



## CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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March 8, 2022

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis T. Broschard III, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

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- Annexation Update. The annexation process continues with the Local Area Formation Commission (LAFCo) decision-making process, which included the body's vote at its February 9 meeting to expand the Con Fire sphere of influence to include the current East Contra Costa Fire areas of responsibility. The LAFCo public hearing on the boundary reorganization is scheduled for tomorrow, March 9.
- Pinole Fire Contract for Service Initiative. We continue to work with the City of Pinole Fire Chief and City Manager and are researching the necessary components and process steps to develop a contract for service.
- Operations Update. Last month, three honor guard members traveled to Baltimore to honor the three firefighters killed in the line of duty battling a row house fire there.



We also sent one engine company, one truck company, and two chief officers to cover Fire Station 4 in the city of Stockton so their crews could honor Captain Max Fortuna who was shot and killed while working at a fire in Stockton.



Off duty members also participated as members of the color guard and attendants for the folded flag presentation during the ceremony.



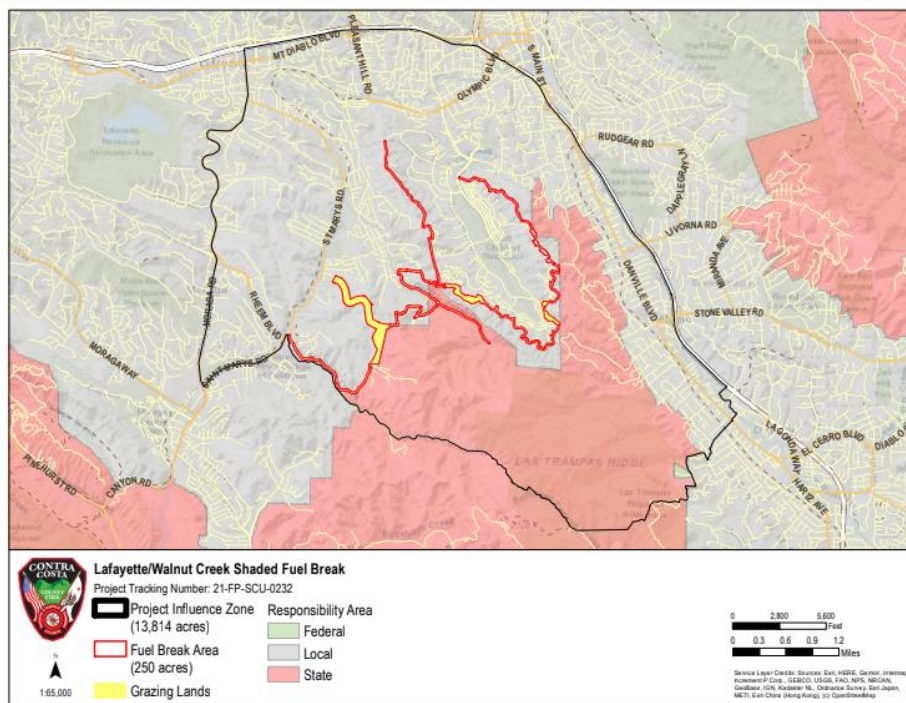
One member of our critical incident stress management (CISM) team provided assistance and support to Stockton's firefighters.

City of Stockton's firefighters supported Con Fire in our time of need when our line of duty deaths occurred in 2007. It was satisfying to stand with them when they needed our support. Events like these are vivid reminders of the dangers our own firefighters face on a daily basis.

- **Communications Update.** Multiple staffing initiatives are underway this month, including interviews for the Fire Communications Manager and Fire Dispatcher positions. As a result of recruitment actions last month, a new permanent Information Systems Tech II started work this week; and we are planning to onboard one Fire Dispatcher this month.

Other Communications Division highlights include continued refinement of the design for our soon to be remodeled Fire Communications Center and continued work on IT support of the pending annexation initiative.

- **Fire Prevention Update.** We submitted our application to the Cal Fire California Climate Investments Fire Prevention Grant program for a proposed Lafayette/Walnut Creek Shaded Fuel Break on February 9. The project, if funded, would result in a 14-mile long shaded fuel break to supplement the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break (in place to the north since late 2019) and the Tunnel East Bay Hills Break (currently under development by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District).



Related vegetation mitigation work would cover some 250 acres in Lafayette, Moraga, and Walnut Creek, as well as parts of the East Bay Regional Parks District. The entire shaded fuel break is in a High Fire Hazard Severity Zone with one section buffering a Very High Hazard Severity Zone of State Responsibility Area (SRA) near Los Trampas. The finalized cost submitted for the proposed project was just under the \$5 million resolution approved last month.



FPB made an update presentation to the Golden Rain Foundation Board at their recent meeting to gain their support for future ongoing fuel break maintenance costs around Rossmoor in addition to what Crew 12 will be able to provide.

The County Fire Marshals have begun meeting regularly to discuss the new fire code updates to be released by the state this summer for adoption by January 1, 2023. This coordinated effort will evaluate the local ordinances adopted by each fire jurisdiction to improve countywide consistency. The County ordinance is expected to be drafted by September for submission to the Board of Supervisors in October.

- EMS Update. All temporary system modifications approved by the County EMS Agency (CCCEMSA) were rescinded effective February 28 as operations and systems demand have normalized from the historic high 911 call volume attributable to the recent Omicron surge. These include changes that were implemented with CCCEMSA approval, including the use of non-system BLS ambulances, the pending of certain non-emergency calls during times when ambulance availability is low, and a change to the treat-and-refer policy in the field to reduce non-acute transports.

A meeting is scheduled for March 22 for local hospital, fire, and EMS leadership to discuss solutions for the increase in wait times for ambulances to offload patients at local emergency departments. Although this is a statewide problem, we are hopeful to be able to find solutions that will improve the situation within our county, decrease wait times for our ambulances to transfer patients, and improve system performance and reliability as a result.