



Meeting Minutes
San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 15, 2026 – 5:30 P.M.
Hybrid Remote Teleconference Meeting
2121 S. El Camino Real, Building D, San Mateo

1. OPENING

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Board Chair Newsom

1.1. Call to Order & Determination of a Quorum

1.2. Pledge of Allegiance

1.3. Roll Call

Board Members Present: Newsom, Jimenez, Mates

Board Members Absent: None

2. AGENDA CHANGES

None

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

4. CONSENT

During discussion, Board Chair Newsom raised the question of whether the Board should establish a formal process to periodically evaluate legal counsel's performance, similar to annual evaluations conducted for city attorneys and city managers within member agencies.

Legal Counsel David Schwarz explained that the Department's legal services are provided through a professional services contract and emphasized that counsel serves at the pleasure of the Board. He stated that his firm welcomes feedback and would be receptive to any evaluation or review process the Board wishes to establish.

Chief Administrative Officer Alex Khojikian suggested the Board could incorporate an annual closed session check-in with legal counsel as part of its regular governance practices. Board members expressed support for the concept and agreed that an annual closed session discussion would provide an appropriate opportunity to review legal services.

It was noted that this direction could be reflected in the minutes without requiring a formal amendment and that the Board retains the authority to revisit the process at any time.

Chair Newsom asked if there was any public comment on this item, which there was not. Vice Chair Jimenez moved to approve the resolution; Board Member Mates seconded. The Board Secretary took a roll call vote, and the resolution was approved 3-0.

5. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Item 5.1 Board Members and Department Management Staff

None

Item 5.2 Community Risk Reduction Update

Deputy Chief Eric Mackintosh provided an update on Administration, the Office of Emergency Services, and Fire Prevention. Some highlights included:

Administration

- Staff are evaluating vendors for an AI-powered customer service platform integrating the Department's website, phone, email, chat, and text systems.
- The platform would provide 24/7 service in more than 200 languages.
- Proposed features include inspection scheduling, responses to common public inquiries, and real-time information during major emergencies.
- The system is intended to improve public access and reduce repetitive administrative workload.

Office of Emergency Services

- City staff completed training in the five Emergency Operations Center sections: Management, Operations, Planning, Finance, and Logistics.
- Personal Preparedness Day was scheduled for August 8 and would provide Spanish-language instruction in CPR, bleeding control, fire safety, and emergency preparedness.
- The next CERT Academy was scheduled to begin September 1 and was fully enrolled.
- Belmont, Foster City, and San Mateo were scheduled to participate in a joint Great ShakeOut functional exercise on October 15.
- Incident Response Guides for extreme heat, floods, and earthquakes were nearing completion.
- The County's Local Hazard Mitigation Plan was submitted to Cal OES for review on July 14.
- OES personnel responded to every structure fire during the reporting period, assisting displaced residents and coordinating resources through the American Red Cross.
- OES also supported extended incidents by coordinating meals and remaining with affected residents so emergency crews could return to service.

Fire Prevention

- A conditional offer was extended to a per diem Fire Inspector to fill a full-time vacancy.
- Two employees were hired to fill longstanding Prevention office vacancies.
- The Division continued identifying efficiencies, prioritizing essential services, balancing its budget, and rebuilding reserves.
- Deputy Chief Mackintosh recognized Fire Prevention personnel for their work and sacrifices in restoring the Division's financial stability.

Board members expressed appreciation for the update and discussed the anticipated customer service and workload benefits of the AI initiative. Board Member Mates also suggested including presentation materials with future agenda packets to improve public access to the information.

Item 5.3 Operations Update

Deputy Chief Anthony Agresti provided an operational update covering emergency response activity, staffing, special operations, grants, communications, and upcoming events. Some highlights included:

Calls for Service

- Responded to approximately 9,100 calls for service year-to-date.
- Maintained an average response time of 5 minutes and 38 seconds from dispatch to arrival.

Special Operations

- Responded to 27 hazardous materials incidents and 35 water rescue incidents.
- Reported an increase in hazardous materials responses involving lithium-ion batteries from electric vehicles, e-bikes, scooters, and other battery-powered devices, which require specialized response due to fire behavior and toxic gas hazards.
- Continued providing technical hazardous materials support throughout San Mateo County in addition to routine emergency response.

Staffing

- Welcomed eight new firefighters in June 2026, consisting of academy graduates and lateral hires.
- The entry-level firefighter recruitment attracted 612 applicants, reflecting continued interest in the profession.
- Reported the Department currently has five firefighter vacancies and anticipates hiring another academy in January 2027.
- Recognized the continued service of the SMCFD Honor Guard.

Mutual Aid

- One firefighter was deployed to Colorado through the regional mutual aid system to support wildfire communications operations.
- Noted that SMCFD continues to support neighboring jurisdictions and out-of-state incidents through California's mutual aid system.

Equipment and Resources

- Received a grant-funded Utility Terrain Vehicle (UTV) scheduled for delivery in November 2026 to enhance off-road medical and wildland response capabilities.
- Acquired four dedicated radio channels exclusively for SMCFD to improve communications reliability during major incidents and countywide emergencies.
- Reported that two replacement rescue jet skis are currently in production to strengthen the Department's water rescue capabilities.
- Highlighted additional grant-funded equipment acquisitions, including specialized hazardous materials response equipment.

Deputy Chief Agresti concluded by announcing several upcoming public events, including:

- Disaster Preparedness Day on August 1.
- National Night Out on August 4.
- Chili Cook-Off on September 12.

Board members discussed the Department's acquisition of four dedicated radio channels and the importance of maintaining reliable communications during major emergencies and large-scale incidents. Deputy Chief Agresti explained that the dedicated channels will enhance operational coordination and ensure communication capabilities remain available during high-demand events. The Board also expressed appreciation for the Department's continued investment in specialized equipment, participation in regional mutual aid, and ongoing community outreach and preparedness efforts.

Item 6.4 Fire Chief Update

Fire Chief Turturici reported that he had no additional updates.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT ON CLOSED SESSION ITEMS

None

7. CLOSED SESSION

8. RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION

Written report of any reportable action will be prepared and included in the agenda packet for the next Board meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.