

MONTECITO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Minutes for the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors

Held at Montecito Fire Protection District, 595 San Ysidro Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108 on November 17, 2025 at 2:00 p.m.

The Regular Meeting of October 27 reconvened on November 17 at 2:00 p.m. Director van Duiwyk called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

Present: Director van Duiwyk, Director Lee, Director Dougherty, Director Easton, Director Pennino. Chief Neels and District Counsel Mark Manion were also present.

- 1. Public comment: Anyone may speak to the Board now about any non-agenda topic within the jurisdiction of the Montecito Fire Protection District. (A total of 30 minutes is allotted for this discussion.)**

There were no public comments to report.

- 2. Receive presentation from PARS/PFM Asset Management representatives, Angela Tang and Dennis Mullins, regarding the District's post-retirement benefits trust investment plans. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)**

Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas introduced PARS/PFM Asset Management representatives, Angela Tang and Dennis Mullins. The representatives provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Fire District's post-retirement benefits trust investment plans.

- 3. Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2025-02 of the Montecito Fire Protection District adopting the 2025 California Fire Code and the Montecito Fire Protection District Development Standards, adopting the 2025 Wildland-Urban Interface Code, amending provisions of the 2025 California Fire Code, amending provisions of the 2025 California Wildland Urban Interface Code, amending provisions of the 2025 California Residential Code, amending provisions of the 2025 California Building Code and the subsequent adoption of the ordinance. (Strategic Plan Goal 1 and 2)**

Director van Duiwyk opened the public hearing. There was no public testimony. Director van Duiwyk closed the public hearing. Director Easton read the title of the Ordinance. The motion was made by Director van Duiwyk, seconded by Director Lee to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-02 of the Montecito Fire Protection District as read by title only. The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: S. Dougherty, M. Lee, P. van Duiwyk, S. Easton, J. Pennino

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

The motion was made by Director van Duiwyk, seconded by Director Lee and unanimously passed to direct the Fire Chief to file a Notice of Exemption pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act with the Santa Barbara County Clerk.

- 4. Report from the Finance Committee. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)**

- a. Consider recommendation to approve August, September and October 2025 financial statements.**

Director Lee and Director Dougherty provided a report regarding the August, September and October 2025 financial statements. The Board discussed placing the Home Hardening Assistance Program and a fire and sprinkler plan fee cost-benefit analysis on a future Board agenda for review. Director Dougherty made a motion to approve the financial statements for August, September and October 2025, seconded by Director Easton, and unanimously

passed.

b. Review PARS Post-Employment Benefits Trust statements for August and September 2025.

Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas provided a report regarding the PARS Post-Employment Benefits Trust statement for August 2025 and September 2025.

5. Consider approval of Resolution 2025-09, fixing the employer contribution under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act at an equal amount for employees and annuitants. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)

Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas provided a staff report regarding the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act. Motion to approve Resolution 2025-09, fixing the employer contribution under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act at an equal amount for employees and annuitants, made by Director Easton, seconded by Director Pennino. The roll call vote was as follows:

Ayes: S. Dougherty, M. Lee, P. van Duiwyk, S. Easton, J. Pennino

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

6. Consider approval of Board of Directors Policy Manual. (Strategic Plan Goal 3)

Fire Chief Neels presented a staff report regarding the Board of Directors Policy Manual review and update. The Board discussed the modification to the Board compensation section. Fire Chief Neels will revise the Board Meeting Compensation Ordinance to reflect the update. The Motion to approve the Board of Directors Policy Manual as submitted made by Director Lee, seconded by Director Easton, and the motion unanimously passed.

7. That the Board of Directors authorize the Fire Chief to enter into an Executive Search Services Agreement with Peckham & McKenny, in the amount of \$29,000. (Strategic Plan Goal 3)

Fire Chief Neels presented the staff report regarding the Executive Search Services Agreement with Peckham & McKenny. Motion to authorize the Fire Chief to enter into an Executive Search Services Agreement with Peckham & McKenny, in the amount of \$29,000 made by Director Lee, seconded by Director Pennino, and the motion unanimously passed.

8. That the Board of Directors nominate their preferred candidate and direct staff to submit the nomination to LAFCO no later than January 2, 2026. (Strategic Plan Goal 3)

Chief Neels provided a staff report regarding the Board of Directors nomination for the Election of Special District Members to LAFCO. There were no candidates presented.

9. Approval of Minutes of the October 27, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2025 Regular meeting made by Director Easton, seconded by Director Lee, and the motion carried. Director van Duiwyk abstained from the vote.

10. Approval of Minutes of the November 10, 2025 Special Meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2025 Special meeting made by Director Pennino, seconded by Director Dougherty, and the motion unanimously passed.

11. Fire Chief's report.

Fire Chief Neels reported that Montecito Fire Department responded to 32 incidents during the recent weekend storm, which brought significant rain. Personnel were upstaffed throughout the storm, and the District activated the business phone line to assist community members.

The *Montecito Journal* featured an article by PIO Atchison remembering the 2008 Tea Fire's impact on the community.

The January 9th Committee is planning the upcoming Thomas Fire and Debris Flow remembrance event at Montecito Union School.

Prevention efforts included six defensible space inspections, a community meeting on East Mountain Drive, and ongoing fuels reduction work, including the removal of 25 tons of vegetation along Bella Vista Drive.

Fire Chief Neels also spoke at the Valley Club, where there was strong community interest in fire prevention strategies.


12. Board of Director's report.


There were no items to report at this meeting.

13. Suggestions from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the December 15, 2025 Regular Board meeting.

There were no items suggested by the Board to include at the next Board meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:02 p.m.


President van Duinwyk


Secretary Easton