



# RANCHO SANTA FE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT SPECIAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District - Board/Community Room  
16936 El Fuego  
Rancho Santa Fe, California

June 5, 2002  
1:30 p.m.

## 1 Meeting Called to Order/Roll Call

President Mullins called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

Directors Present: Ashcraft, Douglas, Lombard, Mullins, Phillips

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: Erwin Willis, Fire Chief; Nicholas Pavone, Deputy Chief; Karlana Rannals,  
Board Clerk

## 2. Public Comment

### Speaker 1

Richard Scuba – *La Flecha*

Mr. Scuba on behalf of his family expressed his great appreciation for the professionalism and assistance for his personal tragedy in the loss of his child.

## 3. Administrative Items

a. *Hazard Mitigation Plan* – Chief Willis summarized the Staff Reports included for this item. He reminded the board members that they directed Staff at the May board meeting to develop a plan to deal with the severity of the dead and dying trees in the Fire District. He reported that Staff had conducted several meetings internally to develop a comprehensive plan to present for their consideration.

Chief Willis reviewed the phase one of the proposed program and staff responded to questions from the Board and public. The first phase is to establish a grant program for the removal of the dead and dying trees. The financial incentive is to encourage the property owner to remove the dead or dying trees immediately. This grant application phase would commence July 1 and conclude November 1.

He proposed that the Board of Directors authorize \$1 million to grants. He noted that there would be additional costs to the District to implement and support this program. There is a need to hire additional Fire Inspector and administrative support.

The board members reviewed the financial incentives provided. The consensus of the members was to modify the grant formula to \$100 per tree, 25% of bill, maximum \$2,000 per property. Chief Willis assured the board members that inspectors will verify each property for compliance before any grant is processed.

MOTION DIRECTOR DOUGLAS, SECOND DIRECTOR ASHCRAFT, CARRIED 3-2 to authorize Staff to proceed with a grant program as identified in the Staff Report with the following modifications:

\$100 per tree, or 25% of bill, maximum \$2,000 per property

Grant money available to any removal that occurred after July 1 through November 1

Delete public relations component of the program.

Chief Willis discussed the additional items that the District can do to augment the District's preparedness this fire season. These items are identified in the supplements Staff Report provided by Chief Neville. The Board discussed the merits of each recommendation and the costs associated with the recommendations. MOTION DIRECTOR ASHCRAFT, SECOND DIRECTOR LOMBARD, CARRIED 5-0, to approve the Augmented Preparedness Program presented with a modification to purchase six (6) portable radios instead of the proposed nine (9).

*15-minute recess*

*b. Response to Newspaper Article*

Chief Willis summarized his response, to be published in the June 6 edition of the *Rancho Santa Fe Review* from an article in the May 23, 2002 edition. He informed the Board of Directors that the District has repeatedly asked for meetings with Rancho Santa Fe Homeowners Association to address any of their questions or concerns, but to date nothing had occurred. The Board members encouraged Staff to schedule a meeting as soon as possible to address the inaccurate statements and use the forum as an educational opportunity.

*4. Closed Session*

The Board of Directors adjourned to closed session starting at 4:25 to discuss the following, as authorized by statute:

1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR, pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6 the

Agency Negotiator: Erwin Willis, Fire Chief

Negotiating Parties: Rancho Santa Fe Board of Directors.

Under Negotiation: Instruction to negotiator for wages and benefits

Unrepresented Employee:

1. Deputy Chiefs (3)
2. Administrative Manager (1)
3. Staff Assistant (2)
4. Accounting Specialist (1)
5. Urban Forester (1)
6. Fire Prevention Specialist (1)
7. Education Specialist (1)

The Board of Directors reconvened to an open session at 5:05 p.m.

*5. Announcement of Closed Session Actions*

Upon reconvening, President Mullins reported that the Fire Chief was provided direction to increase compensation for non-represented employees, not to exceed 10%, and further directed Staff to prepare a resolution for the next meeting.

*6. Adjournment*

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

*[Signatures next page]*

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Karlana Rannals  
Secretary

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F J Mullins  
President