be contributing factors.

The three left lanes of southbound Interstate 15 were closed until around 1:15 p.m., according to the CHP. Motorists were advised to slow down and move over whenever first responders were responding to accidents, Choi said.

## California Special Districts Association 2020 Board President and Officers Elected



Santa Ynez Community Service District General Manager Jeff Hodge, SDA has been elected as the incoming Board President of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) for the 2020 term starting January 1, 2020

Jeff Hodge, SDA has over 20 years of experience managing special districts. He has managed districts that provide fire, police, water, sewer, trash, cemetery, roads, street lights, parks and recreation, and drainage. He has experience in writing, introducing, and shepherding legislation for special districts; permitting and constructing new water and wastewater facilities; and upgrading existing facilities.

“Special districts fulfill a needed role in providing necessary services in our communities. I am excited about my upcoming year as the CSDA President and look forward to increasing the awareness of the important and vital role that special districts play in our communities,” stated Hodge. “I value the resources and support that CSDA provides to special districts to help them fulfill their mission.”

Hodge will lead the CSDA Board of Directors that consists of 18

members elected from six statewide networks for 3-year terms. Board officer positions are elected annually by the CSDA Board of Directors to serve on the CSDA Executive Committee.

The 2020 CSDA Executive Committee will include:

**President** – Jeff Hodge, SDA, Santa Ynez Community Service District

**Vice President** – Ryan Clausnitzer, SDA, Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District

**Secretary** – Stan Caldwell, Mt. View Sanitary District

**Treasurer** – Elaine Magner, Pleasant Valley Recreation and Park District

**Past President** – Joel Bauer, SDA, West Side Cemetery District

*Formed in 1969, the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) is a 501c(6), not-for-profit association that promotes good governance and improved core local services through professional development, advocacy, and other services for all types of independent special districts. CSDA's members provide, water, sewer, fire protection, parks, healthcare, and other essential local services to millions of Californians.*

[#AdvocacyNews](#)

[#FeatureNews](#)

## **Pedestrian in his 70s struck by SUV, seriously injured in Fallbrook**

*By Alex Riggins*

A vehicle struck and seriously injured a pedestrian on Tuesday night on South Mission Road in Fallbrook, authorities said.

The victim, a man in his 70s, was crossing South Mission Road in front of the Rodeway Inn, a little north of Rocky Crest Road, when a full-sized SUV struck him around 6:35 p.m., North County Fire Protection District spokesman Capt. John Choi said.

Medics from North County Fire Protection District and Camp Pendleton's fire department responded and started performing CPR on the victim at the scene, Choi said. The emergency personnel continued CPR once the victim was loaded into an ambulance.

Medics were taking the injured man to Inland Valley Medical Center in Riverside County, Choi said. The captain said the Wildomar hospital is a back-up option for medics when North County hospitals' trauma bays are being used or otherwise unavailable.

According to a California Highway Patrol incident log, the SUV that struck the victim remained at the scene. All northbound lanes of South Mission Road were blocked near the crash scene for about 40 minutes, but lanes were reopened by about 7:15 p.m.



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

## East Mission Road crash causes injuries, traffic jam

By [Will Fritz](#)  
Associate Editor



Shelby Cokeley

A crash late Friday afternoon sent one person to a hospital and caused a mile-long traffic backup on East Mission Road in Fallbrook.

A crash on East Mission Road in Fallbrook sent one person to a hospital and snarled traffic late Friday afternoon.

The two-vehicle collision was reported at 3:45 p.m. on East Mission near Valentine Lane, according to information from the California Highway Patrol.

One person declined medical attention, while another was taken by paramedics to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, according to North County Fire Protection District spokesman John Choi.

The crash caused a traffic backup of about a mile for eastbound motorists. Lanes were cleared by about 4:30 p.m.

# FIRE DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

## Legislative Article

*Russell W. Noack, Public Policy Advocates, LLC*

The first half of the 2019-2020 legislative session concluded on October 13 when Governor Newsom finished acting upon the bills sent to him prior to the adjournment of the legislature on September 14. For the record, 1,042 pieces of legislation reached the Governor's desk; 870 bills were signed into law which equals 83.5% and 172 bills or 16.5% were vetoed. It is noteworthy that this percentage closely tracks with Governor Brown's actions in the last year of his tenure.

I am very pleased to report that the 2019 session has been one of the most successful in history for FDAC and the fire service. Bills of the highest priority, especially in the EMS field have been enacted after years of stalemate, funding has been secured for building out a state of the art 9-1-1 system and wildfire mitigation, preparedness and response goals, including financial support for local government participation in the Mutual Aid System continued to top the agenda at the State Capitol. None of these successes would have been possible without the consistent support of FDAC leaders and members. Chiefs from up and down the state worked diligently to provide background material and arguments in support of Task

*"I am very pleased to report that the 2019 session has been one of the most successful in history for FDAC and the fire service."*

Force activities, contacted targeted legislators and staff in support of these positions and traveled to Sacramento regularly to engage in legislative hearings on a scale never achieved previously. These efforts led to legislative victories in 2019 and will provide the basis for continued success next year.

Emergency Medical Service reform was identified early as a critical priority for 2019. [Senate Bill 438](#) by Bob Hertzberg became the leading bill to implant local public agency control of dispatch services. The bill was co-sponsored with the California Professional Firefighters. Despite strong opposition, SB 438 passed on decisive notes and was signed into law by Governor Newsom.

FDAC and CFCA also sponsored [Assembly Bill 1705](#) by Rob Bonta. The bill exempts public agencies from the Qualified Assurance Fee ("QAF") and instead provides for a public Intergovernmental Transfer Program ("IGT") for public Medi-Cal transport providers. Unlike the QAF, the bill ensures that all districts will benefit from the new IGT. AB 1705 was negotiated in its

entirety with representatives of the Department of Health Care Services and other interested parties and was signed into law by Governor Newsom.

An EMS measure which will be under discussion again in 2020 is [Assembly Bill 1544](#) by Mike Gipson. This bill is the latest effort to create a statewide community paramedicine system to establish alternative destinations for appropriately triaged EMS patients. The bill continues to have strident opposition from the California Nurses Association and will be deferred for further action until January.

[Senate Bill 96](#) was the legislative vehicle used to modernize the State Emergency Telephone Number Account Act ("SETNA") to provide for the Next Generation 9-1-1 technology. The essential surcharge feature to assist in the requisite funding level was aggressively negotiated by the Newsom Administration with legislative leadership. Out support was critical in achieving the favorable outcome.

Three additional significant communication bills were signed into law this year. [Assembly Bill 1699](#) by Marc Levine will prohibit mobile internet providers from “throttling” or impairing internet services for public safety entities during a state of emergency. [Senate Bill 560](#) by Mike McGuire will require electrical utilities to establish procedures for notifying first responders and the public during public safety power shutoffs and [Senate Bill 670](#) also by Senator McGuire will require telecommunication companies to submit notices to Cal OES whenever a power outage occurs that limit the public from making 911 calls or receiving emergency notifications.

A plethora of bills were enacted to enhance wildfire mitigation, preparedness and response [Assembly Bill 74 \(Ting\)](#), the State Budget bill carried forward the financial commitment to repositioning of local government resources under the Mutual Aid System by providing an additional \$25 Million allocation from the State’s general fund. As you all know, pre-positioning has been utilized extensively in responding to all the recent major fires. Moreover, over \$200 Million was allocated to support wildfire mitigation and prevention activities.

[Assembly Bill 1054](#) by Chris Holden created the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board and Fund and established a process for utilities to recover wildfire-related costs based on “just and reasonable” conduct from the Fund.

Three important wildfire-related bills were authored by Senator Bill Dodd and supported by the D-RiSC fire coalition were signed into law. [Senate Bill 190](#) calls upon the Fire Marshall to develop a Defensible Space Program and Compliance Training Manual for use by local governments. [Senate Bill 247](#) requires CALFIRE to conduct extensive audits of the vegetation management and wildfire mitigation programs of electrical companies and [Senate Bill 209](#) establishes a Wildfire Warning Center to monitor fire-weather conditions and to provide early threat assessments to enhance forecasting and pre-positioning of fire resources.

Two significant wildfire bills which would have affected local government did not get enacted this year. [Assembly Bill 1516](#) by Laura Friedman would have imposed increased defensible space requirements and inspections on homeowners and businesses to improve fire safety in communities. Although we were successful in amending out extensive cost elements to be borne by local government related to the inspection feature, the bill remained a high cost item and was vetoed by Governor Newsom. Senate Bill 182 by Hannah Beth Jackson was a bill designed to require cities and counties to make various findings before permitting development in very high fire risk areas. [SB 182](#) was held in the Assembly but could be brought up again in 2020.

FDAC and its partners have commenced the planning process to prepare for the second half of the Legislative Session that begins in January. Currently, we are participating in stakeholder hearings related to legislators seeking to promote for increased affordable housing by limiting developer fees. We are working on a Legislative Analyst study to identify appropriate levels of funding for fire protection districts. We continue to be involved in wildfire-related legislation especially considering the ongoing wildfire events. The joint legislative task force is set to meet in early December to finalize the 2020 legislative program in order to continue the unprecedented successes of the last three years.



# Voters deserve more information on Proposition A election

*Village News*

Voters deserve more information than they're getting about the Proposition A election being run by North County Fire Protection District. From speaking to observers, here's what I can add.

Once voting ended, David Taussig and associates spent the entire night counting the 6,315 ballots returned, batching them in groups of 50 and sealing the unopened envelopes in tamper-evident boxes. Ballot envelopes were also scanned in preparation for comparison with digital signatures on file with the Registrar of Voters. Impartial observers from the community that were not chosen by the district had good access to observe the process, as well as signature comparisons as they began Oct. 28, and several people made the trip to San Diego to observe.

Up to 20% of ballots in some batches have been inconclusive. Most of the time, the envelope signatures looked hastily made and simply didn't match any of the multiple signatures the Registrar of Voters has on file to compare. The envelopes could have been better designed to allow more room for the signature. But after spending a couple of hours watching the process, observers agreed the consultants were doing a terrific job.

At this stage, they can't see the vote, so their determination is impartial. I'm glad they've been working from scans instead of the see-through ballot envelopes. NCFPD said they would post schedules to observe signature verification and counting, but as of submitting this letter, <http://www.ncfire.org> had nothing posted.

The district's two reasons for the delay in results published in their Nov. 1 press release were pure fiction. They knew it was vote by mail all along, and the signature validation was planned from the start. With two consultants hired, of course, it takes this long. That they didn't take the five minutes needed to actually calculate an estimate was simply poor planning. Barcoding the ballots would have saved a lot of time and money. If this arrangement is an example of their level of operations skill, I wonder how many opportunities for cost reductions have been left on the table?

Last, the district owes an apology to voters for mis-stating that ballots

needed to be received by Oct. 24 when they only needed to be postmarked in accordance with California election law. If they're going to run their own election, they should know the rules.

Of the ballot signature verifications, observers noted from 6% to 20% of each batch were marked "TBD." I'm disappointed in the district for not providing some instructions on these in its press release or the district website. Voters who don't return the request for further verification will have their votes voided. As far as I know, the district will not be logging individual votes with the Registrar of Voters, so voters will have no way of knowing whether their votes were counted.

I would respectfully suggest that the district uses the Registrar of Voters for any future elections.

Jeannie Allen

# NCFPD Proposition A Update: Call for Transparency

*Village News*

If it passes, Proposition A will add a Mello-Roos component to the tax bills of all 16,000-plus parcels within the North County Fire Protection District service area. Raising \$20 million and creating a Community Facilities District, the district has yet to disclose how much of their new revenue will be wasted in administrative costs.

Property owners throughout San Diego County pay extra for fire and paramedic support, although I don't know if most residents pay the tax as Mello-Roos. The district only publicly revealed the intention for Mello-Roos after community members complained. But here's more that <http://www.CaliforniaTaxData.com> tells us about Mello-Roos that NCFPD failed to mention:

“Rights to Accelerated Foreclosure. It is important for CFD property owners to pay their tax bill on time. The CFD has the right (and if bonds are issued, the obligation) to foreclose on property when special taxes are delinquent for more than 90 days. Additionally, any costs of collection and penalties must be paid by the delinquent property owner. This is considerably faster than the standard 5 year waiting period on county ad valorem taxes.

Disclosure Requirement for Sellers in California Civil Code §1102.6. When reselling a property in a CFD, the seller must make a ‘good faith effort’ to obtain a Notice of Special Tax from the local agency that levies the Special Tax, and provide it to the buyer,” according to [http://www.California TaxData.com](http://www.CaliforniaTaxData.com).

In fact, I would wager that almost no voters understood the fiscal ramifications of their “Yes” votes, and the district made no attempt to help them. Because there was so little information, it was impossible to make an informed decision. Formation of the Community Facilities District is fairly high risk and with only a relatively small stream of revenue, any bonds will be extremely expensive. Per San Diego County Policy I-136 dealing with Community Facilities Districts, the county has absolutely no obligation to guarantee bonds, and there are reserve requirements and other rules that will reduce the amount of funding available for capital projects. Even if the district works in a pay-as-they go basis, they would get their tax revenue minus all the costs to not only collect it but also to administer the Community Facilities



District.

If Proposition A succeeds, the district will have a difficult time raising any additional money if voters don't perceive value this time. If it doesn't pass, the district and its board of directors have only themselves to blame. If you want the community to partner with you, make them part of the team.

Lauren Brimmer

# Car fire spreads to brush during Red Flag Warning

## Car Fire Spreads To Nearby Brush

SAN DIEGO -- Firefighters battled a car fire that spread to nearby brush.

It happened around 2 a.m. on De Luz Road in Fallbrook. Firefighters initially responded to reports of a car crash.

When crews arrived, they discovered an abandoned vehicle fully engulfed in flames.

The blaze spread to nearby brush. Firefighters sent eight engines to the blaze out of an abundance of caution during the [Red Flag Warning](#) in the county.

“The Red Flag Warning is not hitting us too hard yet here in North County luckily,” said Greg Wilson, Battalion Chief for the North County Fire Protection District. “Be smart about the potential of fire danger this weekend. There should be no open burning anywhere in the county this weekend.”

Nobody was injured in the blaze. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

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

## Thank you to our firefighters



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

The past few weeks have seemed like a ticking time bomb. While the winds howled and the temperatures rose, the likelihood increased that a major wildfire could devastate our region. Two fires broke out a couple of weeks ago, one in Ramona and the other in Valley Center. Each had the potential to grow into major events, except within a few minutes, helicopters were in the air and boots were on the ground.

During my first 10 months on the San Diego Board of Supervisors much of my time has been spent on fire safety. County staff works comprehensively with Cal Fire, preparing for the worst. One of the biggest things I've learned is the key to fire safety is getting ahead. That's why I initiated board of supervisors' action to enter into an agreement with San Diego Gas and Electric to have a helicopter that's prepositioned in North County.

In March, Chairwoman Dianne Jacob and I brought forward a proposal to increase fire safety enhancements to strengthen fire safety for existing and future communities. Most importantly, we are using the newest technologies to help identify and fight fires. Two of the biggest differences between now and the past fires that have devastated our region are: first, we can identify fires seconds after they start around the county and, second, we have the air support to work 24/7.

These tools can't prevent fires, but they give our brave men and women more assets to use in their response. I want to thank all those who battled the Santa Ana conditions to keep San Diego County safe last week, and I will continue to fight to get whatever is necessary to protect lives and property in our region.

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

## Pileup closes part of southbound Mission Road

By [Will Fritz](#)  
Associate Editor



A crash Monday afternoon blocked lanes of southbound Mission Road near Ammunition Road in Fallbrook. Will Fritz photo

A pileup crash shut down a Fallbrook roadway early Monday afternoon.

The collision, which involved three vehicles, was reported around 1:15 p.m. on southbound Mission Road just south of Ammunition Road, according to the North County Fire Protection District.

Three people had complaints of pain, but all declined medical assistance and were not hospitalized, North County Fire spokesman John Choi said.

Lanes of southbound Mission Road were shut down for about an hour after the crash.

# California to Overhaul Insurance Plan After Wildfires

*By Adam Beam*

**Published Nov 15, 2019 at 5:19 AM**

Californians who lost their home insurance because of the threat of wildfires will be able to buy comprehensive policies next year through a state-mandated plan under an order issued Thursday by the state insurance commissioner.

Devastating wildfires have plagued the state in recent years, destroying thousands of homes. Those claims have cost insurance companies, who have responded by dropping fire insurance policies for many homeowners who live in fire-prone areas.

Most of those people turn to the California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan, an insurance pool mandated by state law that is required to issue policies to people who can't buy them through no fault of their own.

But FAIR Plan policies are often limited to fire damage, forcing homeowners to purchase separate plans to get coverage for things other than fires, like theft, water damage, falling objects and liability.

Thursday, California Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara ordered the Fair Plan to begin selling comprehensive policies by June 1 to cover lots of other problems, including theft, water damage, falling objects and liability. He also ordered the plan to double homeowners' coverage limits to \$3 million by April 1 and to let policyholders use credit cards or electronic funds transfers to make monthly payments without extra fees.

"You have people that now are being sent to the FAIR Plan and they have no other alternative. They won't even get a call back from an insurance company to offer them a quote," Lara said.

But California FAIR Plan Association President Anneliese Jivan called the order "a misguided approach." Started in 1968, the FAIR Plan is not funded by tax dollars. Instead, all property and casualty insurance companies doing business in California must contribute to the plan.

Jivan said the FAIR Plan was created to make sure everyone had

access to basic property insurance. She said forcing the plan to offer more complex comprehensive policies "would have unintended consequences that could ultimately hurt consumers."

"It will also result in increased operating costs that will be passed along in the form of higher rates for all policyholders," she said.

Department of Insurance spokesman Michael Soller disagreed. He said the optional comprehensive policies would cost more, but consumers would save money by not having to purchase multiple policies.

"The goal of this part of the order is to allow consumers to purchase a single policy, which we expect will be less expensive than having to buy two policies to get comprehensive coverage," Soller said.

Tony Cignarale, Deputy Commissioner of Consumer Services at the Department of Insurance, said the department expects the FAIR Plan to set rates that break even. Insurance companies must cover any losses. Likewise, insurance companies get money back if the plan makes a profit — but only after approval from the Department of Insurance.

Known as the "insurer of last resort," the plan has been growing in recent years as wildfires have become bigger and more frequent because of climate change. FAIR Plan policies in fire-prone areas have grown an average of nearly 8% each year since 2016, according to the Department of Insurance.

Since 2015 insurance companies have declined to renew nearly 350,000 policies in areas at high risk for wildfires. That data comes from the state, and it does not include information on how many people were able to find coverage elsewhere or at what price.

The FAIR Plan is governed by a board of directors appointed by various government officials. Lara says he has the authority to reject its operating plan. On Thursday, he ordered it to submit a new plan within 30 days that includes an option for comprehensive policies and other changes.

FAIR Plan policies have been limited because, in general, the insurance industry doesn't want state-mandated plans to compete with private insurance plans. But Amy Bach, executive director of United Policyholders — a nonprofit advocating for consumers in the insurance industry — says her group is "hearing from panicked consumers daily."

"If (insurance companies) don't like it, the solution really is to start doing their job and selling insurance again," she said. "This is an



# New Laws of 2020 Series: New Development Impact Fee Restrictions and Reporting Requirements



*By Blair Aas, SCI*

*Consulting Group*

The 2019 California Legislative Session produced three new laws affecting special districts that received revenue from development impact fees: [SB 13 \(Wieckowski\)](#), [SB 330 \(Skinner\)](#), and [AB 1483 \(Grayson\)](#). This article will overview each of these new laws and offer some general guidance for special districts that must now comply. Special districts will need to review and potentially revise their impact fee schedules, establish new collection procedures, and update their district websites.

Many of the new laws established by SB 13, SB 330, and AB 1483 stem from a study bill in 2017, [AB 879 \(Grayson\)](#), which directed the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to review current practices and provide policy considerations for improving residential development impact fee (DIF) programs in for the purpose of increasing housing production in California. UC Berkeley's Turner Center for Housing Innovation conducted the study for HCD and released their report, [Residential Impact Fees in California](#), in August 2019. The report recommended improvements in fee transparency, fee structure, fee design, and alternative funding options to spur housing growth and affordability.

## [SB 13 \(Wieckowski\) Accessory Dwelling Units](#)

Over the past few years, the State Legislature has sought to reduce regulations on the construction of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to help with California's affordable housing crisis. An ADU, often referred to as a "granny flat" or a "mother-in-law unit," is a secondary housing unit on the same parcel as a single-family home. Affordable

housing advocates have long recognized ADUs as an affordable housing option.

[SB 13](#), among other regulatory changes, exempts DIFs for smaller ADUs and requires a specific method of fee determination for larger ADUs. Specifically, DIFs and Quimby in-lieu fees may not be imposed on the construction of ADUs less than 750 square feet. ADUs of 750 square feet or more must be charged proportionately in relation to the square footage of the existing primary dwelling unit on the parcel. Water/sewer connection fees and capacity charges are exempt from these restrictions. However, please note that existing law requires that ADUs may not be considered a new residential use in the determination of water/sewer connection fees and capacity charges.

For example, the calculation of a DIF for the construction of a 750 square foot ADU on a parcel with an existing 2,250 square foot single-family home would be 33.3% ( $750 / 2,250$ ) of the same DIF for a single-family home. The construction of a 600 square foot ADU would be exempt.

To comply with SB 13, special districts that include ADUs in their current fee schedules should coordinate with their respective city/county to adopt revised fee schedules reflecting the exemption for ADUs less than 750 square feet and the mandated fee determination method for ADUs of 750 square foot or more. Likewise, water and sewer districts should consider revising their connection fees and capacity charges if ADUs are charged separately.

### [SB 330\( Skinner\) Housing Crisis Act of 2019](#)

Under [SB 330](#), increases in DIFs and exactions are not allowed during a project's application period – effectively serving to lock-in fees for a project when the project application is submitted. However, such increases are allowed if the resolution or ordinance establishing the fee authorizes automatic inflationary adjustments of the fee over time. Moreover, if construction doesn't commence within 2 1/2 years of final approval or the development project is modified to include 20 percent or more housing units or assessable square footage, then the project would become subject to the current fee.

Special districts should work with their respective city/county to ensure that their fee programs authorize automatic inflationary adjustments. Otherwise, a special district could potentially lose out on impact fee revenue by having to impose outdated fees and fee collection departments could incur a greater administrative burden.

For special districts with fee programs with no authorized inflationary adjustment, the fee collection department needs to evaluate the

history of the development project to determine the appropriate fee to charge. Upon collection of the fee, the fee collection department would need to confirm the submittal date of the project application, determine if 2 1/2 years have passed since the project was approved, and if there has been a 20 percent or more increase in housing units or assessable space, or collect the fee in effect at that time. For this reason, and to satisfy [AB 1483](#) transparency requirements, special districts should post their fees to their websites in effect on January 1, 2018 and any subsequent increases to the fee.

### **[AB 1483 \(Grayson\) Housing Data: Collection and Reporting](#)**

Under [AB 1483](#), special districts with websites must now clearly post their current schedule of fees and exactions and associated justification studies and annual accounting reports. Any updates should be posted within 30 days of any change. Specifically, the types of fees and exactions subject to these transparency requirements include development impact fees, water/sewer connection fees and capacity charges, Quimby land dedication requirements and in-lieu fees, public art in-lieu fees, cost of service fees, construction excise taxes, and Mello-Roos Community Facilities District special taxes.

For these fees and exactions, a special district's website must now include the following information:

- Current schedule of fees and exactions. (Special districts should also provide effective dates and any relative information for an applicant to calculate their payment. Note that the effective date of a development impact fee is not when the special district governing board approves the fee, but when they are adopted by the respective city/county on behalf of the special district.)
- Current and five previous annual accounting reports.
- All associated impact fee nexus studies, cost of service studies, or equivalent justification documents, conducted on or after January 1, 2018. (Although not required, special districts should consider posting the justification documents supporting their current fees and exactions even if conducted before January 1, 2018.)

*This article was written by Blair Aas with SCI Consulting Group as part of CSDA's New Laws Series, where experts explain legislation passed in 2019 and how it will impact special districts moving forward. This article is provided for general information only and is not offered or intended as legal advice. Readers should seek the advice of an attorney when confronted with legal issues, and attorneys should perform an independent evaluation of the issues raised in these materials.*



# fighting California fires

**Bob Egelko**

Nov. 19, 2019 | Updated: Nov. 19, 2019 2:25 p.m.



CalFire personnel put out a truck fire at Robert Young Vineyards during Kincaid Fire in Geyserville, Calif., on Thursday, Nov. 24, 2019.

Photo: Scott Strazzante / The Chronicle

Corporations can be held legally responsible for the state's costs in investigating and fighting fires that are carelessly started or spread by corporate employees, a state appeals court ruled Monday.

There has been no dispute that corporations can be required to pay compensation for deaths, injuries and property damage from fires caused by their employees, the source of at least \$18 billion of the debt that drove Pacific Gas and Electric Co. into bankruptcy. But corporate

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California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, or Cal Fire, to recover costs from corporations whose employees may have negligently caused wildfires. On Monday, the Second District Court of Appeal in Ventura disagreed and said corporations act through their employees.

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A 1939 state law allows Cal Fire to recover firefighting costs from “any person” who negligently sets fire or allows a fire to be set or to spread onto others’ property, the court said. The law — expanded in 1984 to include the costs of investigating a fire — defines “any person” to include a company or corporation.

State laws “expressly permit the recovery of fire suppression and investigation costs from a corporation ... when one of its agents or employees ‘negligently, or in violation of the law, sets a fire, allows a fire to be set, or allows a fire kindled or tended by (them) to escape onto any public or private property,’” Justice Martin Tangeman said in the 3-0 ruling, quoting the laws.

“The electric utility did not negligently construct and maintain its power lines; its employees did,” Tangeman said, referring to other cases. To hold corporations liable for firefighting costs only when they directly caused the fire, as the company argued in this case, would be “a legal impossibility,” he said.

The ruling could also affect PG&E’s potential responsibility to reimburse CalFire and the Federal Emergency Management Agency for their substantial costs in combating numerous Northern California wildfires that have been traced to the utility’s power lines.

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The appeals court allowed Cal Fire to proceed with a suit against a corporation, Presbyterian Camp and Conference Centers, over the Sherpa Fire, which burned 7,500 acres in the Santa Ynez Mountains in Santa Barbara County in June 2016.

The fire started in the corporation’s camp and conference center. When a chimney malfunctioned and filled a cabin with smoke, the court said, an employee took a burning log from the fireplace, carried it outside, and accidentally spilled embers onto

Cal Fire sued both the corporation and its employee to recover more than \$12 million in costs of combating the fire and investigating its cause. The ruling allows the agency to hold the corporation responsible for negligence by the employee.

Cal Fire spokeswoman Alisha Herring said the agency was pleased that a corporation can be held “responsible under the laws for the acts of its employees and agents.”

Lee Roistacher, a lawyer for Presbyterian Camp and Conference Centers, said it was reviewing the ruling and considering its options. The corporation could seek review by the state Supreme Court, which often takes up cases to resolve disagreements between lower courts.

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# BATTLE HEATS UP OVER SAFEGUARD OUR SAN DIEGO COUNTRYSIDE (SOS) INITIATIVE



By Miriam Raftery

Photo: Site of the planned Lilac hills housing development in Valley Center

October 13, 2019 (San Diego) – A battle is brewing over the future of San Diego’s backcountry. A countywide initiative called “Safeguard Our San Diego Countryside” or “SOS” will appear on ballots in the March 3rd election. If approved by voters, it would require the county to give the people a vote on large housing developments that require general plan amendments to increase density in rural and semi-rural areas.

The action comes after Supervisors voted to approve some controversial developments in rural, high-fire danger areas such as Proctor Valley near Jamul, with a string of other such projects in the pipeline that would similarly require exemptions to the county’s General Plan. Area residents voice concerns over increased traffic, the environment, increased demands on local schools, and clogging of evacuation routes during wildfires, among other concerns.

Those in favor of the SOS initiative include the League of Women Voters and environmental groups such as the Sierra Club, Cleveland National Forest Foundation, the Volcan Mountain Association in Julian, the Audobon Society, San Diego 350 and the Chapparral Institute.

Supporters say politicians have been catering to the wishes of

developers who donate to their campaigns, instead of rural communities. They argue that the people should decide whether or not to allow sprawl development in the backcountry—and that too much power currently rests with Supervisors, where just three votes can amend the County’s general plan to allow high-density projects far from jobs, school and services.

The [SaveOurSDCountryside website](#) notes that San Diego County’s general plan already allows tens of thousands of homes to be built in areas close to existing homes, schools and infrastructure. Backers say these projects can be built to meet the needs of all income levels including rental units and single family homes – without the need to amend the General Plan.

The initiative exempts low-income housing, but would give voters control over higher-cost housing developments that would boost density in remote areas where such projects may threaten public safety, wildlife, farms and rural economies. Such projects also cost taxpayers for road improvements, new fire stations and schools, expansion of power and water infrastructure, and fire protection.

Opponents of the initiative include the Building Industry Association of San Diego County, the California Association of Realtors, the Deputy Sheriffs Association and Cal Fire’s firefighters’ union local 2881. Several mayors and the leaders of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and San Diego Economic Development Council also oppose the initiative.

Those opposed to the SOS initiative claim it would hurt the region’s economy and make it harder for San Diegans to rent or buy homes, hurting young families the most. They also object to voters having to decide on projects as small as six homes, if a general plan density waiver is sought.

Unions representing state firefighters and deputy sheriffs contend that some of their first responders are commuting from Riverside County because they can’t afford homes here. They argue that the measure would make it harder and potentially, more expensive for middle-class workers to rent or buy homes locally by restricting housing supply.

The [NoOnSOS website](#) accuses supporters of having a hidden agenda because the initiative is limited only to housing and does not limit other types of development, such as hotels, offices or casinos in rural areas. The opponents assert that wealthy Wall Street investors are secretly behind the initiative, but provide no evidence of that claim.

Those opposed also argue that if the SOS initiative passes, some cities in the region could see copycat measures.

# Commentary: Why the SOS Initiative would harm San Diego economy

By DAVID LEONHARDI, JACK SCHAEFFER & PATRICK WALKER

Our region suffers from an acute housing shortage. And nowhere do we feel the strain more than with our first responders who can't afford to live in the communities they serve.

As public safety personnel, our jobs require us to respond quickly and effectively, using our judgment to navigate high-intensity situations. Yet numerous firefighters, sheriff deputies and police officers are commuting in from the outskirts of San Diego County or even Riverside County. These are the only places where they can afford a home. They leave their homes at irregular hours and arrive for their shifts already depleted from their commutes. The problem is only getting worse thanks to our region's deepening housing crisis.

Unfortunately, a measure on the countywide ballot in March 2020 would take us in the wrong direction. The so-called Safeguard our San Diego Countryside Initiative, or SOS, would harm our regional economy and expand a housing affordability gap that already puts too many homes and apartments out of reach for young families. It would cause more San Diegans to live in overcrowded housing and pay higher rent. Young families who can't afford a \$600,000 starter home or make expensive rent payments would be hit hardest by this initiative.

SOS would make our recruitment and retention problems worse, and it's for that reason that official fire and law enforcement organizations have joined the growing coalition of community leaders [opposed to SOS](#).

San Diego Police Sgt. Brian Avera is among those who have been priced out of the community he serves.

Sgt. Avera and his young family moved to Riverside County eight years ago in order to afford a home. Every workday since then, he has spent up to four hours commuting. Over the course of his 13-year career, Sgt. Avera has watched as thousands of people just like him were forced to do the same thing — move to Riverside County and commute back to San Diego for work, jamming our roads and polluting our air. We must stop this trend.



“I want to be able to live in the community that I serve. I didn’t choose to move far away; I was just priced out,” said Avera, the father of a 2-year-old. “When I think about the number of hours I lose with my family because of commuting four hours a day, it’s a gut punch. We need to add homes, not put up more roadblocks.”

We need our first responders to be at their best in order to help our region function at its best — and yet our housing crisis increasingly debilitates them.

The SOS Initiative would make it even more difficult for homes to be built for our first responders. As a region, we need to be seeking creative solutions to our housing crisis, like the [proposed incentive program](#) that officials from the city of San Diego put forward to help police officers buy homes.

SOS requires a countywide vote to add just six houses to the county’s General Plan, a planning document that guides growth in the unincorporated areas of the county. That means if someone wanted to add as few as six affordable homes, the SOS Initiative would force 1.6 million voters to approve that change.

This added layer of uncertainty would occur only after these six homes make it through the county’s lengthy approval process.

Yet the SOS Initiative puts no limits — at all — [on hotels, resorts, casinos, country clubs, office buildings, warehouses, or factories in our rural and semi-rural areas.](#)

SOS proponents claim the county’s General Plan already allows for the construction of 60,000 new homes, but the majority of those would be luxury homes on multi-acre lots. The fact is, if the SOS measure passes, homes that are affordable for firefighters and law enforcement personnel, as well as other working families, would not be built.

Without the ability to live close to where they work, our first responders are increasingly looking elsewhere for jobs. San Diego is experiencing an exodus of an entire generation of public safety personnel. From 2014 to 2018, 41 firefighters left San Diego for other departments. That is [more than the number who left for jobs with other firefighting agencies in the previous 10 years.](#)

We must do everything within our power to help firefighters and law enforcement personnel live in the communities they serve. For that reason, it is imperative that the SOS Initiative be voted down in March.

**Leonhardi** is president of the Deputy Sheriffs’ Association of San Diego County. **Walker** is vice president of CAL FIRE Firefighters

## As California burns, scientists search the smoke for threats to firefighter health

Matt Rahn was about 200 feet away when flames started climbing up the side of the garage and creeping toward the car inside.

[A wildfire researcher](#) with California State University San Marcos, Rahn was at the edge of [a fire that would go on to burn 4,240 acres](#) across California's Amador and El Dorado counties. He was there to study the smoke rising off blackening shrubs and trees. Watching the garage burn, though, he realized that firefighters fending off flames without any real lung protection were inhaling more than airborne remnants of burnt plants.

"Think about the average home, all the chemicals and things that are in there, not to mention all the building materials and furniture," said Rahn, who also is [a member of](#) Temecula's city council. "That's when we started really thinking about what happens. What's in the smoke when you have all that complicated fuel being combusted at the same time?"

That was in 2014, when wildfires burned 568 buildings across the state. Fire season is not yet over this year and the toll already is higher: three people dead and 732 buildings burned. And the state is still recovering from back-to-back years of catastrophic fires that killed 137 people and damaged or destroyed nearly 35,000 buildings.

As [climate change primes the West to burn](#) and more [people build closer to nature](#), the question of what's in the smoke when fires tear through wilderness and homes alike is still far from being answered. Yet the health of those breathing the smoke — like the firefighters battling the flames — depends on real data.

"Right now, we're trying to keep California from burning down," said [Michael McLaughlin](#), chief of the Cosumnes Fire Department and legislative director of the [California Fire Chiefs Association](#). "But how do we put emphasis on those that we're putting between the fire and the communities we're trying to save?"



## “On people’s radar”

When a wildfire burns through grasslands, forests, and chaparral, the blaze [churns out fine airborne particles](#) that can irritate the lungs and have been [linked to heart and lung problems](#), as well as [premature death](#). Deadly gases like carbon monoxide and irritating, potentially cancer-causing chemicals like polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons mix into the smoke cloud as well.

It’s a complex soup with ingredients that can change depending on the fuel and the ferocity of the fire. And as the chemicals stew in the atmosphere, [they continue to react](#) — breaking apart and joining together to create new ingredients to inhale.

Burning buildings and cars typically make up only a small proportion of wildfire smoke, according to [Shawn Urbanski](#), a research physical scientist at the Missoula Fire Sciences Laboratory — but their contributions are starting to capture scientists’ attention. “With these recent fires, it’s really sort of gotten on people’s radar,” Urbanski said.

For folks inhaling smoke far from its source, toxic emissions from burning cars and houses are likely to pose less of a health risk as they’re diluted away. “All the way down in the Bay Area, probably the smoke from the Paradise Fire was pretty much just wood smoke,” said [John Balmes](#), a professor at the University of California, San Francisco.

Of course, wood smoke isn’t benign; [researchers](#) as well as [reporters at \*Reveal\*](#) found increases in emergency room visits [for heart and breathing problems](#) after exposure to wildfire smoke. But for people immediately downwind and for the firefighters battling the flames, the metals, carcinogens, and toxic air pollutants rising from burning homes and cars could present an additional hazard. “It definitely is an occupational risk for the firefighters when they’re trying to save buildings, and for community exposures,” Balmes said.

We do know that municipal firefighters battling structure fires in towns and cities can run into heavy metals as well as all [kinds of cancer-causing chemicals](#), like formaldehyde, benzene, and asbestos.

They’re also more [prone to getting cancer](#) than the general population, according to a massive study of 30,000 firefighters in San Francisco, Chicago, and Philadelphia. The paper, published [in the journal \*Occupational and Environmental Medicine\*](#), reported an increase in certain cancers, including of the esophagus, lungs, mouth and throat, large intestine, and kidney.

There haven't been any similar long-term epidemiology studies of firefighters battling blazes in the wilderness, according to a deep dive into the scientific literature that was published in the journal [Inhalation Toxicology](#) in 2016.

Shorter-term studies, however, have reported [small drops in lung function](#) and [increased inflammation](#) among wildland firefighters exposed to smoke. Kathleen Navarro is a research industrial hygienist at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health who has worked as a wildland firefighter. She estimated in a recent study published in [Environmental Research](#) that based on their smoke exposures, wildland firefighters may be at greater risk of dying from lung cancer and cardiovascular disease.

Wildland firefighters also tend to battle conflagrations without any lung protection beyond a bandana or a mask to filter out airborne particles — even when they're working where wilderness and homes intersect, a junction known as the wildland urban interface.

For structure fires in towns or cities, firefighters typically use a breathing apparatus equipped with a clean air tank that lasts about 20 to 30 minutes, according to Cosumnes Fire Chief McLaughlin. That's not feasible for wildland firefighters who can end up working long shifts, in treacherous terrain.

That's why figuring out what's in the smoke, and what it means for health, is so important, said Jesse Estrada, the department safety officer for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, also known as Cal Fire. "You get exposed to a lot of stuff over the years, and the body takes a beatdown," he said. "We need to understand what the short term and long term effects are. The only way to know that is to let time pass as they do the research, and truly see what we are facing."

### **"It's just a different landscape"**

One of the people driving this research is Aida Rodriguez, a master's student working with Matt Rahn at CSU San Marcos. The day after the [Kincadee fire](#) started in Sonoma County, Rodriguez hopped on a plane with a pink duffle bag full of pre-labeled glass vials, patches made out of the same Nomex material in firefighters' uniforms, and fabric staplers. Airport security, Rodriguez said, "were concerned about everything in there."

The next morning, under a reddish haze of smoke on the horizon and

the faint smell of camp fires in the air, Rodriguez got to work.

Balancing the vials and Nomex patches on the front of a fire engine at the base camp in Santa Rosa, she tacked the material to the outside and the inside of the firefighters' gear. She was done in about 20 minutes. "I was fast and furiously going through it," she said.

Twenty-four hours later, it was Rahn who was in charge of ripping the patches from the returning firefighters' uniforms, pushing them into the glass vials, and mailing them to an independent lab in Ohio for testing. His team's goal is to find out which chemicals settle on the outside of the firefighters' uniforms while they're fighting the flames, and which ones soak through.

"Are they harmful chemicals? Are they cancer causing?" Rodriguez said. "If that's something we can answer, then you can develop a decontamination protocol to mitigate the exposure to those chemicals."

Scientists across the country are asking these questions. [Amara Holder](#), a scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is working with the U.S. Forest Service to review what we know — and what we don't — about the air pollution from fires that burn homes and wilderness together.

The stakes are high for firefighters and other emergency responders, and for the people living close to a conflagration. "You've got smoke from a house, or a car, as well as trees," Holder said. "It's just a different landscape."

Key will be measuring what's in the smoke, and determining how far these pollutants travel — as some might dissipate before they reach nearby towns, and some might not. Figuring that out could help guide evacuations and determine when and where wildland firefighters need to wear protective equipment. "Then we'll know what we need to do to protect people," Holder said.

Navarro, the scientist who has worked as a wildland firefighter, is taking an even closer look at wildland firefighter health — by studying their bodily fluids. She and a team of researchers at the University of Miami and the University of Arizona are collecting blood and urine samples from firefighters battling fires at the interface between homes and nature. She's looking for signs of metals, certain flame retardants, and a family of chemicals called [polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons](#) that's known to include carcinogens.

In those environments, firefighters' chemical exposures become much



more complex, according to Navarro's colleague, [Kenneth Fent](#).

"There are a lot more questions about their health risks even above and beyond other wildland firefighters where it may be more vegetation exposure," Fent said.

Fent is helping a voluntary [National Firefighter Registry](#) to [track the long-term health](#) of any firefighter who signs up. The goal is to understand the long-term cancer risk of firefighters across the field, from those rushing into burning buildings to those fighting to keep a wildfire from engulfing a nearby town.

For wildland firefighters in particular, he said, this is the kind of study that's been missing. And identifying the risks is the first step for trying to prevent them.

### **"This is an expensive consideration"**

Why don't we know yet what long-term health problems might plague wildland firefighters? One reason is logistics: it's tough for scientists to tag along with firefighters while they're working in extreme conditions to save lives and homes. "To do my work, I became a firefighter," Navarro said. Her training allows her to measure smoke exposures at active wildfires, and gives her insights into what the job as a wildland firefighter actually involves.

Another reason is that this research is expensive, according to CSU San Marcos' Rahn. "The laboratory analysis costs us about \$2,000 per firefighter," he said. "This is an expensive consideration. That's the hurdle we're up against."

And the money — which Rahn said includes a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and another from the [Cal Fire Local 2881 union](#) — is running out.

Researchers have struggled to find someone willing to pay to investigate the risks to wildland firefighters, he said. "We have to convince these funding agencies, believe it or not, that the work we do here is not just a California issue — this is a national concern," he said. "It's a challenge every year to try to receive that funding."

That's why two years ago Cal Fire Local 2881 pushed the state of California to fund the research, according to union President Tim Edwards. And [a bill by Sen. Connie Leyva](#), a Democrat from Chino, would have tapped \$5 million from the state's general fund to pay for wildland firefighting research at California State University campuses.

Although the bill sailed through the Legislature, former Gov. Jerry Brown vetoed it, calling it a “well-intentioned and important proposal” that belonged in the budget, not legislation. Edwards, an engineer with Cal Fire and thyroid cancer survivor, said the veto was disappointing. “Being a state employee, and a state firefighter, I think that hurt me more than anything. It frustrated me more than anything,” he said.

Now, Edwards said the union is working to get the funding included in the state budget. H.D. Palmer, deputy director for external affairs at the California Department of Finance, wouldn’t say whether the union’s latest efforts will work. “I’ll respectfully decline to speculate on what will or will not be included in next year’s budget proposal,” he said.

### What’s next?

There are strategies to reduce wildland firefighters’ risks by removing them from the smoke when they’re off shift, and giving them a chance to clean up, Cal Fire’s Estrada said. “It doesn’t mean that when they go out in these environments that 100 percent of the time, every firefighter is completely immersed in the smoke for the duration,” he said.

Still, union president Edwards said, “We’re hoping to eventually find a breathing apparatus that will work at the wildland conditions.”

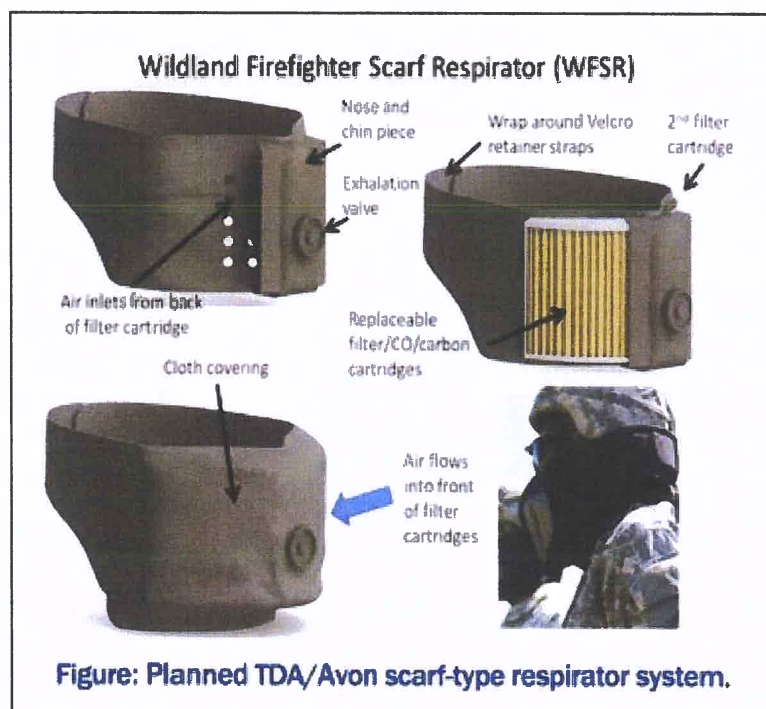


Image: DHS Science and Technology Directorate

To that end, the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate has contracted with a company called TDA



Research to [create a lightweight respirator](#) that firefighters can use in the wildland for days to weeks. Since many wildland firefighters wear bandanas over their faces, the device is shaped like a scarf.

“We wanted to create something that was similar to what they use,” said Kimberli Jones-Holt, program manager with the DHS Science and Technology Directorate. Jones-Holt is optimistic that wildland firefighters could be using the device by 2021.

As for Rodriguez, the results aren't back yet from the patches she sent into the smoke in Sonoma. But in the meantime, she has her glass vials and fabric staplers still packed in that pink duffle bag, ready for the next fire, she said: “It's important for us to realize that fire season is year round. I don't really have the time to sit and wait.”

# SoCal Edison to pay \$360M to settle lawsuits over deadly Thomas, Woolsey fires sparked by its equipment

*KABC*

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 6:18PM

The cities of Ventura and Malibu announced Wednesday settlements with Southern California Edison to settle lawsuits over the destructive and deadly Thomas and Woolsey fires sparked by its equipment during the last two years.

In total, the utility has agreed to pay a total of \$360 million to reimburse counties, cities and other public agencies for firefighting costs and repairing damage from two of the worst blazes in the region's history. The figure will not fully repay taxpayer costs, but it will help pay the bills to rebuild roads, other infrastructure and clean up debris, among other things.

The city of Malibu reached a \$13.7 million settle with SCE for damages sustained during the Woolsey Fire which ripped through the city one year ago.

The claimed damages include lost property, community assets and more for a group of 23 public entities. However, the settlement does not address claims made by residents, individuals or businesses affected by the fire.

"Malibu experienced one of the worst disasters in the City's history and suffered millions of dollars in taxpayer losses from the Woolsey Fire," said Mayor Karen Farrer in a statement. "This settlement will help the City continue to provide services to the community and keep moving forward with our recovery."

The Woolsey Fire started with the company's equipment a year ago just outside Los Angeles and quickly spread to the coast, jumping a highway and crossing the Santa Monica Mountains into Malibu. It destroyed more than 1,600 structures - mostly homes - and killed three people.

Meanwhile, the city of Ventura reached a settlement of \$8 million,

also part of a larger group settlement for claims made following the 2017 Thomas Fire and subsequent deadly flooding and mudslides.

The Thomas Fire that broke out in dry brush in Ventura County was sparked when the utility's power lines slapped together in high winds on Dec. 4, 2017. Two people were killed and 440 square miles were burned.

The area that was hit included a mountainside above the seaside city of Montecito, where a deluge a month later on fire-scarred terrain triggered a devastating mudslide that killed at least 21 people. Two people remain missing.

That settlement also does not include claims made residents, individuals and businesses.

SoCal Edison issued the following statement, which reads in part: "Edison's thoughts remain with the communities across the state that have suffered losses due to wildfire. The safety of the public, customers, communities and employees is the company's first and highest priority."

Settlement funds were expected to be paid next month. Thousand Oaks, Santa Barbara and L.A. County will also be paid in the settlement.

The overall figure is dwarfed by the \$1 billion settlement Pacific Gas & Electric reached with local governments in Northern California for fires its equipment caused in recent years. The damage from those fires, however, was much greater with more than 20,000 homes destroyed.

*The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

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# Governor Newsom Announces California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board and California Catastrophe Response Council Members

*State of California*

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*New California law passed this year strengthens CPUC powers to enforce wildfire safety rules*

*New Wildfire Safety Division will perform wildfire safety inspections and hold utilities accountable for safety records*

SACRAMENTO – Today, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the appointment of members of the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board, as outlined in AB 1054, and the California Catastrophe Response Council, established by AB 111, [both signed into law in July](#).

The legislation created the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board, a board of independent expert advisors, to advise a new Wildfire Safety Division within the California Public Utilities Commission on wildfire safety measures, including plans written by utilities, so the CPUC can more effectively regulate the safety of investor-owned utilities.

AB 1054 also mandated that utilities [tie executive compensation to safety performance](#), [invest \\$5 billion in safety improvements](#) without profit, and go through a new yearly wildfire safety review and certification process. It also requires new [inspections of utility electrical equipment](#). Under the law, utilities must create a [wildfire safety committee](#) in their corporate board, and provide direct board-level safety reporting to the CPUC.

The California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board will advise the Wildfire Safety Division within the California Public Utilities Commission on wildfire safety and mitigation performance, including plans written by utilities, so they can develop an appropriate scope and process for assessing the safety culture of an electric utility.

The Advisory Board will meet at least quarterly throughout the state. Biographies of the members are below.

### **California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board**

Jessica Block, 41, of San Diego, has been appointed to the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board. Block has been a senior research associate and associate director of the WIFIRE Lab at the University of California, San Diego since 2011. She was a wildfire research officer at the University of Melbourne in 2010, a research associate at the University of Ballarat, Australia from 2008 to 2009, a research associate at San Diego State University in 2008, and a senior research developer at Arizona State University from 2005 to 2008. Block earned a Master of Science degree in geological sciences with an emphasis in urban ecology from Arizona State University. This position does not require Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Block is a Democrat.

Marcie Edwards, 62, of Castaic, has been appointed to the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board. Edwards has been principal of MLE Consulting Inc. since 2017. She was general manager of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power from 2014 to 2017, city manager of the City of Anaheim from 2013 to 2014, and general manager for Anaheim Public Utilities from 2001 to 2013. Edwards was interim chief executive officer for the California Independent System Operator in 2004. She held various positions at the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power from 1976 to 2000, including assistant general manager for marketing and customer service business units, bulk power business unit director, energy control center manager and superintendent of load dispatching. Edwards earned a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of La Verne. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$400 per diem. Edwards is a Republican.

Diane Fellman, 69, of San Francisco, has been appointed to the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board. Fellman was a public utility regulatory specialist at the California Public Utilities Commission from 2017 to 2018. She was vice president of regulatory and legislative affairs for the Western Region at NRG Energy Inc. from 2010 to 2017, director of regulatory and legislative affairs for NextEra Energy Resources Inc. from 2004 to 2010 and an attorney in private practice from 1986 to 2004. Fellman was legal counsel at the California Public Utilities Commission from 1983 to 1986 and a hearing officer and officer manager at the California Energy Commission from 1977 to 1983. Fellman earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of



Cincinnati College of Law. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$400 per diem. Fellman is a Democrat.

John Mader, 50, of Elk Grove, has been appointed to the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board. Mader has been an electrical distribution engineer for the Pacific Gas and Electric Company since 1998. He is president of the Engineers and Scientists of California, Local 20, International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE). This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$400 per diem. Mader is a Democrat.

Alexandra Syphard, 49, of La Mesa, has been appointed to the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board. Syphard has been chief scientist at Sage Insurance Holdings LLC since 2018 and adjunct professor in the Geography Department at San Diego State University since 2011. She was a senior research scientist at the Conservation Biology Institute from 2007 to 2019 and a postdoctoral research scientist for the University of Wisconsin-Madison, SILVIS Lab in the Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology from 2005 to 2007, and a geographic information system (GIS) analyst and environmental planner at Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, from 1998 to 1999. Syphard earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in geography from San Diego State University and the University of California, Santa Barbara, a Master of Science degree in environmental studies from the Virginia Commonwealth University and a Master of Public Health degree from the Medical College of Virginia. This position does not require Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$400 per diem. Syphard is a Democrat.

Also, Senate President pro Tempore Toni Atkins today announced the Senate Rules Committee's appointment of Ralph M. Armstrong Jr. to the California Wildfire Safety Advisory Board. Armstrong has held several positions with IBEW Local Union 1245 since 2007, including senior business representative and senior assistant business manager. Armstrong held several positions with Western Area Power Administration from 1995 to 2007, including occupational safety and health specialist and journeyman lineman. He was a journeyman lineman for the Florida Power and Light Company from 1989 to 1995 and held various positions for IBEW Local 349 from 1983 to 1989.

The Governor today also announced members of the California Catastrophe Response Council, which will oversee the operations and management of the Wildfire Fund created under AB 1054 to pay eligible claims resulting from a wildfire determined to be caused by an

electric utility. The Council will direct the Wildfire Fund administrator to prepare and present its operation plans on an annual basis.

Biographies of the members are below.

### **California Catastrophe Response Council**

Catherine Bando, 64, of Los Angeles, has been appointed to the California Catastrophe Response Council. Bando has served as executive director at the California Statewide Communities Development Authority since 2014 and has been principal at Bando Public Finance since 2012. She was director at Citigroup Global Markets from 2010 to 2011, partner at Greencoast Capital Partners from 2009 to 2010, managing director at J.P. Morgan in 2008 and managing director at ABC Capital Markets from 1990 to 2008. She earned a Master of Business Administration degree from American University. This position does not require Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Bando is a Democrat.

Paul Rosenstiel, 69, of San Francisco, has been appointed to the California Catastrophe Response Council. Rosenstiel has served as a special advisor to Governor Gavin Newsom since 2019. He was a member of the California State Teachers' Retirement System Teachers' Retirement Board from 2011 to 2019. Rosenstiel was special advisor at the Alameda County Treasurer's Office from 2017 to 2019. He was managing director at Stifel from 2014 to 2015. Rosenstiel was managing director and manager at De La Rosa and Company from 2009 to 2014. He was deputy treasurer at the California State Treasurer's Office from 2007 to 2009. Rosenstiel was policy director at Westly for Governor from 2005 to 2006. Rosenstiel was vice president of public finance at Dean Witter Reynolds from 1983 to 1986. He was an economist at Recht Hausrath and Associates from 1979 to 1981. Rosenstiel is chair of the California Budget and Policy Center. He is a board member of the Global Projects Center at Stanford University. He is a member of the Public Policy Institute of California, Planned Parenthood of Northern California, Financing the Future Working Group and the Chinese Community Health Care Association. Rosenstiel earned a Master of Business Administration degree from Stanford University. This position does not require Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Rosenstiel is a Democrat.

Rhoda Rossman, 60, of Albany, has been appointed to the California Catastrophe Response Council. Rossman has been an independent trustee of the Matthews Asia Funds since 2006. She was a fixed income specialist at Cypress Wealth Advisors from 2017 to 2018 and held several positions at PMI Mortgage Insurance from 1997 to 2010,

including corporate investment officer, treasurer and portfolio manager. Rossman was portfolio manager at Montgomery Asset Management from 1995 to 1996, vice president at the Wells Fargo Bank Investment Management Group from 1993 to 1995 and assistant portfolio manager at RCM Capital Management Group from 1993 to 1995. She was a credit analyst and portfolio manager at Benham Capital Management from 1985 to 1987 and assistant vice president and underwriter at AMBAC Municipal Bond Insurance from 1983 to 1985. Rossman earned a Master of Public Administration degree in public finance from the Maxwell School of Syracuse University. This position does not require Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Rossman is a Democrat.

Additionally, Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon today announced his appointment of former Assemblymember Richard Gordon to the California Catastrophe Response Council. Gordon currently serves as president and CEO of the California Forestry Association. Gordon served three terms (2010-2016) in the California State Assembly, where he was Rules Committee Chair for two years. Before that, Gordon was a member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and was president of CSAC in 2008. Gordon is a fourth-generation Californian born and raised in San Mateo County.

The Council is comprised of nine members: the Governor, or his designee; the Treasurer, or her designee; the Insurance Commissioner, or his designee; the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, or his designee; one member appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; one member appointed by the Speaker of the Assembly; and three public members appointed by the Governor.

This action is the most recent that the Governor has taken to address the recent utility-directed Public Safety Power Shutoffs, which have left thousands of Californians without power or electricity.

The Governor has [declared a statewide emergency](#) due to the dangerous weather conditions. Governor Newsom announced the launch of a new state website, [RESPONSE.CA.GOV](https://response.ca.gov) this week, which serves as a one-stop portal for tools and resources available to Californians who have been impacted by wildfires and utility-directed power shutoffs, as well as [community and business partnerships](#) to support residents impacted by the wildfires and the shutoffs.

The Governor also announced that the state has secured Fire

Management Assistance Grants to help ensure the availability of resources to fight the [Getty Fire](#), as well as the [Kincadee](#) and [Tick](#) fires – for which the Governor previously declared a state of emergency in [Sonoma and Los Angeles](#) counties.

This week and last week, the Governor met with emergency responders, volunteers, health officials, residents and state and local leaders in [Los Angeles](#), [Santa Rosa](#), [Petaluma](#), [Napa](#) and [Geyserville](#), and held [briefings](#) regarding the ongoing fire threats and the need to hold utilities accountable for the consequences of their power shutoff decisions.

The Governor has called on the California Public Utilities Commission to reform power shutoff rules and regulations as part of its [investigation](#) into the utility-led shutoffs. He has also announced a [\\$75 million program](#) for state and local governments to mitigate the impacts of power shutoffs and unveiled a series of [new partnerships and new tools](#) to help secure medically vulnerable populations during these events.

###

# Judge Demands PG&E Explain Kincade Fire's Origin

Published Nov 4, 2019 at 7:27 PM

## NEWSLETTERS

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A backfire set by firefighters burns a hillside behind PG&E power lines during firefighting operations to battle the Kincade Fire in Healdsburg, California on October 26, 2019. - US officials on October 26 ordered about 50,000 people to evacuate parts of the San Francisco Bay area in California as hot dry winds are forecast to fan raging wildfires.

The federal judge overseeing PG&E's probation for federal safety law violations on Monday ordered the bankrupt utility to explain how a previously inspected jumper cable on a transmission tower could have failed in high wind, apparently sparking the 78,000-acre Kincade wildfire.

U.S. Judge William Alsup gave the company until Nov. 29 to answer questions "all of which are intended to gather information to assess its compliance with conditions of probation."

The company's probation stems from its conviction of federal pipeline safety violations arising out of the 2010 San Bruno gas pipeline explosion that left eight people dead.

The judge also asked that the company detail the equipment failure and tree damage it found to its system during the two power shutoffs late last month, including the one it started on the night the Kincade Fire broke out on Oct. 23.

The company had shut off distribution lines nearby but said forecast winds were not strong enough to shut down transmission lines based on the company's protocols.

Alsup asked the company to detail under what conditions a cable could separate, triggering lightning-like bursts of energy known as arcing.

"If a jumper cable separates and falls away from an energized transmission line, will any arcing or sparking plausibly occur, even briefly, between the energized line as it falls away?" the judge asked. "If a jumper cable becomes disconnected from an energized line, what other scenarios could plausibly produce sparking or arcing?"

He asked what could cause the jumper to separate from the line and for the utility to specify who inspected the tower last and how the check was performed. CEO Bill Johnson has said the tower was twice inspected this year, and the jumper that failed had been found to be in good condition.

"Should we now be worried that other jumper cables inspected in the same manner have potential failures that have gone undetected?" the judge asked. "How many structures have been lost and how many lives have been lost by wildfires arguably caused by PG&E distribution lines in 2019?"

The judge suggested the number so far will be lower than before due to planned power shutoffs, "but the Court (and the public) would appreciate a more precise answer."



## UCSD Data Scientists Working Online to Help the Fire Line

Published Nov 5, 2019 at 8:06 PM | Updated at 4:59 AM PST on Nov 6, 2019

### The WiFIRE team take long shifts, sometimes working 24/7 in order to monitor evolving fires

By [Danny Freeman](#)

#### [NEWSLETTERS](#)

#### Receive the latest local updates in your inbox

As hundreds of firefighters battled wildfires up and down California these past few weeks in October, a smaller unknown San Diego group has been lending their help to the fight with computing and brain power.

A team of wildfire warriors at UC San Diego's WiFIRE lab work 24/7 during California wildfires to help firefighters gain the upper hand out in the field.

"Obviously, last week was very busy for my team," said Ilkay Altintas, Chief Data Science Officer of UC San Diego's Super Computer Center.

When a wildfire breaks out, Altintas and her team of about a half-dozen analysts compile data from utility cameras, weather stations, NASA satellites and more to predict where fires are heading.

"We bring together all this information and then feed them into models that can tell us where the fire will be in 1 to 6 hours," Altintas explained.

Since September, the researchers have monitored a fire data gathering plane--a pilot project known as the [FIRE Integrated Real-Time Intelligence System](#) (FIRIS).

She showed NBC 7 how a simulated fire in Fallbrook can be predicted by applying different wind and climate conditions.

The plane can even fly over fires at night using infrared technology, seeing key areas through smoke.

Their partners such as Los Angeles Fire Department and San Diego Fire-Rescue can then use those models to determine who should evacuate and how resources should be deployed to fight an active fire.

"Fire season in California isn't done," Altintas noted.

The WiFIRE team take long shifts, sometimes working 24/7 in order to monitor evolving fires.

WiFIRE tech lead Dan Crawl said the fire watch marathons are worth it to "provide a positive impact for the communities and help firefighters."

These UC San Diego data experts are making a positive impact, using powerful data.

## Southern California fires have cost \$125 million already and the forecast looks grim

Firefighting efforts across Southern California have already cost local, state and federal agencies more than \$125 million and a reprieve is not expected anytime soon, according to the National Interagency Fire Center.

The agency's Southern California Geographic Coordination Center expects a critically high fire potential in the region over the next few weeks due to a dangerous combination of above-average temperatures, strong winds and extremely dry vegetation, according to a [seasonal outlook](#) released Nov. 1.

There also is a high likelihood of below-normal rainfall this winter, the report states.

"This may be a long fall and winter across California for both the firefighting community and the general public in terms of coping with the threat of fires," the outlook states.

### Fires ramped up late this year

In 2017 and 2018, California experienced the deadliest and [most destructive fires](#) in its history, thanks in part to the lasting damage caused by a drought lasting more than seven years, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. But most of the fires occurred during the summer months.

Last year, Cal FIRE spent \$434 million from its emergency fire suppression fund fighting fires in the first two months of the season, and went on to spend an estimated \$635 million by the end.

So far, Cal FIRE has spent about a quarter of its emergency fund this year.

That's largely because this season started out slower and didn't begin to ramp up until September and October, when dry winds began to kick up.

"Relatively speaking, this was a slow fire year across the nation," said Christine Schuldheisz, a spokesperson for NIFC. "We were below the 10-year average for fires and below the 10-year average for acres as well."

Schuldheisz, however, noted that the Thomas fire, the [second largest](#) in California history, started in December.

"We're not out of the year yet," she said.

### How this year compares

Roughly 63,000 acres have burned so far in Southern California year-to-date, compared to about 200,000 acres by this time last year, according to NIFC.

The comparison doesn't include the destructive [Woolsey Fire](#) near Thousand Oaks, which burned more than 1,600 structures and 96,000 acres last November.

In Cal FIRE's [jurisdictions](#), firefighters are dealing with roughly the same amount of fires in 2018 and 2019, but last year's blazes burned about five times more acreage.

Scott McLean, a spokesman for Cal FIRE, attributed this summer's less damaging fires to more moderate weather and an increase in fire preparation. But now, with low humidity and fierce Santa Ana winds, the agency is starting to see heavier fires..

"We have to be prepared," McLean said.

On average, the state agency is seeing fires start earlier than usual and continue later into the year.

Climate change is believed to be the culprit. The length of fire seasons in California has increased by 84 days since the 1970s, according to research by LeRoy Westerling, a professor at UC Merced.

### **What local fires have cost**

Los Angeles County has experienced the most costly fires in the region, according to a report by NIFC.

The [Saddleridge Fire](#) in the San Fernando Valley in early October is estimated to have cost \$29 million to suppress. It killed three people, destroyed 24 structures and burned roughly 9,000 acres.

Dry northeast winds fueled the fire early on. The cause is unknown, but it is believed to have started beneath a high-voltage power line near the 210 Freeway in [Sylmar](#).

Last week's [Getty Fire](#), which threatened neighborhoods and is still smoldering on Los Angeles' Westside, has cost nearly \$9 million to battle so far. Thirteen structures were destroyed and thousands were forced to evacuate.

The Horseshoe and Tenaja fires in September in Riverside County have racked up costs of more than \$2 million and \$4 million, respectively.

One of the region's most destructive, the [Sandalwood Fire](#) in Calimesa, destroyed 72 structures and more than 1,000 acres. It is estimated to have cost \$3.1 million to contain, according to NIFC.

The deadly fire was started by a trash truck dumping a burning load near the 10 Freeway. [Santa Ana winds](#) pushed the blaze through the Villa Calimesa Mobile Home Park and forced more than 500 residents to evacuate. Three people were killed.

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## Local Marine Corps Ready to Assist Cal Fire

Published Nov 4, 2019 at 6:26 PM | Updated at 8:30 AM PST on Nov 5, 2019

**“Our crews are trained. We’re on standby from July through November,” said Col. Bill Bartolomea**

By [Joe Little](#)

### [NEWSLETTERS](#)

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MCAS Camp Pendleton's Marines are ready to help fire crews in the event of a wildfire. NBC 7's Joe Little is at the base with more. (Published Monday, Nov. 4, 2019)

The United States Marine Corps is still on standby to fly into action if Cal Fire requests their help with a wildfire.

“Our crews are trained. We’re on standby from July through November,” said Bill Bartolomea, Marine Aircraft Group 39 Commanding Officer Colonel.

Bartolomea’s MAG 39 includes squadrons of Vipers, Venoms, and Osprey. Venoms and Osprey pilots are trained to equip their aircraft with large buckets to scoop up water and drop it on wildfires.

“We’ve got crews on alert right now as we speak, if and when the state or the county asks us to come and help,” Bartolomea said.

The aircraft would operate out of Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton. The unique air base is a completely separate base from the much larger Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton even though the air station is right in the middle.

“We’re the only one that’s located right in the center,” Colonel Tim Anderson said.

Anderson is the Commanding Officer of MCAS Camp Pendleton, a smaller sister version of MCAS Miramar.

Anderson and Bartolomea work hand-in-hand to maintain the aircraft, train the pilots and execute missions. It helps that the two colonels have worked together before and are now next-door neighbors.

“It’s more relaxed so if there’s something bothering him or me, it’s easier for us to just walk across the driveway and talk about it,” Anderson said.

Those talks could include how Marines can help battle wildfires which hits close to home for Bartolomea. The 2007 Witch Fire forced his family to evacuate

“The firefighters ended up saving our entire neighborhood. No damage to any of the houses. Amazing,” he added.

The MCAS Camp Pendleton Marines are the only ones in the country to have an agreement to assist local governments with wildfires on civilian property.



# UCSD Data Scientists Working Online to Help the Fire Line

Published Nov 5, 2019 at 8:06 PM | Updated at 4:59 AM PST on Nov 6, 2019

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By [Danny Freeman](#)

### [NEWSLETTERS](#)

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

## Fire reported on Sleeping Indian Road

By [Will Fritz](#)

North County and Oceanside firefighters on Friday were able to knock down a fire that destroyed recreational vehicles and spread to nearby brush in Oceanside just west of Bonsall.

The blaze was reported around 3 p.m in an area off of Sleeping Indian Road and Las Tunas Drive, according to information from the North County Fire Protection District.

John Choi, the North County Fire public information officer, said shortly after the fire broke out that there were reports the fire involved multiple RVs and had spread to vegetation.

The Oceanside Fire Department said on Twitter around 4:30 p.m. that the fire had been contained but had extended to a mulch pile and wasn't expected to actually be extinguished for "a couple of hours."

Oceanside police spokesman Tom Bussey told City News Service one person had to be taken to Palomar Hospital for treatment of minor burn injuries.

Around 8 p.m., Choi told Village News firefighters were leaving the scene of the blaze, though at least one crew was expected to remain on scene through the night to make sure there are no flare-ups.

It wasn't immediately clear what caused the fire.

*Will Fritz can be reached by email at [wfritz@reedermedia.com](mailto:wfritz@reedermedia.com)*

**6 p.m. Friday:** This story was updated with added details on the fire.

**8 p.m. Friday:** This story was updated to indicate fire units have left the scene.

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

## Small brush fire stopped in De Luz

By [Will Fritz](#)

A small brush fire broke out in the De Luz area north of Fallbrook Friday afternoon, but firefighters were quickly able to stop it from spreading.

The blaze was reported at 12:20 p.m. in an area near Rock Mountain Road and Sandia Creek Drive, very close to the San Diego/Riverside County border, according to information from the [Riverside](#) County Fire Department.

Firefighters were able to halt the fire's spread at two acres, according to [Riverside](#) County Fire spokesperson Rob Roseen. No structures were threatened and no injuries were reported.

*Will Fritz can be reached by email at [wfritz@reedermedia.com](mailto:wfritz@reedermedia.com)*

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## **Business, brush charred in small Fallbrook fire**

*By Pauline Repard*

A fire damaged a business in Fallbrook on Saturday, prompting evacuation of three adjoining units, according to fire officials.

The blaze first was reported at 4:40 p.m. as a vegetation fire on Ammunition Road near South Mission Road, according to the North County Fire Protection District.

Within minutes, the fire agency tweeted that a storage unit was involved in the fire. A fire spokesman later said a business named Salcor Inc. sustained heavy damage in the fire, but three adjoining businesses were saved.

Salcor's website says it manufactures ultraviolet disinfectant.

North County Fire spokesman John Choi said it appears that the flames spread from the business into the brush, but the cause and origin remained under investigation.

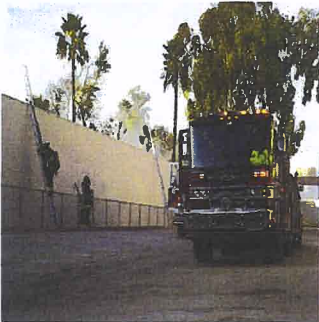
Firefighters stopped the flames from spreading through the brush in about 40 minutes, but continued fighting the structure fire until controlling it around 6 p.m..

A sheriff's official said deputies had nearby streets closed for a time.

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

## Fire breaks out in field behind Albertsons on Ammunition Road

By [Will Fritz](#)  
Associate Editor



Will Fritz

The North County Fire Protection District, along with firefighters from Oceanside, Vista and Pala, responded to a brush fire near Ammunition Road in Fallbrook on Saturday.

A fire scorched an open field and damaged a business Saturday afternoon near Ammunition Road in Fallbrook before firefighters were able to get it under control.

The fire was first reported at 4:33 p.m. in a field behind the Albertsons on Ammunition just west of Mission Road, according to North County Fire Protection District spokesman John Choi.

Fire crews were on scene quickly. Choi initially said the blaze had a slow rate of spread but had started to burn a nearby building.

One business, Falcor Inc. at 447 Ammunition Road Unit E, was damaged by the fire, but crews were able to prevent the blaze from affecting any nearby units.

Other businesses in the area, including the Albertsons, were evacuated while firefighters worked to stop the fire.

The fire was stopped at a half-acre around 5:15 p.m., and most units were leaving the scene by 6:45 p.m.

Choi said a preliminary investigation showed the fire may actually have originated in the business that was damaged, but the cause remains undetermined for now.

*Will Fritz can be reached by email at [wfritz@reedermedia.com](mailto:wfritz@reedermedia.com)*

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# Commercial Fire Contained in Fallbrook

Published Nov 2, 2019 at 5:29 PM | Updated at 7:34 PM PDT on Nov 2, 2019

## The commercial fire is contained, North County Fire said.

By [NBC 7 Staff](#)

### [NEWSLETTERS](#)

#### Receive the latest local updates in your inbox

North County Fire Protection District responded to reports of a brush fire and subsequent commercial fire in Fallbrook Saturday.

The half-acre brush fire started near the 300 block of West Aviation Road just off of South Mission Road around 4:45 p.m.

One unit in a row of commercial businesses at 447 Ammunition Road was on fire as of 5:20 p.m. and nearby businesses were evacuated.

The commercial fire was contained by 6:10 p.m., North County Fire said.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation.

[#AvaitionIC](#) forward rate of spread of the vegetation fire has been stopped. Currently we have a commercial structure fire involved in this incident. The unit on fire is a part of a row of businesses. All units are being evacuated.

— North County Fire (@NorthCountyFire) [November 3, 2019](#)

North County Fire tweeted that one storage unit was involved in the fire.

The brush fire's forward rate of spread was stopped by 5:20 p.m., North County Fire said.

Drivers in the area should note that Ammunition Road between the Albertsons store and Alturas Road will be closed until all fire units clear the scene, North County Fire said.

A businessowner in the area told NBC 7 that it seemed unclear whether the fire started in the brush and moved to the business or vice versa. The businessowner also said homeless encampments have been seen in the area behind the businesses.

No other information was available.

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



## Calif. governor threatens PG&E takeover if no wildfire safety plan

Gov. Gavin Newsom said "the state will prepare itself as backup for a scenario" to provide a wildfire preparedness and safety plan

By Adam Beam  
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California's governor on Friday threatened a possible takeover of the troubled utility blamed for sparking deadly wildfires across the state with its outdated equipment unless it can emerge from bankruptcy ahead of next year's wildfire season with a plan focused on safety.

Gov. Gavin Newsom called all sides to a meeting early next week, saying he would personally try to mediate a solution involving Pacific Gas & Electric.



In this Oct. 9, 2019, file photo, Pacific Gas & Electric and CalTrans workers stand near the Caldecott Tunnel in Oakland, Calif. (AP Photo/Ben Margot, File)

But if an agreement can't be reached, Newsom said, "then the state will prepare itself as backup for a scenario where we do that job for them."

PG&E has come under more scrutiny in recent weeks as it cut off power to millions of people to avoid a repeat of last year's deadly fire season.

The shutoffs have angered residents, businesses and local governments, who say the company has done a poor job of communicating.

"This is not the new normal," Newsom said. "There are things that can be done immediately and will be done immediately."

It's unclear how the state could take over PG&E in the event it does not meet the June 30th deadline. But the governor's office pointed to General Motors as an example. The automaker filed for bankruptcy in 2009, and the federal government purchased a controlling stake in the company. The government later sold its shares once the company was on solid footing.

"That kind of a move would give the state a lot of control over the strategic direction that PG&E takes without getting it into the nitty gritty of running the day to day," said Michael Wara, director of the Climate and Energy Policy Program at the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University.

Local governments, including San Francisco, have offered to purchase portions of PG&E's

equipment for \$2.5 billion so it could operate parts of the power system on its own. Asked if taxpayers would buy the company, Newsom said: "We're scoping all of that."

"It's not writing a check," Newsom said. "This is not plan 'A,' but it is a plan. We would be irresponsible not to scope that plan. So we're not going to sit back and hope and hope an expectation that everything else works out."

Pacific Gas & Electric filed for bankruptcy earlier this year after a 2018 wildfire mostly destroyed the town of Paradise and killed 85 people. An investigation revealed the fire was started by one of the company's powerlines that was knocked down during a windstorm.

The utility is facing up to \$30 billion in damages from that fire and others.

Shareholders and creditors have been battling for control of the utility in bankruptcy court, offering two competing plans for the company's future.

A federal judge has expressed concern the two sides are not making progress, and last week appointed a mediator to try and resolve the case.

In June, Newsom signed a law setting up a \$21 billion fund that could help utility companies pay out claims for future wildfires as climate change makes them more frequent and destructive.

Utility companies would have to spend at least \$5 billion on safety improvements and meet new safety standards to participate. PG&E would have to be out of bankruptcy by June 30th to use the fund.

Friday, Newsom called on PG&E executives, shareholders and creditors along with wildfire victims to meet with him. Newsom said he is confident the meeting will occur.

However, representatives for the largest groups of bondholders and shareholders did not respond to a request for comment.

PG&E spokesman James Noonan indicated the company would participate.

"We welcome the governor's and the state's engagement on these vital matters and share the same goal of fairly resolving the wildfire claims and exiting the Chapter 11 process as quickly as possible," he said.



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## President Trump tweets on wildfire aid to Calif.: 'No more'

President Trump said that Gov. Gavin Newsom and U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff had failed to properly manage the state's forests, causing a string of recent blazes

By James Rainey  
[Los Angeles Times](#)

LOS ANGELES — Autumn in California now comes not only with fierce, wind-driven wildfires but with routine claims from President Trump that the state's leaders are to blame for the disasters, followed by assurances from experts that the president doesn't know what he's talking about.

The cycle renewed again Sunday, when Trump tweeted that Gov. Gavin Newsom and U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Burbank) had failed to properly manage the state's forests, causing a string of recent blazes.



A firefighter passes a burning home as the Hillside fire burns in San Bernardino, Calif. (AP Photo/Noah Berger)

Newsom, "has done a terrible job of forest management. I told him from the first day we met that he must 'clean' his forest floors regardless of what his bosses, the environmentalists, DEMAND of him. Must also do burns and cut fire stoppers," Trump said in an early-morning missive on Twitter.

A few hours later he concluded a slam on Democrats for their impeachment inquiry against him, concluding, "Corrupt Adam should clean up & manage the California forests which are always burning!"

The president tossed in a shot at the state for its "ridiculously closed" water distribution policies.

The missives drew a combination of incredulity and anger from many Californians, in part because the vast majority of the acres consumed by fire since early October were grasslands and chaparral, far from the forest.

Residents also remarked on the president's failure to express sympathy for the thousands of people displaced from their homes in recent weeks.

The online fracas did little to illuminate the realities of forest or water policy in California.

Of the 33 million acres of forest in the state, 57 percent is controlled by the federal government and even the timber industry — which Trump appears to be trying to support — has slammed the U.S. for doing too little to manage those vast holdings.

California's leaders have acknowledged the need to reduce the fuel buildup in the forest the state does control. Gov. Jerry Brown signed a series of bills last year to streamline regulations for thinning forests in fire zones, allow limited removal of some larger trees and force cities and counties to plan better defenses for homes and communities. And Newsom has continued fire threat-reduction initiatives since he took office in January.

"You don't believe in climate change. You are excused from this conversation," Newsom responded to Trump via Twitter. The governor later issued a statement: "We're successfully waging war against thousands of fires started across the state in the last few weeks due to extreme weather created by climate change while Trump is conducting a full on assault against the antidotes."

The state government's expanded commitment to wildfire prevention under Brown included a \$1 billion pledge over five years to clean up thousands of acres of deadwood, scrub brush and forest — the state's biggest-ever program to reduce fire fuels.

That \$200 million-a-year annual commitment and other spending are helping the state by "reducing fuels in the forest, increasing forest health, and defensible space around homes," Newsom's office said.

Countering Trump's contention that the governor is in the thrall of environmentalists, his office said he had waived environmental regulations to fast-track work on 35 critical fire breaks to protect 200 of the state's most vulnerable communities.

Newsom's office contrasted California's stepped-up efforts with what is said was the federal government's slashing of spending on the same kind of work.

The U.S. Forest Service has reduced the forest it plans to "treat" through thinning, controlled burns and other measures to 220,000 acres, from the previously promised 310,000 acres, Newsom's office said.

And California said Trump's 2020 budget cut \$40 million from hazardous fuels reduction.

But that discussion is all about forest land, while the fires that have bedeviled California for several weeks have mostly ignited far away from the tall timber.

The most destructive of the wildfires broke out in brushland near the 405 freeway on Los Angeles's suburban Westside, not far from the Getty Center museum. It was similar terrain that sparked the Easy fire, which threatened the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley.

The Hillside fire began in national forest land in the San Bernardino National Forest, before quickly burning downhill into a San Bernardino neighborhood.

While the massive Kincade fire in Sonoma County burned some forest, it also shifted into grass and scrub country alongside vineyards.

"These fires are not burning in forested landscapes where you could go in and do anything to alter the forest," said Glen MacDonald, a geography professor at UCLA and expert on climate change and wildfire. "These are scrublands and grasslands and a discussion of forest management is completely not applicable."

Trump's statements also fail to acknowledge the amount of work California has done to correct a legacy of fire containment that has left some forests overgrown and loaded with fuel, said Jay Ziegler, director of policy for the Nature Conservancy in California.

"California's pace and scale of action in addressing this issue at the end of the Brown administration and now under Gov. Newsom is really unprecedented," Ziegler said.

Trump's slam was the latest in a series of attacks on California, coming after his attempt to reverse the state's stringent fuel efficiency requirements for cars and trucks and his

blaming of government for the exploding homeless population.

The White House issued no official statement on wildfires, but it appeared the president may have been responding to an interview in which Newsom accused Trump of "a full-on assault" on the state's attempts to rein in Earth-warming greenhouse gases.

Trump concluded his string of three tweets on California's wildfires with his attack on the state's water regulations.

"Also, open up the ridiculously closed water lanes coming down from the North," he wrote. "Don't pour it out into the Pacific Ocean. Should be done immediately. California desperately needs water, and you can have it now!"

That embraces the position of some of the state's farmers — that too much water is being allowed to flow into the San Joaquin and Sacramento River delta to support salmon, other fish and endangered species.

But it belies the fact that greater snowpack in 2017 and 2019 allowed bigger water allotments to Central Valley farmers, Ziegler said.

"It's really misleading to tell farmers they could do better and get more water in future years," Ziegler said, "when we are right at historic export levels because of the big winters we had in 2017 and 2019."

Trump's latest broadside comes just short of one year since he attacked California for "gross mismanagement of the forests."

As with his most recent tweet, he then threatened to withdraw funding from the state, saying "Remedy now, or no more Fed payments!"

Among those chastising the president then was the president of the California Professional Firefighters. Brian Rice called Trump's message and threat to withhold aid "ill-informed, ill-timed and demeaning to those who are suffering as well as the men and women on the front lines."

A couple of months before that, Trump had used Twitter to claim that wildfires were "being magnified & made so much worse by the bad environmental laws which aren't allowing massive amount of readily available water to be properly utilized."

Again, experts closest to the scene corrected him. "We have plenty of water," said Scott McLean, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. "We are not having any issues with a lack of retardant or water."

In his latest message Sunday, Trump said that the yearly pattern of fire in California was routinely followed by the state "coming to the Federal Government for \$\$\$ help." He added: "No more."

That pronouncement particularly infuriated those who had read just three months ago how Trump had told Vladimir Putin that the U.S. stood ready to send aid to Russia to fight massive wildfires in Siberia.

Tweeted one disgruntled American Sunday: "You forgot to send your thoughts and prayers to those affected by the fires....but of course we in California didn't help get you elected so you don't give a damn about us."

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McClatchy-Tribune News Service



## Results for Prop A special election won't be known for 2-3 weeks, NCFPD says

*Village News*

Results for the North County Fire Protection District's Proposition A special election won't be available as early as had previously been thought, fire officials said Friday.

The fire district initially said the outcome of the election – a referendum on a new tax of \$5 per month, per parcel of owned property, to pay for construction, maintenance and improvements to fire stations – would be known by Nov. 1.

However, officials now say it's taking longer to tally all the votes up than they had predicted, and the outcome may not be known for another two to three weeks.

"Like many, if not most, residents of north San Diego County who depend upon our agency for fire protection and emergency services, we are anxiously waiting to learn the outcome of this funding Measure," North County Fire Protection Chief Steve Abbott said.

The delay is being attributed partially to the fact that the election was conducted by mail – ballots had physically delivered to the fire district by Oct. 24 or postmarked by that date and received by Oct. 28 – and partially to the fact that the firm that is counting the votes, David Taussig and Associates, is employing a "comprehensive signature verification" process to verify all of the votes are legitimate, the fire district said.

"This has turned out to require a significant amount of time," Abbott said. "But, well worth the time, since we want to be certain that every detail has been properly addressed in the vote counting process."

Prop A needs to be approved by at least two-thirds of voters participating in the special election to pass.

The new tax, which amounts to \$60 per year for all properties in the fire district boundaries, is necessary because many of the district's facilities are outdated, fire officials say. There's a documented need for at least \$26.5 million to meet facility standards, fire officials said in a newsletter published ahead of the election.

Seven of NCFPD's 11 facilities – including four of its five fire stations – are nearing or past the end of their originally-intended life span of 50 years, according to the newsletter.

If passed, Prop A is expected to raise about \$1 million per year, or \$20 million over the 20 years it will be in effect for.

We encourage any individual from the community to come to the offices of the San Diego County Registrar of Voters to observe the process of signature verification," Abbott said, "and to observe the actual counting of ballots, which will be taking place at the District's Roy Noon Meeting Hall, aka 'Scout Hut,' located at 231 E. Hawthorne Street, Fallbrook."

He said the fire district will post the details on when signature verification and ballot counting is taking place both at the district headquarters and on its website at <http://www.ncfire.org>, as well as on the district's social media accounts.

Will Fritz can be reached by email at [wfritz@reedermedia.com](mailto:wfritz@reedermedia.com)



# Oceanside, CA

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## Crews Stop Brush Fire On I-15 In North County

The blaze sparked in the center divide on Interstate 15, just south of Rainbow Valley Boulevard, according to fire officials.

By [Kristina Houck](#) | Oct 31, 2019 4:38 pm ET | Updated Oct 31, 2019 4:41 pm ET



The blaze sparked in the center divide on Interstate 15, just south of Rainbow Valley Boulevard, according to North County Fire Protection District. (North County Fire Protection District)

RAINBOW, CA — Crews quickly stopped a brush fire on Interstate 15 from spreading Thursday afternoon in San Diego's North County.

The blaze sparked in the center divide on I-15, just south of Rainbow Valley Boulevard, according to North County Fire Protection District. Firefighters from North County Fire and Cal Fire responded to the scene.



#RainbowIC Forward rate of spread has been stopped!

# Man dies while hiking on Monserate Mountain

*Village News*

A hiker died after suffering an unknown medical emergency on Monserate Mountain near Fallbrook late Thursday afternoon, Oct. 24.

A report came in of a man down on a trailhead a little before 5:30 p.m., North County Fire Protection District spokesman John Choi said.

Crews headed to the mountain and found the man face-down on the trail, Choi said. They attempted to perform life-saving measures on the man, but he did not recover from the unknown medical event and was pronounced dead at 6:13 p.m.

Firefighters had to use a helicopter to airlift the man's body off the mountain.

He appeared to have been hiking alone, Choi said.

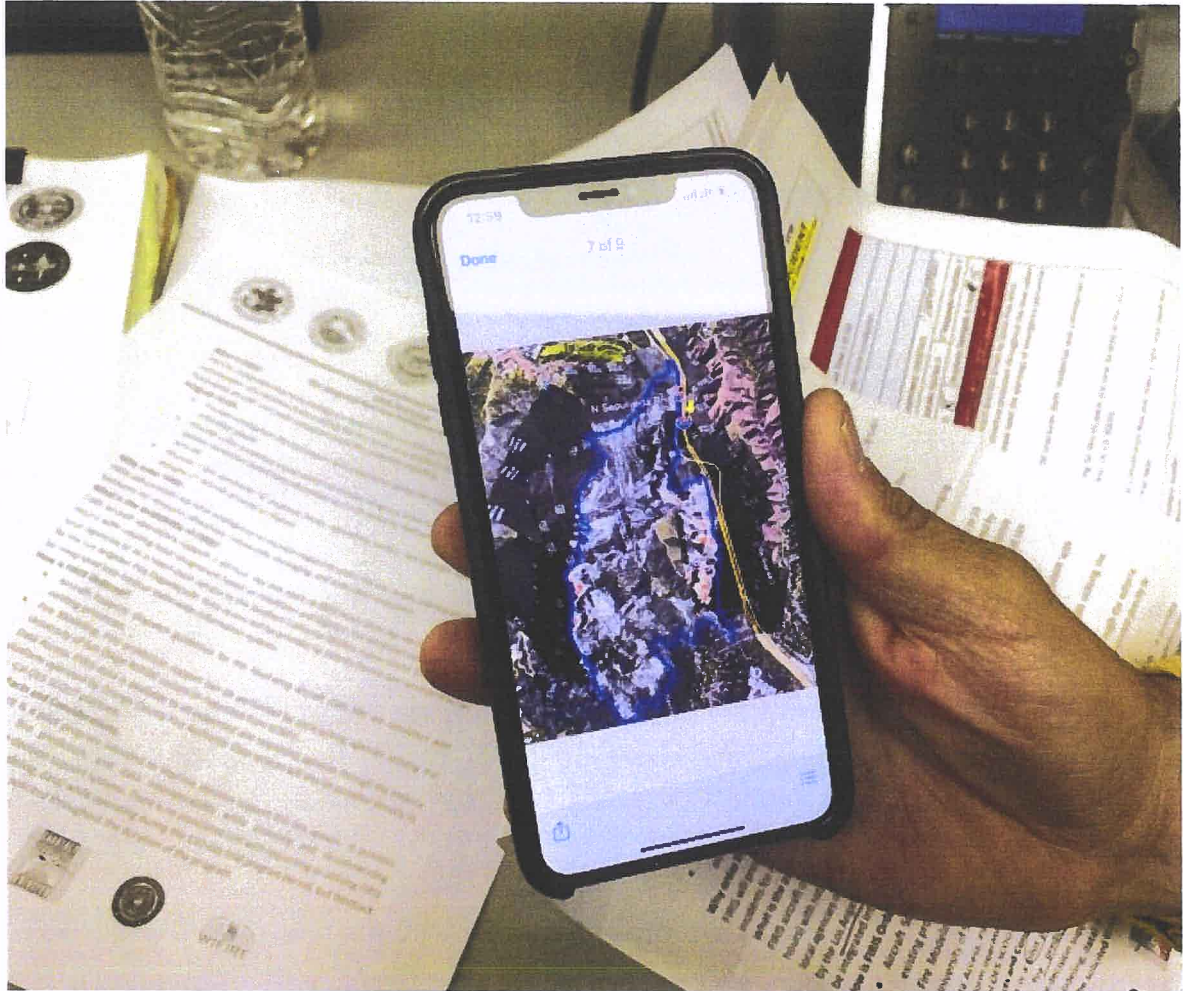
No identifying information on the hiker was immediately available.

Temperatures soared into the 90s in northern San Diego County Thursday, though it was unclear if the weather conditions contributed to the man's death.

Will Fritz can be reached by email at [wfritz@reedermedia.com](mailto:wfritz@reedermedia.com)



## Inside The New Tech Helping LA Firefighters Decide Who And When To Evacuate



Chief Ralph Terrazas shows an early model of the new fire technology — the blue line is the fire perimeter of the fire that the plane mapped. (Emily Elena Dugdale / LAist)

By [Emily Elena Dugdale](#) and [Brian Frank](#)

Ever wonder how fire agencies decide who and when to evacuate?

It's not a decision made on a hunch. It requires making sense of huge amounts of real-time data and intelligence, and getting it wrong or late can have tragic consequences.

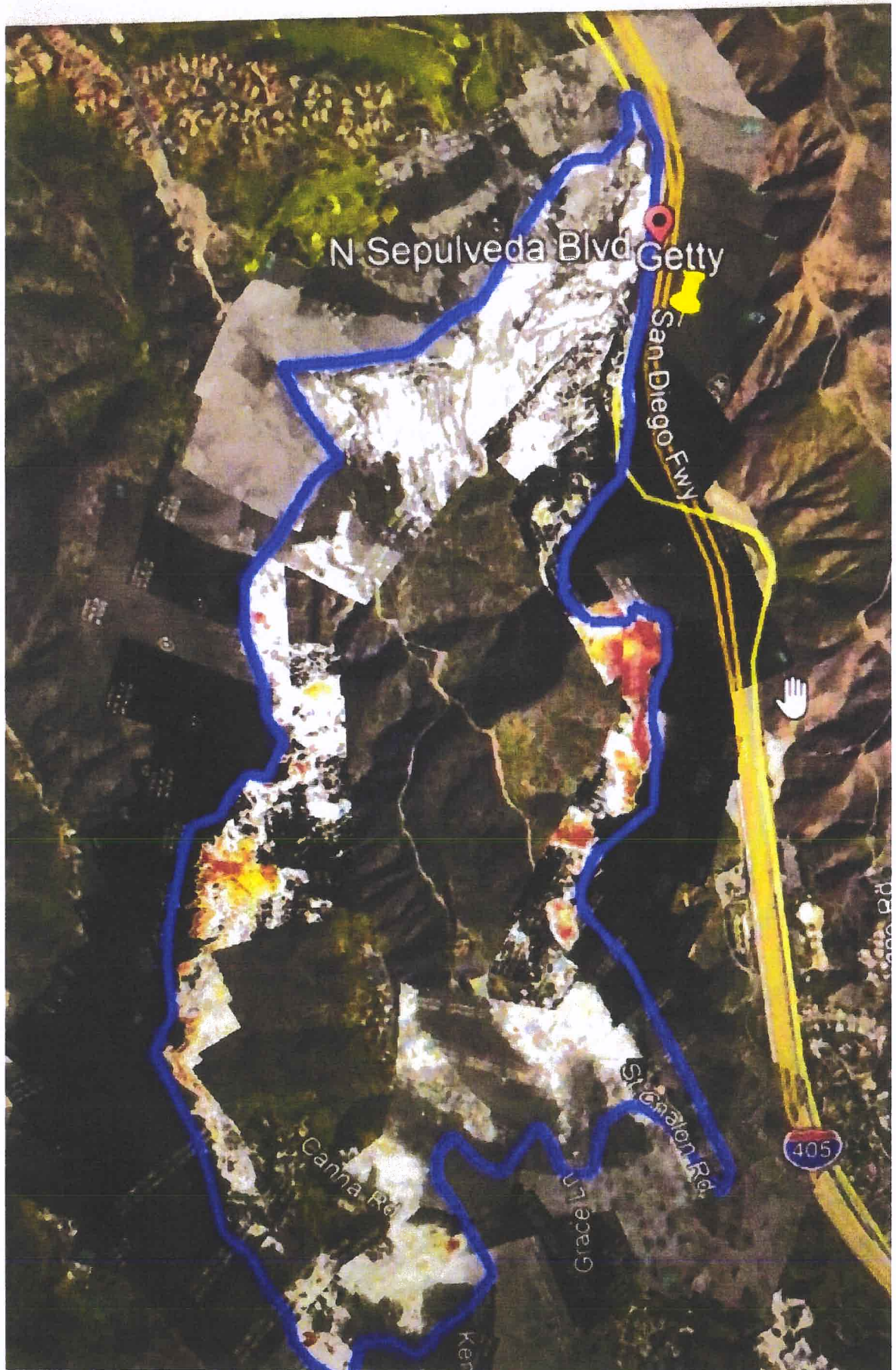
Not that long ago, fatalities in California's wildfires were very rare. But the rapidly accelerating pace and size of fires in the state has [taken a heavy toll](#). Last year's [Camp Fire](#) left more than 80 people dead and all but wiped out the town of Paradise. The [Tubbs Fire](#), which ravaged wine country in 2017, resulted in more than 20 deaths. And the [Woolsey Fire](#) destroyed more than 1,600 homes in Ventura County last fall, leaving three people dead in its wake.

To help minimize this loss of life and property, the Los Angeles Fire Department and other agencies use cutting-edge technology to model and predict what a fire's going to do next and use that information to figure out who needs to evacuate.

When a brush fire erupts in the city, LAFD:

- Puts up planes packed with infrared cameras and other sensors to map the perimeter
- Relies on a supercomputer to predict where the fire might spread next
- Flies drones to help pinpoint hot spots





An image showing the Getty Fire perimeter on Monday morning, Oct. 28, 2019, was captured by a FIRIS turboprop plane. (Courtesy of LAFD)

"We're always looking for innovative ways to get better intelligence, and it all comes down to enhanced situational awareness," said LAFD Chief Ralph Terrazas. "That's what we train our firefighters: when you're on the fire ground, you got to be aware of what's going on to make good decisions."

Now fire officials are hoping to take a major step forward in firefighting by tying all those elements together. The goal is to increase the accuracy and speed of the predictive modeling.

That's why the LAFD is part of a pilot project known as FIRIS, or Fire Integrated Real-Time Intelligence System.

## WHAT IS FIRIS?

*Lord of the Rings* fans, think "one ring to rule them all."

[FIRIS](#) is the name of the system that connects the different technologies. The pilot project launched in September with \$4.5 million in state funding, and it has been available for use by the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Ventura and San Diego. LAFD was invited to take part by the Orange County Fire Authority.

The system can generate real-time fire perimeter maps within five minutes of an aircraft arriving on scene, [according to the OCFA](#).

## SO HOW DOES IT WORK?

When a 911 call comes in reporting a brush fire, firefighters and helicopters are dispatched. [WIFIRE](#), a supercomputer based at the University of California, San Diego, then crunches data from weather stations, topography, and models of the fuels — or the vegetation that could burn. Within minutes, the computer spits out a projection of where the fire is most likely to spread.

About 30 minutes after the initial response, Terrazas said, they launch dedicated turboprop planes equipped with special sensors that can provide high-definition video and detect hot spots with infrared. The planes get a high-level overview by flying above the water-dropping helicopters. Here's a look at video returned on the [recent Palisades Fire](#):

And here's video on the [Tick Fire](#):

[Tick 10-24-2019](#) from [Orange County Fire Authority](#) on [Vimeo](#).

The data collected by the planes helps to confirm or correct the WIFIRE projections.

The data is transmitted to a central hub at the Southern California Wildfire Fusion Center. From there, information is quickly disseminated to the fire chief, the command post, elected officials, and the general public. The LAFD can then direct residents to its website, where they can find the evacuation



maps that were informed by all this data.

Every couple hours, Terrazas said, the models are run again to ensure the maps and evacuation zones are still accurate, and in [cases like the Getty Fire on Monday](#), planes can be sent up to three or four times a day to further validate their information.

Crew on a specially equipped plane map the perimeter of a fire in real time as part of FIRIS. (Source: [Raw footage](#) from Orange County Fire Authority)

Most of the tech involved has been in use for years. What's new is the way it ties together — and the fact that it's being deployed on the initial attack. In the past, it could sometimes take several hours or even a day before planes would be deployed to help map the perimeter and acres burned, Terrazas said.

Now they have that data much sooner and can even pull Census data to see how many houses will be affected, which law enforcement can use to assist with evacuations.

### **GAME CHANGER?**



A firefighters sprays water on a home as firefighters battle the Getty Fire in Brentwood on Monday. (Apu Gomes/AFP via Getty Images)

WIFIRE predicts where the fire will spread and how large it will become within the next six hours if it is allowed to burn un-suppressed.

Before WIFIRE, chiefs were assigned the task of pulling out a map and running their own calculations, then outlining the appropriate areas on the map. The results were slower and often inconsistent because of the varying skill levels of

the personnel involved, and because a lot of the information was coming from people making estimates on the ground, Terrazas said.

"When you were assigned this task at a working brush fire, it's difficult because of all the chaos, the smoke the sirens, the houses on fire," Terrazas said.

Now it's a supercomputer doing the math, and trained staff operating the system at the dispatch center.

Intterra, the company behind FIRIS, hopes the pilot project will prove the system's worth by increasing the accuracy of maps, making more effective predictions, improving communication, and resulting in greater cost efficiency, among other things.

Intterra says its system will eventually be able to help predict fires before they happen, based on past and present weather conditions, forecasts and vegetation levels.

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# SDG&E continues power shutoffs citing high fire risk, residents and officials outraged -

*Steve Bosh,*

October 30, 2019

Posted: October 30, 2019

Updated: 7:05 PM

[Steve Bosh](#)

*spaceplay / pause*

*qunload | stop*

*ffullscreen*

*shift + ←→slower / faster*

*←→seek*

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SAN DIEGO (KUSI) – San Diego Gas & Electric officials said the utility was considering precautionary power shutoffs for more than 40,000 customers. The shutoffs would be implemented to de-energize power lines in danger of being damaged or downed by strong winds, potentially sparking wildfires.

However, the blackouts haven't been working in L.A. or Northern California. And as local officials including County Supervisor Dianne Jacob have pointed out, these for-profit power companies' main job is to protect their shareholders, and both have enjoyed the protection of state regulators, the governor's office and the legislature.

Residents and local officials are outraged at these power shutoffs, saying they're costly, inconvenient and dangerous.

As of 2:15 p.m., SDG&E had shut off power to 25,500 homes and businesses in Alpine, Boulevard, Campo, Descanso, Dulzura, portions of El Cajon, portions of Encinitas, portions of Escondido, Fallbrook, portions of Jamul, Julian, Mount Laguna, Pala, Pauma Valley, Pine Valley, Potrero, Poway, Rainbow, Ramona, portions of Rancho Bernardo, portions of Rancho Santa Fe, an unincorporated area east of San Juan Capistrano, Santa Ysabel and Valley Center.

An additional 15,369 addresses faced potential precautionary power- downs in



Jacumba, portions of Lakeside, Palomar Mountain, Ranchita, and unincorporated areas east of San Clemente, portions of San Marcos and Warner Springs.

The shutoffs come as strong Santa Ana winds and extremely dry air led to significantly heightened wildfire danger Wednesday across the San Diego area.

To alert the public to the combustion hazards, the National Weather Service issued a red flag warning that will be in effect until 6 p.m. Thursday in the county mountains and valleys.

Winds out of the east and northeast were expected to be between 25-35 mph over the period, with gusts reaching 55 mph in the valleys and 75 mph near mountain ridge tops, forecasters said. Relative humidity will drop as low as 5%, with poor overnight recovery expected through Friday.

The winds increased Wednesday morning but were expected to decrease Wednesday evening through Thursday morning, according to the NWS.

The fire threat was deemed high, according to the Santa Ana Wildfire Threat Index, which means that “upon ignition, fires will grow very rapidly, will burn intensely and will be very difficult to control.”

A high-wind warning will also be in effect until 6 p.m. Thursday in the county mountains and valleys. Officials warned that damaging winds could blow down trees and power lines, while travel will be especially difficult for high-profile vehicles.

If power is shut off for an extended period of time, SDG&E may open community resource centers where residents can get water and snacks, charge their phones and get up-to-date information about the outages.

A full list of the center locations can be found at: [www.sdge.com/wildfire-safety/community-resource-center](http://www.sdge.com/wildfire-safety/community-resource-center).

# 19,000 SDG&E Customers Still Without Power In San Diego County

[community corner](#)

[Shared from San Diego, CA](#)

**Nearly 41,000 San Diego Gas & Electric customers face public safety power shutoffs this week due to dangerous fire weather conditions.**

By [Kristina Houck, Patch Staff](#)

Oct 31, 2019 9:22 am ET



In anticipation of dangerous fire weather conditions this week, SDG&E announced roughly 41,000 customers in high fire risk areas could face public safety power shutoffs. (Shutterstock)

SAN DIEGO — Power has been restored to thousands of San Diego Gas &

Electric customers, but around 19,000 customers remained in the dark Thursday morning after the utility company cut the power Wednesday due to strong Santa Ana winds and ripe fire weather conditions.

Major utility companies in California have been shutting off power proactively to prevent wildfires after utility lines started massively dead and destructive fires over the last two years.

In anticipation of dangerous fire weather conditions this week, SDG&E announced roughly 41,000 customers in high fire risk areas could face [public safety power shutoffs](#).

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**Also see: [Red Flag Warning Remains In Effect Thursday In San Diego County](#)**

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On Wednesday, SDG&E turned off the power to roughly 25,000 customers in San Diego and Orange counties. By Wednesday night, however, improved weather conditions in portions of the utility's service territory permitted SDG&E to restore power to about 6,000 customers.

"While the patrolling and restoration process began earlier today for areas that were experiencing better weather, extreme weather in other areas remained," SDG&E officials said Wednesday. "For the restoration process to continue tomorrow, weather must improve, and our field crews must have daylight to visually inspect all de-energized power lines."

As of 4 a.m. Thursday, about 19,000 customers remained without power as a result of the planned shutoffs. The following communities were still affected:

- Alpine
- Boulevard
- Campo
- Descanso
- Dulzura
- Encinitas (portions of)
- Escondido (portions of)
- Fallbrook
- Julian
- Mount Laguna
- Pala
- Pauma Valley
- Pine Valley
- Potrero
- Poway (portions of)
- Rainbow
- Ramona
- Rancho Bernardo (portions of)
- Rancho Santa Fe (portions of)
- Santa Ysabel
- Valley Center
- Portions of the Campo, Cuyapaipe, La Jolla, La Posta, Manzanita, Mesa Grande, Rincon, Santa Ysabel and Viejas reservations

SDG&E will open six Community Resource Centers and two Community Information Centers Thursday morning.

**Community Resource Centers: 8 a.m.-6 p.m.**

- Descanso Branch Library: 9545 River Drive, Descanso, CA 91916
- Whispering Winds Catholic Camp: 17606 Harrison Park Road, Julian, CA 92036
- Potrero Community Center: 24550 Highway 94, Potrero, CA 91963
- Pine Valley Improvement Club: 28890 Old Highway 80, Pine Valley, CA 91962
- Dulzura Community Center: 1136 Community Building Road, Dulzura, CA 91917
- Lake Morena Community Church: 29765 Oak Drive, Campo, CA 91906

**Community Information Centers: 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.**

- Ramona Branch Library, 1275 Main St., Ramona, CA 92065
- Valley Center Branch Library, 29200 Cole Grade Road, Valley, Center CA 92082

**PREVIOUS COVERAGE:**

[SDG&E Shutoffs: 25,000 Customers Without Power](#)

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

## Structure fire breaks out in Bonsall

By [Village News Staff](#)

BONSALL — North County Fire was fighting a structure fire in the 31000 block fo Lake Vista Circle in Bonsall as of 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 30. According to the agency, no vegetation was involved in the fire.

As of 9:30 a.m., North County Fire Protection District spokesman John Choi said the fire was fully contained and started in a trash can within a home's bathroom. The fire spread slightly beyond the bathroom area, but firefighters were able to knock it down quickly.

Choi said it didn't appear as though the family would be displaced by the fire and no injuries were reported.

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# Cities In San Diego County Named Among Best Small Cities In U.S.

[community corner](#)

[Shared from San Diego, CA](#)

**WalletHub released its 2019 Best Small Cities in America list. Several cities in San Diego County made the rankings.**

By [Kristina Houck, Patch Staff](#)

Oct 30, 2019 7:30 am ET | Updated Oct 30, 2019 10:32 am ET



WalletHub compared more than 1,200 cities across five key

dimensions: affordability, economic health, education and health, quality of life and safety. (Shutterstock / DBSOCAL)

SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CA — Encinitas might not be the biggest in California, but the city recently received recognition as the best small city in San Diego County and one of the best small cities in the country.

The personal finance site WalletHub released its 2019 Best Small Cities in America list, which only included cities with populations between 25,000 and 100,000.

WalletHub compared more than 1,200 cities across five key dimensions: affordability, economic health, education and health, quality of life and safety.

Encinitas ranked as the best small city in San Diego County, followed by Poway and San Marcos. Here are the San Diego area cities that made WalletHub's Best Small Cities in America list:

1. Encinitas (87th percentile)
2. Poway (77th percentile)
3. San Marcos (73rd percentile)
4. Santee (71st percentile)
5. Vista (64th percentile)
6. La Mesa (57th percentile)
7. Imperial Beach (41st percentile)
8. Lemon Grove (40th percentile)
9. National City (28th percentile)
10. Fallbrook (9th percentile)

Leawood, Kansas ranked as the best small city in the country, according to WalletHub, followed by Brentwood, Tennessee and Sammamish, Washington.

Bessemer, Alabama finished as the worst small city in the nation.

"Small-city life can be best for those who appreciate more wiggle room, fewer degrees of separation and shorter commutes, to name just a few advantages," the study's authors said.

Here are the top 10 overall small cities in the country:

1. Leawood, Kansas: 71.98
2. Brentwood, Tennessee: 71.53
3. Sammamish, Washington: 71.34
4. Melrose, Massachusetts: 70.7
5. Carmel, Indiana: 70.59

6. Lexington, Massachusetts: 70.55
7. Milton, Massachusetts: 70.46
8. Brookfield, Wisconsin: 70.38
9. Fair Lawn, New Jersey: 70.25
10. Cedar Park, Texas: 69.98

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**BREAKING:** 3 Mumps Cases at Schools in County Could H...



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# Hiker Dies in Monserate Mountain Preserve

By [Rafael Avitabile](#)

Published Oct 24, 2019 at 6:52 PM | Updated at 11:23 PM PDT on Oct 24, 2019



A man was pronounced dead Thursday after he went into cardiac arrest while hiking in the Monserate Mountain Preserve in Fallbrook.

The man went into cardiac arrest while hiking a "significant trail" in the preserve, according to the North County Fire Protection District.

Witnesses were giving the man CPR when medics arrived, and medics continued CPR until the man was pronounced dead.




A NCFPD helicopter was called to transport the man's body to a more accessible area so it could be taken away.

No other information was available.

A [Red Flag Warning](#) was in effect Thursday starting at 5 a.m. until 5 p.m. Friday. Fallbrook had a high of 98 degrees Thursday, according to the National Weather Service.

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

## TRENDING STORIES

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- 2  [VIDEO | Naval G Dog, Hits Man I Altercation](#)
- 3  [Santa Ana Wind SDG&E to Warn Shut-Offs](#)
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PUBLIC SAFETY

# Fire, flood disaster plans to be mailed to 200,000 homes and businesses in San Diego County



In 2007, wildfires burned across San Diego County. (staff / The San Diego Union-Tribune )

## County officials sending out the updated 16-page personal disaster plan

By JOSHUA EMERSON SMITH

OCT. 21, 2019  
4:52 PM



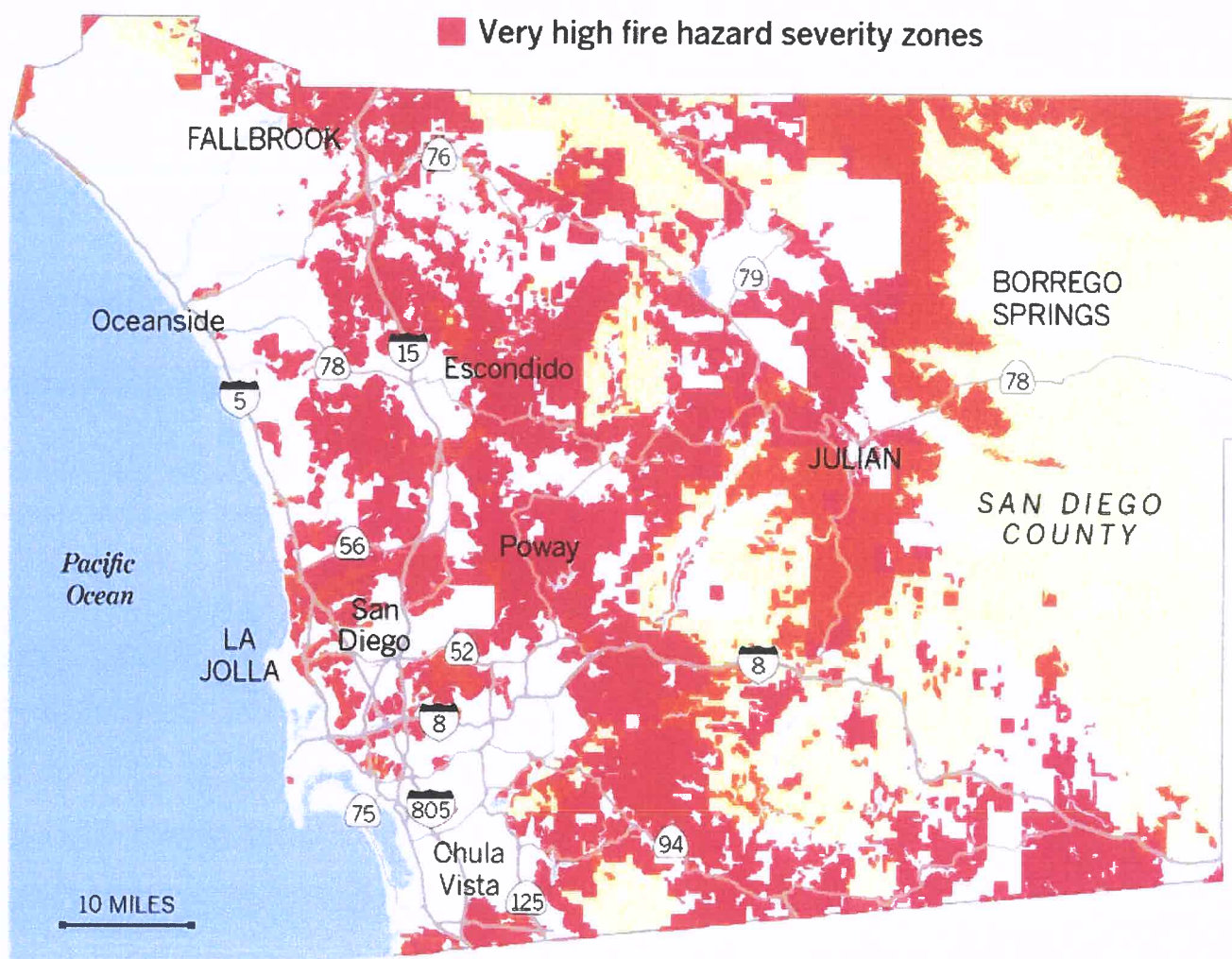
Officials are urging residents throughout the San Diego region's most fire-prone areas to prepare for this year's peak



The county is slated to mail out its “personal disaster plan” to roughly 200,000 homes and businesses starting next week. The recently updated 16-page document will be sent to those living in areas designated by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection as “very-high fire severity zones.”

## Fire-prone areas of the county to receive updated disaster plans

Authorities will mail the personal disaster plan to 200,000 homes and businesses.



Sources: Cal Fire; Esri; Nextzen; OpenStreetMap

MICHELLE GILCHRIST U-T

The plans — which will be provided in both English and Spanish — will also be available starting in November up at any one of San Diego County Library’s 33 branches. The document can also be downloaded at [readysandiego.org](http://readysandiego.org).

“This is the most dangerous time of the year. This is when some of our biggest wildfires have happened,” Supervisor Dianne Jacob said in a news release. “While the county has done a lot to prepare for wildfire, and we’re better prepared than we’ve ever been, the fact remains that our region is only one bad Santa Ana wind away from another disaster.”

The disaster plan provides several forms for residents to complete, such as making a list of emergency contacts and drawing a floor plan that shows exits, fire extinguishers, emergency supply kits and utility shutoff controls.

The county's blueprint is aimed at preparing residents for floods, earthquakes and wildfire, providing detailed instructions for each type of emergency.

For example, officials recommend that during an earthquake, residents take shelter under a sturdy desk or table to avoid being injured by falling objects. Those threatened by flooding or wildfire should focus on getting ready to evacuate at the instruction of county officials.

The plan also encourages people to sign up for disaster notifications by cell phone at [readysandiego.org](http://readysandiego.org), as well as track incident updates at [sdcountyemergency.com](http://sdcountyemergency.com) and at [twitter.com/calfiresandiego](https://twitter.com/calfiresandiego).

The disaster plan was last mailed out to residents in 2006 and has been available online and distributed at various events as well as at the request of residents.

"Do not wait for a disaster to make a plan, because it will cost you and your family time that you may not have," Cal Fire San Diego Deputy Chief Nick Schuler said in a statement. "Preparing for any type of disaster includes creating a Personal Disaster Plan. The plan will help you address all the individual steps to take before, during and after an emergency."

Officials said that a recent survey found that only about half of county residents felt prepared to evacuate within 15 minutes if directed to do so, with more than 60 percent having yet to prepare an emergency plan.

[PUBLIC SAFETY](#) [LATEST](#)

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MORE FROM THIS AUTHOR



## We're working to help public agencies meet their pension demands

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By Marcie Frost, CalPERS CEO

There's one thing I often hear when talking to our employer partners: Rising contribution rates are making budget decisions ever more difficult. Cities, counties, schools, special districts, and other public agencies that contract with CalPERS for retirement benefits are having to do more, with less.

We know that the retirement benefits earned by public employees are only as secure as their employers' ability to pay for them. That's why our work to strengthen the CalPERS fund must include employers. Their requests for help in understanding and navigating contribution costs have been clear and consistent.

Here's what we've done — and continue to do — to help:

### Paying it Forward

Last year CalPERS supported legislation that enables employers to make contributions today to pay for pensions in the future. The California Employers' Pension Prefunding Trust (CEPPT) program is voluntary and a significant step in helping public agencies plan ahead. Along with our California Employers' Retiree Benefit Trust (CERBT) program, which agencies can use to prefund post-employment benefits like health care, it can lead to real savings, and help reduce economic volatility in local budgets.

Of course, employers can even now make additional, voluntary one-time payments to CalPERS to pay down unfunded liabilities. That saves money and lowers future contribution costs.

### Tools to Plan

One of our most important and visible resources for employers takes place next week. Our 20th annual Educational Forum brings together every CalPERS program area in one place for almost three days. Employers can attend workshops to help them better engage with CalPERS experts, learn about new rules and regulations, and better manage the benefits we help them provide their employees. They can seek one-on-one assistance with an actuary, get advice on processing CalPERS forms and paperwork, or network with other employers to share information and best practices.

This year's Educational Forum has something different. We'll be releasing a new pension forecasting tool to help public agencies estimate their future contributions based on different economic variables, including investment returns or making an additional discretionary payment. A city, for example, could see how making an additional one-time payment, coupled with a decade of assumed investment returns, might impact their contribution rates next year and 20 years from now.

### Staying on Course

More than a decade removed from the Great Recession, we're still on the long but necessary path to provide members with the retirement security they earned through a career of

dedicated public service. We have about \$380 billion assets and are 71 percent funded. We've made strong progress, but we aren't where we want or need to be, yet.

We continue to focus on our long-term plan to close the gap and improve the funded status. The emphasis is on sustainable growth, prudent investment decisions, and maintaining the discipline to weather economic forces and global competition. To protect our members, employers and California's taxpayers, we took a hard look at how we do business. We made critical changes.

We lowered our target rate of return, altered our mix of investments, and shortened the period in which employers pay their unfunded liability, enabling them to save a lot of money in the long term. Yes, these decisions greatly improved our financial position. But we know they have also strained already tight public agency budgets.

That's why our new Chief Investment Officer, Ben Meng, has our Investment Office focused solely on achieving the 7 percent return target. Ben will take the appropriate risk when necessary, but he's a patient, prudent investor who's disciplined in his decision-making. He'll invest only when the opportunity properly aligns with our interests.

We know the next decade is critical. Pension costs will rise over the next five years, and we are doing all we can on behalf of the 2,800 public agencies that contract with us to control them. We're building the team to achieve our goals — and giving our employer partners more tools to address future costs.



# Fire-Fueling Conditions Could Lead to Power Shut-Offs

Published Oct 23, 2019 at 6:44 AM | Updated at 6:34 PM PDT on Oct 23, 2019

**A Red Flag Warning means the combination of gusty winds, hot temperatures and low humidity that make the perfect conditions for wildfires to spark and spread rapidly**

By [Christina Bravo](#)

## [NEWSLETTERS](#)

**Receive the latest local updates in your inbox**

NBC 7's Danny Freeman is in East County learning how locals are preparing for the case of a fire. (Published Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019)

Another bout of fire-fueling weather is expected to overpower Southern California this week, prompting San Diego agencies to prepare for the worst.

The National Weather Service elevated a fire weather watch to a Red Flag Warning for Thursday and Friday, when whipping Santa Ana winds have the greatest potential to fan any wildfire that sparks amid dry and hot conditions.

San Diego Gas & Electric warned nearly [24,000 customers](#) that the severe winds could lead to forced power shut offs. The move is meant to prevent fires that could spark from a downed power line, according to the agency.

Customers alerted to planned outages were not given any scheduled time. Instead, SDG&E said they would continue to monitor weather conditions and alert customers if a shut off was necessary.

## **Sheena Parveen's Morning Forecast for Wednesday, October 23, 2019**



A Red Flag Warning means the combination of gusty winds, hot temperatures and low humidity that make the perfect conditions for wildfires to spark and spread rapidly.

The warning was in effect for all areas of San Diego County except the coast from 5 a.m. Thursday to 5 p.m. Friday. During this time, winds were expected to average 40 to 50 miles per hour with some isolated gusts reaching 60 mph.

Humidity was expected to be less than 10 percent and temperatures were expected to be in the mid-90s to low-100s.

On Tuesday, a record daily high of 84 degrees was recorded at the Oceanside Harbor, topping its previous high of 78 degrees in 2016.

While no warning was in effect, a fire sparked Tuesday [on base at Camp Pendleton](#) and grew to around 80 acres in about five hours. A large plume of smoke was visible from various parts of the county but officials said the fire posed no



Another fire sparked in the river area near homes on Hazard Center Drive. A nearby resident was alerted to the fire by her companion dog and immediately grabbed a hose and started protecting her residence.

### Fires in Riverbed Awaken Fears of Homeless Camp Fires



Another fire sparked in the riverbed less than a mile away. Both started near known homeless encampments. Fire investigators have not confirmed either fire was started by people living near the riverbed.

This week's extreme heat could cause heat exhaustion or heat stroke. The National Weather Service urges residents to drink plenty of water, stay in air-conditioned rooms and stay out of the sun as much as possible.

NBC 7 Weathercaster Ashley Matthews pinpointed some coastal areas that are predicted to have the lowest high temperatures as possible "cool off spots." Those beaches include Encinitas, with a forecasted high of 77 degrees, and La Jolla, with a forecasted high of 78 degrees. For the South Bay, Imperial Beach is expected to see a high temperature of 83 degrees.

For a list of cool zones in San Diego County, [click here](#).

*Editor's Note: A previous version of this story said classes in Julian were canceled Wednesday due to the potential power shut-offs announced by SDG&E. The district later clarified to say the school closure was due to unplanned power outages in the area.*

## Power Outages Are More Than Inconvenient, They're Dangerous

by Mallory Moench, San Francisco Chronicle |

(TNS) — When Stephanie Yamkovenko woke up in the Santa Cruz Mountains on Oct. 10, her power was out — and so was her cell phone service. It was in the midst of PG&E's unprecedented power outages that cut electricity to millions of customers across Northern California.

When her husband left for the office, she was alone at home, where she sometimes works and couldn't reach him. Her neighbor, who has an AT&T landline, couldn't connect either. Neither could other neighbors with Verizon cell service.

"We were completely cut off," she said. "It was a really uncomfortable feeling."

Yamkovenko, who has lived in the small San Mateo County community of Sky Londa for 1½ years, said wind often knocks down lines, causing outages. Those never knocked out cell service, though, she said. She expected the power shut-offs to be inconvenient, but didn't think she'd be cut off from communication.

"I really just want cell carriers and PG&E to know this is a huge problem and very dangerous if we're doing more shut-offs in the future," Yamkovenko said.

Residents using all the major carriers — T-Mobile, AT&T and Verizon — from Sonoma to Oakland and Orinda to Sky Londa reported that they lost service during PG&E's power outages last week. Research group OpenSignal said more than 90% of subscribers to those big carriers stayed connected to high-speed cell networks in urban areas, although rural areas may have fared worse. Regardless of the numbers, for those who lost connections as well as power, it added to their feelings of isolation and fear that in an emergency they wouldn't be able to reach loved ones or call 911.

Jackie Berkman, a resident of Montclair in the Oakland hills, said it was "extremely dangerous" to be so completely cut off during the shut-off. She has AT&T and her husband Verizon; neither got signal during the outage.

"It was frightening for me thinking about what could possibly happen. But thinking about someone who had a medical condition or didn't have a car, that's even more isolating," Berkman said. "What if there was an accident, someone had a heart attack, and needed to get to the emergency room or needed help — there was no way to contact anyone."

Government bodies, PG&E, and cell phone carriers said they did their best to prepare for unprecedented outages with backup generator and mobile cell sites. PG&E spokesman Danny Boyle said the company would make "every effort" to reach out to critical service providers, including cell phone carriers, before an outage. But after reports of less than perfect service, companies didn't respond to specific questions about which cell towers failed and why.

A "relatively small" number of T-Mobile sites were down during the outage, spokesman Joel Rushing said, but he declined to give the exact number and locations. Company technicians restored sites as power was switched back on, he said.

Rushing said T-Mobile has permanent generators in key cell sites and battery backups at others. During the outage, the company deployed a fleet of portable, temporary generators as needed to get sites back up and running.

"We understand that service disruptions are an inconvenience to our customers, and our priority is to keep our customers connected," Rushing said.

Verizon spokeswoman Jeannine Brew Braggs said Friday the company kept at least 97% of its sites serving customers during the outage.

"We have made significant investments to ensure that whenever feasible there is backup power at each critical site," she said. "Our teams were in the field ensuring that backup power continued to allow our cell sites to serve our customers."

"Like all PG&E customers, we are also affected by this power shutdown," AT&T spokesman Vince Bitong said. The company's network did not experience much degradation of service, he said.

Before the power outage began, Bitong said, AT&T deployed resources from other states to support

customers and public safety, including staging hundreds of additional generators and equipment, and actively refueled generators. During the outage, the company provided unlimited calls, texts and data and waived overage charges to customers in affected areas.

AT&T didn't respond to inquiries Thursday about which cell towers were down, why, and what measures the companies were taking to prevent a repeat.

The Federal Communications Commission, which regulates carriers, received reports of service disruptions at a small percentage of cell sites, a spokeswoman said in an email. But she pointed out that a downed cell site doesn't necessarily mean the area loses coverage, because customers might be able to connect to other towers.

The commission said it "is working closely with wireless service providers to receive timely updates on both the network outages caused by the power shut-offs and the steps that providers are taking to restore service."

"This is a priority for us as it's critical that consumers have access to reliable communications services, especially the ability to reach 911."

Last month, the FCC asked five major cell phone carriers in California how they were prepared for outages amid criticism of failed service during past disasters. In filings, AT&T, Verizon, T-Mobile, Sprint and U.S. Cellular said they had rechargeable built-in or mobile generators to provide backup power at most towers and mobile cell sites ready to roll out.

Backup power would last anywhere from seven hours for Sprint up to 72 hours for Verizon to a max of 120 hours for AT&T. If an outage lasts longer — like last week's shut-off that could have stretched out for five days — companies can refuel the backup generators.

But if there is actually a wildfire, companies said in federal filings they can't guarantee access to cell towers to recharge batteries and provide service.

Other communications providers were hit harder by the shut-offs. Comcast, which provides broadband internet and phone service, reported that its network centers were down in every area affected by an outage.

"The honest answer is we require electricity just like everyone else. When that source gets cut off, we're cut off," spokeswoman Joan Hammel said.

Either customers lost service because their home lost power or because they were connected to a network center that lost power even if they still had electricity at their home, Hammel said. Comcast doesn't have the technology yet to determine where the source of the problem is, she said.

"We don't have those insights yet," Hammel said.

The California Public Utilities Commission, whose public advocate's office criticized companies in court filings for not providing service during past disasters, said Tuesday it is analyzing data on the impact of the outages. Spokesman Christopher Chow said the agency requires companies to follow an August mandate to keep service and provide support to customers who experience a housing or financial crisis because of a disaster if the governor or president declares an emergency.

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## Do Not Apply AB 5 Too Broadly

October 21, 2019

By [Jeff Chang](#)

Perhaps the biggest news coming out of California's Legislature this year was the passage of [Assembly Bill 5](#) – the new law that codifies the 2018 Dynamex case and which imposes a new test for determining employee or independent contractor status for California wage and hour and unemployment insurance purposes. And while AB 5 may have a dramatic effect on the use of independent contractors in our gig economy, it has limited application to local government employers.

As we previously [explained](#) when the *Dynamex Operations West, Inc. v. Superior Court of Los Angeles* case was decided last year, the simplified “ABC Test” for distinguishing between employees and independent contractors for wage and hour purposes is not the same as the common-law employment [test](#) – the test used by the IRS and CalPERS for retirement plan and various tax-favored employee benefits purposes.

The ABC Test presumes that a worker is an employee, unless:

1. The person is free from the control and direction of the hiring entity in connection with the performance of the work, both under the contract and in fact;
2. The person performs work that is outside the usual course of the hiring entity's business and
3. The person is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation or business of the same nature as that involved in the work performed.

However, a worker is not an “employee” under the common-law test unless the person to whom service is rendered has the right to control the manner and means of accomplishing the result desired. In addition, California courts also consider:

- (a) whether the one performing services is engaged in a distinct occupation or business;
- (b) the kind of occupation, with reference to whether, in the locality, the work is usually done under the direction of the principal or by a specialist without supervision;
- (c) the skill required in the particular occupation;
- (d) whether the principal or the worker supplies the instrumentalities, tools and the place of work for the person doing the work;
- (e) the length of time for which the services are to be performed;
- (f) the method of payment, whether by the time or by the job;
- (g) whether or not the work is a part of the regular business of the principal and
- (h) whether or not the parties believe they are creating an employer-employee relationship.

Obviously, these two tests are quite a bit different, and will yield differing results in many instances. Once again, as we explained in our earlier post, the IRS (for purposes of income and payroll tax withholding), CalPERS (for purposes of determining who is an employee eligible to participate in PERS), and every other public agency employer (for purposes of determining who is an employee that can participate in their 401(a) or 457(b) plan), rely exclusively on the common-law test. The ABC Test under AB 5 does not govern. If an employer includes a worker who is not a common-law employee in its health insurance (on a pre-tax basis), in its CalPERS census or in its 401(a) or 457(b) plans, it can create significant tax problems for the worker – and itself.

So, as you continue to sort out the impacts of AB 5 on your operations and practices, remember that, for income tax, payroll tax and employee benefits purposes, it is the common-law test that counts.

[Jeff Chang](#) is a partner at Best Best & Krieger LLP. He has four decades of experience skillfully evaluating benefit and retirement plan compliance to achieve maximum outcomes for public agency clients throughout California. He can be reached at [jeff.chang@bbklaw.com](mailto:jeff.chang@bbklaw.com) or (916) 329-3685.

## One Step Forward, Two Steps Back with PG&E

BY: | October 19, 2019

(TNS) — Pacific Gas and Electric Co. failed to provide essential information to counties and cities during last week's mass power outages, botching an unprecedented fire-prevention measure that could have killed many people if it lasted longer, five local governments said this week.

In a blistering critique filed with the California Public Utilities Commission, local officials accused PG&E of keeping them at arm's length, fumbling efforts to communicate behind the scenes and intentionally overstating the areas likely to lose power, among other missteps.

PG&E was not ready for obvious consequences of cutting power to so many people even though the utility had repeatedly told the public it was willing to put any of its electric customers in the dark in order to stop another fire, said the filing from Sonoma, Napa, Mendocino and Santa Barbara counties, as well as the city of Santa Rosa.

The local governments told the utilities commission Tuesday that they tried working with PG&E to implement "real changes" to its power shut-offs. But the experience was "like battling the Hydra," the governments said, referring to the serpent monster from Greek mythology that grows new heads whenever one is severed.

Each time local officials encountered helpful PG&E employees, someone else who worked for the utility would erect a new obstacle, the filing said. The governments concluded that PG&E's "primary goal was protecting itself from liability, and that considerations of the resulting human and economic damage were, if examined at all, secondary."

"It is also clear that PG&E has no idea what it is doing when it comes to de-energization and is terrified," the local governments' filing said. "The lack of confidence PG&E has in its infrastructure is certainly apparent ... PG&E as a whole continues to fail us."

PG&E forcefully denies any ulterior motive behind its decision to cut electricity for 738,000 customer accounts in parts of 34 counties last week. The company says its decision was motivated by a dangerous forecast of extreme winds that made its power lines likely to start devastating fires — just like they did in 2017 and 2018.

While inspecting its equipment before restoring electricity, PG&E found more than 100 instances of damage or hazards — including trees and branches that fell on power lines, which could have started wildfires. PG&E says wind gusts exceeded 40 miles per hour in 22 counties and 50 miles per hour in 15 counties.

PG&E points to the recorded wind speeds and equipment damage as evidence that the company made the right call. Utility leaders also note that no catastrophic fires started during the outage — unlike in Southern California, where investigators are looking into whether the dangerous Saddle Ridge Fire could have been started by another electric company's equipment last week.

In an opinion piece published on *The Chronicle's* website Thursday, Bill Johnson, CEO of the utility's parent PG&E Corp., acknowledged "the anger about how disruptive it is to live without power." But as PG&E "evaluated the science about the conditions and the risk — in consultation with numerous state agencies," Johnson wrote, the company "believed this was the right thing to do for public safety."

"And we still do," he said.

Johnson wrote that PG&E was aiming to "improve coordination with state and local government agency partners."

PG&E's actions last week also drew scorn from Gov. Gavin Newsom and a pointed letter from Marybel Batjer, the president of the California Public Utilities Commission. Batjer directed PG&E to implement a series of changes to its power shut-off program and summoned company executives to appear at an emergency meeting of the commission on Friday.

In his own letter to Batjer on Thursday, Johnson said PG&E leaders "agree with many of the items" she listed and that the company is already acting to make future shut-offs "more seamless."

"Some of these improvements can occur in the near term, while others will need to unfold over the months and years to come," Johnson said. The company already had "two listening sessions" with county representatives and is conducting a "detailed after-action review," he wrote in the letter.

Local officials say PG&E's recent outages could have been far worse.

If last week's shut-offs lasted another 24 hours — as PG&E had warned they might — the company "could have seen as many customer deaths as in the 2017 and 2018 wildfires," the local governments said in their regulatory filing. Those fires, many of which were caused by PG&E equipment, killed dozens of people.

"Toward the end of the outage, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and other facilities that provide care to vulnerable individuals were nearing the limits of their backup power," the filing said, noting that officials "expect that many stories of near-misses and closely averted disasters will emerge in the coming weeks."

In files PG&E provided to local governments showing which areas were targeted to lose power, the outage area seemed to be overstated by 20%, local governments determined. But PG&E liaisons assigned to local governments' emergency centers "had their own outage maps on their personal electronic devices ... that appeared to be accurate," the filing said.

Batjer's letter expressed a similar concern, saying PG&E "continues to fail at making available maps with clear boundaries ... in a timely manner." She directed PG&E to work with state emergency officials to improve its sharing of outage boundary maps. Batjer also told the company to improve its coordination with local governments in a variety of ways.

PG&E told the commission Thursday that it will hold in-person meetings with communities impacted by the recent outages to gather feedback. The company is already "evaluating different methods for producing maps that provide a higher level of precision of the potential outage impacts," according to PG&E's response to Batjer's letter.

The company allowed local representatives to sit in at PG&E's Emergency Operations Center, but in practice it was a "dismal failure," the counties and city said. Only Sonoma County sent representatives, who were given short tours of the Emergency Operations Center. They were allowed to sit in on PG&E phone calls with local governments but otherwise kept in a different room three security gates removed from the emergency center, the filing said.

According to the local governments' memo, PG&E said capacity constraints in the center and "technical/legal/regulatory limitations restricted its ability to allow Sonoma's full access to information and data-sharing." The governments questioned the validity of that assertion.

Local officials also said state government representatives were given full access to the PG&E center — even though the primary response to the company's power outages happened at the local level.



"This is an absurd state of affairs," the filing said.

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This article was printed from: <https://www.governing.com/news/headlines/One-Step-Forward-Two-Steps-Back-with-PGE.html>

# TIMES of SAN DIEGO

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OPINION

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## Motorcyclist Killed in Crash on State Route 76 in Bonsall

POSTED BY CHRIS JENNEWAIN ON OCTOBER 20, 2019 IN CRIME | 67 VIEWS

0 COMMENTS | LEAVE A COMMENT

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A North County Fire Protection District ambulance. Courtesy of the district

A motorcyclist died in a crash Saturday in the Bonsall area, according to the North County Fire Protection District.

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The crash occurred on State Route 76 near Interstate 15, but it was not immediately clear what time it happened, fire officials said.

Details about the motorcyclist's identity were not immediately available, neither was it clear if anyone else was hurt.

The cause of the crash was under investigation and the ramp to northbound Interstate 15 was expected to be closed for several hours.

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— From Staff

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

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** STEVEN MAROVICH, DFC  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 10, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** COMMENTS, REPORTS AND UPDATES

● **STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS/UPDATES:**

● **STEVEN MAROVICH, DFC:**

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● **CHIEF OFFICERS & STAFF:**

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● **BOARD:**

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● **BARGAINING GROUPS:**

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● **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

**TO:** BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
**FROM:** CHIEF ABBOTT  
**DATE:** DECEMBER 10, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** CLOSED SESSION

**CLOSED SESSION**

*The Board will enter closed session to discuss items 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:**

➤ *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 REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR — GOVERNMENT CODE § 54956.8 — CHIEF ABBOTT:**

➤ PROPERTY LOCATION: 4157 Olive Hill Road, Fallbrook, CA 92028;  
PARTIES: North County Fire Protection District (Seller)  
UNDER NEGOTIATION: Terms of Purchase;  
DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS: Chief Abbott, District Counsel James

**CS-3. EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE – Government Code § 54957**

➤ *Engineer/PM Erin McInerney* CHIEF ABBOTT  
CHIEF MAROVICH

**CS-4. EVALUATION OF PERFORMANCE – Government Code § 54957**

➤ *Fire Chief/CEO* DISTRICT NEGOTIATORS:  
DISTRICT COUNSEL JAMES

**CS-5. REPORT FROM CLOSED SESSION — PRESIDENT LUEVANO**

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