

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 1**

**SUBJECT: FOX FIRE CENTER: ENHANCING FIREFIGHTER TRAINING, FIRE PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE REGION (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

The County of San Diego (County) is currently in the process of regaining ownership of Camp Fox, which is located within the Cleveland National Forrest at the base of Palomar Mountain. In 1977, the County transferred the property to its current owner, the San Diego County Office of Education (SDCOE). The deed granting ownership required SDCOE to return the property to the County if SDCOE no longer wanted to own it. With SDCOE no longer interested in the property, ownership will now transfer back to the County.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) would like to use Camp Fox as a fire center for new CAL FIRE personnel. In advance of the property transferring back to the County, SDCOE recently granted CAL FIRE access to the site to prepare the facility for use, which will be called the Fox Fire Center. This agreement permitted CAL FIRE to make improvements to the property, investing significant resources to clear overgrown vegetation and update the aging buildings. Once renovations have been completed, four CAL FIRE Firefighter 1 hand crews will inhabit the property, providing 24-hour wildland fire protection coverage.

Today's action, consistent with the San Diego County's cooperative approach of providing a greater depth of resources by partnering with CAL FIRE and providing services as one department, permits CAL FIRE to continue its use of Camp Fox as a fire center following the transfer of ownership to the County. This is imperative to the fire safety of the region and actively supports the Board of Supervisors ongoing commitment to protecting residents and property against the threat of wildfires.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**SUPERVISOR JIM DESMOND**

Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to negotiate an agreement with CAL FIRE for use of Camp Fox once ownership transfers to the County, while recovering County costs, and return to the Board if necessary for authorization.

**EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

California is known for its volatile and perpetual fire season, experiencing the constant threat of wildfires throughout the state. Since the beginning of 2021, over 2 million acres have burned in California. Supporting the continued use of Camp Fox as a fire center for California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) firefighters will benefit residents in our most vulnerable communities through prescribed fire burning, brush clearing for defensible space and fuel reduction conducted as hands-on vegetation management training. In addition, the recruits will train daily in wildland fire prevention, education, and suppression exercises. The requested action will advance fire protection readiness and provide a sense of security to our communities facing the greatest impact from wildfire.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Funds for this request are included in the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Operational Plan for San Diego County Fire. If approved, this request will result in approximate costs of \$131,000, related to the ownership transfer, in Fiscal Year 2021-22. The funding source is General Purpose Revenue. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Fletcher, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended, on Consent.

AYES: Vargas, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

ABSENT: Anderson

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