

Contra Costa County



Fire Protection District

April 12, 2016

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jeff Carman, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

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- The Ambulance Transport Program continues to progress. Our team has resolved most of the technology hurdles we initially experienced after moving the ambulance dispatch from Sacramento to our regional communication center. We continue to average about 200 transports per day and are currently meeting all performance requirements as specified in our contract.
 - Academy #49 continues to advance toward an anticipated May graduation date. Unfortunately, one of the recruits resigned from the academy to accept a position with another fire department. Twenty (20) recruits remain in the academy. We are planning an October start date for Academy #50.
 - The Fire District continues to proceed with the rebuilding of Fire Station 16 in Lafayette. All of the engineer reports have been submitted, and there are no issues which would prevent us from moving forward. We have selected an architect and hope to present you with a proposal in May. Our architects have informed us that building costs have increased significantly over the last twelve (12) months. We are evaluating the cost effectiveness of demolishing the entire station or attempting to save the foundation and a portion of the framing.
 - Plans for the demolition and reconstruction of Fire Station 70 continue to move forward as a joint effort of the Fire District and the City of San Pablo. The draft funding agreement has been reviewed by the City and has been returned to us. The City has offered an alternative building site to us, and we are assessing the impacts of moving to the new location. Due to increased projections in building costs, the City has agreed to increase their contribution to \$2.5 million.
 - At the February meeting of the Board, the Fire District was tasked to report back on any impacts the removal of the Quick Response Vehicles (QRVs) may have had on the EMS system countywide. This was a difficult task to perform, and we reached out to the EMS agency to brainstorm on how we could objectively determine any positive or negative impacts. We agreed that the amount of time an ambulance was on-scene prior to transport to the hospital was a good data

point to begin with. As a reminder, the QRVs could not transport patients to the hospital. Because there is a certain amount of preparation involved in readying a patient for transport, the mission of the QRVs was to provide a paramedic on-scene to begin treatment and stabilization as soon as possible so the transport ambulance could begin moving the patient in a more timely manner after their arrival on-scene. In the City of Brentwood, the data reveals that on-scene times are slightly extended by approximately fifteen (15) seconds. However, in Discovery Bay, Byron and Crockett, on-scene times have actually been reduced by several minutes.

- The District recently met with the Sheriff's Office to discuss increasing of our participation in the helicopter program. The Board will recall that last year we entered into a trial program placing a Captain-Paramedic onboard the helicopter on its days of operation. The Sheriff's Office is interested in expanding the program to additional days of operation, and the District has agreed to provide staffing on those additional days should the expansion occur. We have determined that the program is beneficial to the Fire District as well as to all fire agencies in the county.
- The District continues to work with representatives of the County Hazardous Materials Division in an effort to develop a more symbiotic relationship. This past month we met regarding two (2) separate hazardous materials incidents to discuss what we could have done better and to determine efficiencies that can be achieved by both agencies working together. Later in the month, we are scheduled to meet again to discuss the Martinez derailment.
- After twenty years of employment, Senior Clerk Jo Ann West retired from the Fire District at the end of March. Jo Ann was often the first person the public met when they came to our administrative offices, and she worked in numerous areas of fire administration during her time with us. Jo Ann will be missed, but we wish her the best of times in her retirement.