

MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
AGENDA FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Montecito Fire Protection District Headquarters
595 San Ysidro Road
Santa Barbara, California

March 26, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

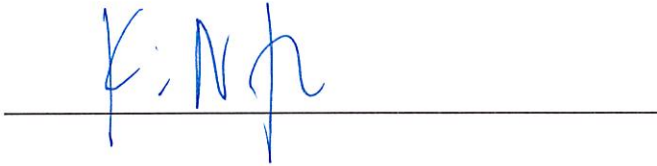
Agenda items may be taken out of the order shown.

1. Public comment: Any person may address the Board at this time on any non-agenda matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Montecito Fire Protection District. (30 minutes total time allotted for this discussion.)
2. Motion to authorize Fire Chief to enter into a contract with Geo Elements in the amount of \$67,157. (Strategic Plan Goal 2)
 - a. Staff report presented by Division Chief Taylor.
3. Consider approval of Resolution 2018-11 ratifying the Fire Chief's expenditure of District funds to pre-position resources in advance of anticipated major emergency events in the jurisdiction of the District.
4. Discussion item: Recognition of employees for performance during January storm event.
5. Approval of Minutes of the February 26, 2018 Regular Meeting.
6. Fire Chief's report.
7. Board of Director's report.
8. Suggestions from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the April 23, 2018 Regular Board meeting.

Adjournment

This agenda posted pursuant to the provisions of the Government Code commencing at Section 54950. The date of the posting is March 23, 2018.

MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

A handwritten signature in blue ink is positioned above a solid horizontal line. The signature is stylized and appears to consist of the letters 'K', 'N', and 'h'.

Note: In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the District office at 969-7762. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements.

Materials related to an item on this agenda submitted to the Board of Directors after distribution of the agenda packet are available for public inspection in the Montecito Fire Protection District's office located at 595 San Ysidro Road during normal business hours.

Agenda Item #2



STAFF REPORT

Prepared for: Montecito Fire Protection District Board of Directors
Prepared by: Kevin Taylor, Division Chief - Operations
Date: March 26, 2018
Topic: **Geo Elements – Thomas Fire**

Summary

Geo Elements completed the Montecito Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in February 2016. An important element of the CWPP was the Action Plan which consisted of Community Preparedness, Protecting Values, Fuels Mitigation Strategy, and Evacuation. This action plan was implemented in advance of the Thomas Fire and likely prevented significant property damage/loss from the fire. We would like to re-engage Geo Elements to do a retrospective study to determine the role the CWPP action plan played in the Thomas Fire.

Discussion

The fuel treatment network performed as designed during the Thomas Fire. Today, this same area represents an opportunity to develop and implement innovative fuel treatment strategies. To accomplish this goal, we propose Geo Elements complete a three phase study to assess community preparation and structure ignitability of the CWPP action plan, develop recommendations for improvements/modifications to the CWPP, and determine future opportunities to increase structure resiliency. Geo Elements will complete this work for \$67,157.

Conclusion

Staff recommends that the Board authorize the Fire Chief to enter into a contract with Geo Elements in the amount of \$67,157 as the sole source provider of this service. Geo Elements is suggested as a sole source vendor because they gained intimate knowledge of the District and our unique fire problem during the preparation of the CWPP. Their baseline knowledge eliminates the need for duplicative work thereby reducing overall costs of the project.

Strategic Plan Reference

Strategic Plan Goal #2 – Contain our Risks

Success Stories/Lessons Learned from the Thomas Fire

Phase	Description	Completion Date
1	<i>Assess Community Preparedness and Structure Ignitibility</i>	15-Jul-18
	Tasks	
	a <i>Collect and Process Data</i>	
		Interview preparation.
		Tour the Thomas and Jesusita fire areas.
		Perform on-site and online interviews.
		Synthesize interviews.
		Collect and review existing data as they pertain to the Thomas fire and MTO.
		Evaluate the existing community education program
	b <i>Structure Assessment</i>	
		Determine how Montecito's structure damage/loss was minimized.
		Identify characteristics that enhanced structure survivability or contributed to structure loss (eg, common denominators).
		Determine if there are areas in the community that need different structure hardening standards.
		Determine whether structure loss was primarily due to embers or the flaming front.

	Compare structure-hardening standards between the Jesusita, Tea, and Thomas fires.
	Evaluate whether the CWPP adequately addressed structural hardening.
c	<i>Fuel Treatment Assessment</i>
	Determine whether fuel treatment work done by property-owners and the District provided safe separation distance allowing firefighters to defend structures (eg, safe separation distance), include Thomas fire prep work.
	Evaluate if the MTO's vegetation management standards and the CWPP adequately address structure defensibility and safe separation distance.
	Determine if there are areas in the community that need different standards for structure defensibility (eg, increased defensible space distance).
	Evaluate whether MTO's roadside treatments enhanced public safety during evacuation during the Thomas fire (eg, safe separation distance).
	Evaluate fire effects in various agricultural vegetation types to determine their resistance to or facilitation of fire spread.
	Compare fuel treatments in the Jesusita, Tea, and Thomas fire perimeters.
d	<i>Fire Behavior Assessment</i>
	Evaluate whether fuel treatments modified fire behavior, both existing fuel treatments and Thomas fire prep work.
	Evaluate if observed fire behavior from the Thomas fire matched the modeled fire behavior in the CWPP. Based on results of this evaluation, determine if additional/modified fuel treatment standards are needed.
	Evaluate fire behavior in various agricultural vegetation types to determine their resistance to or facilitation of fire spread.
	Evaluate whether riparian areas acted as 'fire wicks' carrying fire into the community. If so, develop treatment standards to address it.

	Compare fire behavior of Thomas and Jesusita fires.
	Evaluate whether MTO's roadside treatments enhanced life safety during evacuation during the Thomas fire.
e	Challenges
	Identify issues that may have affected accessibility for first responders.
	Identify factors that did not go well during the Thomas fire.
	Evaluate whether the CWPP adequately addresses potential challenges.
Deliverables	
	Draft report on finding from each topic listed above.
	Draft geodatabase from Google Earth (KML files).
	Draft "Success Stories" fact sheets - (1 per topic area: structure fuels, roads/access)
	Draft "Lessons Learned" report.
	Map Products: structures and infrastructure damaged/destroyed, fire perimeter vs expected fire behavior, fuel treatments pre-Thomas fire and Thomas fire prep work.

TOTAL COST FOR PHASE 1**\$ 47,759.00**

Success Stories/Lessons Learned from the Thomas Fire

Phase	Description	Completion Date
2	<i>Based on finding in Phase 1, make recommendations to revise the CWPP Action Plan</i>	31-Aug-18
	Tasks	
a	Provide recommendations to MTO on amending the CWPP Action Plan based on changes to the wildfire environment.	
b	Identify potential changes to local fire codes, ordinances, architectural requirements to enhance structure resistance to wildfire.	
c	Identify tools to enhance public education (a 'community call to action') as it relates to fire safety	
	Deliverables	
	Draft recommended CWPP amendments.	
	Draft recommendations for changes to codes and standards.	
	Draft recommendations for changes in the CWPP public education in the Action Plans.	
	Map Products: Proposed changes to VMUs and future fuel treatments including units and roads.	
TOTAL COST FOR PHASE 2		\$ 10,545.50

Success Stories/Lessons Learned from the Thomas Fire

Phase	Description	Completion Date
3	<i>Future Opportunities to Increase Structure Resiliency</i>	30-Sep-18
	Tasks	
a	Identify potential opportunities (eg, creating buffers between the wildland and the community using agricultural vegetation).	
b	Determine if the Santa Barbara Front Wildfire Plan addressed the needs of MTO.	
c	Seek opportunities that can incentivize property-owners to replace fire facilitating vegetation with fire-resistant vegetation and structure hardening components.	
	Deliverables	
	Develop recommendations for community buffers.	
	Draft recommendations for potential MTO Wildfire Front Plan.	
	Develop recommendations that can incentivize property-owners to replace fire-facilitating landscape vegetation and structure hardening components, including grant opportunities.	
	Develop recommendations for community education through pamphlets, videos, and social media.	
	Map Products: Potential community buffer and design.	
	Final versions of all draft documents.	
TOTAL COST FOR PHASE 3		\$ 8,852.50

Agenda Item #3

RESOLUTION 2018-11

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
RATIFYING THE FIRE CHIEF'S EXPENDITURE OF DISTRICT FUNDS
TO PRE-POSITION RESOURCES
IN ADVANCE OF ANTICIPATED MAJOR EMERGENCY EVENTS
IN THE JURISDICTION OF THE DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, the Montecito Fire Protection District ("Fire District") is a fire protection district duly organized and existing pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 codified in Health & Safety Code section 13800 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Fire District is to, among other things, provide (i) fire protection services, (ii) rescue services, (iii) emergency medical services, (iv) hazardous material emergency response services, (v) ambulance services, and (vi) any other services relating to the protection of lives and property within the jurisdiction of the Fire District; and

WHEREAS, in December 2017 and January 2018, the District's jurisdiction, along with other areas, was ravaged by the Thomas Fire, which was declared a state and federal emergency; and

Whereas, on January 9, 2018, the District's jurisdiction was devastated by a major storm event, declared a state and federal emergency, which caused severe flooding and destructive debris flows; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the likelihood of similar future emergency events, the fire chiefs of fire agencies located within the County of Santa Barbara have reached an informal agreement, under which the agency where the event is located will advance the costs of providing pre-positioning of certain emergency services and will later be reimbursed by the other agencies; and

WHEREAS, when a major storm event of sufficient strength and duration to cause severe damage in the jurisdiction of the District was anticipated to commence on March 20, 2018, the District's Fire Chief took necessary steps to pre-position resources in the District; and

WHEREAS the Fire Chief anticipates future circumstances where the District will need to take action to pre-position resources in advance of anticipated major emergency events, regardless of whether reimbursement is later forthcoming;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Montecito Fire Protection District does hereby resolve as follows:

1. That the Board hereby ratifies and approves the Fire Chief's expenditure of District funds to pre-position resources in anticipation of the March 20, 2018 storm event.
2. That the Board authorizes the Fire Chief to exercise his discretion in expending District funds to pre-position resources in anticipation of future emergency events within the jurisdiction of the District.
3. That the Board hereby further directs the Fire Chief to inform the Board of all reimbursements due and received from other agencies following emergency events and of any change in the terms of agreement for reimbursement among the County fire chiefs.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors the Montecito Fire Protection District this 26th day of March 2018, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT:

John Abraham Powell, President

ATTEST:

Michael Lee, Secretary

Agenda Item #5

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Held at Fire District Headquarters, 595 San Ysidro Road February 26, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Director Powell called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Present: Director Powell, Director van Duinwyk, Director Venable, Director Lee. Chief Hickman and District Counsel Mark Manion were also present.

Absent: Director Easton

- 1. Public comment: Any person may address the Board at this time on any non-agenda matter that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Montecito Fire Protection District. (30 minutes total time allotted for this discussion.)**

Montecito resident, Dennis Naiman asked for the status of Station 3. Chief Hickman provided a brief updated regarding Station 3.

- 2. Adopt Resolution of Intention to Approve an Amendment to Contract between the Board of Administration of CalPERS and the Board of Directors of Montecito Fire Protection District.**

Chief Hickman provided background information regarding the resolution. Motion made by Director van Duinwyk, seconded by Director Lee and unanimously passed to adopt the resolution of Intention to approve an amendment to contract between the Board of Administration of CalPERS and the Board of Directors of Montecito Fire Protection District. The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: J. Venable, M. Lee, J. A. Powell, P. van Duinwyk

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: S. Easton

- 3. Discussion item: Status on Employee Housing property. (Strategic Plan Goal 9.1)**

Chief Hickman provided the status of the District's employee housing properties.

- 4. Approval of Minutes of the January 22, 2018 Regular Meeting.**

Motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2018 Regular meeting made by Director van Duinwyk, seconded by Director Venable and unanimously passed.

5. Fire Chief's report.

Chief Hickman stated that District Mechanic, John Badaracco has retired. He added that the candidate for this position is currently in the background process, and is schedule to start on March 16th. The Chief indicated that Captain Aaron Briner has been temporarily promoted to Battalion Chief, and will focus on FEMA recovery for the Department. Chief Hickman stated that staff has scoped work for a consultant to quantify the successes of the Thomas fire. Division Chief Taylor stated that the consultant is Carol Henson, author of the CWPP. Chief Hickman stated that community meetings will be held at 5:30 p.m. at the Montecito Union School on 2/28/18, 3/14/18 and 3/28/18. He mentioned that new storm readiness pamphlets are now available. Division Chief Taylor provided an update regarding the forecast for rain. He also reviewed the 72 hour evacuation order notifications. Chief Hickman reviewed the LAFCO correspondence regarding their upcoming election. Director Venable volunteered to represent the Board at the election meeting. The Chief stated that the Kick Ash Bash event was a huge success, with nearly 2 million dollars raised. Chief Hickman indicated that he would like to place a discussion item on the next agenda regarding how to recognize employees for a job well done during the recent event.

6. Board of Director's report.

Director Venable stated that he was extremely impressed with the recovery process to date.

7. Suggestions from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the April 26, 2018 Regular Board meeting.

There were no additional suggestions from the Directors.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

President John Abraham Powell

Secretary Michael Lee

Agenda Item #6



MONTECITO FIRE DEPARTMENT

An Independent Fire District

March 26, 2018

Santa Barbara LAFCO

Re: Selection of a Regular Special District Member

To whom it may concern:

Please be advised that John Venable, Board Member of the Montecito Fire Protection District will be attending and voting at the March 26, 2018 meeting.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,

John Abraham Powell
Board President

Tom Freston

March 8

Dear Chief Hickman,
Please accept these donations to the
Firefighters Association in
appreciation for the great work
you do. And, especially, for so
carefully saving my home at 2300
Belle Vista Drive. It was just

Amazing what you all did to save our
community in December.

We look forward to helping plant our
bills back better than ever.

I much enjoyed our conversation
the other day.

Best,
Tom



Fire Department

"Serving the community since 1926"

HEADQUARTERS

4410 Cathedral Oaks Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93110-1042
(805) 681-5500 FAX: (805) 681-5563

Eric L. Peterson
Fire Chief
County Fire Warden

Rob Heckman
Deputy Fire Chief

February 22, 2018

Chip Hickman, Fire Chief
Montecito Fire Protection District
595 San Ysidro Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Dear Chief Hickman:

Now that things have calmed down to some extent, I want to thank you for your contribution to the Op Area Incident Management Team during this last year of seemingly back-to-back catastrophes. The creation and support of this team has, in my opinion, been one of the most important developments in the history of our County from a life safety perspective.

The Alamo, Whittier, Thomas fire and subsequent debris flow incident in Montecito required a level of coordination and cooperation that in my experience has not existed in Santa Barbara County prior to the creation of this team. Because of our IMT and the agencies and people that have supported it, there is no doubt in my mind that there are people alive today who otherwise would not be.

We have been taxed this year like never before, but we have been in it together. It is my sincere hope that moving forward, we can institutionalize the support of this team, and with it the incredible sense of camaraderie that now exists between our organizations. The future leaders who will one day replace us owe it to the citizens we have been sworn to protect, regardless of jurisdiction.

Thank you.

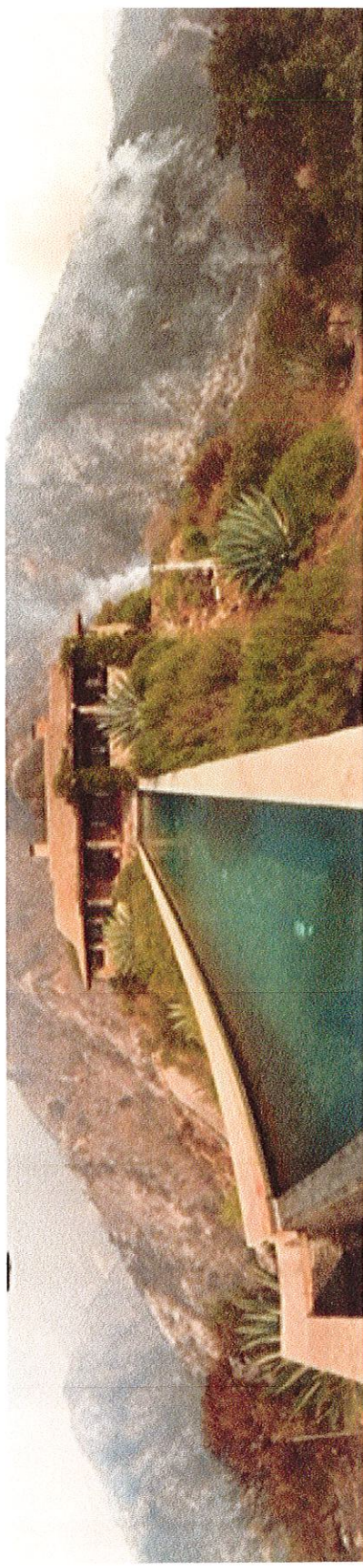
With respect,

Eric L. Peterson
Fire Chief

*Chip- Thanks for your incredible support of our op area and the team. Kevin has been great to work with, and Araceli has been awesome for the team also. Lets have a slower rest of 2018!
E.*

Dear Chief Hickman,

I want to thank you and the entire Mendocino fire department for working around the clock during the Thomas fire. The biggest compliment I can give you is that your fire-fighters exhibited WAS over the limit. My house was surrounded by fire, and against all odds you men saved it. A very large & extended family is very grateful to your department.



With much appreciation
Sharon Brien Golden
2500 Bella Vista Dr.

March 12, 2018

Chief Hickman
 Fire Station #1
 595 San Ysidro Road
 Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Re: Appreciation for Wild Fire Specialist Kerry Kellogg

Dear Chief Hickman,

Back in 2013 I wrote a letter to you expressing my gratitude for the tree work Kellogg had arranged for on my behalf, "to help make my property safer", and at no charge. At that time, there was no way I could have afforded the work those guys did. There were many dead trees on the mountain. 8 guys with chain saws worked nearly 8 hours cutting down many trees. I was so grateful to Kerry Kellogg and for your support of Kellogg's plan.

As the years passed, I diligently followed all of Kellogg's instructions. Right before the Thomas Fire, he requested some work be completed ASAP and I thought to myself... No matter how hard we work, Kellogg is never satisfied. "Keep going back a little further" was his battle cry. But I always knew he had my back.

THE THOMAS FIRE

The morning of the evacuation for the Thomas fire, Kerry took the time to send me a text at 7 AM, that said, "Time to evacuate. Call me for additional information." I called him to ask if my plan to go to a hotel on East Cabrillo sounded like a safe place to go to. He said YES. It meant the world to me to have his approval of my evacuation plan.

Shortly after Montecito Fire had the Bella Vista fire under control, Kerry texted a PHOTO of my home to me. Under the photo, the words "ALL IS WELL HERE." I was so relieved and so very joyful to receive that photo. It put all my worries and fears to rest. I know he is capable at what he does, but additionally, he is an extremely thoughtful and kind human being.

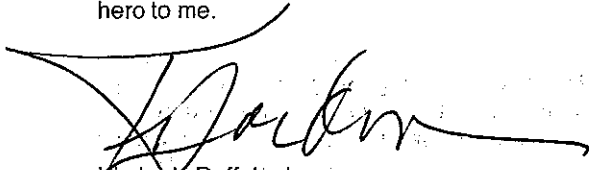
Returning home, after being evacuated for 11 days, it was just as Kerry had said. There was NO FIRE DAMAGE to my property. I felt a deep appreciation for the firemen that had protected the property. After seeing how very close the fire had come to my home, I was filled with an overwhelming sense of appreciation for Kerry Kellogg. **What would have happened if Kerry Kellogg hadn't pushed me to take this down, take that down, go back further..and what if all of those DEAD TREES he was responsible for taking down in 2013, were still in place when the fire came to Bella Vista Drive?**

RAIN STORM - MUD SLIDES

The morning of this evacuation, I had the good fortune to speak with him once again. I told him I didn't want to evacuate and that I thought I would be safe staying in my home and told him I was not evacuating. I had still not finished cleaning up the smoke and dirt from the fire. And on top of that, I was exhausted and did not want to even consider another evaluation.

In his calm and soft spoken way he said, "You know most probably you could stay in your house and be safe. I don't believe you need to worry about mudslides. Your property is far enough away from where there may be mudslides. But, you could be without power, gas and water and you may want to leave to get supplies. But the roads may be filled with mud and boulders and you may not be able to get out. And we may want to get to you and be unable to." "Ok, I said, I'm leaving." He knew exactly how to handle me, and I thank my lucky stars I had the good sense to follow his spot on advice. Everything he said, came to pass. How grateful I am to have had that talk with him. Because of Kerry, I was one of the 5%-10% (or was it 5%-15%) that evacuated on January 8.

Kerry knows how grateful I am, but I wanted to take a moment to let you know Chief Hickman, Kerry Kellogg is a hero to me.



Kimberly Duff Jordan
 2330 Bella Vista Drive, Montecito, Ca. 93108
 805 969-9996

City of Carpinteria

Mayoral Recognition Montecito Fire Protection District

The City of Carpinteria with deep appreciation commends and congratulates Montecito Fire Protection District for protecting our Community from the Thomas Fire and January 9th debris flow and on the occasion of being recognized by the Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Presented on the 10th Day of March, 2018



Fred Shaw, Mayor

March 26, 2018





Montecito Fire Protection District

*In honor of your leadership and dedication to public safety
and improving the communities of California, including the recent response
and critical assistance provided to families impacted by the Thomas Fire;
and in deep appreciation of the selfless bravery and courage
of first responders.*

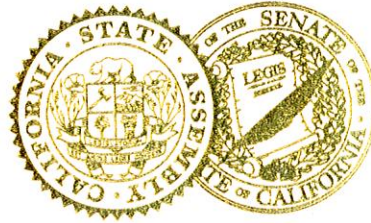
*Congratulations on being honored
by the Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce,
and very best wishes for continued success.*

Dated this 27th day of January 2018

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Betty T. Yee", is positioned above a horizontal line.

Betty T. Yee
California State Controller

California State Legislature



Certificate of Recognition

PRESENTED TO

Chip Hickman
Montecito Fire Chief

Congratulations and commendations are in order on behalf of Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and Assemblymember Monique Limón. Thank you for your outstanding service and dedication to the Santa Barbara County. Your tireless commitment has been a benefit and upon being recognized by the

2018 Carpinteria Valley Community Awards

March 10, 2018
Carpinteria, CA


ASSEMBLYMEMBER


SENATOR