



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

May 21, 2019

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: East Contra Costa Fire Automatic Aid Agreement – Report

Effective May 1, 2019, the automatic aid agreement for fire and emergency services between the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (“East Contra Costa Fire”) and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (“the District”) was modified to reduce the number of resources provided by the District for certain fire related incidents, eliminate automatic aid responses to certain low acuity medical calls, and provide a maximum amount of resources available to respond from the District to East Contra Costa Fire.

The District was providing automatic aid resources to East Contra Costa Fire at a ratio of almost 4:1 in 2018. The intent of the modifications to the automatic aid agreement is to bring that ratio into a better balance of aid being given to aid being received.

This will be accomplished by reducing the amount of resources being assigned from the District to certain fire incidents and to incidents which historically have not resulted in units arriving at the incident – in other words these resources were being cancelled while responding or were otherwise not needed to support the incident.

In addition, the other primary intent of modifying the automatic aid is to place a maximum number of resources that can be taken out of the District’s Battalion 8 area (Bay Point, Pittsburg, and Antioch) to support East Contra Costa Fire. In the past, there was no cap on these resources. Moving forward, a minimum of four units will be retained in Battalion 8 before resources would be available to respond to East Contra Costa Fire.

The modifications still ensure the closest available unit will be dispatched to life threatening medical emergencies. Mutual aid requests for additional resources may be made by either agency and will be filled as resources are available or will be filled by other agencies in the county.

The modifications place a potentially heavier burden on the rest of the fire agencies within our county to support the mutual aid system.

It should be noted that East Contra Costa Fire has been a good partner in providing automatic and mutual aid to the District for many years, even in its present state of reduced capacity. The fire service has deep seated roots in providing assistance to each other, neighboring communities, and throughout the state. Unfortunately, as we are seeing across the state, fire agencies are struggling to provide automatic and mutual aid as we once did because of resource scarcity and increased call volumes in our own jurisdictions.

The revised automatic aid agreement will be reviewed every six months between both parties. The previous version called for an annual review.