



# County of Santa Cruz

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## FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

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January 29, 2013

## SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION 2011 AND 2012 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:

As of December 2012, the Commission is comprised of the following members:

1 <sup>st</sup> District	Alex Leman
2 <sup>nd</sup> District	John Willett
3 <sup>rd</sup> District	Tom Scully
4 <sup>th</sup> District	Bob Stokes
5 <sup>th</sup> District	Arnie Wernick

Office of Emergency Services	Paul Horvat
Volunteer Company Officers	Douglas Aumack

## 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 – 2011 & 2012:

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

Commission members worked with CAL FIRE staff to aid in the implementation of the SAFER grant, effectively transitioning County Fire volunteers to paid-call firefighter status.

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 participated on the budget sub-committee and reviewed the FY 11/12 and FY 12/13 budgets.

Commission members approved the updated Santa Cruz County Fire Volunteer Handbook, rev. 3 dated December 2011 approved January 10, 2012, Item 17.

Commission members completed work on the County Fire Master Plan including the Mobile Equipment Replacement Plan for submission to the Board of Supervisors on March 6, 2012, Item 21.

## FUTURE GOALS

### 2013-14 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.

### 2013-14 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.

### 2013-14 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.

2013-14 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.

2013-14 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.