



ADAM A. HOUSE
Fire Chief

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

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ADOPTED ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT
Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Held at the following locations:
10545 Armstrong Avenue – Board Room
Mather, California
&
Remotely Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Costa. Board members present: Clark, Costa, Goold, Jones, Saylor, Stark, Webber, and Wood. Board members absent: Rice. Staff present: Chief House and Board Clerk Rittburg.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

One public comment was received.

CONSENT ITEMS

Moved by Director Goold, seconded by Jones, and carried unanimously by members present to adopt the consent calendar as follows:

1. **Action Summary Minutes**
Recommendation: Approve the Action Summary Minutes for the Regular Board Meetings of August 13, 2026.
Action: Adopted the Action Summary Minutes.
2. **Adopt Resolution – Authority to Reenter into an Agreement with State of California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) for Intergovernmental Transfers (IGT) from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025**
Recommendation: Adopt Resolution reauthorizing the Fire Chief to enter into the necessary agreements with DHCS to participate in the VRRP IGT reimbursement period covering January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025.
Action: Adopted **Resolution 2026-060**.

PRESENTATION ITEMS:

1. **Communications & Engagement Strategy**
(Deputy Chief Mitchell)
Recommendation: Receive the presentation.
Action: Presentation received.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Continuing the Utilization of the Lease Vehicle Program

(Fleet Manager Shea Pursell)

Recommendation: Approve the continued use of leased vehicles from Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc., under Sourcewell contract #112025.EFM.

Action: Motion by Wood, seconded by Clark, and carried unanimously by members present to approve the continued use of leased vehicles from Enterprise Fleet Management, Inc., under Sourcewell contract #112025.EFM.

REPORTS

1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - (*President Costa*)

No Report

2. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT — (*Chief House*)

Chief House reported on the following District matters:

LAFCo MSR/SOI Update

- Chief House reported that state law requires LAFCo to periodically review local agencies through a Municipal Service Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence update. The process evaluates areas such as service capacity, finances, infrastructure, and governance, and helps inform whether an agency's Sphere of Influence remains appropriate. Metro Fire's last MSR was completed in 2004. LAFCo and its consultant have worked with Metro Fire staff throughout the current review to obtain District information and documents needed to conduct the study.
- LAFCo has released the public review draft, which goes to the Commission on September 2 to open the public comment period through October 2, with adoption anticipated in October.

2026 Fireworks After Action Report

- Chief House reported the 2026 Fireworks After Action Report has been completed and summarizes Metro Fire's Fourth of July operations and regional fireworks enforcement efforts.
- Metro Fire led the Regional Fireworks Taskforce, coordinating with fire and law enforcement agencies, code enforcement, public information officers, and the District Attorney's Office.
- Within our jurisdiction, there were 157 permitted Safe and Sane fireworks stands and six permitted public fireworks displays. Compared with 2025, total incident dispatches decreased 4.95%, and fireworks-related fires decreased 54%.
- The report was submitted to Sacramento County for "receive and file" with the Board of Supervisors and shared with the cities of Citrus Heights and Rancho Cordova.

HERO ACT Chili Cookoff

- Chief House reported Metro Fire participated in the 2nd Annual HERO ACT Chili Cookoff at the California State Fair, an event coordinated by Congressman Ami Bera's Office, supporting awareness of first responder mental health and wellness.
- Metro Fire had two teams competing: Captain Adam Huckaby and Firefighter Calvin LaCurelle, and Captain Aaron Todd and Engineer Matt Miller. Chief House congratulated Captain Huckaby and Firefighter LaCurelle, who earned the Golden Bear Award, marking Metro Fire's second consecutive win.

Member Recognition – Fire Inspector II Flor Olivares

- Chief House reported Fire Inspector II Flor Olivares was recently recognized by the District for her actions on July 2.
- Chief House stated that after a concerned citizen alerted Inspector Olivares to an individual experiencing a suspected opioid overdose, Inspector Olivares quickly assessed the individual and administered two doses of Narcan, providing critical care until fire and EMS personnel arrived. Although emergency medical response is not part of her primary assignment, Inspector Olivares relied on her EMT training, recognized an immediate threat to life, and acted without hesitation. Her initiative, composure, and compassion exemplify exceptional service to our community.

OPERATIONS REPORT – *(Deputy Chief Wagaman)*

Deputy Chief Wagaman reported on the following operational matters:

Strike Team Status

The Hawk Incident, located on the California-Nevada border, is currently just over 15,000 acres and 85% contained. We have one Strike Team Leader and one Type 3 engine assigned to the incident, and the team continues to perform well.

The Timber Incident, located in Monterey County, is currently approximately 18,000 acres and 23% contained. Copter 3 is assigned to this incident and is also performing well in support of ongoing suppression efforts.

Bluetooth Communication Technology

Effective yesterday, crews began utilizing new Bluetooth technology that connects their face-mask microphone to their portable radio. The lapel microphone also functions as a voice amplifier, providing an additional communication benefit for our members.

This technology was initially launched last year; however, connection issues required us to pause implementation while we transitioned to our new portable radios, which were deployed a couple of months ago. We are optimistic that this technology will significantly enhance communication clarity and effectiveness on the fireground.

Lithium-Ion Battery Fire Awareness

Lithium-ion battery fires continue to introduce new hazards and challenges to today's fire service. Ensuring our members understand the unique hazards associated with these fires remains an operational priority.

To strengthen this awareness and provide practical instruction, we will begin districtwide, in-person, instructor-led Lithium-Ion Hazard Awareness Training on September 20. Approximately 50 members will participate in each class.

Unit Update

Due to operational needs, Water Tender 66 has been moved to Station 111 in Rio Linda and will now serve as Water Tender 111 and cross-staffed by E111.

DC Wagaman reported it is an exciting time for our dozer program. After many patient years of waiting, Dozer 1 was delivered to Station 58, and training has begun. Dozer 2 is expected to be delivered to Fleet next week, at which point radio and equipment installation can begin.

Promotion

Congratulations to Kevin Loheit on his promotion to Engineer, effective August 1. We wish Kevin continued success in his new role.

Upcoming Tabletop Exercise

On September 8, the Operations AC and DC Wagaman will participate in a joint tabletop exercise with Sacramento County OES focused on expanding incidents that require civilian evacuations.

This exercise provides an excellent opportunity to strengthen our working relationships, familiarize ourselves with new technologies and strategies, and further develop effective incident mitigation and evacuation plans. These collaborative exercises are valuable in preparing us to manage increasingly complex incidents and better protect the communities we serve.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – (Deputy Chief Fiorica)

Deputy Chief Fiorica reported on the following Administration Branch activities and updates:

- **Personnel Recognition:** DC Fiorica congratulated Maria Palma on her promotion to Accounting Technician in the Finance Division, effective July 13, 2026. Ms. Palma previously served as an Office Technician in the Logistics Division.
- **New Employee:** DC Fiorica welcomed Ryan Wedan, who joined Metro Fire as a Business Applications Analyst in the Information Technology Division, effective August 3, 2026. Ryan introduced himself to the Board and spoke on his background.

Human Resources

- The EMS Systems Technician recruitment closes September 16, 2026.
- The Reserve Firefighter recruitment closes September 4, 2026.
- Background orientation for Fire Academy 27-1 was held on August 26, 2026. Invitations were extended to 44 Firefighter Paramedic applicants and 14 Firefighter Paramedic-in-Progress applicants.

Training

- Fire Academy 26-2 is in its tenth week with 16 recruits.

Finance

- Payroll Specialist Emily Brown was selected as the finance lead for the Sacramento Regional Incident Management Team. Ms. Brown has served on the team for three years and recently deployed to the Talbott Fire.
- The District received its 12th consecutive Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its FY 2025/26 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Controller Ron Empedrad leads the annual project, which involves staff across multiple divisions. The District is now one award away from receiving its third GFOA Triple Crown recognition for excellence in its annual comprehensive financial report, budget, and community annual report.

SUPPORT & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES – (Deputy Chief Mitchell)

Deputy Chief Mitchell provided an overview of the Support and Emergency Medical Services Branch and its responsibilities in supporting the District's operational and long-term service-delivery needs.

The branch consists of seven primary areas: Emergency Medical Services; Fleet; Facilities; Logistics; Community Risk Reduction / Fire Marshal's Office; Planning, Development & Government Affairs; and Communications & Engagement / Public Information Officer.

Deputy Chief Mitchell highlighted key areas of responsibility:

Emergency Medical Services

- EMS system performance and service delivery.
- EMS billing implementation and reporting.
- MMP staffing and program status.
- Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) operations and long-term funding strategy.
- APOT and alternative-destination initiatives.
- Regional coordination and ongoing EMS system improvement.

Fleet

- Apparatus and vehicle procurement and replacement.
- Fleet status and tracking.
- Vehicle lifecycle and lease-buyout considerations.
- Surplus vehicle processes.
- Planning for future apparatus and equipment deliveries.

Facilities

- Station maintenance, renovations, and capital projects.
- Multi-station flooring and roofing projects.
- Station demolition and cleanup projects.
- Capital improvement planning.
- Temporary operational planning associated with facility projects.

Logistics

- Equipment, inventory, supply, and warehouse management.
- RFID inventory project focused on accountability, liability control, efficiency, and potential cost savings.

- Long-term logistics and warehouse planning.

Community Risk Reduction

- Fire prevention and community risk reduction programs.
- Grant development and management.
- Fire Investigation Unit coordination with the Sheriff's Office.
- Weed abatement and other community risk issues.

Planning, Development & Government Affairs

- Standards of Cover and long-range planning.
- Station planning and design.
- Development and infrastructure projects.
- Real estate planning.
- Regional, governmental, and external partner coordination.
- Emerging service-delivery issues, including ARFF.

Communications & Engagement / PIO

- Centralized communications framework.
- Strategic communications.
- Internal member communications and engagement.
- Community and public information.
- Improving consistency and effectiveness of organizational communications.

Deputy Chief / Executive-Level Responsibilities

- In addition to direct branch oversight, the Deputy Chief leads and supports Board- and Executive Committee-directed projects, cross-organizational initiatives, and longer-term strategic work.
- Current examples include MIH funding strategy, behavioral health response initiatives, strategic-plan implementation, procurement/process improvement, and organizational coordination.
- Emphasis was placed on the Deputy Chief role of prioritizing, coordinating, removing barriers, and connecting work across divisions and throughout the organization.

Closing Message

- The Support & EMS Branch provides the infrastructure, systems, resources, partnerships, and services that enable the District to effectively deliver its mission.
- The branch's work supports both current operational needs and the District's long-term organizational capacity.

3. SMFD – FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 522 REPORT

522 Director Russell Gardner thanked the District for its support of his participation in national-level research projects with the Fire Safety Research Institute (FSRI). He noted that these opportunities have provided valuable insight into the national fire service and have allowed him to bring ideas and practices back to Metro Fire. Director Gardner expressed concern that other District members involved in similar professional and research endeavors do not always receive the same level of administrative support and may be required to use personal time or accrued leave to participate.

Regarding strategic planning, Director Gardner stated that Local 522 looks forward to participating with identified District representatives in upcoming discussions. He expressed the

expectation that the process can result in a unified message, shared goals, and collaborative projects moving forward.

Director Gardner also referenced a handout he distributed to the Board concerning the District's proposed final budget. He encouraged Board members to review the information and ask the Chief Financial Officer and administration questions regarding the District's financial position prior to consideration of budget adoption. Director Gardner stated that Local 522 does not agree with prior representations regarding the District's financial condition. He cited a projected fiscal year-end reserve of approximately \$36 million that ultimately was closer to \$46.9 million, and a previously projected reserve percentage of 10.5% compared with an actual level of approximately 13.7%.

4. COMMITTEE AND DELEGATE REPORTS

All Committee Meetings will be held at the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Board Room, 10545 Armstrong Avenue, Mather, California unless otherwise specified.

A. Executive Committee – (President Costa)

No Report

B. Communications Center JPA – (Deputy Chief Fiorica)

Deputy Chief Fiorica reported the Communication Center JPA Board last met on August 25, 2026. Chief Executive Director Wilbourn has had the opportunity to get the Comm Center some media recognition and is working hard at establishing regional and statewide relationships that can only help make our Comm Center better. There was no other reportable action taken.

C. Finance and Audit Committee – (Director Jones)

Director Jones reported the Finance & Audit Committee met tonight and reviewed the presentation regarding the 2026–27 Final Budget, which will be presented to the Board at the next meeting. Director Jones highlighted two key items; increased PERS and healthcare costs, totaling \$6.1 million for 2026–27, and an improvement in reserves from 10.5% to 11.4%. Director Jones noted that the increase in reserves was a positive outcome given the current economic and global uncertainties.

D. Policy Committee – (Director Clark)

No Report

BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

No Reports

CLOSED SESSION:

The Board recessed to closed session at 7:00 p.m. on the following matter(s):

1. PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.9 (a) – ONE (1) MATTER OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMPROMISE AND RELEASE

Carl Simmons and the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
Claim # 24-178529; SMDQ – 549888; 4A2306C114P001
Workers' Compensation Settlement Authority
Jessica Valenti, Lenahan, Slater, Pearse & Majernik, LLP

Action: Moved by Stark, seconded by Wood, and carried unanimously by members present to give authority to its third-party administrator to conclude a settlement of the matter.

2. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR
Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6

- A. District Negotiator: Jack Hughes, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
Employee Organization: Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522
- B. District Negotiator: Jack Hughes, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
Employee Organization: Battalion Chiefs Bargaining Group,
Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522
- C. District Negotiator: Jack Hughes, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
Employee Organization: Administrative Support Personnel (ASP)
Affiliate of Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522
- D. District Negotiator: Jack Hughes, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
Employee Organization: Safety Senior Management, Management
and Unrepresented Confidential Employees
- E. District Negotiator: Jack Hughes, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
Employee Organization: Non-Safety Senior Management, Management
and Unrepresented Confidential Employees
- F. District Negotiator: Jack Hughes, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore
Employee Organization: EMT and Paramedic Memorandum of Understanding

3. Public Employee Performance Evaluation: Fire Chief
Pursuant to Government Code Sections 54957(b)(1)

CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT:

The Board reconvened in open session at 9:20 p.m. General Counsel Ian Sangster reported that the Board met in closed session on three items:

- 1. Workers' Compensation Compromise and Release for Carl Simmons, the Board voted unanimously to effectuate a settlement in that matter.
- 2. Conference with Labor Negotiator; the Board met with its designated labor negotiator; no reportable action was taken in closed session.
- 3. Public Employee Performance Evaluation, Fire Chief; no reportable action was taken in closed session.

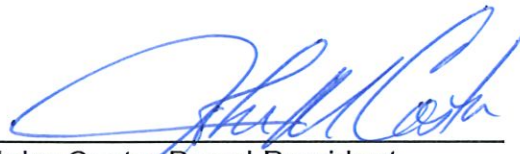
To view the video of the meeting, please visit the Metro Fire Website or our YouTube channel:

<https://metrofire.ca.gov/2026-08-27-board-meeting>

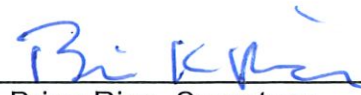
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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m.



John Costa, Board President



Brian Rice, Secretary



Marni Rittburg, CMC
Board Clerk