

**ACTION SUMMARY
TASK FORCE ON FIRE PROTECTION
AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
OCTOBER 21, 2005**

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The Task Force meeting convened at 2:10 p.m. A quorum of Task Force Members was present.

Item 1

Opening Remarks

Chairwoman Dianne Jacob commended the fire agencies in the County for their outstanding efforts, coordination and rapid response to the recent fires in the unincorporated areas of the County. Chairwoman Jacob commented on significant action taken by the Board of Supervisors to allocate over \$5 million dollars to enter into contracts with CDF and Volunteer Fire Companies. Chairwoman Jacob stated that County staff members, Ralph Steinhoff and Ken Miller, were instrumental in convincing County Administration officials that it was time to make a change and get back into fire business. The other action by the County came in the form of assistance to unincorporated communities in their efforts to have effective Weed Abatement programs. Communities that received the assistance were Julian, Valley Center, and the three "Water Districts Affected."

Item 2

Task Force Meeting Action Summary from June 17, 2005

It was moved by Gil Turrentine, seconded by Chuck Maner and carried unanimously by the members present, the Task Force unanimously approved the June 17, 2005 Task Force meeting Action Summary, with the following changes:

1. Under *Legislative Sub-Committee Report*: Mike Diaz made a motion for this Task Force to support Supervisor Jacob's effort to gain long term adequate sustained funding for fire protection. (A letter of support from the Task Force was delivered to the Clerk of the Board and to Supervisor Dianne Jacob).
2. Under *Unified Disaster Council Membership*: Wording change from Chief Metcalf "sets" the agenda...is changed to Chief Metcalf "gets" the agenda.

Item 3

Executive Director's Recommended / Agenda Revisions

At the request of Chairwoman Jacob, Item 7 presentation "Fire Storm 2003 Response" was moved to Item 5 to accommodate time constraints of County staff members.

Item 4

Task Force / Executive Director Announcements

Task Force Executive Director, John Traylor announced that the LAFCO staff was proceeding on time and on task to deliver the “Macro Study” of the “Substantially Similar Proposal” to the LAFCO Commission at its scheduled December 5, 2005 meeting.

Item 5

Presentation – Fire Storm 2003 Response

Authorization to Negotiate Contracts with Various Fire Agencies to compare Fire Services in the Unincorporated Area.

County staff member Ivan Holler repeated the same power point presentation that was presented to the County Board of Supervisors on September 20, 2005. “Resolving land use challenges are keys to fire prevention efforts for both new and existing development.” Mr. Holler stated that the majority of the unincorporated area of the county lacks adequate firefighting resources and infrastructure, and Service Levels need to improve. He reported that County staff used ISO based on the LAFCO Municipal Service Review of 2004, as a basis. The back country is either a 9 or 10 ISO Class.

The action approved by the County Board of Supervisors represents the first step to enter into Amador contracts with CDF. The next step will be to enter into contracts with the County Service Area Fire Agencies and Volunteer Fire Companies, followed by contracts with the Water Districts and Rural Fire Protection District. With contracts in place and proper documentation, training, additional equipment and resources, it is anticipated that the ISO rating would lower to 8’s and 7’s.

Chairman Jacob asked Mr. Holler to explain the seven new positions in the Department of Planning and Land Use and what their job functions would be. The new positions are above the \$5 million plus funding for the contract services.

Follow-up comments were made by Ralph Steinhoff regarding a 1973 document that identified the counties responsibilities. Ken Miller provided comments on how the contract process will move forward, and an update of several meetings that have already taken place. Mr. Steinhoff and Mr. Miller will be in charge of pre-negotiations to determine the needs of the various departments in preparation for developing the contracts for signature.

There was interest in what may happen to dispatching. Aspects of dispatching will be looked into.

A question regarding funding, Chairwoman Jacob’s response indicated that it would be the Board of Supervisors’ decision as to how the general fund monies in the future are allocated. The Board of Supervisors will consider LAFCO recommendations but has final authority on how to allocate the \$5 million dollars, or any other County General

Fund monies. Additional questions and answers followed regarding the specifics of the Contract Service plan.

Item 6

Presentation – Substantially Similar Proposal

A power point presentation was presented by Chief Scott Walker with Assistance from John Traylor. The presentation outlined strategies, criteria and justifications for the development of the Substantially Similar Proposal (SSP) presented to and adopted by the LAFCO Commission. The SSP was developed collaboratively by the San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association and San Diego Fire Districts Associations. Discussion followed after presentation.

The SSP emphasizes the delivery of structural Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services as a dedicated local resource.

Item 7

Detachment and Annexation

John Traylor addressed the efforts of the working group formed by the San Diego County Fire Chiefs Association and the San Diego Fire Districts Association to look into issues related to Detachments and Annexations. It is well recognized that when property detaches from a Special District, that district loses property tax revenue while at the same time has the responsibility to provide on-going emergency response service to the remaining district. The working group has finalized its conclusions and recommendations and will take those recommendations to their respective organizations for concurrence. Once that step has been completed, a recommendation will be forwarded to LAFCO on the issues related to detachments and annexations.

Item 8

Task Force Sub-Committee Reports

- A. Finance / Capital Needs / Grants. Chief Frank Twohy reported on changes to the grant packages, which will be sent out by County Office of Emergency Services (OES). Chief Twohy acknowledged and thanked the County Board of Supervisors for providing grant monies.
- B. Legislative Sub-Committee. No report
- C. Regionalization Sub-Committee. No report

Item 9

Public Comments

Larry Jackman addressed the Task Force on the Regional Communication System (RCS). Mr. Jackman suggested that any contract language for dispatch or Radio communication, should utilize the RCS for its primary communication platform.

Chairwoman Jacob mentioned the effort by an East County City to gain access to a portion of Prop. 172 monies, and its impact if successful at obtaining the funds.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned to the scheduled December 2, 2005 meeting, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., County Administration Center, Rooms 302-303.

JOHN TRAYLOR
Executive Director

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