



County of Santa Cruz

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

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January 19, 2011

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION 2010 ANNUAL REPORT

ROLES OF THE COMMISSION:

The County Fire Department Advisory Commission 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.

MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION:

The FDAC schedules six regular meetings each year (usually 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.

COMMISSION STRUCTURE:

As of December 2010, the Commission is comprised of the following members:

1 st District	Alex Leman
2 nd District	John Willett
3 rd District	Tom Scully
4 th District	Bob Stokes
5 th District	Arnie Wernick
Office of Emergency Services	Paul Horvat
Volunteer Company Officers	Mike Coryell

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.

ATTENDANCE:

(See attached roster)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS – 2010:

The commission made recommendations to change the membership of the FDAC. §2.120.020 of the Santa Cruz County Code was amended on April 13, 2010.

Commission members continued to participate on a budget subcommittee to review and recommend the annual County Fire Department proposed budget.

Commission members approved the plan to suspend the construction of the Fall Creek Fire Station apparatus building and staff a county fire engine, with CAL FIRE personnel, from the McDermott Fire Station during the winter months.

Commission members determined that there was no advantage to having alpha pagers for the volunteers. The contract was terminated with Netcom at a savings of \$20,000 per year.

Commission members approved the CSA 48 Public Education Program. Members worked together with the Board of Supervisors, CAL FIRE management and staff, and local volunteers to successfully educate local taxpayers about how their emergency services are funded, what that funding pays for, and what the future holds for fire service in CSA 48. Members also helped develop the education pamphlet which was mailed out to the public.

Commission members approved the purchase of a Water Tender in order to increase water delivery and maintain current ISO ratings for CSA 48.

Commission members continued to work on the County Fire Master Plan. Good progress was made with the goal to complete it in early 2011.

Commission Members participated on the budget sub-committee and reviewed the FY 10/11 and FY 11/12 budgets.

FUTURE GOALS

2011 Commission Goals for Master Plan Subcommittee

- Review potential opportunities to improve service delivery through cooperative arrangements with other local agencies.
- Assess the ability of the County Fire Department to provide service, given increasing demands on CSA 48 Funds; begin the process of documenting service delivery and operational needs in County Fire in preparation for recommending fee increases in the next two years.
- Research and explore various service delivery models.

2011 Commission Goals for Budget Subcommittee

- Review the feasibility of a plan to enhance recruitment and retention by implementing a program for Pay-Call firefighters.
- Review and prioritize various County Fire facility maintenance projects.
- Review and prioritize current financial obligations.

2011 Commission Goals for Public Education Subcommittee

- Create plan of action to maximize citizen understanding, involvement, and appreciation of what Santa Cruz County Fire does for them and how they may be able to assist.
- Continue public education through building upon initial effort.

2011 Commission Goals for CAL FIRE /County Fire Staff

- Review the feasibility of County Fire joining EMSIA
- Review an updated Volunteer Handbook
- 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, continue to support activities and policies necessary for the efficient operation of the County Fire Department and its staff.