

Draft Community Report

The Board of Directors of Coastside Fire Protection District (CFPD) is please to provide Coastside citizens with the “Community Report” on the status, accomplishments, and direction of your fire district.

First a brief background for perhaps for some of our newer residents. The CFPD is an independent government entity established under Special District statues of the State of California. The district is governed by five elected directors who serve four year staggered terms. Financing for the district is primarily from a small percentage of property taxes, and lesser amounts from a parcel tax and fees from building permits inspections or properties etc. The district has not had a tax increase since 1981 and has had three small decreases in the Montara & Moss Beach area.

The mission of the CFPD is to – “protect lives, the environment, and property through fire protection, suppression, emergency services and rescue actions and public education.”

The Board of Directors has complete fiduciary responsibility for all operations and financial aspects of the district. The Board established the level of service; maintains ownership of all equipment, facilities and authorizes all contracts. The Board operates in the “public trust” to represent the best interest of citizens and taxpayers.

The district operates in a somewhat unique fashion, in that it does not have employees. All services and personnel are provided on an independent contract basis. This includes legal, auditor, management, union firefighters and paramedics amount other services. All contracts of course can be amended, expanded or cancelled. This policy in effect since 2009 has resulted in increased efficiency and saved taxpayer million of dollars.

Our largest contract is with Cal Fire the State of California Fire Department, which provides management, management, firefighters, paramedics, fire marshal and administrative staff as well as manages all the day-to-day operations of the district. Cal Fire has met or exceeded all contract obligations.

We are please to report that the districts in sounds financial shape with ten straight years of unqualified audits, modern up to date equipment, adequate reserves with funded plans to add a new training facility and a new replacement for the antiquate station in El Granada.

This district does have a long term financial obligation with the California Personnel Retirement plan (Cal Pers) for retirement and health services for former employees that worked prior to our contract with Cal Fire.

This past year the district received two highly coveted awards from the California Special Districts Association. The first was the awarding of a “Transparency Certificate” which noted the openness and availability of information regarding meeting, negotiations, web

site content, and public contracts. Additionally the district was named a “District of Distinction,” only one of two fire districts in California to be so recognized for administrative and financial performance.

We encourage citizens to visit the district website www.coastsidefire.org to view more in depth information regarding finances, audit contracts, strategic plans etc.

In summary, while we face constant challenges as we strive to achieve our mission, we are well positioned and committed to provide the services and results expected by the coastside citizens.