

STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2025, 9:00 AM
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER
BOARD CHAMBER, ROOM 310
1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, SAN DIEGO, CA 92101

- A. REGULAR SESSION – Regular Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Directors Terra Lawson-Remer, Vice-Chair; Joel Anderson; Monica Montgomery Steppe; Jim Desmond; also, Andrew Potter, Clerk of the Board of Directors.

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

- B. Statement (just cause) and/or Consideration of a Request to Participate Remotely (emergency circumstances) by a Director, if applicable.
- C. Non Agenda Public Communication: Opportunity for individuals to speak to the Board on any subject matter within the Board’s jurisdiction but not an item on the agenda. In accordance with the Board’s Rules of Procedure, individuals may only speak at one Non-Agenda Public Communication session per meeting. The speaker may select which session (General Legislative or Land Use Legislative Session) to address the Board for Non-Agenda Public Communication at their convenience.

NOTICE: THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ANY ACTION WITH RESPECT TO THE ITEMS INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA. RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY COUNTY STAFF DO NOT LIMIT ACTIONS THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC SHOULD NOT RELY UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE BOARD LETTER AS DETERMINATIVE OF THE ACTION THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MAY TAKE ON A PARTICULAR MATTER.

Agenda Items

- | Agenda # | Subject |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. | NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:
AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP (6/24/25 - FIRST READING: 8/26/25 - SECOND READING UNLESS ORDINANCE IS MODIFIED ON SECOND READING) |
| 2. | ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 BUDGET FOR THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
(4 VOTES) |

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**1. SUBJECT: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:
AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS
FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP (6/24/25 - FIRST READING:
8/26/25 - SECOND READING UNLESS ORDINANCE IS MODIFIED ON
SECOND READING) (DISTRICTS: 2 AND 5)**

OVERVIEW

On September 27, 2022, the State of California enacted Assembly Bill (AB) 211, which established a requirement for the Office of the State Fire Marshal (Fire Marshal) to complete a fire hazard severity zone map update in the Local Responsibility Area (LRA). Once completed by the Fire Marshal, local agencies could make findings that increase the fire hazard severity within their LRA but not decrease it. Within 120 days of the revised LRA maps being made available, the local agency's governing body must adopt, through an ordinance, the fire hazard severity zone map.

On March 24, 2025, the Fire Marshal released the revised fire hazard severity zone map for the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD). The fire hazard severity zone maps have been updated to more accurately reflect the zones in California that are susceptible to wildfire. The update incorporates new science in local climate data and improved fire assessment modeling in determining hazard ratings. Responsibility for wildland fire response differs from structural fire protection and emergency medical services. For residential and commercial fires, medical calls, or vehicle accidents, the responsibility is with the local fire agency in the entirety of their jurisdiction. However, for wildland fire, the State and Federal governments provide fire protection and have certain financial responsibilities in their designated areas. If a wildfire occurs in an LRA, the local fire agency is financially and legally responsible for response and coordination duties. Every year these boundaries are reviewed for updates. SDCFPD has 1,854,763 acres, of which 310,031 acres are LRA land. The remaining SDCFPD acres include 929,054 acres that are State Responsibility Area (SRA) and 615,678 acres that are Federal Responsibility Area (FRA). Only the LRA map is included in today's Ordinance, defined as urban regions, agricultural areas, and portions of the desert where the local government is responsible for wildfire protection. SDCFPD's LRA is in Ramona, Borrego Springs and the surrounding area. The new Fire Marshal's LRA fire hazard severity zone map includes 4,536 parcels in SDCFPD that had their fire hazard severity zone classification increase from no designation to either moderate, high, or very high. In addition, 189 parcels had their fire hazard severity zone classification decrease from very high to either no designation, moderate, or high. San Diego County Fire, on behalf of the SDCFPD, has reviewed the LRA maps and is not proposing any increases to severity. Today's action includes the first reading of an ordinance adopting the State Fire Marshal's LRA fire hazard severity zone map.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

On June 24, 2025:

1. Approve the introduction of the Ordinance (first reading):
AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS FIRE
HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP

If on June 24, 2025, the Board of Directors takes action as recommended, then on August 26, 2025:

2. Consider and adopt (unless ordinance is modified on second reading):
AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE LOCAL RESPONSIBILITY AREAS FIRE
HAZARD SEVERITY ZONE MAP

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The San Diego County Fire Protection District includes some of the lowest-income and most vulnerable communities. Revised Local Responsibility Area (LRA) Fire Hazard Severity maps improve resiliency for at-risk residents if future wildfires were to ignite in the service area.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed action to adopt an ordinance of the Local Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map within the San Diego County Fire Protection District contributes to the County of San Diego's Sustainability Goals to protect the health and wellbeing of residents. These actions will impact sustainability by providing accurate wildfire hazard models through new fire hazard severity zone maps for specific properties.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact associated with today's actions. There will be no change in net General Fund cost and no additional staff years.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Montgomery Steppe, seconded by Director Anderson, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District closed the Hearing and took action as recommended, introducing the Ordinance for further Board consideration and adoption on August 26, 2025.

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

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

2. **SUBJECT: ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 BUDGET FOR THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

OVERVIEW

Pursuant to California Government Code Sections 29088 and Health and Safety Code 13895, this request recommends the approval of a resolution to adopt the budget for the San Diego County Fire Protection District (SDCFPD) for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1. Approve the CAO Recommended Operational Plan Change Letter.

2. Consider change requests submitted after the close of the budget hearing, if applicable.
(4 VOTES)

If additional time is needed to identify funding sources or otherwise balance the budget based on the Board's direction and recommendations above, this item may be continued to June 25, 2025, if necessary. If additional time is not needed, then take the following action:

3. Adopt a resolution entitled, ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2025.

EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego is committed to promoting a culture of equity, belonging, and racial justice. We serve all communities, including Black, Indigenous, people of Color, LGBTQIA+, people with disabilities, low-income individuals, the young, the elderly, immigrants, refugees, and those who have faced inequality.

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Recommended Operational Plan aims to allocate resources to address inequities in County programs and services. This plan is based on community input, data analysis identifying disparities, and meaningful assessment of outcome indicators.

In 2021, the County introduced a Budget Equity Assessment Tool. This tool helps County departments prioritize services and allocate resources with equity in mind. Each year, departments must identify equity components to evaluate budget changes that impact their ability to deliver services and support their goals. The questions in this tool ensure that the County applies an equity lens when developing the budget.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT STATEMENT

The County of San Diego is working towards a sustainable future for everyone. Our strategic plan guides our activities to ensure sustainability in the region's economy, climate, environment, and communities. We aim to strengthen communities by pursuing legislative policies and collaborating with stakeholders to enhance services that help residents become self-sufficient, increase economic sustainability, and reduce poverty.

County departments contribute by implementing their own sustainability plans, which reflect their priorities and inform financial planning and decision-making. This ongoing effort helps each department increase the overall sustainability of their operations. These collective efforts strengthen communities, ensure accountability, and protect public resources by aligning available resources through services and initiatives.

The proposed budgetary plans for the Fiscal Years 2025-27 in the CAO Recommended Operational Plan support the County's Strategic Initiative of Sustainability. This aligns our resources with services while maintaining fiscal stability and ensuring long-term solvency.

FISCAL IMPACT

The recommended action provides spending authority of \$42,525,288 for the San Diego Fire Protection District for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

ACTION:

ON MOTION of Director Anderson, seconded by Director Lawson-Remer, the Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District took action as recommended, adopting Resolution No. 25-052, entitled: **ADOPTION OF THE BUDGET FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 2025.**

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

ABSENT: (District 1 Seat Vacant)

The Board of Directors of the San Diego County Fire Protection District recessed at 4:50 p.m.

ANDREW POTTER
Clerk of the Board of Directors of the
San Diego County Fire Protection District

Notes By: Vizcarra

NOTE: This Statement of Proceedings sets forth all actions taken by the San Diego County Fire Protection District on the matters stated, but not necessarily the chronological sequence in which the matters were taken up.