



MI-WUK SUGAR PINE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

"Providing Quality Emergency Response And Fire Protection For The Public"

Inter-Office Memorandum

Date: September 14, 2016

Subject: Chief's Report
August, 2016

From: Larry Crabtree
Fire Chief

To: Board Of Directors

- ✚ Some time ago, the Board directed me to take affirmative action to work with other local fire agencies and develop / improve on relationships. To that end I have met with the Chiefs of Tuolumne County Fire Department, Columbia FPD, Sonora City FD, Tuolumne Fire District, and Twain Harte CSD FD. Communication avenues have improved dramatically with all of those agencies. Specifically, I have been discussing with Chief McNeal of Twain Harte potential areas where the districts can share responsibilities and obligations that might result in cost savings; but more importantly that might result in more consistent staffing, training, and operations – truly improve efficiencies because of the economies of scale that this option presents. Both Chiefs have approached this with the intent of improving service to our respective constituencies, and potentially eliminating some duplication. After considerable research and discussion, the most likely area for coordination and cooperation is at the upper administrative levels. The serious issues with CalPERS currently eliminates any real financial opportunities at the lower levels of the organizations (TH CSD is a CalPERS contracting agency, MWSP FPD is not a CalPERS contracting agency and will not be for the next several years because of associated costs). We have focused our research and review efforts at this time on administration and management, including chiefs, training officers, safety officers; and operational issues that can make the two agencies more consistent in day to day operations. There are many benefits to this approach, all of which will result in improved service to the constituents of both districts. Chief McNeal and I will continue to research these opportunities. In the near future I may recommend the Board appoint a committee to also engage in these discussions and this research. I have briefed the Auxiliary Executive Board on this matter, and will be presenting a brief summary to the full Auxiliary tomorrow at its regular monthly luncheon meeting.
- ✚ In August I appeared at the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors' meeting and addressed the pending RFP for a county-wide fire service study. Because of the tight turn-around of five days to get comments back to County staff, I did not have sufficient time to review the DRAFT RFP with you, our Board. I made several recommendations, as did Columbia FPD and Twain Harte

CSD FD. Most of those comments were incorporated into the DRAFT presented to the Board of Supervisors. That Board directed its staff to continue working with the DRAFT and to present the other fire agencies with an opportunity to respond and comment before bringing it back for final review and adoption. Yesterday I received an updated DRAFT from County staff. We have an opportunity for comments and input prior to the Board Of Supervisors seeing it again in about five weeks. I suggest that the Board either hold a Special Meeting or appoint a committee to review this latest DRAFT RFP and prepare a response from this District to the Board of Supervisors.

✚ I attended the MAHA monthly board meeting in August as well as the Auxiliary monthly meeting and its pot luck dinner.

✚ The Defensible Space Inspection program is coming to an end (at least our involvement in it) for this year. My last directions to the inspection team was that they have four priorities as this year comes to a conclusion (in priority order):

1. Education and Communication with the community
2. Establishing practical defensible spaces in our community
3. Statutory compliance
4. Legal action / citation

Our goal is to have as many homeowners as possible working toward a defensible space around their home. It is not our goal to have enforcement action (citations or fines). To that end, the team, as Tim will explain, is going to provide CAL FIRE with a small number of properties where no effort has been made to provide a defensible space. Our intent is to provide CAL FIRE with a workable problem as it picks up the third inspections and any subsequent enforcement actions.

✚ The State of California has budgeted grant funds again this year from its State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Prevention Fund (FPF). This year there is about \$6M available statewide for general fire prevention projects in the SRA, and about \$10M dedicated to reducing the hazard of the tree mortality in the ten identified counties, including Tuolumne. Tuolumne County OES hosted a meeting for all interested agencies to review the requirements and opportunities presented with these new grant funds. I attended that meeting on behalf of the District.

✚ The current status of the various grants is as follows:

- 2015 FEMA AFG Extractor Dryer: Denied again this year
- 2015 FEMA AFG Fire Engine: Denied
- 2015 FEMA AFG Fire Prevention and Safety: Pending (Green Waste Disposal Project)
- 2016 FEMA AFG will open October 11, 2016, and close November 18, 2016; potential projects: fire engine, extractor dryer, P25 compliant mobile and hand held radios, fire prevention.
- 2016 VFA: Approved for \$12,665 for PPE and fire equipment
- Sonora Area Foundation: Application will be submitted before September 30, 2016, for one Lucas 2 CPR Machine
- SRA FPF Tree Mortality: Application will be submitted before September 28, 2016, for two 'Homeowner Tree' mitigation projects, one in Sugar Pine for \$200,000 and one in Mi Wuk Village for \$200,000.
- SRA FPF General Fire Prevention Project: Considering an application for project to maintain the Shaded Fuel Break in the Mi Wuk and Sugar Pine areas. Decision depends partially on whether we can find a qualified project manager with experience in all dimensions of what that project would entail.
- California State Firefighters Association (CSFA): Acquisition of a pop-up awning, pop-up backdrop, and table throw for volunteer recruitment at public events; \$2,500 value.

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