

1 **FEBRUARY 24, 2009**

2 **REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF**  
3 **THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

4 President Munson called the meeting to order at 17:00.

5 **THE INVOCATION GIVEN CHIEF METCALF.**

6 **ALL RECITED THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

7 **ROLL CALL: Present:** Directors Harris, Hooper, Munson, Schaden and Thuner.

8 **Absent:** None.

9 **ALSO PRESENT:** Fire Chief/CEO Metcalf, Attorney James and Board Secretary Stephen-  
10 Porter. In the audience were: Deputy Chief Torchia, Division Chiefs Goldberg and Morel and  
11 members of the public and Association.

12 **PUBLIC ACTIVITIES AGENDA**

13 1. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** President Munson addressed the audience and inquired whether there  
14 were any public comments regarding items not on the Agenda. There being none, the Public  
15 Comment time was closed.

16 2. **RECOGNITION OF RETIRING EMPLOYEES - CHIEF METCALF:** Chief Metcalf recognized Captain  
17 Hill as a retiring employee, noting that he had served over 30 years for the District: Captain  
18 Hill's accomplishments were noted, including his efforts for the community, restoration of Alfie  
19 and the Firefighter Memorial at Station 1. Captain Hill received a plaque from the District for  
20 his service.

21 **ACTION AGENDA**

22 **CONSENT ITEMS:**

23 4. **APPROVE REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 2009**

24 5. **REVIEW AND ACCEPT FINANCIAL REPORT FOR JANUARY 2009**

25 6. **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

26 President Munson inquired whether there were any questions. Brief discussion ensued  
27 regarding changes to the policies based on the implementation of the Firefighter's Bill of  
28 Rights, including separating disciplinary action from performance reviews. There being no  
29 other discussion, President Munson asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. On a

30 motion by Vice President Thuner to approve Items 4-6, which was seconded by Director  
31 Hooper, the motion passed unanimously.

32  
33 **ACTION ITEMS:**

34 7. **REVIEW AND APPROVE THE ANNUAL AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007- 2008 - DEPUTY CHIEF**  
35 **TORCHIA, F/S TIMMERS AND CHIEF METCALF:** The auditor from Hasaki, Nagel and Company was  
36 present to provide an overview of the Audit findings for the FY 2007/2008. After outlining the  
37 types of findings, he noted that the District had received the best, an unqualified. He noted to  
38 items to be addressed, more detailed billings from the attorney and suggested curtailing the  
39 year-end spending earlier, to avoid the late entries into the year-end. Those suggested were  
40 addressed in the exit interviews with Chief Torchia. Director Hooper inquired about a  
41 neighboring District's problems with embezzlement and the auditor noted a lack of checks and  
42 balances in that situation. He noted North County Fire Protection District is in compliance with  
43 generally accepted accounting practices (GAAP), with adequate internal controls to prevent  
44 such an occurrence. Director Harris made inquiries regarding certain pages of the reports and  
45 the auditor explained them in detail. The auditor thanked everyone for the smooth working  
46 relationship with the District Staff. On a motion by Director Hooper, which was seconded by  
47 Vice President Thuner, the Board unanimously approved the annual FY 2007/2008 audit.

48 8. **REVIEW AND RECOMMEND NOMINATIONS TO THE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**  
49 **(LAFCO) SPECIAL DISTRICTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE - CHIEF METCALF:** Chief Metcalf presented  
50 the regular call for nominations for the LAFCO Special Districts Advisory Committee. Director  
51 Munson expressed an interest in serving on the Committee. On a motion from Director Harris,  
52 which was seconded by Director Hooper, the motion to nominate President Munson to the  
53 LAFCO Special Districts Advisory Committee was unanimously approved.

54  
55 **DISCUSSION AGENDA**

56 5. There were no discussion items for the February 24, 2009 meeting.

58 • **STANDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

59 • **LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT:**

60 Counsel James presented his letter “Employer Permitted to Declare Impasse and Implement  
61 New Healthcare Provisions After Six Meetings in Four Months.” He noted that the District has  
62 not had this problem as we have valid contracts with the labor groups. He gave examples of  
63 instances occurring in other government entities. He noted that declaration of an impasse is  
64 general spelled out in the MOU, including review, although most review procedures are only  
65 advisory and not binding. Counsel James also informed the Board he had received notice that  
66 the previously filed lawsuit against the District by SDG&E has been dismissed without  
67 prejudice. He noted that this might mean they could file suit later, but for now, the District has  
68 been dismissed. Counsel James also noted that an item would be added to the next month  
69 agenda for the property at the top of the hill, seeking Board direction. This is informational  
70 only, no action required.

71 • **WRITTEN COMMUNICATION:** None.

72 • **NEWS ARTICLES:** Chief Metcalf noted the news articles, with no discussion.

73 • **COMMENTS:**

74 • **STAFF REPORTS/UPDATES:**

75 ➤ **BILL METCALF, FIRE CHIEF/CEO:** Chief Metcalf noted that the State has finally adopted  
76 their budget, with nothing that will cause a significant impact to special districts. After receiving  
77 and reviewing the latest fiscal report, he noted the District revenue is 2.18% over last year.  
78 The Staff continues to closely monitor its performance, spending and the impact of budget  
79 issues its neighbors. Discussion ensued regarding consulting for ballot measures with a  
80 handout of good information for ballot issues. Chief Metcalf introduced the idea of looking at  
81 opportunities to recover costs for services for “at-fault” individuals. He noted that insurance  
82 pays for fire response for certain types of incidents. He opined that it would be fiscally  
83 responsible to recover costs where the individual’s insurance will pay for these expenses.  
84 After review, he will bring the information to the Board for their decision. Brief discussion  
85 ensued over the types of services, who is billed and the process for the recovery collection.  
86 Chief Metcalf noted that the Dispatch JPA would be reviewing and updating the agreement.  
87 The Board will be asked to approve the changes. Chief Metcalf noted that the District had

88 participated with the Fire Safe Council in the Gavilian Fire Anniversary Remembrance and the  
89 Fire Safe Council had an opportunity to demonstrate the positive results from weed abatement,  
90 for which he thanked the Council. Chief Metcalf informed the Board he, Directors Munson, and  
91 Harris attending the CSDA quarterly dinner meeting, at which San Diego Association of  
92 Governments (SANDAG) talked about the advantages the stimulus package will bring to the  
93 County. Chief Metcalf noted that the special districts had been overlooked for inclusion in the  
94 submission for funds, which he will address.

95 ➤ **CHIEF OFFICERS:** D/C MOREL: D/C Morel thanked A/C Lucore for his work in recruiting  
96 the volunteers. They will begin after the background work is completed.

97 ➤ **OTHER STAFF:** F/S Timmers: F/S Timmers noted the District would be letting a Request  
98 for Bids for auditors as it does occasionally.

99 • **BOARD:** VICE PRESIDENT THUNER: VP Thuner discussed the recent fires in  
100 Australia and the shelter-in-place program they have there. Discussion ensued  
101 regarding how people perished. VP Thuner also questioned the blogging occurring on  
102 the website in connection DIRECTOR HARRIS: Director Harris inquired on the status of  
103 the follow up on the Standards of Cover. Chief Metcalf noted that several tracks are  
104 being looked at simultaneously. He noted that the District is applying for some grants  
105 and preparing for the Stimulus Package grants for fire stations. He noted that the  
106 proposed parcel for Station 5 is 2.5 acres, with the District needing 0.5 acres for a  
107 single story station. Director Harris inquired whether the District had considered using  
108 professional grant writer. Chief Metcalf noted the Leadership had discussed it, but  
109 based on the success of the in-house staff, determined not to go outside for help.  
110 DIRECTOR HOOPER: Director Hooper stated he was looking forward to visiting the new  
111 Administration space and seeing how it is laid out.

112 • **BARGAINING GROUPS**: None.

113 • **PUBLIC COMMENT**: None.

## 114 **CLOSED SESSION**

- 115 • There are no Closed Session items for the February 24, 2009 meeting.

119 **ADJOURNMENT**

120 A motion was made at 17:58 by Vice President Thuner and seconded by Director Hooper, to  
121 adjourn the meeting and reconvene on at the next regular meeting on March 24, 2009, at  
122 17:00. The motion carried unanimously.

123 Respectfully submitted,

124   

---

125 Loren Stephen-Porter

126 Board Secretary

127 Minutes approved at the Board of Director's Meeting on: February 24, 2009

128  
129  
130  
131  
132  
133  
134  
135  
136  
137  
138  
139  
140  
141  
142  
143  
144  
145  
146  
147  
148