



County of Santa Cruz

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 330, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4073

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January 27, 2015

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION 2013 AND 2014 BI-ANNUAL REPORT

ROLES OF THE COMMISSION:

The County Fire Department Advisory Commission (FDAC) exercises the following responsibilities in its efforts to ensure that the interests of the County Fire Department, career and volunteer fire companies, and citizens residing within the County Fire Department jurisdiction, are protected and promoted by monitoring, studying, and advising the County Fire Chief and Board of Supervisors on the following:

The preparation and implementation of the County Fire Department Master Plan; and

Methods for improving the cost effectiveness and delivery of the County's fire protection, as well as its rescue and emergency medical services programs; and

County Fire Department's budget priorities and specific budget recommendations; and

The changing role or mission of each of the volunteer fire companies and the resulting changes in their requirements; and

Such other matters relating to the county's fire protection, rescue and emergency medical services program, as the committee desires to bring to the attention of the Fire Chief and Board of Supervisors.

COMMISSION STRUCTURE:

Per Santa Cruz County Ordinance, Chapters 2.120.020 and 2.120.030 governing membership and term of office, the commission consists of five board appointed members for a term of four years and two at-large members nominated by the volunteer company officers' organization and the Office of Emergency Services for an indefinite period. As of December 2014, the Commission is comprised of the following members:

| <i>Commission Member</i> | <i>Representing</i> | <i>Term of Office</i> |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Alex Leman | 1 st District | 04/01/2013 to 04/01/2017 |
| John Willett | 2 nd District | 04/01/2013 to 04/01/2017 |
| Tom Scully | 3 rd District | 06/23/09 to 04/01/2015 |
| John Walker | 4 th District | 09/30/2014 to 09/30/2018 |
| Arnie Wernick | 5 th District | 04/01/2013 to 04/01/2017 |
| Paul Horvat | Office of Emergency Services | 12/08/09 - indefinitely |
| Douglas Aumack | Volunteer Company Officers | 10/16/12 - indefinitely |

ATTENDANCE:

(See attached roster)

COMMISSION STAFF

The CAL FIRE/County Fire Deputy Chief serves as staff to the Commission. A CAL FIRE/County Fire staff person serves as administrative secretary.

MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION:

The FDAC schedules six regular meetings each year usually in January, March, May, July, September, and November. The regular meetings are held from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the CAL FIRE Headquarters on Highway 9 in Felton. The Commission's mailing address is 701 Ocean Street, Room 330, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS – 2013 & 2014:

Commission members continued to participate on a budget subcommittee to review and recommend the annual County Fire Department proposed budgets in fiscal years 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Commission members worked with CAL FIRE staff to aid in the implementation of the SAFER grant and supported county-wide volunteer recruitment events.

Commission members were pleased to witness County Fire's improved ISO rating in 2013 from 6/8B to 5/8B; the result of various improvements, such as the purchase of a new water tender in 2012.

Commission members recommended the purchase of two Type I engines (one new and one used) and a new Training Fire Captain vehicle to replace failing equipment and maintain current response effectiveness.

Commission members submitted specific recommendations to the Board of Supervisors addressing County Fire's long term structural deficit.

FUTURE GOALS

2015-16 Commission Goals for Master Plan Subcommittee

- Continuing assessment of the County Fire Department's ability to provide service, given increasing financial demands;
- Continue the process of documenting service delivery and operational needs;
- Continue oversight of County Fire's management, training, resources, and volunteer personnel.

2015-16 Commission Goals for Budget Subcommittee

- Review and prioritize various County Fire facility maintenance projects, equipment needs, and financial obligations;
- Seek out alternative funding sources for County Fire.

2015-16 Commission Goals for Recruitment Subcommittee

- Develop methods for marketing County Fire through branding, advertisement, events, and community outreach;
- Continue to support public education and involvement, to the betterment of County Fire and the citizens it serves.

2015-16 Commission Goals for Reorganization Subcommittee

- Continue to review potential opportunities to improve service delivery through cooperative arrangements with other local agencies.
- Research and explore various service delivery models.

2015-16 Commission Goals for CAL FIRE /County Fire Staff

- Review the feasibility of County Fire joining EMSIA
- Review the Volunteers in Prevention (VIP) program to give community members or County Fire Volunteers the opportunity to enhance the support function of the Santa Cruz County Fire Department.

RECOMMENDATION:

In advisory capacity to the County Board of Supervisors and the County Fire Chief, the FDAC continue to support activities and policies necessary for the efficient operation of the County Fire Department and its staff.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION
2013 - 2014 ATTENDANCE MATRIX**

| | 1/16/13 | 3/20/13 | 5/22/13 | 7/17/13 | 9/26/13 | 11/20/13 | 1/15/14 | 3/19/14 | 5/21/14 | 7/16/14 | 9/17/14 | 11/19/14 |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| 1 st District, Alex Leman | X | X | X | X | X | EA | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| 2 nd District, John Willett | X | X | EA | X | X | X | X | EA | X | X | X | X |
| 3 rd District, Tom Scully | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | EA | X | X | X | X |
| 4 th District, Bob Stokes <i>(Resigned 9/24/13)</i> | X | EA | EA | EA | V | V | V | V | V | V | V | |
| 4 th District, John Walker <i>(Active November 2014)</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | X |
| 5 th District, Arnie Wernick | X | X | X | X | X | X | EA | X | X | X | X | X |
| Volunteer Firefighters Representative, Douglas Aumack | X | X | X | X | EA | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| SC County Office of Emergency Services, Paul Horvat | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | EA | X | X | X |

X = Present

EA = Excused Absence

V = Vacant Position