

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
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Alex Harvey
Fred Lofrano
Russell McCray
Nicole Paskey
Mark Wright

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING: April 9, 2026

17020 Placer Hills Rd. Suite 2A, Meadow Vista

1. Call to order; Flag salute; Roll call:

Director Harvey convened the regular meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Directors in attendance: Harvey, Lofrano, McCray, Paskey and Wright

Directors absent: N/A

Staff in attendance: Chief Gow, Assistant Chief Slusher, Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi, and Division Chief Williamson.

2. Agenda approval:

Director Lofrano moved to approve the agenda. Director Wright seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

3. Approval of the minutes:

Director McCray moved to approve the minutes. Director Wright seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0, Abstain-Paskey

4. Public Comment:

Jennifer – Learned that the LAFCo office was threatened with violence, regarding the protest hearing. It led to sheriff officers attending the protest hearing, the crowd was rowdy during the hearing as they felt they didn't receive proper notice about the reorganization. There were 44 (1.2%) protests from registered voters and 70 land owner protests accounting for only 2.1% of the property value. LAFCo is working to make sure that the MSR that includes the City of Auburn and Foresthill get completed.

5. Correspondence (not covered in Agenda items below): N/A

6. Information Items:

a. Fire Chief Report – Chief Gow

- i. At last night's LAFCo meeting they officially accepted the protest hearing results.
- ii. Will be meeting with our attorney to determine the final steps of the reorganization. One of the items we are discussing is onboarding the staff a bit sooner than the formation date of July 1st.
- iii. Penryn is starting the process of working on their strategic plan.
- iv. Project updates; new physical exams set up, Lexipol policy manual ready for review
- v. South Placer donated a reserve fire engine to Newcastle Fire

b. Operations Report – Chief Slusher

- i. 86 calls for service in March, provided aid 3 times and received once. Year to date 343 calls, call volume down slightly.
- ii. JOA functioning successfully, Battalion Chiefs are providing good field leadership
- iii. Surplus engine from South Placer Fire, 1999 Westates Engine, will become a front-line reserve. One of our current engines will be brought forward to be surplus at a future date.
- iv. Completed a testing process for Engineer/Paramedic, two offers have been extended.

c. Prevention Report – Chief Williamson

- i. Completed 3 plans, 3 hydro/rough, 1 final, and 2 propane line.
- ii. Hum in Peace properly split has a public hearing in April.

d. Placer Hills Firefighters Association report: N/A

e. Local 3800: N/A

f. Board Committee reports:

i. Finance Committee: Director McCray reported that the committed met and an amended budget will be presented later in the agenda.

ii. Ad hoc Committee for reorganizations: N/A

7. Discussion and Action Items:

a. Status on Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan update for 2026 and CWPP Community Wildfire Prevention Plan

Fire Marshal D'Ambrogi reported that the draft is out for public review, on April 21 a public meeting will be held. For CWPP, there is a survey out and is available to the public, collected information will assist in developing the plan. A new plan is being started, the evacuation transportation resiliency plan; focused on evacuation and transportation systems within the county. Looking how areas within the county can be improved and expect to bring information forward in January or February.

b. Approve the budget update and monthly expenses (action)

Director Paskey motions to approve the budget update and monthly expenses. Director McCray seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

c. Consider and vote for the Special District Representative on the Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (action)

Chief Gow reported that one of the current members running is the current Special District seat. Director Wright motions to nominate Judy Friedman for the special district representative for Placer County LAFCo. Director McCray seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

d. Board to consider and approve a selection process for the board members of the reorganized Placer Hills and Newcastle Fire Protection District (action)

Director Harvey suggested that it be handle the same way as the officer selection process; nomination and vote. This would be completed at the next board meeting. Director McCray made a suggestion to make selections based off who received the most votes in the last election. Director Wright made a motion to use the nominations, similar to the officer selection process. Director Lofrano seconded the motion, which passed 4-0. McCray voted nay.

e. Consider and approve a 3% increase, consistent with approved changes in Memorandum of Understanding with Local 3800, for the Fire Chief, Assistant Chief, Division Chief, Fire Marshal, District Manager and Admin Assistant. (action)

Director Harvey reported that approving a pay increase for those not included in the MOU is a formality, which is consistent with the boards historical practice. Director Lofrano motions to approve the 3% increase. Director Paskey seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

f. Consider and adopt Resolution 2026-04 amending the budget for Fiscal year 2025-2026 (action)

Chief Gow reported that the Finance Committee met to review and discuss and the Business Manager included a staff report with the details. Director Lofrano reported that the budget is reflective of the situation and there may be other revenue coming in later in the year. The overtime is high due to being without a few staff members. Assistant Chief Slusher reported that there is a potential for receiving additional funds back through the subrogation process,

for the replacement command vehicle and that the amended budget includes expenses associated with 4 employees currently being out and approved MOU and staff changes. Director Lofrano motions to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-04. Director Wright seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

g. Consider and approve the Audit for Fiscal Year 2024/2025 prepared by Smith & Newell CPA's (action)

Chief Gow reported that there were a few recommendations from the auditor. Director Paskey motions to approve the audit for Fiscal Year 2024/2025. Director Wright seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

8. Directors' comments:

- a. Report on activities of interest to the District which the Director is engaged in or is considering. No action will be taken on these items at this meeting.*
- b. Request item(s) for inclusion on subsequent meetings, or request a Special Meeting.*
- c. Reminder of next Board meeting(s): Regular Meeting on May 14, 2026.*

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by:



Michelle Armstrong, District Manager