

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): Construction is in progress. We encountered some challenges with 2 large oak trees that were going to effect the building. We sought and received permission from the City of Lafayette to remove the trees. We will be planting additional trees on site as mitigation for the removed trees. Earthwork, retaining walls and the new fence line should be complete by June 28<sup>th</sup>. Significant efforts have gone into communicating and coordinating directly with our neighbors affected by the project.
- Fire Station 70 (San Pablo): The architectural drawings are 99% complete. The final geotechnical reports have been received. The phase 2 environmental analysis should be completed in June. We will be submitting for a building permit soon and we anticipate bidding the project later this summer.
- The wildland fire season is upon us. Unfortunately the addition of wildland fires to our existing work load stretches our resources thinner and thinner. We have had several major incidents already occur in our district as well as neighboring districts. The lack of resources will need to be carefully watched as the wildland season progresses.
- Earlier this month three of our firefighters were providing emergency medical care on Highway 4 when an out-of-control motorist entered the accident scene at a high rate of speed, striking one of the vehicles involved in the previous accident which then struck our firefighters. Fortunately there were no life threatening injuries sustained, however this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> significant secondary crash involving fire district equipment and personnel in the last four years. We have again met with our local CHP commander and area assistant chief and are working together to provide for better safety of our personnel.
- The ambulance transport program continues to operate at very high levels of performance. Our county contract requires ambulances to be on-scene within 11 minutes/ 45 seconds 90% of the time in all areas except the City of Richmond where

our requirement is 90% of the time in 10 minutes. Countywide we are arriving within our time frames 96% of the time. Our average response time county wide is 4 minutes/ 30 seconds, except in Richmond where our average is 4 minutes/ 7 seconds.

- For the last several years our fleet shop has been severely understaffed which has led to back-ups in apparatus repairs, significant overtime expenditures, and increased repair costs due to having to utilize outside repair shops. The remaining mechanics and shop staff have worked very hard to keep our fleet on the road despite the vacancies. The difficulty in recruiting new fire mechanics is the combination of low comparable salaries and very few fire mechanics looking for work. Our Support Services Chief has worked very hard over the last year to reorganize the shop into a two-tiered system, and secure a salary increase for the fire mechanics. As a result of these efforts, our recruitment efforts have produced several candidates who meet the minimum requirements and we will interview those candidates next week.
  
- Our Asst. Chief of Training and his staff have been working for over a year to get our training campus approved as an Accredited Local Academy with the California State Fire Training. This has been a very arduous process including professional development training for our staff, aligning our training processes with national standards, and a lengthy written application. We will be the only fire district in the county to achieve this accreditation and one of 20 in the state. We have certified over 25 fire district personnel as state fire instructors which will allow us to teach fire related courses in-house and can certify our own fire academies. Final inspection is this coming Tuesday.