



County of Santa Cruz

FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION

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

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January 31, 2017

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION 2015 AND 2016 BIENNIAL 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:

Per Santa Cruz County Ordinance, Chapters 2.120.020 and 2.120.030 governing membership and term of office, the commission consists of five board appointed members for a term of four years and two at-large members nominated by the volunteer company officers' organization and the Office of Emergency Services for an indefinite period. As of December 2016, the Commission is comprised of the following members:

<i>Commission Member</i>	<i>Representing</i>	<i>Term of Office</i>
Alex Leman	1 st District	02/15/05 to 04/01/2017
Carey Pico	2 nd District	03/22/2016 to 04/01/2017
Janet Webb	3 rd District	05/15/2015 to 04/01/2019
John Walker	4 th District	03/13/2015 to 04/01/2019
Arnie Wernick	5 th District	08/07/07 to 04/01/2017
Rosemary Anderson	Office of Emergency Services	10/11/15 - indefinitely
Douglass Aumack	Volunteer Company Officers	10/16/12 - indefinitely

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 – 2015 & 2016:

Commission members continued to participate on a budget subcommittee to review and recommend the annual County Fire Department proposed budgets in fiscal years 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Commission supported several county-wide volunteer recruitment events resulting in 19 new volunteer firefighters, which offset attrition and maintained current response.

Two previously FDAC recommended Type I engines and one utility vehicle were received in 2015 and 2016.

Commission members recommended the purchase of two additional Type III engines and a new utility vehicle for Company 29 to replace failing equipment and maintain current response effectiveness.

At the Board's request, commission members researched and provided specific recommendations regarding the proposed ordinance for the commercial cultivation of medical cannabis.

Commission members supported the creation of the new Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) volunteer positions.

Commission members supported a new compensation agreement with Santa Clara County for County Fire's emergency response into the unincorporated areas of southwestern Santa Clara County, known as the Loma Prieta-Hicks Road-Uvas area.

Commission members continued to submit specific recommendations to the Board of Supervisors addressing County Fire's long term structural deficit.

FUTURE GOALS

2016-17 Commission Goals for Master Plan Subcommittee

- Development of a new, comprehensive 5-year master plan.
- 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.

2016-17 Commission Goals for Budget Subcommittee

- Review and prioritize various County Fire facility maintenance projects, equipment needs, and financial obligations;
- Seek out additional funding mechanisms for County Fire.
- Plan for the potential long term budget changes based on equipment needs, weather pattern changes, personnel costs.

2016-17 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.
- Personally attend more recruitment events.

2016-17 Commission Goals for CAL FIRE /County Fire Staff

- Update the County Fire Website.
- Pursue additional grant funding.
- Develop a County Fire Mission Statement.

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.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION
2015 - 2016 ATTENDANCE MATRIX**

	1/21/15	3/18/15	5/20/15	7/15/15	9/16/15	11/18/15	1/20/16	3/16/16	5/18/16	7/20/16	9/21/16	11/16/16	
1 st District, Alex Leman	X	X	X	X	No meeting due to scheduling conflicts arising from fire season.	X	X	X	X	X	EA	X	
2 nd District, John Willett <i>(Resigned as of 12/31/15)</i>	X	X	X	X		X	V	V					
2 nd District, Carey Pico <i>(Appointed 3/15/16)</i>							V	V	X	EA	X	X	
3 rd District, Tom Scully <i>(Resigned as of 3/18/15)</i>	X	X	V										
3 rd District, Janet Webb <i>(Appointed June 9, 2015)</i>				X			EA	X	X	X	X	X	X
4 th District, John Walker	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	EA	X	X	X
5 th District, Arnie Wernick	X	X	X	EA			X	X	X	X	X	EA	X
Volunteer Firefighters Representative, Douglas Aumack	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SC County Office of Emergency Services, Paul Horvat <i>(Resigned)</i>	X	EA	X	X			V	V	V				
SC County Office of Emergency Services, Rosemary Anderson							V	V	V	X	EA	X	X

X = Present, EA = Excused Absence, V= Vacant Position