

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2024**

MINUTE ORDER NO. 2

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XX OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE CODE, RELATING TO THE RAMONA FIRE
PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE/PARAMEDIC FEES AND CHARGES
(9/24/24 - FIRST READING; 10/08/24 - SECOND READING UNLESS
ORDINANCE IS MODIFIED ON SECOND READING) (DISTRICTS: 2)**

OVERVIEW

On December 14, 2021, the Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) Board of Directors voted to divest and transfer fire protection and emergency medical services within their district to the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD). On February 8, 2022 (1), the SDCFPD Board of Directors adopted a resolution in support of the RMWD resolution and directed County staff to take all necessary actions to transfer responsibility for fire protection and emergency medical services from the RMWD to the SDCFPD. On August 1, 2022, SDCFPD officially assumed fire protection and emergency medical responsibilities for the community of Ramona.

As part of the reorganization, SDCFPD assumed responsibility for the RMWD special tax on Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU) which funds fire protection and ambulance transportation services in the community of Ramona. In 1983, the RMWD first started to charge property owners through an ordinance. In 1997, the EDU ordinance was reclassified as a special tax through a voter approved ballot measure, which set a rate of \$188.52 per EDU to maintain the service levels and continues to be collected. The EDU special tax and ordinance is currently within the RMWD code and will require transfer and adoption into the San Diego County Administrative Code. Ramona residents will not experience any property tax changes associated with today's actions. All special tax revenue collected from the Ramona EDU will continue to be used to support fire protection and emergency medical services in Ramona.

Today's request is for the Board of Supervisors to adopt the EDU ordinance and special tax into the San Diego County Administrative Code.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

On September 24, 2024:

1. Approve the introduction of the Ordinance (first reading):
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XX OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDINANCE CODE, RELATING TO THE RAMONA FIRE
PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE/PARAMEDIC FEES AND CHARGES

If, on September 24, 2024, the Board takes actions recommended in Item 1 above, then on October 08, 2024:

1. Consider and adopt (unless ordinance is modified on second reading):

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EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Today's proposed ordinance supports the reorganization of fire protection and emergency medical services, which is intended to support the existing level of services for the residents of Ramona. The adoption of the EDU ordinance into the San Diego County Administrative Code will maintain necessary funding to ensure equitable fire and emergency response across the SDCFPD. The EDU ordinance allocates resources exclusively to the community of Ramona that would otherwise need to be provided by general purpose revenue or through reduced fire and emergency services in other communities in the SDCFPD. Codifying the EDU Ordinance into the San Diego County Administrative Code is critical for providing equitable fire protection and emergency medical response needs in the heavily impacted and underserved communities in the SDCFPD.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed actions in today's request support the County of San Diego's Sustainability goals to provide just and equitable access to fire protection and emergency medical services by ensuring the SDCFPD can meet and address future needs for fire protection and emergency medical services of the community.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with the adoption of the EDU ordinance and special tax. All special tax revenue collected from the Ramona EDU will continue to be used to support fire protection and emergency medical services in Ramona. There will be no change in net General Fund costs and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Desmond, seconded by Director Lawson-Remer, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District, closed the Hearing and took action as recommended, and took action to further consider and adopt the Ordinance on October 8, 2024.

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

ABSENT: Vargas

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 San Diego County Fire Protection District.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Directors



Signed
by Andrew Potter

