



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

January 21, 2025

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Lewis Broschard, Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

Operations Section Update

- **Out of County Deployments** The District, along with almost every other fire agency in the county, deployed several members to the Eaton and Palisades fires in Los Angeles County. As of January 15, the District had two engines and one water tender deployed. There were also multiple individual positions sent to support these incidents including one fire dispatcher, three public information officers, and two urban search and rescue team members. There were a total of 16 members deployed to these fires.
- **Wildland Battalion Chief** The District filled a vacant Battalion Chief position effective on January 1 in the dedicated role as the District's Wildland Fire Program Chief. Chief Tom Zurflueh will fill this new dedicated 40-hour position where he will be responsible for the direction and leadership of the various mitigation and operational programs related to wildland fire. He will oversee the hand crew program, including all aspects of recruitment, training, and deployment of the crew for mitigation work throughout the county. Additionally, this dedicated position will be responsible for pre-fire mitigation and wildfire prevention program work in collaboration with the Fire Prevention Bureau and fostering working relationships with large private and governmental landowners. This position will oversee all the aspects of our various wildland fire response programs, including our heavy equipment and aviation programs. As the complexity and overall impact of wildland fires continues to grow within the District, this position will help us manage this growing responsibility of wildland fire mitigation and emergency response. This position is not funded through Measure X, but will be assigned to help coordinate and oversee mitigation work that is funded directly by Measure X and other grant programs.

- Traffic Safety Unit As a result of multiple collisions with fire apparatus operating at emergency scenes on the freeway, the District has retrofitted a 23 year old surplus fire engine into a specialized traffic safety unit designed to provide effective “blocking” of an emergency scene. The unit is equipped with a Scorpion truck mounted attenuator on the rear of the apparatus to absorb the impact of a collision, multiple lighting systems to prominently identify the apparatus, an overhead LED message board that can be programmed to alert drivers, an illuminated directional arrow on the rear of the unit, and a supply of traffic cones and other warning devices to alert drivers of the incident.

This is the first of what may be several traffic safety units to be deployed throughout the District in areas where collisions have been occurring. We are planning on deploying this unit in February and will use this prototype and the subsequent months of its initial use to shape the future of the program. We are hopeful this unit will reduce the instances where cars are impacting our emergency apparatus. This unit was completely fabricated and outfitted by our apparatus shop. Their professionalism and dedication to our members shines through the excellent craftsmanship and quality of work they put forth on this unit.



Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Division

- Nurse Navigation Work on the Nurse Navigation project continues with the program launch moved back to February. The necessary contract amendments with our vendor are in the final stages of review and we anticipate bringing this for board review and approval in late January or early February.

Special Operations

- New Water Rescue Deployment Water rescue capability will be implemented at Fire Station 14 in Martinez in early February. The rescue boats will be housed at Fire Station 14 and deployed from a trailer at the marina when a water rescue call is received in that area. The two Inflatable Rescue Boats (IRB) are powered by a 30HP outboard motor. There is an additional flood evacuation raft for use in transporting victims of flood out of the inundated area. The tow vehicle and trailer were purchased with a grant. This complements the water rescue capability in Pittsburg, Antioch, Bethel Island, and Discovery Bay.

Training

- Firefighter Recruit Academy Fire Academy 61 started with 24 Con Fire recruits and 1 Rodeo-Hercules recruit on December 30.

Advanced Planning Section Update

Fire Prevention Bureau

- LRA Fire Hazard Maps The anticipated publication of the Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity Zone maps has not occurred as of January 15. The Fire Chief met with members of the Public Managers Association on January 9 to outline the procedural steps the District will embark on to satisfy the adoption process for these maps as mandated by state law. No action can occur until the maps are published. The District anticipates holding one hybrid public meeting approximately 30 days after the maps are published, after which the District will move forward with the ordinance adoption process which must be completed within 120 days of the publication of the maps by the State. The maps will establish Moderate, High, and Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones in the incorporated jurisdictions, and the LRA portions of the unincorporated county areas.
- State Mandate Inspections The District completed 100% of the annual state mandated occupancy inspections despite having four vacancies in the fire inspector ranks.
- Fire Inspector Recruitment Recruitment processes are underway to fill the fire inspector vacancies. We anticipate having these positions filled by early May.

Administration Section Update

- Chief of Administration II Recruitment The District's recruitment to fill the vacant Chief of Administrative Services II position was not successful. Chief McAlister and the finance unit are working hard to work through the budget development process despite not having this critical position filled. We are working on a subsequent recruitment process to fill this vital position.

Support Services Division

- Fleet Renewal With the deployment of several new engines in November the District reached a significant milestone. The District now has 100% of our frontline Type I engines and ladder trucks at 10 years of age or less. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard for frontline service is 10 years and many agencies are not able to achieve compliance with this standard. The aggressive fleet renewal project implemented in 2014 has put the District at the top of the class in this regard. The District made the final payment on the initial lease purchase order from 2014 and will repurpose those funds for a new bundle of apparatus on a 10 year lease purchase to continue our successful fleet renewal program.

New Fire Stations / Major Facilities Construction

- Fire Station 90 (Brentwood) The real estate transaction has concluded and we have initiated the CEQA processes for the project. The architect is reutilizing the site plan and station layout from the previous location to determine the needs of the District in coordination with the County.
- Fire Station 94 (Downtown Brentwood) The project is anticipated to be heard by the Brentwood Planning Commission in mid-February.
- Fire Station 9 (Pacheco) Work continues on the design and layout of the station on the site. Staff is working to identify a temporary fire station site that will be needed during construction for approximately 24 months.
- Contra Costa County Regional Fire Communication Center (CCRFCC) (Pleasant Hill) Construction continues and no significant challenges have been encountered.

Rodeo-Hercules FPD Annexation Update

- LAFCO held their public hearing regarding the reorganization/annexation on December 11. There was very little public comment and the item was approved unanimously. The protest hearing is scheduled for January 22.
- Unless there is a change in direction by LAFCO at the January 22 meeting, the District will be incorporating the anticipated revenues and expenses of the annexation into its FY25-26 budget submission, including the addition of the employees effective July 1, 2025.