



June 13, 2017

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jeff Carman, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

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- FS 16: Construction drawings are almost complete. The final construction cost estimate was received on May 16; based on the construction drawings, the estimate is \$3,918,332 including contingencies. Additional soft costs such as permits, architectural and engineering consultants, and project and construction management costs bring the total estimated costs for the project to approximately \$5,212,000.
 - FS 70: CEQA report and external consultant studies are being reviewed. County, District, and City staff met to discuss the initial CEQA report and any potential impacts created by the project. At this point, the impacts appear to be minimal. The City of San Pablo will have the joint funding MOU on their June 19 City Council agenda for approval. The pre-qualification for both projects is ongoing; and a meeting with potential bidders was held June 1.
 - In a recent meeting of the International Metropolitan Fire Chiefs, it was noted that several fire agencies around the world are reporting cancer rates in firefighters as high as 33%. The agencies who reported these statistics are similar to our own with regard to the exposure experienced by the firefighters. As a result of the data presented, in an effort to combat cancer, the Metro Chiefs committed to mobilizing our information and resources in a number of ways, including:
 - Reduce the opportunity for exposure of our firefighters to carcinogens.
 - Enhance medical monitoring of our firefighters to increase early detection of cancer.
 - Support the development of new technology that would further reduce the opportunities for exposure to cancer causing materials.
 - As you know, during this past month, the Fire District and some surrounding districts saw a rapid increase in the quantity of vehicle fires. Our fire investigators quickly noticed that a number of these fires had the same characteristics which led to the suspicion of a possible serial arsonist. As we often see in this type of case, the frequency of fires increased dramatically as did the severity, and in at least one instance, the fire extended from the vehicle into an inhabited dwelling. Working with their law enforcement counterparts, our investigators moved quickly to identify a

suspect and make an arrest. I want to commend our investigators for their consistently incredible work and thank the Board and the CAO for their support of our Fire Investigation Unit.

- Approximately one year ago, the Fire District formed a recruitment team in an effort to increase the diversity of our applicant pool. After just a few meetings, the committee grew in numbers, and many new ideas were introduced and acted upon. We recently completed the recruitment process for Academy #51 which will begin in October, and I am pleased to say that there is significant improvement in the diversity of the group of candidates who are currently in the background and pre-hiring process. While this one process may not indicate a trend, it is clear that we are making progress in our address of the issue. We will continue our work toward ensuring that our recruitment efforts reach all potential candidates.
- Wildland fire season is here! The season was officially declared in mid-May, and we have already begun to see sizeable fire across the state and within the Fire District. This fire season will be a difficult one as the excessive rains have resulted in tall, dense annual grasses which often lead to large brush and timber fires. We ask our residents to create defensible space around their homes by clearing away debris and vegetation.
- With summer just ahead and an abundance of water in our lakes and rivers, we are already seeing the occurrence of drownings and near drownings in our Fire District. With the seasonal runoff in the delta at very high rates, and the water temperatures being lower than usual for this time of year, many people underestimate the danger of swimming and boating without a lifejacket. We urge our residents and visitors to wear a life jacket at all times when in or near any body of water.