



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

May 12, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Aaron McAlister, Deputy Fire Chief

RE: Fire Chief's Report

Operations Section Update

- **Wildfire Preparation.** Annual fire trail maintenance is underway, using dozers and graders to ensure reliable access and create firebreaks in our wildland areas. The work typically takes about 6 weeks, depending on weather and trail conditions.
- **Firefighting Helicopter:** The seasonal firefighting helicopter arrived in the district on April 30, and our contract started on May 1. This resource will provide daily aerial fire suppression to the county. The service is contracted to a new company that owns a similar yet more capable helicopter. This helicopter has enhanced capabilities, including a 380-gallon water tank capacity and the ability to perform crew shuttles if needed. The Fire District is planning to occasionally reposition the helicopter to Buchanan Field, when necessary, such as on Red Flag days, to improve response times to Central and West County. We received verbal confirmation that PG&E support will remain at \$1 million as in previous years, and a contract will be presented to the board at a future date.
- **2026 Wildfire Awareness Week:** A wildfire awareness press event was planned for May 5, 2026, but had to be canceled due to inclement weather. The rescheduled event took place on Monday, May 11, 2026. The aim is to raise awareness about wildfire hazards and encourage the public to act now to protect property, reduce combustible materials near buildings, and stay prepared in case of a wildfire.
- **2026 Pre-Fire Season Meeting:** The Fire District hosted a pre-fire season meeting with all agencies in the County, CA OES, and CalFire to provide annual updates and for new Chief Officers to meet face-to-face and discuss mutual operations in a non-emergency setting. Staff also attended a similar meeting with California State Parks to review emergency operations in the Mt. Diablo State Park

Training & Safety

- Captain Train to Qualify Promotional Process. This advanced training for future Fire Captains is underway. The fire district invests 3 weeks in developing 27 candidates through realistic training, education, and testing across all areas required of a company officer.
- 2026 Girls Empowerment Camp. The Fire District, in partnership with the Contra Costa Fire Foundation, hosted the second annual Girls Empowerment Camp (GEC). The GEC is a free two-day program for teens aged 14-18. GEC introduces participants to the fire service and offers a realistic, hands-on overview of firefighting, as well as exposure to all aspects of public safety career opportunities. Additionally, the program provides campers with life skills and professional guidance to help them pursue careers in public safety.

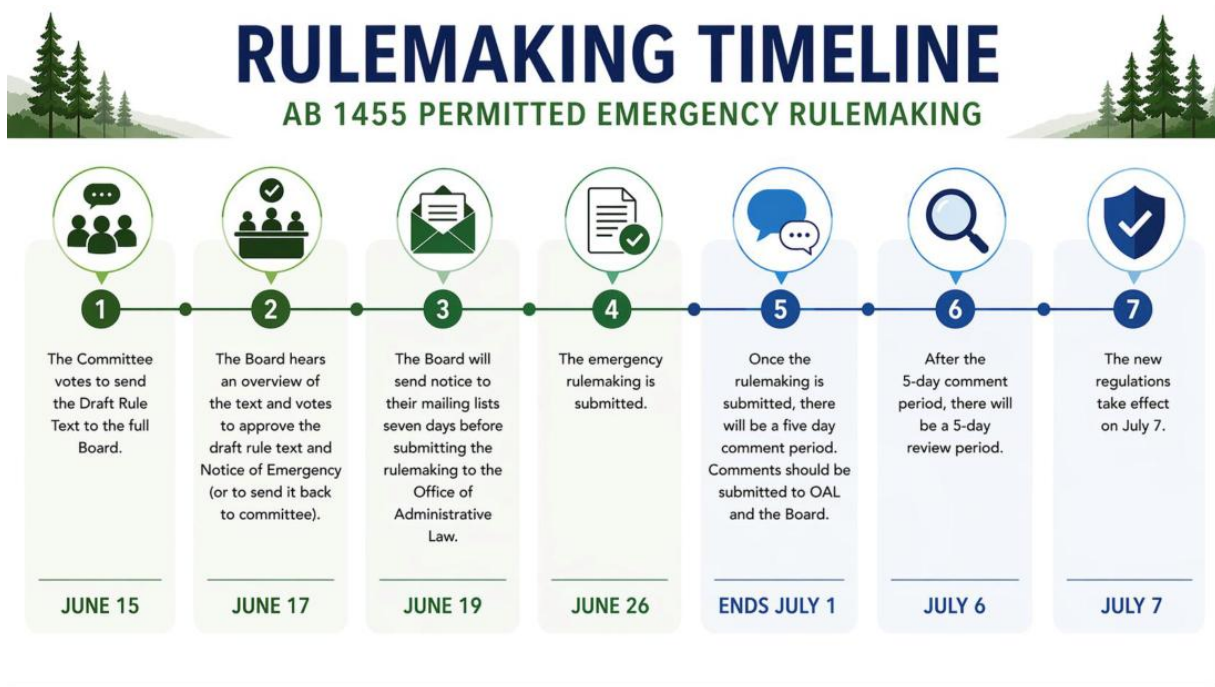


Community Risk Reduction Section

Fire Prevention Bureau

- Sonic Firetech Demonstration: On April 29, 2026, the Fire District hosted a demonstration of an emerging technology that uses sound waves to remove oxygen from the fire triangle, which consists of fuel, heat, and oxygen. This demonstration drew fire service leaders from the region, the State Fire Marshal's Office, and received coverage from numerous media outlets. This technology appears to offer advantages in environments where water or chemicals could cause additional problems when used to extinguish fires.

- The Board of Forestry releases proposed Zone Zero regulations. The State Board of Forestry published draft regulations in late April 2026. The regulations have undergone several revisions. The Fire District will summarize these regulations and provide additional information on our website.



Administration Section Update

- Hydration & Wellness Initiative. The Fire District will be in Sacramento on May 14, 2026, to accept a proclamation from Senator Grayson and the State Senate recognizing First Responder Wellness Week. The Fire District received grant funding that supports many of our wellness initiatives throughout the district.

Support Services Division

New Fire Stations / Major Facilities Construction

- Fire Station 90 (Brentwood) The Fire District has submitted the planning application to the City of Brentwood. The City has asked several clarifying questions to the District regarding the lot-line adjustments needed for the project.
- Fire Station 9 (Pacheco) The Fire District is moving forward with the Request for Proposal (RFP) process. We are also continuing to coordinate geotechnical studies and hazard assessments in preparation for the demolition of the existing fire station, scheduled for early next year. Additionally, the Fire District is working with the architect for the temporary Fire Station 9 to prepare for its own RFP process.

- Fire Station 94 (Downtown Brentwood) Interior framing is underway at Fire Station 94, and the building is beginning to take shape. The project continues to progress according to schedule.
- Contra Costa County Regional Fire Communication Center (CCRFCC) (Pleasant Hill). The “big move” is scheduled for June 3, 2026. This is a highly technical process, as we need to continue providing critical dispatch services while we bring up the new dispatch center and take down the former center. Much planning and coordination have gone into this effort. A public ribbon-cutting ceremony is set for June 12 at 10 am.



- EV Firefighting Tool: The apparatus shop is currently mounting the Fire District's two specialized cold cut cobra units into two Fire District-owned, Code 3-capable vehicles. These units are designed to respond to electric vehicle (EV) fires and will be strategically positioned.

