



## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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May 22, 2018

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jeff Carman, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

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- Fire Station 16 (Lafayette): Our contractor, DL Falk, received a Notice to Proceed on April 12, 2018. The contract calls for 310 calendar days of construction, and we anticipate completion in February 2019. The contractor has mobilized, and site work is underway. Significant efforts have gone into communicating and coordinating directly with our neighbors affected by the project. Earthwork, retaining walls and the new fence line will occur first.
- Fire Station 70 (San Pablo): The architectural drawings are 99% complete. We held a pre-submittal meeting with the City of San Pablo in order to expedite the plan review process. Upon receiving final geotechnical reports, we will be submitting for a building permit. We anticipate bidding the project this summer.
- 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 Fire District's Hazardous Materials Response Team is operational. The new HazMat truck has been delivered, and our personnel will be participating in an orientation in the coming week. This new response model will ensure an immediate response to all chemical releases within the Fire District. The District has also agreed to respond statewide for major chemical releases when requested.
- This month signifies the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fire District's participation in the FEMA National Urban Search and Rescue Task Force (USAR) based out of Oakland Fire. There are 28 task forces across the United States, two of which are in Northern California. The USAR task forces can be mobilized and respond to significant incidents such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and manmade disasters.
- The anticipated wildland fire season has arrived in California. The Fire District has already responded to several significant fires involving annual grasses and brush and as a result we have increased the number of resources assigned to reported

wildland fires. This year the Fire District will continue to staff its firefighting bulldozer and will continue to maintain a water-dropping capability off of the Sheriff's helicopter. We anticipate another very busy wildland season statewide.

- Fire District staff celebrated Public Safety Dispatcher Appreciation Week by attending a lunch honoring the men and women who provide these vital services. Although our responders in the field rely heavily on their work, our dispatchers are often under-recognized. During the ceremony, our dispatchers were referred to as our FIRST first-responders because they are often the first person providing care and comfort to those in need.
- The District is recruiting for Fire Academy #52 which will commence in the fall. It is anticipated that our academy will be full with 30 firefighter recruits. The recruits will fill behind anticipated vacancies caused by retirements as well as the deployment of Engine 16 in Lafayette. Graduation of Academy 52 will be in the spring of 2019.
- Last month, the Fire District responded to and extinguished a very large "greater alarm" structure fire in Concord. The fire was well established when our first companies arrived on scene from just a few blocks away. During the firefight, a catastrophic failure of the scaffolding system occurred and narrowly missed a firefighting crew nearby. Fortunately, no firefighter or civilian injuries or fatalities occurred. Although the fire was brought under control within a few hours, fire personnel including fire managers, fire investigators, and firefighters remained on scene for days working with Concord city officials and others to bring the incident to a close and reoccupy neighboring occupancies. Fire loss is estimated at over \$60 million. The fire cause is under investigation.
- Effective June 1, 2018, the Fire District will create its newest division, Fire/EMS Communications. This decision was made because of the size and complexity of the Regional Fire Communications Center. The Division includes twenty-one fire dispatchers, twelve EMS dispatchers, three radio technicians, three IT technicians, one GIS technician, three supervisors, and one clerk. The Center dispatches for every fire district/department in the county, except San Ramon and Richmond, and also dispatches all ambulances in the county except those assigned to San Ramon and Moraga. In total, the Center dispatches approximately 120,000 emergency calls annually and processes approximately 180,000 phone calls annually.