

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, CA 93108

November 25, 2024 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. Recognition for 12 years of service: Director John Abraham Powell.
3. Consider approval of Resolution 2024-08, 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)
 - a. Staff report presented by Finance and Administrative Manager Nahas.
4. That the Board of Directors authorize the Fire Chief to enter into a Trade Services Agreement with Cuyama Lamb, for a maximum annual cost of \$100,000. (Strategic Plan Goal 2)
 - a. Staff report presented by Chief Briner.
5. Review Emergency Communications Study Proposal Requested by Director Dougherty (Strategic Plan Goal 1)
 - a. Report presented by Chief Neels and Director Dougherty.
6. Approval of Minutes of the October 28, 2024 Regular Meeting.
7. Fire Chief's report.
8. Board of Director's report.
9. Suggestions from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the December 23, 2024 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 November 21, 2024.

Montecito Fire Protection District
Agenda for Regular Meeting, November 25, 2024
Page 2



David Neels, Fire Chief

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 #3



STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Directors
From: David Neels, Fire Chief 
Prepared by: Araceli Nahas, Finance and Administrative Manager 
Date: November 25, 2024
Topic: CalPERS Health Insurance Resolution

Summary

CalPERS requires a Board-approved resolution to make changes to the employer health insurance contribution amount.

Discussion

The District's contribution amount towards health insurance premiums for employees and retirees is scheduled to increase on January 1, 2025.

The attached resolution lists the scheduled contribution amounts for all Medical Groups on file with CalPERS. Currently, all employees and retirees fall within Medical Group 000 - Employees & Annuitants.

Conclusion

Staff recommends that the Board approve Resolution 2024-08 as presented.

Attachments

1. Resolution 2024-08

Strategic Plan Reference

Strategic Plan Goal #8, Ensure Financial Accountability & Transparency

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-08
FIXING THE EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION
UNDER THE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES’ MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL CARE ACT
AT AN EQUAL AMOUNT FOR EMPLOYEES AND ANNUITANTS

WHEREAS, (1) Montecito Fire Protection District is a contracting agency under Government Code Section 22920 and subject to the Public Employees’ Medical and Hospital Care Act (the “Act”); and

WHEREAS, (2) Government Code Section 22892(a) provides that a contracting agency subject to Act shall fix the amount of the employer contribution by resolution; and

WHEREAS, (3) Government Code Section 22892(b) provides that the employer contribution shall be an equal amount for both employees and annuitants, but may not be less than the amount prescribed by Section 22892(b) of the Act; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, (a) That the employer contribution for each employee or annuitant shall be the amount necessary to pay the full cost of his/her enrollment, including the enrollment of family members, in a health benefits plan up to a maximum of:

Medical Group	Monthly Employer Health Contribution		
	Self	Self+1	Self+ Family
000 Employees and Annuitants	\$3,075.00		
001 Board of Directors	\$3,075.00		
002 Regular Hourly Employees	\$2,306.25		
003 Part Time Hourly Employees	\$1,537.50		

plus administrative fees and Contingency Reserve Fund assessments; and be it further

RESOLVED, (b) Montecito Fire Protection District has fully complied with any and all applicable provisions of Government Code Section 7507 in electing the benefits set forth above; and be it further

RESOLVED, (c) That the participation of the employees and annuitants of Montecito Fire Protection District shall be subject to determination of its status as an “agency or instrumentality of the state or political subdivision of a State” that is eligible to participate in a governmental plan within the meaning of Section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code, upon publication of final Regulations pursuant to such Section. If it is determined that Montecito Fire Protection District would not qualify as an agency or instrumentality of the state or political subdivision of a State under such final Regulations, CalPERS may be obligated, and reserves the right to terminate the health coverage of all participants of the employer; and be it further

RESOLVED, (d) That the executive body appoint and direct, and it does hereby appoint and

direct, Fire Chief to file with the Board a verified copy of this resolution, and to perform on behalf of Montecito Fire Protection District all functions required of it under the Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, (e) That coverage under the Act be effective on **January 1, 2025**.

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors at Santa Barbara, this 25th day of November, 2024.

Signed: _____
President of the Board of Directors


Attest: _____
Secretary of the Board of Directors

Agenda

Item #4



STAFF REPORT

To: Montecito Fire Protection District Board of Directors
From: David Neels, Fire Chief 
Prepared By: Aaron Briner, Fire Marshal
Date: November 25, 2024
Topic: Special Services Contract – Cuyama Lamb

Summary

The Montecito Fire Protection District (MFPD) wishes to enhance wildfire preparedness by continuing to implement prescribed herbivory (grazing) as part of the Montecito Wildfire Vegetation Management Program. Grazing has proven to be an ecologically sustainable management tool to reduce wildfire intensity in strategic locations. MFPD would like to utilize a special services contract to hire Cuyama Lamb to graze an estimated 70 acres in Montecito in 2025, with the option to extend the contract for 3-additional years.

Discussion

Grazing limits the intensity of wildfires by reducing fuel loads in strategic locations. In 2019, MFPD identified approximately 900 acres of potential grazing with sheep and goats that could be implemented over the course of 10 years. These projects were part of the Montecito Vegetation Management Program analyzed by the environmental consultant Dudek.

MFPD has most recently utilized grazing in 2020, 2023, and 2024. Cuyama Lamb is a local grazing contractor that has implemented all but one of the proposed five projects. In 2020, they were hired directly by MFPD and in 2023 and 2024 they were hired by the Santa Barbara County Fire Safe Council as part of the South Coast Prescribed Herbivory Program grant, which included the identified Montecito projects. We anticipate this grant funding source continuing to be available in future years.

Grazing within the community of Montecito brings unique challenges, most notable are the narrow roadways accessing the projects. The owners of Cuyama Lamb have knowledge of these challenges and have adequate equipment to navigate Montecito's road system. Their staff have always done a great job implementing the projects and District residents have been complimentary on their professionalism.

The estimated cost of grazing is \$1000 - \$1200 an acre for a maximum cost of \$100,000 each year. The final cost will be calculated after each project has been completed and the perimeter of actual treated acres is mapped. Since the identified projects are planned to be implemented annually and there is potential to include additional projects, the contract includes language to allow for three (3) one-year renewal options and the ability to adjust the acres treated each year. The current approved budget has funds identified to complete these projects this fiscal year.

Conclusion

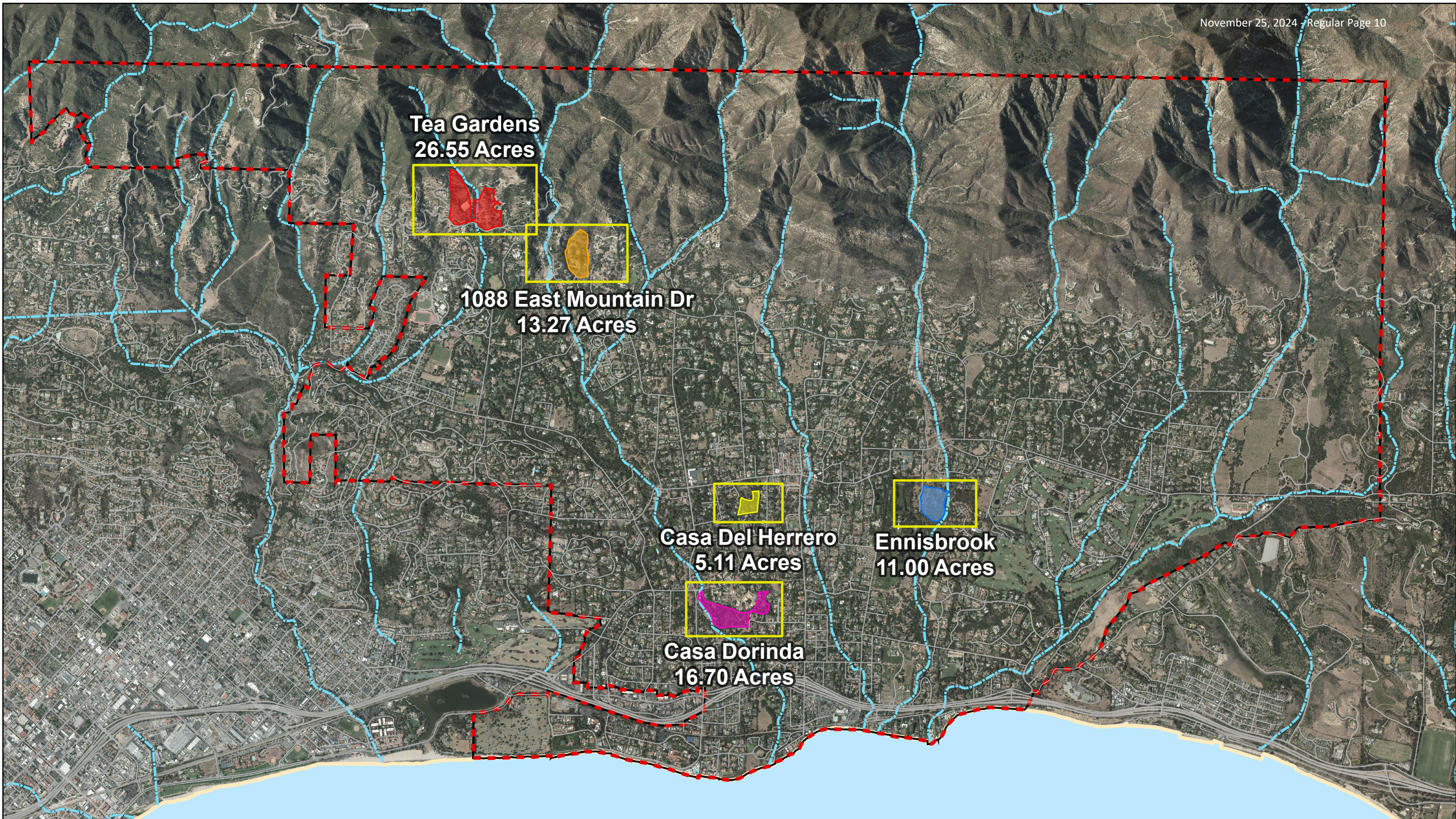
Staff recommends the Board approve and authorize the Fire Chief to execute the Trade Services Agreement with Cuyama Lamb for grazing. The agreement includes a maximum annual cost of \$100,000, with three (3) one-year renewal options at the Department's sole discretion.

Attachments

1. Annual Grazing Zones Overview Map

Strategic Plan Reference

Strategic Plan Goal #2, Enhance risk mitigation efforts



Tea Gardens
26.55 Acres

1088 East Mountain Dr
13.27 Acres

Casa Del Herrero
5.11 Acres

Ennisbrook
11.00 Acres

Casa Dorinda
16.70 Acres

Tea Gardens Grazing Zone



26.55 Acres

Upper Hyde

E Mountain Dr

Gold Springs Rd

Z WORLD
GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS
www.zworldgis.com • 805.448.1726

N
0 80 160
Feet


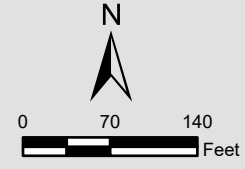








- Tea Gardens
- Ennisbrook
- Casa Dorinda
- Casa Del Herrero
- 1088 East Mountain Dr.
- Streets
- Creeks & Rivers

MONTECITO FIRE DISTRICT
Annual Grazing Zones
Tea Gardens Grazing Zone
20241001
Compiled by ZWORLD GIS.

1088 E Mountain Dr Grazing Zone

13.27 Acres

E Mountain Dr

 <p>www.zworldgis.com • 805.448.1726</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Tea Gardens  Ennisbrook  Casa Dorinda  Casa Del Herrero  1088 East Mountain Dr. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">  Streets  Creeks & Rivers 	 <p>MONTECITO FIRE DISTRICT Annual Grazing Zones 1088 E Mountain Dr Grazing Zone 20241001</p> <p>Compiled by ZWORLD GIS.</p>
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Casa Del Herrero Grazing Zone



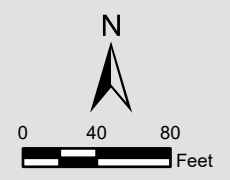
5.11 Acres

Gota Ln

E Pepper Ln

Pimiento Ln

Hosmer Ln



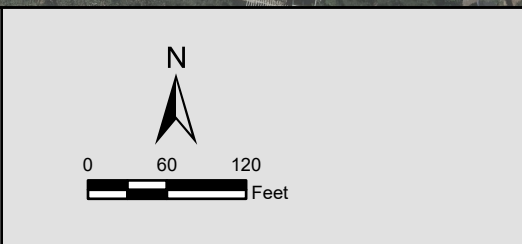
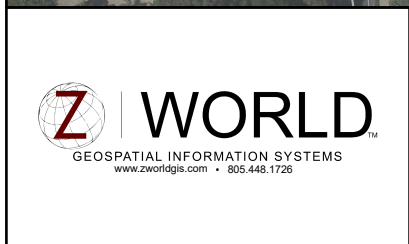
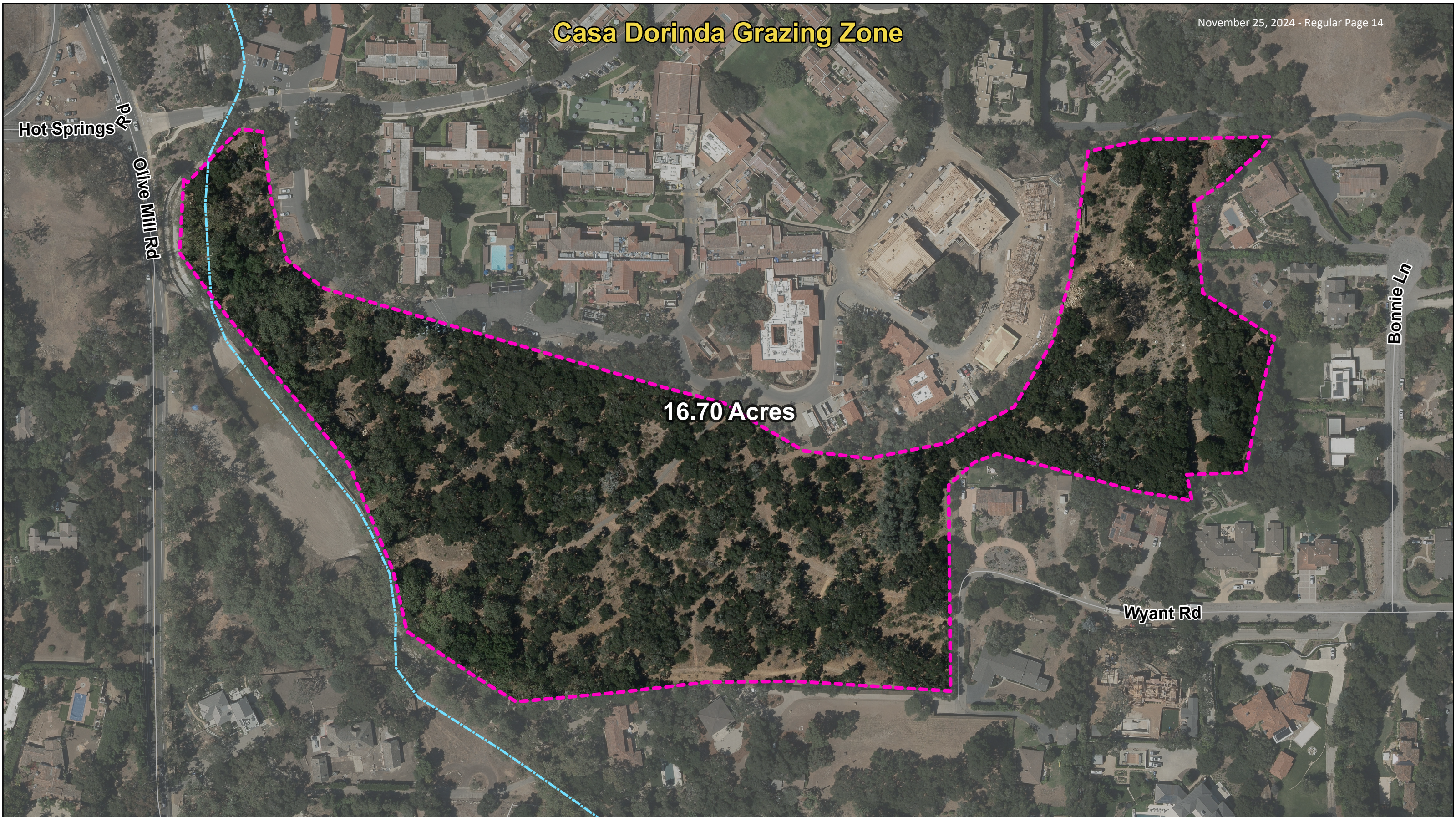
- Tea Gardens
 - Ennisbrook
 - Casa Dorinda
 - Casa Del Herrero
 - 1088 East Mountain Dr.
- Streets
 - Creeks & Rivers



MONTECITO FIRE DISTRICT
Annual Grazing Zones
Casa Del Herrero Grazing Zone
20241001

Compiled by ZWORLD GIS.

Casa Dorinda Grazing Zone



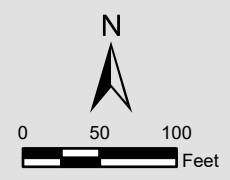
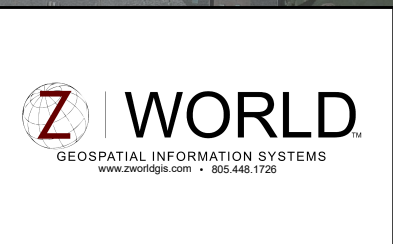
- Tea Gardens
 - Ennisbrook
 - Casa Dorinda
 - Casa Del Herrero
 - 1088 East Mountain Dr.
- Streets
- Creeks & Rivers








MONTECITO FIRE DISTRICT
Annual Grazing Zones
Casa Dorinda Grazing Zone
20241001
Compiled by ZWORLD GIS.

Ennisbrook Grazing Zone

11.00 Acres

Monarch Ln
Meadowbrook Dr



-  Tea Gardens
-  Ennisbrook
-  Casa Dorinda
-  Casa Del Herrero
-  1088 East Mountain Dr.
-  Streets
-  Creeks & Rivers



MONTECITO FIRE DISTRICT
Annual Grazing Zones
Ennisbrook Grazing Zone
20241001
 Compiled by ZWORLD GIS.

Agenda Item #5

Montecito Community Emergency Communications Study Proposal

November 25, 2024

[Stephen Dougherty](#)

Director

Montecito Fire Protection District

Overview

Montecito's Communication Challenges During Emergencies

Given its geographic location, Montecito is an area particularly susceptible to natural disasters such as wildland fires and debris flows. Situated between mountains and the ocean, the region has extremely limited egress routes, which makes timely evacuation challenging during emergencies.

Traditional communication methods, such as cell phones, the internet and even landline telephones have proven unreliable during emergencies. This hinders residents' ability to call 911 or access critical situational information. (Public Safety Power Shutoffs may further exacerbate communication disruptions even prior to the onset of an emergency.)

The tragic loss of 25 lives in the Oakland/Berkeley Fire of 1991 and 102 lives in the Lahaina fire of 2023, with many perishing while unsuccessfully attempting to evacuate, underscores the importance of effective communication during emergencies. The restricted egress routes and unreliable public communication in Montecito resemble conditions similar to those in previous disasters. This highlights the critical need for more reliable public information systems during emergencies.

While the Santa Barbara County Office of Emergency Management plays a vital role, its small staff, tight resources and limited local knowledge may be inadequate to address the issue.

Proposal

To enhance resident safety during emergencies, **Montecito Fire should investigate and propose strategies for establishing reliable emergency communications** which enable timely public access to critical information and emergency services.

The Montecito Fire staff does not currently have the resources nor expertise to undertake all the necessary research and make recommendations. However, Montecito Fire Protection District does have the financial resources to hire experts in the field to conduct the required research and make practical and actionable recommendations.

Goals

1. **Evaluate the current state of real time communications during an emergency especially when grid power may be limited or unavailable.**
2. **Make practical recommendations on multiple ways in which communications during emergencies can be improved.**
3. **Create a plan for how these recommendations can be implemented and monitor progress on the implementation of the recommendations.**

Next Steps

I. Direct staff begin search for consultants

The Montecito Fire Protection District Board of Directors should direct the staff to initiate a search for appropriate consultants and anticipate there will be an associated expense with hiring consultants

II. Identify the consultants

Montecito Fire staff should identify the appropriate consultants to conduct the study.

III. Hire the consultants

The Montecito Fire Protection District Board of Directors should approve the necessary funding to conduct the required research.

IV. Present the findings

Present the findings and recommendations to the Montecito Fire Protection District Board and the community.

V. Develop a plan and set timelines for implementing the recommendations.

Some examples of what the study might find or recommend:

- a. *Infrastructure*; The current cell phone, landline and internet infrastructure is inadequate. Perhaps there are ways to incentivize the service providers to make their systems more resilient during emergencies with battery backup systems, redundant systems, undergrounding of utilities, or whatever is required for reliable service.

There are also things that don't require major infrastructure fixes:

- b. *Individual residences*; Individuals may be able to improve their access to emergency communications by purchasing simple reliable radio receivers, installing things like backup power or satellite internet service, using cell phones with satellite service
- c. *Montecito Fire Department*; Having a reliable radio broadcast system to provide real time information across the district before and during emergencies. (Significant progress in this area has been made in the last 12 months).
- d. *Montecito Fire Department*: Potentially adding an emergency communications specialist position, similar to what we have with dedicated wildland fire specialists. The role would be to do things like:

Monitor community emergency communications readiness, work with local service providers to improve communication infrastructure.

Keep abreast of new emergency communication technology and advise residents of methods of emergency communications preparedness.

Monitor state and federal initiatives focussed on improved communication infrastructure and making sure local service providers are following the mandates

Monitor emergency communications initiatives in other communities to see what may apply to Montecito.

Ideally we can make Montecito an example of how our community is an example to other communities of how public emergency communication is done well.

Agenda

Item #6

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 October 28, 2024 at 2:00 p.m.

Director Lee called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

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

Absent: Director van Duinwyk

- 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.)**

There were no public comments to report at this meeting.

- 2. Receive presentation from PARS/PFM Asset Management representatives, Angela Tang and Dennis Mullins, regarding the District's post-retirement benefits trust investments plans. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)**
 - a. Staff report presented by Accountant Nahas.**

Accountant Nahas provided an overview of the District's trust accounts for OPEB and Pension and introduced the presenters, Angela Tang from PARS and Dennis Mullins of PFM Asset Management. Ms. Tang reviewed the fund activity and balances, and Mr. Mullins reviewed the investment performance for the past year. Mr. Mullins confirmed that all funds are held at US Bank and he advised maintaining the current investment strategy which includes 30% equity and 70% fixed income.

- 3. Report from the Finance Committee. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)**
 - a. Consider recommendation for approval of July, August and September 2024 financial statements.**

Accountant Nahas presented the July, August, and September 2024 financial statements which showed no unusual revenue or expense activity, with primary costs being operational. Director Lee informed the Board that the Finance Committee also reviewed the financials and asked clarifying questions of Accountant Nahas.

Motion to approve the financial statements for July, August and September 2024 made by Director Lee, seconded by Director Easton, and unanimously passed.

b. Review PARS Post-Employment Benefits Trust statement for July and August 2024.

Accountant Nahas provided a staff report regarding PARS Post-Employment Benefits Trust statement for July and August 2024.

4. Review Independent Accountant's Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures for the CalOES California Fire Assistance Agreement Salary Surveys and Reimbursement Claims. (Strategic Plan Goal 8)

a. Staff report presented by Accountant Nahas.

Accountant Nahas reported that the District was selected for a CalOES audit under the California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA) for 2020. Accountant Nahas reported that there were minor findings related to pay increases, and no further action is required. The Board accepted and filed the Independent Accountant's Report.

5. That the Board of Directors authorize the Fire Chief to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Underwood Management Resources, Inc. in the amount of \$75,000. (Strategic Plan Goal 5)

a. Staff report presented by Fire Chief Neels.

Chief Neels provided a staff report regarding an agreement for professional services with Underwood Management Resources, Inc. for assistance with various improvement projects.

Motion to authorize the Fire Chief to enter into a Professional Services Agreement with Underwood Management Resources, Inc, in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.00 made by Director Powell, seconded by Director Easton. The motion passed unanimously.

6. That the Board of Directors approve and authorize the President to execute Side Letter Agreement amending Sections 1, 12.1 and 30 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Members of Staff and the Montecito Fire Protection District adding the Finance and Administrative Manager position and removing the Accountant Position. (Strategic Plan Goal 6)

a. Staff report presented by Fire Chief Neels.

Chief Neels provided a staff report regarding a change of title and compensation for the Accountant position. Chief Neels recommended the change of title to Finance and Administrative Manager with corresponding adjustments to the compensation.

Motion to approve and authorize the President to execute Side Letter Agreement amending Sections 1, 12.1 and 30 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Members of Staff and the Montecito Fire Protection District adding the Finance and Administrative Manager position and removing the Accountant Position made by Director Dougherty, seconded by Director Easton and motion carried. Director Powell voted nay.

7. Approval of Minutes of the September 23, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Motion to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2024 Regular Meeting made by Director Powell, seconded by Director Easton, and unanimously passed.

8. Fire Chief's report.

Fire Chief Neels presented the Quarterly Operations Report, highlighting response data, training, major incidents, Mutual Aid, personnel updates, and community engagement. Public Information Officer Atchison reported on improvements to the District's AM 1610 radio station. Chief Neels noted that Wildland Fire Specialists removed 50 tons of vegetation in the past month and shared that the District hosted a Winter Weather Outlook meeting with the National Weather Service and local partners. He also announced Coral Godlis as the new Administrative Assistant for the Montecito Fire Department, starting November 1, 2024.

9. Board of Director's report.

There were no items to report at this meeting.

10. Suggestions from Directors for items other than regular agenda items to be included for the November 25, 2024 Regular Board meeting.

Director Dougherty presented a proposal to study Montecito Community Emergency Communications. Item will be added to the November Agenda.

Regular meeting closed at 4:23 p.m.

11. CLOSED SESSION: Public Employee Discipline/Dismissal/Release (Government Code section 54957)

Director Lee called Closed Session to order at 4:30 p.m.

The Board reported out of closed session at 5:17 p.m. with no reportable action.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

President Peter van Duinwyk

Secretary Sylvia Easton

Agenda

Item #7



Administration

Tel: (805) 965-5254

Fax: (805) 564-5730

Fire Prevention

Tel: (805) 564-5702

Fax: (805) 564-5715

Office of

Emergency Services/

Public Education

Tel: (805) 564-5711

Fax: (805) 564-5793

925 Chapala Street

Santa Barbara, CA

93101

Fire Chief Dave Neels

Montecito Fire Department

595 San Ysidro Road

Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Date: October 29, 2024

Dear Chief Neels,

I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to you, your organization, and your leadership for providing a cover engine and crew on October 20, 2024. Our intent was to ensure that no member of the Santa Barbara City Fire Department was excluded from attending the paddle out and celebration of life for Tony Pighetti.

As I observed our members in attendance, I recognized the vital role your support played in allowing them to connect, mourn, celebrate, and reflect. This meaningful opportunity would not have been possible without the dedication and professionalism of your team.

I want to specifically acknowledge Captain Dan Arnold, Engineer Evan Hamaker, and Firefighters Carlos Luna and John Weber of Engine 9, as well as Battalion Chief Ben Hauser for their commitment and support. Their presence ensured our department members could participate fully, while also maintaining the high level of service our community and visitors expect.

This collaboration between our agencies reinforces the strength of the relationships within our operational area—bonds that I am honored to be a part of. Your support exemplifies the spirit of unity and professionalism that we all strive to uphold.

On behalf of our City, Department, and myself, thank you again for your partnership. Please know that if there is ever anything we can do to assist you and your team, we will be ready to answer the call.

With deep gratitude,

Fire Chief Chris Mailes

Santa Barbara City Fire Department



Office of the Sheriff

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

STATIONS

Buellton
 140 W. Highway 246
 Buellton, CA 93427
 Phone (805) 686-8150

Carpinteria
 5775 Carpinteria Avenue
 Carpinteria, CA 93013
 Phone (805) 568-3399

Isla Vista
 6504 Trigo Road
 Isla Vista, CA 93117
 Phone (805) 681-4179

Lompoc
 3500 Harris Grade Road
 Lompoc, CA 93436
 Phone (805) 737-7737

New Cuyama
 70 Newsome Street
 New Cuyama, CA 93254
 Phone (661) 766-2310

Santa Maria
 812-A W. Foster Road
 Santa Maria, CA 93455
 Phone (805) 934-6150

Solvang
 1745 Mission Drive
 Solvang, CA 93463
 Phone (805) 686-5000

Sheriff - Coroner Office
 66 S. San Antonio Road
 Santa Barbara, CA 93110
 Phone (805) 681-4145

Main Jail
 4436 Calle Real
 Santa Barbara, CA 93110
 Phone (805) 681-4260

Northern Branch Jail
 2301 Black Road
 Santa Maria, CA 93455
 Phone (805) 554-3100

COURT SERVICES CIVIL OFFICES

Santa Barbara
 1105 Santa Barbara Street
 P.O. Box 690
 Santa Barbara, CA 93102
 Phone (805) 568-2900

Santa Maria
 312 E. Cook Street, "O"
 Santa Maria, CA 93456
 Phone (805) 346-7430

HEADQUARTERS
 P.O. Box 6427 4434 Calle Real Santa Barbara, California 93110
 Phone (805) 681-4100 Fax (805) 681-4322
 sbsheriff.org

BILL BROWN
 Sheriff - Coroner
CRAIG BONNER
 Undersheriff

Montecito Fire Protection District
 595 San Ysidro Road
 Montecito, California 93108
 Attention: Chief David Neels

November 13, 2024

Dear Montecito Fire Protection District Chief Neels and Staff,

I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for having been selected as the "Montecito Association 2024 Citizen of the Year" Award recipient. When Director Mindy Denson advised me that I was 2024 Award Recipient I was deeply honored just to be named as the awardee.

On November 2/Saturday, I was totally surprised by not only the attendance of the Montecito Association membership, but Montecito Fire District Fire Chief David Neels and many of your staff, First District Supervisor Das Williams, and members from the Sheriff's Office.

To have my name on the back of the Annual Montecito Association Beautification Day T-Shirt and to be presented with various gifts, which included the beautiful desk plaque present by Chief Neels, a Board of Supervisor Proclamation, and "Butch, the Bear Cub" was way beyond your thanks and appreciation along with the kind words spoken by various presenters.

It was truly my honor and privilege to have served the Montecito Community not only for the past five plus years directly as your primary law enforcement contact, but for much of my extensive career which now totals over 50 years. As you are all aware, this past five years we all worked collaboratively, you as first responders as members of the Montecito Fire District along with various other

County and State agencies during the Thomas Fire, 1-9 Debris Flow, Covid-19 Pandemic and recovery to assist this outstanding community. Our collaborative efforts also worked on our "homeless/unhoused" issues of which "Hands Across Montecito" was created and became such a successful approach to this societal issue that the County of Santa Barbara adopted our success for the rest of the County. Additionally, we worked collaboratively to help address parking and access issues in your beach and trailhead neighborhoods. Crime Prevention through "Community Policing" is very much in full force within the Montecito Community thanks to all our collaborative efforts and open communication.

In closing, as I mentioned to those in attendance, it is I that should be thanking each one of you for giving me the honor, privilege, and most importantly the trust to serve and protect you throughout my entire law enforcement career.

With deepest appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lt. Ugo Peter 'Butch' Arnoldi #378". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

Sheriff's Lieutenant Ugo Peter "Butch" Arnoldi # 378



November 15, 2024

Fire Chief David Neels
Montecito Fire Protection District
595 San Ysidro Rd.
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Administration

Tel: (805) 965-5254

Fax: (805) 564-5730

Fire Prevention

Tel: (805) 564-5702

Fax: (805) 564-5715

**Office of
Emergency Services/
Public Education**

Tel: (805) 564-5711

Fax: (805) 564-5793

925 Chapala Street
Santa Barbara, CA
93101

Dear Chief Neels:

On October 9, 2024, the operational area fire departments and public safety personnel suffered the loss of a great public servant. Tony Pighetti passed away in the early morning after going out paddleboarding the evening before.

As a retired firefighter and current Operational Area Peer Support Coordinator, Tony had an indelible mark on our mental health and wellness program. Over the preceding several years, Tony had worked to build up a program that is the envy of the entire State. The program is built on the acknowledgment and understanding of the mental health challenges of firefighters. Working as a collaborative team across the entire county, our peer support program has helped save lives and careers and left a fingerprint on countless hearts and minds.

Tony was the glue that held this program together. Working tirelessly for years, Tony coordinated over 70 peer support personnel across all our departments.

On October 9th, every fire department sent personnel to support this untimely tragedy. Our volunteer peer support personnel came to Santa Barbara, developed an outreach plan, and attended to the needs of our close-knit group.

On behalf of the Santa Barbara City Fire Department and the Santa Barbara County Fire Chiefs Association, I would like to thank the Montecito Fire Protection District and Andy Rupp, Evan Skei, and Billy Wrenn for helping in our collective time of need. The hours spent volunteering to assist all firefighters is most appreciated. Collectively, the peer support personnel made the best of an awful situation.

Please extend my heartfelt appreciation for the great work done during the week of October 9, 2024. The County Fire Chiefs are grateful for the care and passion exhibited by Andy, Evan, and Billy.

Sincerely,

Chris Mailes
Fire Chief, City of Santa Barbara
President, Fire Chiefs Association of Santa Barbara County

Dear Maeve,

Thank you again for helping us keep our property free of fire fuel.

Here's hoping this winter is a quiet fire season, but La Nina may keep us on our toes!

Stay safe.

Linda Gupta