



May 9, 2017

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jeff Carman, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

-
- Fire Station 16 plans continue to move forward. Construction drawings are currently being developed as we prepare our submission for building permits. Additionally, contractors are being prequalified in anticipation of going to bid in early summer.
 - Fire Station 70 elevations and design plans are being developed in preparation for submission to the City of San Pablo after the CEQA report is completed (tentatively scheduled for July). External consultants are conducting required noise, traffic, and air studies for the CEQA report and should complete the reports by mid-May.
 - Battalion Chiefs Cormier and Eglite retired in April with over 30 years of service. As a result of their departures, we promoted Captains Quesada and Stark to the rank of Battalion Chief. At the next Board meeting, we hope to recognize the years of service Chiefs Cormier and Eglite provided to the District. We also wish Battalion Chiefs Quesada and Stark success in their new roles.
 - With the anticipated approval of the contract with Cal OES, we are excited to announce that the training component of the District's hazardous materials program will commence in June. The District's Hazardous Materials Team personnel will attend six classes (each class is one week long) prior to the team being placed into service. The contract allows us 12 months to officially deploy the team; however, we hope to accomplish this much sooner.
 - Since the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District announced the closure of their Knightsen station effective July 1, many of you have asked about the potential impacts to our Fire District. Fortunately, we have operated under a 3-station model in the past with an auto-aid agreement that provided for equal sharing of resources. Effective July 1, we will revert to that already developed and tested auto-aid agreement, and we are confident that the arrangement will work as well as it did in the past. We will monitor the use of resources to ensure the agreement does not require modification.
 - Last month, one of our ladder trucks was struck at excessive speed by a drunk driver on the freeway. Unfortunately, the driver of the vehicle was killed in the

collision. Our firefighters sustained minor, but ongoing, injuries to their backs and necks. This was the second collision in the last twelve months, and this causes us to be concerned. Not only is there the potential for significant injury to our personnel and civilians, but it is also a financial burden on the organization. We are working with the California Highway Patrol on a plan which would allow for getting our personnel off the freeways and onto surface streets as quickly as possible. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with the CHP toward developing and implementing a plan before this type of incident occurs again.

- The Fire District has been working with the Office of the County Administrator and the Real Estate Division to move its administrative offices to a new location during CY 2017. With the addition of support staff and the necessary personnel to operate the ambulance transport program, we have exhausted our usable space. Ultimately, the administrative offices will be located within the military relocation project in Concord, but we are unable to wait 5-7 years for that project to be completed. We had hoped to bring the contract to you for approval today, but there are additional questions for which we need answers prior to requesting Board approval. We anticipate bringing the contract to the Board in June.
- Wildland fire season is quickly approaching. We anticipate a very busy year as the rains have brought about significant growth in the annual grasses. Even though it was a very wet winter, annual grasses have a life cycle that allows them to dry out even with a prolonged rainy season. Last year, we lost several homes as a result of fast-moving fires involving annual grasses. We ask that residents take the time to clear away debris and fuels from their homes to help us prevent loss of property during these fires. Just as we did last year, we will be staffing the Sheriff's helicopter as well as our bulldozer in order to reduce the size of these fires.