



**Contra  
Costa  
County**

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Jeff Carman, Chief, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

Date: October 25, 2016

Subject: 2016 California Fire Code with Local Amendments

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**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

Acting in its capacity as the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and as the Board of Directors of the Crockett-Carquinez Fire Protection District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District:

1. INTRODUCE Ordinance No. 2016-23, to adopt the 2016 California Fire Code, with local amendments, as the fire code within Contra Costa County, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, and the Crockett-Carquinez Fire Protection District; WAIVE reading; and FIX November 1, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. as the hearing date for the proposed adoption of the ordinance.
  2. DIRECT the Clerk of the Board to publish notice of the hearing pursuant to Government Code section 6066.
  3. AUTHORIZE the preparation of an ordinance summary by County Counsel and the publication of the summary in accordance with Government Code section 25124.
  4. DIRECT the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors to post at its office, and each Fire District
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☒ APPROVE

☐ OTHER

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD

ADMINISTRATOR

COMMITTEE

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Action of Board On: **10/25/2016** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

**VOTE OF SUPERVISORS**

AYE: John Gioia, District I Supervisor  
Candace Andersen, District II Supervisor  
Mary N. Piepho, District III Supervisor  
Karen Mitchoff, District IV Supervisor  
Federal D. Glover, District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: October 25, 2016

David Twa, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

Contact: Robert Marshall, Fire Marshal (925) 941-3520

By: June McHuen, Deputy

cc:

to post at its office, a copy of the full text of Ordinance No. 2016-23.

### FISCAL IMPACT:

The fiscal impact is neutral. The adoption of this ordinance will provide the administrative authority to enforce the provisions of the California Fire Code as amended.

### BACKGROUND:

The California Building Standards Commission has adopted and published the 2016 Building Standards Code, which includes the 2016 California Fire Code prepared and adopted by the State Fire Marshal. The statewide code becomes effective January 1, 2017.

Although the code applies statewide, Health and Safety Code sections 17958.5 and 18941.5 authorize a local jurisdiction to modify or change the statewide code and establish more restrictive standards if the jurisdiction finds that the modifications and changes are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological, or topographical conditions. Ordinance No. 2016-23 adopts the 2016 California Fire Code and amends it to address local conditions. There are several material changes to the local ordinance previously adopted by the Board in the 2013 code adoption process, as detailed below.

The attached ordinance amends the 2016 California Fire Code by establishing automatic sprinkler system requirements that are more restrictive than the sprinkler requirements in the statewide code. The attached ordinance requires the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems in most commercial buildings greater than 5,000 square feet and in private and charter schools greater than 2,000 square feet. New public schools are required to install fire sprinklers regardless of square footage. Reducing the sprinkler threshold to 2,000 square feet for private schools brings the requirement more in line with public schools. Several other occupancies were clarified to require sprinklers as well, including light hazard warehouse type occupancies. The more restrictive requirements are necessary due to Contra Costa County's climatic, geological, and topographical conditions, which impact fire prevention efforts and the frequency, spread, acceleration, intensity, and size of fire involving buildings. The automatic sprinkler system requirements are set forth in Section 903.2 of the attached ordinance. The automatic sprinkler system requirements specific to schools are set forth in Section 903.2.3 of the attached ordinance.

The attached ordinance also clarifies a requirement for standby emergency medical services (EMS) personnel for large events that may tax the EMS system. The clarification is necessary because the statewide code as written does not assume that a fire agency is also an ambulance providing entity.

The Fire Districts' existing weed abatement program is incorporated into Section 320 of the ordinance. This program authorizes the Fire Districts to declare certain weeds that pose a fire hazard as a public nuisance, to abate those weeds, and to recover abatement costs from property owners.

Chapter 5 and Appendix D of the ordinance establish requirements for fire apparatus

access roads, including requirements for turnouts, parking on access roads, and maximum grades.

Several other provisions were removed from the local ordinance previously adopted by the Board in the 2013 code adoption process, because the provisions have been incorporated into the updated 2016 California Fire Code.

Notice of the public hearing is being published in accordance with Government Code section 6066. A summary of the ordinance is being prepared and published in accordance with Government Code section 25124(b).

#### CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

Without the adoption of the 2016 California Fire Code (CFC), with local amendments, the Fire Districts will not have the legal authority to enforce any exterior hazard abatement standards or the ability to conduct fire and life safety inspections in occupancies other than high-rise buildings, schools, hotels, motels, apartments, and day care facilities. In addition, without adoption of the CFC, occupancies that conduct operations such as the production, storage, and sale of hazardous materials, places of assembly, and the review of construction documents and testing of fire protection and fire alarm systems would no longer be regulated by the Fire Districts.

Furthermore, adoption of the 2016 CFC is necessary to continue allowing the Fire Districts to collect fees to recover the costs of providing fire prevention related services. Without adoption of the CFC, as amended, the Fire District general fund revenues would be required to provide the fiscal support necessary to fund the positions currently supported by operational permit and inspection fees and new construction plan review fees. This would result in a decrease in the amount of general fund revenues available for conducting emergency response activities or critical fire prevention services and some positions may need to be reduced or eliminated.

#### ATTACHMENTS

Ordinance 2016-23

Ordinance 2016-23 Findings