



September 15, 2015

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jeff Carman, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- The Countywide emergency ambulance transport project continues to make progress. The District received proposals last month from several companies that specialize in medical billing. We are evaluating the proposals and anticipate choosing a vendor by mid-October. The District is also working quickly to incorporate an ambulance dispatch center into our regional fire communications center. We are waiting to hear back from the local EMS agency as to when we will begin negotiations on the transport contract. At this point we are still targeting January 1 as the implementation date.
- The District continues to work with the City of San Pablo regarding the construction of additional space at Fire Station 70 to house the personnel assigned to Squad 70. Initial proposals for the housing project have been as high as \$975,000, so discussions with the City on the feasibility of jointly funding a new fire station have begun. Those discussions are very preliminary at this point, but as they progress, the Board will be updated.
- The District is working with the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District to find ways to reduce their dependency on ConFire resources for the provision of emergency response services in their area. Last month the existing automatic-aid agreement was amended to reflect that ConFire will continue to send resources to assist with fires and complex incidents, but East Contra Costa Fire will no longer request resources from ConFire for medical incidents except for the most severe classifications. We continue to participate in the task force meetings hosted by the City of Brentwood.
- The District is exploring the opportunity to rebuild and staff Fire Station 16 in the City of Lafayette instead of proceeding with plans to jointly construct and operate Fire Station 46 with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Additionally, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has chosen to "terminate the Fire Station 46 plan" and move forward with the rebuilding of their Fire Station 43. The District appointed a new facilities manager effective September 8th and this project will be one of her top priorities as she moves into her new position.

- As noted in prior reports, the District is participating with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office on a joint helicopter program. The program provides for a Fire Captain-Paramedic to staff the helicopter during anticipated high-activity periods to provide emergency medical treatment to victims in remote areas, relocate injured persons from remote locations to more accessible locations, establish a command platform in the air, provide fire suppression with the use of a water-dropping bucket, and to assist with other operations as appropriate. The trial program will continue to be funded through the end of fire season and will then be evaluated for its effectiveness in consideration of staffing the program again next year.