



March 13, 2018

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jeff Carman, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

- Fire Station 16 (Lafayette): District staff has been meeting with the immediately adjacent neighbors to keep them informed of our construction timelines. Bids were opened on Thursday, February 22. There is a Board agenda item on today's agenda to award a contract to the successful bidder. Contract documents will be finalized in the coming weeks, and a kickoff meeting will be scheduled with the contractor, County Capital Projects, the Fire District, and our construction manager.
- Fire Station 70 (San Pablo): The architect is drafting the full construction drawings. We expect to have a pre-submittal meeting with the City of San Pablo this month when our plans are 80-90% complete. We remain on track to submit for a building permit in spring 2018 and will go to bid in summer 2018.
- Fire Station 9 (Pacheco) and Fire Station 86 (Bay Point): District staff has been meeting regularly with County Capital Projects and the architect. We are very early in the design phase. Following conceptual development, we will initiate the CEQA review process.
- The graduation ceremony for Fire Academy #51 was held on February 23, 2018, at El Campanil Theatre in Antioch. The event was well attended by families, friends, District personnel, various city and county officials, and other dignitaries. Many thanks to those of you who were able to join us on this special occasion.
- The Fire District's administrative offices relocated over the February 16-18 weekend. Our offices were closed on Friday, February 16, and we reopened at our new location, 4005 Port Chicago Highway, on February 20, 2018.
- 2018 has already been a particularly busy year for fires. This not only impacts our suppression crews, but it also has a significant impact on our Fire Investigation Unit. Since January 1, our investigators have investigated almost 85 fires, 60% of which are considered suspicious in nature, and they have been successful in making several arson arrests. Although it is difficult to quantify, I am certain that the efforts of

our investigators have succeeded in reducing the number of fires that could have otherwise occurred.

- The Fire District was recently awarded another grant from the Department of Homeland Security for a water tender, a replacement water rescue boat and tow vehicle, and several thermal imaging cameras. Our grant program has been very successful, and we currently have \$1.8 million in grants awarded and in process.
- District personnel recently finished their final week of Hazardous Materials Specialist training. The six-week certificate program will allow our personnel to staff the hazardous materials response vehicle that was awarded to us by the California Office of Emergency Services. Our plan is to have the team fully functional in March.
- The most recent fires in Napa and Ventura counties were unique in many ways. The fires spread faster and grew larger than other fires in the State's history, destroyed 11,000 homes, and killed 60+ residents. These fires have demonstrated that the Statewide Mutual Aid System, created in 1950, needs updating to deploy resources faster and alert the population in advance of the emergency. For the last two years, local fire agencies have asked the Governor for \$100 million in on-going funding to update the aging mutual-aid system. To date, the Governor has provided \$50 million in one-time funding from the Greenhouse Gas Revenue Fund to assist this work. Local agencies continue to lobby our elected officials as well as the gubernatorial candidates to help them fully understand why the funds are needed. We are hopeful that we can get the necessary support at the State level to better respond to climate driven events.
- Over the last several years firefighters have become more involved in emergency incidents involving violence and have also become targets of violent acts while performing their duties. Law enforcement agencies across the nation are working more closely with firefighters and EMS providers to provide immediate care at crime scenes before the scenes are deemed secure; as a result, our jobs are becoming more dangerous. In order to better protect our firefighters in these situations, we are in the process of evaluating ballistic body armor and helmets to be worn at incidents most prone to firefighter injury. Once the evaluation is complete, we will use the information gained to purchase this protective equipment for our personnel.