

## **Petras, Ginny@CALFIRE**

---

**Subject:** FW: Changes to County Code Regarding Emergency Services and Fire Department Advisory Commission

-----Original Message-----

From: Becky Steinbruner <[ki6tkb@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com)>

To: Rosemary Anderson <[rosemary.anderson@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:rosemary.anderson@santacruzcounty.us)>; Ian@CALFIRE Larkin <[ian.larkin@fire.ca.gov](mailto:ian.larkin@fire.ca.gov)>;

Jake Hess <[jake.hess@fire.ca.gov](mailto:jake.hess@fire.ca.gov)>

Cc: Ginny@CALFIRE Petras <[gabby.petras@fire.ca.gov](mailto:gabby.petras@fire.ca.gov)>; Arnie Wernick <[arniew1@gte.net](mailto:arniew1@gte.net)>; Janet Webb <[janetw@big-creek.com](mailto:janetw@big-creek.com)>; John Walker <[jaywalk1940@aol.com](mailto:jaywalk1940@aol.com)>; Leman Alex ([alex@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:alex@lomaprietafire.org)) <[alex@lomaprietafire.org](mailto:alex@lomaprietafire.org)>;

Doug Aumack <[dougaumack@att.net](mailto:dougaumack@att.net)>; Carey Pico <[carey.pico@yahoo.com](mailto:carey.pico@yahoo.com)>; Henry Moeller

<[hankmoeller1@gmail.com](mailto:hankmoeller1@gmail.com)>; Donita Springmeyer <[donitaspringmeyer@comcast.net](mailto:donitaspringmeyer@comcast.net)>; Becky Steinbruner <[ki6tkb@yahoo.com](mailto:ki6tkb@yahoo.com)>

Sent: Thu, Oct 18, 2018 11:31 pm

Subject: Changes to County Code Regarding Emergency Services and Fire Department Advisory Commission

Greetings, All,

I am sending you the link to the proposed County Code changes regarding Emergency Services and the Fire Department Advisory Commission duties, as were received by the Board of Supervisors last Tuesday. Exhibit D is Emergency Services Code 2.26 and Exhibit R is Fire Department Advisory Commission Code 2.120. I do not remember seeing these proposed changes discussed by your group at any of the recent Commission meetings. Do you know about them? County Counsel Jason Heath presented the changes to the Board as Regular Item #9 on the agenda: [http://santacruzcountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail\\_Meeting.aspx?ID=1669](http://santacruzcountyca.iqm2.com/Citizens/Detail_Meeting.aspx?ID=1669)

Supervisor Leopold questioned the added wording in Exhibit D (page 70) regarding "state of war emergency as declared by the State". Mr. Heath explained that this is new State Code required language, and the State could declare a war emergency. I asked about the significant changes to duties of the Fire Department Advisory Commission, changing the Commission's duties and responsibilities from this:

### **2.120.050 Powers and duties.**

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

- (A) The preparation and implementation of the County Fire Department master plan;
- (B) How the County's fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services program can be improved and made more cost effective;
- (C) The budget priorities of the County Fire Department, along with specific recommendations;
- (D) The changing role or mission of each of the volunteer fire companies, and the resulting changes in their requirements;
- (E) 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. [Ord. 4455 § 1, 1997].to a vague statement to the effect of "shall make efforts to advise the Board." I feel the changes greatly minimize the Fire Department Advisory Commission duties and engagement as representatives of the public and County Fire. It greatly diminishes the effective abilities of the Commission, in my opinion, and concerns me greatly.

At the last Fire Department Advisory Commission meeting, I described a similar type of change to the Water Advisory Commission and Historic Resources Commission that had been approved by the Board without the Commission

members even knowing the changes were made. In both cases, the final approval by the Board took place before the proposed changes to duties and powers were ever brought before the Commissions.

I think this is also happening now to the Fire Department Advisory Commission and I find it troubling. Are the three of you aware of these proposed changes?

I would like the issue placed on the next Fire Department Advisory Commission agenda and discussed. Further, since the Board is scheduled to approve the changes in their second reading on October 30, I request that you contact the Board to postpone approval of any proposed changes to Code 2.26 and 2.120 until the changes are discussed publicly by the Commission at the next scheduled meeting.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner  
831-685-2915