

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2026**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 1

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE AND AWARD CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS FOR A NEW TRAINING TOWER AT THE COUNTY FIRE TRAINING CENTER, WORKOUT SHED AT PALOMAR MOUNTAIN FIRE STATION, FIRE STATION VENT REPLACEMENT, AND RELATED CEQA EXEMPTION (DISTRICTS: 2, 4 AND 5)

OVERVIEW

San Diego County Fire (County Fire) partners with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to provide fire protection and emergency medical services from 21 fire stations, including around-the-clock paramedic level staffing, specialized rescue services, and coordination of an ambulance transportation program. Fifteen County Fire stations were built prior to County Fire's formation in 2008, with the oldest station in Descanso being over 80 years old. Over time, County Fire and the Department of General Services (DGS) have made significant facility improvements and built new stations to ensure CAL FIRE staff are safe, healthy, and have the resources to provide life-saving services to residents. On January 13, 2026 (9), the Board of Supervisors (Board) directed the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to authorize County Fire to pilot a major maintenance or capital construction project and determine if financial efficiencies can be realized by leveraging technical expertise and construction delivery methods utilized by CAL FIRE on state-owned fire stations.

One of County Fire's priority projects is the installation of a fire training tower. This project would enhance CAL FIRE staff's ability to respond to emergencies, including in multi-story buildings, to rescue the public while protecting staff. County Fire is requesting Board approval for the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to advertise and award a construction contract or contracts for the construction of Capital Project 1026822 San Diego Fire Training Tower estimated at \$3,650,000 and authorization for the Director, San Diego County Fire, or their designee, to serve as the County Officer responsible for administering the contract or contracts, and to find this project exempt from CEQA.

County Fire has determined the need for an additional workout shed at the Palomar Mountain Fire Station estimated at \$200,000 to provide for staff safety, and today's actions include requesting authority for the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to advertise and award a construction contract or contracts for the site work of a workout shed at the Palomar Mountain Fire Station, authorization for the Director, San Diego County Fire, or their designee, to serve as the County Officer responsible for administering the contract or contracts, and find this project exempt from CEQA.

On March 11, 2025 (3), the Board authorized County Fire to accept federal grant funding for fire station hardening projects. While most of this work has been exempt from public works contracting requirements, it has been determined that the vents on top of County-owned fire stations do meet public works requirements and therefore need Board approval to proceed. The estimated construction costs are \$300,000. Today's actions include requesting authority of the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to advertise and award a construction contract or contracts for the installation of

ember-resistant vents on five County-owned fire stations, authorization for the Director, San Diego County Fire or their designee, to serve as the County officer responsible for administering the contract or contracts, and find this project exempt from CEQA.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

1. Find that the proposed project for the installation of a prefabricated fire training tower at the Fire Training Center located at 11880 Campo Road, Spring Valley, CA 91978 is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303 and 15304.
2. Authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to advertise and award a construction contract or contracts and to take any action authorized by Section 401, et seq. of the Administrative Code, with respect to contracting for the site work and assembly of a fire training tower at the Fire Training Center.
3. Designate the Director, San Diego County Fire, or their designee, as the County officer responsible for administering the contract or contracts for the site work and assembly of a fire training tower at the Fire Training Center.
4. Find that the proposed project for the installation of a stand-alone workout shed at Fire Station (FS)-79 Palomar Mountain located at 21610 Crestline Road, Palomar Mountain, CA 92060 is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Sections 15303 and 15304.
5. Authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to advertise and award a construction contract or contracts and to take any action authorized by Section 401, et seq. of the Administrative Code, with respect to contracting for the site work of a workout shed at the Palomar Mountain Fire Station.
6. Designate the Director, San Diego County Fire, or their designee, as the County officer responsible for administering the contract or contracts for the site work of a workout shed at the Palomar Mountain Fire Station.
7. Find that the proposed project for the installation of ember-resistant vents at FS-36 (14024 Peaceful Valley Ranch Road, Jamul, CA 91935), FS-37 (2383 Honey Springs Road, Jamul, CA 91935), FS-56 (3407 Highway 79, Julian, CA 92036), FS-82 (3410 Dye Road, Ramona, CA 92065), and FS-85 (25858 Highway 78, Ramona, CA 92065) is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15301.
8. Authorize the Director, Department of Purchasing and Contracting to advertise and award a construction contract or contracts and to take any action authorized by Section 401, et seq. of the Administrative Code, with respect to contracting for the installation of ember-resistant vents at FS-36 (14024 Peaceful Valley Ranch Road, Jamul, CA 91935), FS-37 (2383 Honey Springs Road, Jamul, CA 91935), FS-56 (3407 Highway 79, Julian, CA 92036), FS-82 (3410 Dye Road, Ramona, CA 92065), and FS-85 (25858 Highway 78, Ramona, CA 92065).

9. Designate the Director, San Diego County Fire, or their designee, as the County officer responsible for administering the contract or contracts for the site work of ember-resistant vents at County-owned fire stations.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) includes some of the region's most geographically isolated and lowest-income communities. CAL FIRE staff, who provide first responder services on behalf of the County, also partner with tribal fire departments to respond to emergencies and protect residents. Enhancing County Fire facilities supports further investment in our underserved communities.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) includes some of the region's most geographically isolated and lowest-income communities. CAL FIRE staff, who provide first responder services on behalf of the County, also partner with tribal fire departments to respond to emergencies and protect residents. Evaluating new service delivery methods for County Fire's stations can support further investment into our under-served communities.

FISCAL IMPACT

Funds for Capital Project 1026822 San Diego Fire Training Tower project are included in Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan in the Capital Program Funds for a total of \$4,500,000. The total cost for the training tower is estimated at \$3,650,000. Today's request to advertise and award construction is just for the Training Tower project. Funding sources for the Training Tower are Fire Mitigation Fees (\$1,650,000) and SDCFPD Fire Mitigation fund balance (\$2,000,000). Staff will return to the Board to advertise and award construction for the restroom in a future Board letter.

Total construction funds of \$500,000 are included in Fiscal Year 2025-26 Operational Plan in San Diego County Fire for an additional workout shed at the Palomar Mountain Fire Station (\$200,000) and the installation of ember-resistant vents on County-owned fire stations (\$300,000). The funding sources are existing General Purpose Revenue (\$200,000) and FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant (\$300,000). There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

If approved, this project will have positive impacts on the business community. At least one public works construction project will be made available for private construction companies to competitively bid and employ local residents.

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Supervisor Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Supervisor Aguirre, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Aguirre, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Montgomery Steppe, Desmond

State of California)
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

APRIL 21, 2026