

Sonoma Valley Fire District

Board of Directors Meeting

February 8, 2022





Sonoma Valley Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
February 8, 2022
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**MEETING AGENDA
SONOMA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.
Location: Sonoma Valley Fire District Station 1
630 2nd Street W., Sonoma, CA 95476

This meeting is being conducted via videoconference in compliance with AB 361, effective September 16, 2021. Agendas and board packet materials are available at the following website: <http://sonomavalleyfire.org>

Join by phone: 1-669-900-9128

Meeting ID: 914 153 1767

Meeting Passcode: 3300

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Board of Directors: President William Norton, Vice President John (Matt) Atkinson, Treasurer Mark Johnson, Brian Brady, Raymond Brunton, Mark Emery, Terrence Leen.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Confirmation of Agenda

Opportunity for the Board to reorder agenda items.

5. Comments from the Public

(At this time, members of the public may comment on any item not appearing on the agenda. It is recommended that you keep your comments to three minutes or less. Under State Law, matters presented under this item cannot be discussed or acted upon by the Board at this time. For items appearing on the agenda, the public will be invited to make comments at the time the item comes up for consideration by the Board of Directors.)

6. Presentations

7. Consent Calendar

- a) Consideration to approve of videoconference option under AB 361. Board will consider approval of findings that there remains a State proclaimed COVID 19 health emergency and local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing. **Action item with Roll Call Vote**
- b) Approval of minutes from the regular meeting, held on January 11, 2022. **Action Item**

8. Fire Chief's Monthly Report

Report for January 2022

9. Old Business

a) Station 6 update with discussion and direction. **Action Item**

10. New Business

a) Presentation and Policy Direction on SVFD's Vegetation Management Program. **Action Item**

b) Letter of Support for Sonoma County Fire District EOA Bid. **Action Item**

11. Other Business to Come before the Board

12. Comments from the Floor

13. Comments/Reports from the Board

14. Closed Session

54957.6. Closed session; Labor negotiations

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a legislative body of a local agency may hold closed sessions with the local agency's designated representatives regarding the salaries, salary schedules, or compensation paid in the form of fringe benefits of its represented and unrepresented employees, and, for represented employees, any other matter within the statutorily-provided scope of representation. Closed sessions of a legislative body of a local agency, as permitted in this section, shall be for the purpose of reviewing its position and instructing the local agency's designated representatives. Closed sessions, as permitted in this section, may take place prior to and during consultations and discussions with representatives of employee organizations and unrepresented employees.

15. Adjournment

This meeting will be adjourned to the regular Board meeting on March 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Meeting access will be determined based on COVID-19 restrictions in place at that time.

Copies of all staff reports and documents subject to disclosure that relate to any item of business referred to on the agenda are available at the following website at <http://sonomavalleyfire.org>.



Sonoma Valley Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
 Agenda Item Summary
 February 8, 2022

Agenda Item No.	Staff Contact		
7a	Maci Jerry, Clerk of the Board		
Agenda Item Title			
AB 361 Compliance			
Recommended Actions			
Review local officials currently imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing.			
Executive Summary			
<p>Since the Governor’s COVID-19 emergency orders issued in March 2020, local public agencies, such as our Board of Directors, have been authorized to conduct videoconference meetings without compliance with Brown Act teleconference and videoconference requirements in Government Code section 54953.</p> <p>The Governor’s order expired on 9/30/21, and the California legislature passed AB 361, signed by the Governor on 9/16/21, which authorizes continued videoconference meetings without Brown Act compliance, provided the local agencies Board of Directors make a finding, every 30 days at its monthly meeting, that (1) there is still a State proclaimed COVID 19 health emergency; and (2) local officials (such as the County health officer) continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.</p> <p>The Board is to have an updated discussion regarding current COVID 19 protocols, with public comment and concluded with a roll call vote to approve the findings discussed by the Board.</p>			
Alternative Actions			
No alternative actions are recommended.			
Strategic Plan Alignment			
Fiscal Summary – FY 21/22			
Expenditures			
Budgeted Amount	\$	Funding Source(s)	
Add. Appropriations Req’d.	\$	District General Fund	\$
	\$	Fees/Other	\$
	\$	Use of Fund Balance	\$
	\$	Contingencies	\$
	\$	Grants	\$
Total Expenditure	\$	Total Sources	\$
Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts (if required)			
None			
Attachments			
None			



Sonoma Valley Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
 Agenda Item Summary
 February 8, 2022

Agenda Item No.		Staff Contact	
7b		Maci Jerry, Clerk to the Board of Directors	
Agenda Item Title			
Approval of the regular meeting minutes held on January 11, 2022			
Recommended Actions			
Approve the minutes			
Executive Summary			
The minutes have been prepared for Board review and approval.			
Alternative Actions			
Correct or amend minutes prior to approval			
Fiscal Summary – FY 21/22			
Expenditures		Funding Source(s)	
Budgeted Amount	\$	District General Fund	\$
Add. Appropriations Req'd.	\$	Fees/Other	\$
	\$	Use of Fund Balance	\$
	\$	Contingencies	\$
		Grants	\$
Total Expenditure	\$	Total Sources	\$
Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts (if required)			
Not Required			
Attachments			
1. Minutes for January 11, 2022 regular meeting			

SONOMA VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

**Meeting was held via videoconference in compliance with AB 361, effective September 16, 2021.
Join by phone: 1-669-900-9128 | Meeting ID: 914 153 1767 | Meeting Passcode: 3300**

1. Call to Order

President Norton called meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. via a zoom videoconference call.

2. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum

Board of Directors: President William Norton, Vice President John (Matt) Atkinson, Treasurer Mark Johnson, Brian Brady, Raymond Brunton, Mark Emery, and Terrence Leen.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Director Leen and recited by all.

4. Confirmation of Agenda

Confirmed. No agenda items reordered.

5. Comments from the Public

None, no public present.

6. Presentations

None

7. Consent Calendar

a) Due to an increase in positive COVID cases within the County and no recommended changes to social distancing protocols the Board agreed to continue videoconferences. Conditions will be reviewed again in 30 days in compliance with new AB 361 legislation.
M/S/P Brady/ Leen 7 ayes

b) Board reviewed and approved the meeting minutes from the board meeting held on November 9, 2021. **M/S/P Johnson/Atkinson 7 ayes**

8. Fire Chief's Monthly Report

The Chief presented his monthly report to the Board.

9. Old Business

Board received the final version of the previously approved Fire Prevention Fee Schedule.

10. New Business

a) Board approved the proposal from CPSE Development to conduct an updated Strategic Plan for Sonoma Valley Fire District.
M/S/P Leen/Johnson 7 ayes

11. Other Business to come before the Board

None

12. Comments from the Floor

None

13. Comments/Reports from the Board

- a) Emery commented that the personnel committee comprised of Brady & Emery has received written notice from Local 3593 as of 1/5/2022 wanting to open up negotiations. This will be a few month process. Please send any concerns to Chief Akre to relay to the committee during this time.
- b) Chief Akre informed the Board that during negotiations any necessary updates will be provided throughout this process and added to future Board meeting if need be.
- c) Chief Akre informed the Board that annual physicals will be conducted in the beginning of early 2022.

14. Closed Session

None

15. Adjournment

M/S Johnson/Brady with 7 ayes

This meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. to a regular Board meeting on February 8th, at 6:00 p.m. Meeting will be conducted via videoconference based on local COVID-19 restrictions in place and compliance of new AB361 legislation. *Copies of all staff reports and documents subject to disclosure that relate to any item of business referred to on the agenda are available at the following website at <http://sonomavalleyfire.org>*

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Jason



Sonoma Valley Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
 Agenda Item Summary
 February 8, 2022

Agenda Item No.	Staff Contact
9a	Steve Akre, Fire Chief

Agenda Item Title
 Receive an update from Chief Akre, BC Norrbom, and VP Atkinson on the status of Station 6 on Sonoma Mountain Rd.

Recommended Actions
 Receive the update and provide any additional direction

Executive Summary
 In 2019, the Glen Ellen Fire District Board requested an evaluation of the utilization and benefit of Glen Ellen Fire Station 6 on Sonoma Mountain Road. Staff responded to the GEFD Board’s request and performed a focus recruitment for volunteers.

 In an effort to recruit volunteer personnel for Station 6 the District conducted two focused volunteer recruitments; advertising on the website, social media, direct mail, and the Kenwood Press.

 VP Atkinson and BC Norrbom have met with Stacia Derickson and other family representatives to discuss the future of Station 6 and the existing lease.

 The Board is being asked to receive the report and provide any additional direction that may be desired.

Alternative Actions
 Provide comments and/or further direction

Strategic Plan Alignment
 This effort is in alignment with Goal 3. Continue to provide well-maintained facilities, equipment, and technology to enable personnel to perform their jobs safely and efficiently.

Fiscal Summary – FY 21/22			
Expenditures		Funding Source(s)	
Budgeted Amount	\$	District General Fund	\$
Add. Appropriations Req'd.	\$	Fees/Other	\$
	\$	Use of Fund Balance	\$
		Contingencies	\$
		Grants	\$
Total Expenditure	\$	Total Sources	\$

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts (if required)
 None

Attachments



Sonoma Valley Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
 Agenda Item Summary
 February 8, 2022

Agenda Item No.	Staff Contact
10a	Steve Akre, Fire Chief

Agenda Item Title

Presentation and Policy Direction on SVFD’s Vegetation Management Program. Presentation and comments by Steve Akre, Sarah Gibson and Trevor Smith.

Recommended Actions

Direct Fire Prevention and Operations to steer development of Fire and Fuel Management Programs.

Executive Summary

Direction and funding from Federal, State, and County sources supports the opportunity for Sonoma Valley Fire District to develop a comprehensive Vegetation Management Program (VMP).

To provide for a safer environment and to reduce the potential of wildfire in our jurisdiction the SVFD would like to enhance our current VMP by including prescribed burning consistent with State and Federal published policies.

Preliminary discussions with local partners has been positive and the potential for grant funded cost sharing exists.

Alternative Actions

Approve seeking additional opportunities and responsibilities associated with vegetation and fuels management.

Strategic Plan Alignment

This effort is in alignment with goals 4C - Explore future budgetary opportunities.
 5A, 5B, 5C - Pursue additional partnerships with neighboring agencies to enhance services

Fiscal Summary – FY 21/22

Expenditures		Funding Source(s)	
Budgeted Amount	\$	District General Fund	\$0
Add. Appropriations Req'd.	\$	Fees/Other	\$
	\$	Use of Fund Balance	\$0
	\$	Contingencies	\$
		Grants	\$
Total Expenditure	\$	Total Sources	\$0.00

Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts (if required)

There are no fiscal impacts associated with this agenda item.

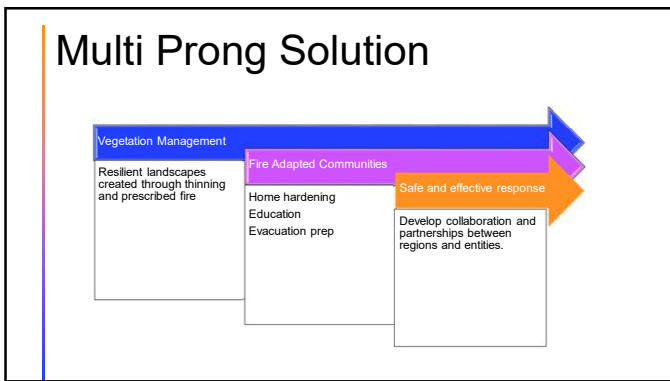
Attachments

1. Prescribed Burn Presentation Slide Notes





Wildfire risk in Sonoma Valley

- Historic Fire Seasons and Conflagrations
- Decades of suppression in SRA
- New Fire/Fuel Regimes
- Structures lost
- Weather change
- Interface Issue – industry and residences



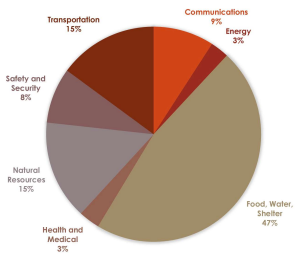
Benefits of Prescribed Fire

Protect community / tactical advantage	Fire-reliant eco systems : health/fuel load
Training and collaboration	Decrease fire behavior severity
Evacuation zone targeting	Watershed restoration/Drought resistance

Sonoma County CWPP

(Community Wildfire Protection Plan)



“...the use of strategic fuel breaks created with mechanical thinning, prescribed fire and grazing... that help firefighters stop the advance of wildfire thus protecting, homes , communities, and natural resources....”

Transportation	10%
Communications	9%
Energy	3%
Food, Water, Shelter	47%
Health and Medical	3%
Natural Resources	10%
Safety and Security	8%

Liability

AB 332 – Dodd

This bill would provide that no person shall be liable for any fire suppression or other costs otherwise recoverable for a prescribed burn if specified conditions are met, including, among others, that the burn be for the purpose of **wildland fire hazard reduction**, ecological maintenance and restoration, cultural burning, silviculture, or agriculture, and that, when required, a **certified burn boss review and approve a written prescription for the burn**. The bill would provide that any person whose conduct constitutes **gross negligence** shall not be entitled to immunity from fire suppression or other costs otherwise recoverable, as specified. The bill would define terms for its purposes.

Insurance

- 20 million dollar state backed claims fund thru SB 170 - DOI
- In contact with Insurance Companies
- General Liability option

State and Federal Support

FEDERAL

STATE:

“Drip Torch Ready”

Collaboration – Sonoma Ecology Center, Sonoma Wildlands Collaborative, Audubon Canyon Ranch, Fire Forward

Coordination – With CalFire and other local fire agencies

Funding- Matching funding with partners available in State and Federal dollars

Projects – Waiting to be operated within and surrounding the District

The FUTURE of Fuels and Fire Management

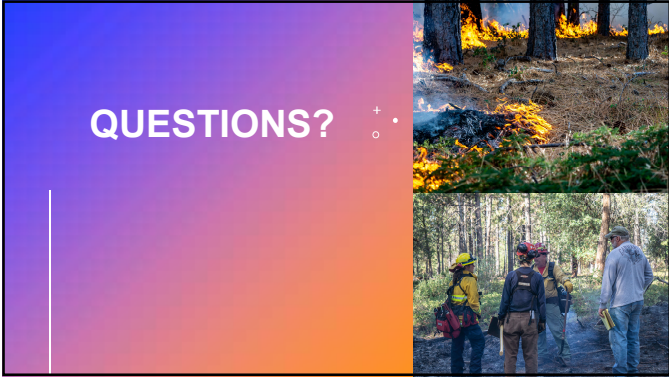
Connex Lopez
“Burn Bossing”

Fire and Fuels

- Thinning and Burning
- Home Hardening – pilot program - \$40K/home
- Education

Crews

- Off season Fuel Crew
- Fire season Type 2 IA being developed by FireScope
- Santa Rosa Junior College Resilience Program – the next workforce
- Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority model





Sonoma Valley Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting
 Agenda Item Summary
 February 8, 2022

Agenda Item No.	Staff Contact		
10b	Steve Akre, Fire Chief		
Agenda Item Title			
Letter of support for the Sonoma County Fire District			
Recommended Actions			
Review the letter and provide any additional comment or direction.			
Executive Summary			
Consider a letter of support for the Sonoma County Fire District's bid on the RFP for EOA #1 ambulance service.			
Alternative Actions			
Provide comments and/or further direction.			
Strategic Plan Alignment			
Fiscal Summary – FY 21/22			
Expenditures		Funding Source(s)	
Budgeted Amount	\$	District General Fund	\$
Add. Appropriations Req'd.	\$	Fees/Other	\$
	\$	Use of Fund Balance	\$
		Contingencies	\$
		Grants	\$
Total Expenditure	\$	Total Sources	\$
Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts (if required)			
None			
Attachments			
1. Draft Letter of Support for the SCFD			

February 8, 2022

Supervisor James Gore
4th District Supervisor
Chair, Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
James.Gore@sonoma-county.org

Re: Sonoma County's RFP for Emergency ALS Ambulance Services in EOA #1

Dear Supervisor Gore:

On behalf of the Sonoma Valley Fire District, we urge you to seize the opportunity to improve Advanced Life Support (ALS) ambulance transport services for residents in Exclusive Operating Area #1 (EOA #1) by contracting with the Sonoma County Fire District.

As you know, the taxpayer-funded fire agencies in our county already dispatch fire personnel to all medical emergencies, as well as providing ambulance transport in many of our communities. Not only does it make operational and economic sense to have a public fire agency manage ambulance transport in EOA #1, but we also believe a public fire agency that partners with a respected private ambulance company is best positioned to improve patient outcomes and patient satisfaction with this service. A public fire agency would keep all ambulance fees in our community so these revenues could be reinvested in strengthening the local EMS system.

We believe that Sonoma County Fire District is the ideal fire agency to uphold the promises of transparency and accountability that all our constituents desire and deserve and put service quality above all other considerations. It can deliver a much higher level of integration between the first-responding fire crews and medic units for transport. In addition, it is well positioned to adopt innovative models that keep people out of our local emergency rooms and treated in the field. They consistently demonstrate their commitment to excellence in patient care and are a trusted partner in the delivery of emergency services to the communities we serve.

If Sonoma County is committed to creating a better, more modern and fiscally sustainable ambulance transport system, it will contract with the Sonoma County Fire District to ensure delivery of these services in EOA #1.

Sincerely,

Bill Norton
Board President
billn@sonomavalleyfire.org

Steve Akre
Fire Chief
stevea@sonomavalleyfire.org

cont.

cc:

Supervisor Susan Gorin
1st District Supervisor
Susan.Gorin@sonoma-county.org

Supervisor David Rabbitt
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