

FIG GARDEN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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FIG GARDEN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT Board of Directors – Special Meeting Minutes January 16, 2025, 5:30PM Station 20 – 4537 N Wishon

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Louis Linney, Richard Caglia, Larry Fortune
Heather Janz, Erik Peterson
BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None
CITY OF FRESNO: Billy Alcorn, Fire Chief
Yvonne Dedmore, Business Manager
Sean Johnson, Battalion Chief
Christy Cronin, Senior Management Analyst
OTHERS: Georgeanne White, Fresno City Manager

The meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m. by Board Member Caglia.

1. Board Position Assignments

- With the addition of 2 board member seats, the position of Board President and Board Secretary need to be re-designated for 2025. During the discussion, the board decided to also assign a Board Vice President.
- **MOTION:** Board Member Caglia motioned to fill positions as follows: Board President, Louis Linney, Board Vice President, Larry Fortune, Board Secretary, Richard Caglia; seconded by Board Member Peterson. Motion carried
- Ayes: Linney, Caglia, Fortune, Janz, Peterson
- Nays: none

2. Board of Directors Minutes – September 12, 2024

- Technical correction. The date of the minutes is November 14, 2024
- **MOTION:** Board Member Linney motioned to adopt the minutes of November 14, 2024; seconded by Board Member Fortune. Motion carried
- Ayes: Linney, Caglia, Fortune, Janz, Peterson
- Nays: none

3. Public Commentary

- None

4. Board Member Comments and Updates

- Board Member Caglia responded to Fire Chief Alcorn's request for board members to bring their goals and objectives for 2025 to the meeting. See exhibit A. Based on several items on his list, board members requested the item be agendaized for the March regular quarterly meeting.
- Board Member Peterson requested a 5-year financial plan be developed to address some of the goals and objectives.

5. Bylaws

- Chief Alcorn requested feedback from the board regarding the draft bylaws that were presented at the November 14, 2024 board meeting (see exhibit B). Items that were reviewed are:
 - Page 3 regarding special meetings and emergency meetings. Language is to be added stating where notification will be posted and clarification will be made as to what defines a special meeting versus an emergency meeting.
 - Page 4 regarding the order of business. The pledge of allegiance is to be removed as part of the agenda. However, the department will ensure a flag is placed in the room.
 - Page 4 last paragraph regarding board members responding to statements or comments made by members of the public during the public commentary portion of a meeting. Members discussed whether the language should be removed or modified but decided that the language is sufficient as written.
 - Page 5 regarding officers. Board members would like to add the position of Vice President and add language that a clerk to the board is to be provided through the fire suppression services agreement.
 - Page 7 regarding ethics training. Solidify language that training is to be provided thru the fire suppression services agreement.
 - Page 7 regarding training and conference. Board Member Caglia inquired as to past practice. Board Member Linney requested language be added stating pre-approval is required.
- Revisions should be made and presented at the March 2025 meeting for review and adoption

6. Station Maintenance Items

- Two items that are up for repair or replacement were brought to the board's attention: the carport and the apparatus bay door. Chief Alcorn spoke to the state of disrepair of each item.
 1. Carport

The board was presented with a quote from Puma Construction for the repair of the carport. Discussion was had regarding the urgency of having the carport repair in relation to the state of the apparatus bay door.

 - **MOTION:** Board Member Linney motioned for the carport repairs to be delayed until after July 1 pending a competitive bid process; seconded by Board Member Fortune. Motion carried
 - Ayes: Linney, Caglia, Fortune, Janz, Peterson
 - Nays: none
 2. Apparatus Bay Door

The board was presented with a quote from Central Valley Overhead Door Inc for the replacement of the apparatus bay door. Discussion was had regarding the potential issues in delaying replacement. Board Member Peterson suggested obtaining a quote from Big Valley Garage Door Inc in Clovis.

 - **MOTION:** Board Member Linney motioned for Fresno Fire Department to obtain a second bid and appoint the Fire Chief authority to award repair to lowest bid, not to exceed \$30,000; seconded by Board Member Fortune. Motion carried
 - Ayes: Linney, Caglia, Fortune, Janz, Peterson
 - Nays: none

7. Financial Update/Fiscal Reports

- Sr. MA Cronin advised the board of one address identified on the list of tax defaulted properties: 820 E Gettysburg. The board had no objections to the tax sale.
- BM Dedmore presented the financial status reports thru December 31, 2024. Board Member Peterson made some inquiries regarding the format of the QuickBooks reports.
- Sr. MA Cronin presented documents and vouchers for signature:
 - Price Paige and Co engagement for the FY 2024 audit of financials
 - FFD Invoice FY25-01 for \$834,762.35

8. Fire Chief

- He introduced Fresno City Manager Georgeanne White
- He presented the call statistics for November, December and all of 2024
- He provided an overview of what is going on in the Fresno Fire Department:
 - 40 members are out of the county responding to the LA fires
 - The department recently received ballistic equipment through a grant
 - The department received \$100,000 from PGE to purchase a department wide inventory of the auto chest compression devices that were recently tested in the field.

9. 2025 Scheduled Board Meetings (THURSDAYS)

Peterson suggested moving the meetings to during the day. The February meeting will be moved from February 6 at 5:30 pm to February 11 at 9am to see how a morning meeting would fit into everyone's schedule.

- February 11, 2025 – Review FAIRA application (TUESDAY)
- March 13, 2025 – Quarterly Meeting and Proposed FY 26 Budget
- June 12, 2025 – Quarterly Meeting (adopt FY 26 budget and 1st Weed Abatement)
- July 17, 2025 – 2nd Weed Abatement – meeting date ONLY if needed
- September 11, 2025 – Quarterly Meeting
- December 11, 2025 – Quarterly Meeting

10. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:17pm

EXHIBIT A

Fig Garden Fire Protection District Goals 2025

Operational Goals

1. **Ensure Optimal Emergency Response Times**
 - Objective: Maintain or improve average response times to emergency calls to meet or exceed national standards.
 2. **Enhance Firefighter Training Programs**
 - Objective: Provide ongoing training opportunities for all firefighters, ensuring compliance with state and federal certification requirements.
 3. **Improve Equipment and Facilities**
 - Objective: Secure funding to upgrade outdated fire engines, equipment, and station facilities within the next fiscal year.
-

Community Engagement Goals

4. **Increase Public Awareness of Fire Safety**
 - Objective: Conduct at least four public workshops annually on fire prevention, wildfire preparedness, and home safety.
 5. **Expand Community Outreach Initiatives**
 - Objective: Partner with local schools and organizations to develop fire safety education programs tailored for children and senior citizens.
-

Fiscal and Administrative Goals

6. **Maintain Fiscal Responsibility**
 - Objective: Develop and implement a five-year financial plan that ensures sustainable funding while seeking grants and alternative revenue sources.
 7. **Enhance Transparency and Accountability**
 - Objective: Regularly publish financial reports and hold quarterly public meetings to update the community on board activities and expenditures.
-

Wildfire Mitigation and Preparedness Goals

8. **Strengthen Wildfire Mitigation Efforts**
 - Objective: Develop and implement a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) within two years to address high-risk areas.
9. **Improve Evacuation Readiness**
 - Objective: Collaborate with local law enforcement and emergency services to conduct annual evacuation drills in high-risk communities.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Goals

10. Enhance EMS Capabilities

- Objective: Increase the number of paramedic-certified staff and ensure availability of advanced life support (ALS) equipment on all engines.

11. Develop a Community Paramedicine Program

- Objective: Launch a pilot program within one year to offer non-emergency health services, such as wellness checks and chronic disease management, to underserved residents.

Environmental and Sustainability Goals

12. Promote Environmentally Sustainable Practices

- Objective: Transition 25% of the fleet to hybrid or electric vehicles within the next five years and adopt energy-efficient practices in station operations.

13. Reduce Community Hazardous Waste Risks

- Objective: Conduct biannual hazardous materials collection events and educate the public on proper disposal methods.

Presented by board member, Richard Caglia, with assistance of artificial intelligence.

Lithium batteries fuel fires at waste facilities

BY CLAIRE WILKINSON

cwilkinson@businessinsurance.com

Common household items containing lithium-ion batteries are being thrown out with the regular trash — whether unknowingly or for convenience — leaving waste and recycling operators with a hidden risk and costly insurance headache.

Cellphones, drones, e-cigarettes, laptops and toys are among the items being discarded in household garbage or recycling bins and transferred to material recovery facilities where batteries can ignite during the sorting process.

Waste and recycling businesses are seeing property insurance rate hikes, capacity limits and higher deductibles in part due to the rising frequency and severity of fires from lithium-ion batteries, sources say. Fire detection and suppression technologies are helping companies reduce the risk and differentiate their operations to insurers, they say (see related story).

"A few years ago, we could find programs with deductibles of \$50,000 to \$100,000; now, most are quoted with deductibles of \$250,000 or more."

Pam Caron, Risk Strategies

"Batteries are in everything now, and the general public is not well-informed on how to dispose of them," said Pam Caron, Boston-based senior vice president, waste and recycling practice leader, at Risk Strategies Co.

Waste and recycling facilities have all the materials to feed a fire, so it's "a perfect storm," Ms. Caron said. Numerous clients have seen their properties burn to the ground, and total losses due to battery-related fires are not uncommon, she said.

Many property insurers have exited the market and quota-shared and layered programs are typical. It took 12 insurers to get to the \$40 million limit that a prospective client recently sought, Ms. Caron said.

Higher deductibles have become standard. "A few years ago, we could find programs with deductibles of \$50,000 to \$100,000; now, most are quoted with deductibles of \$250,000 or more," Ms. Caron said. Risk Strategies forecasts property rate increases of 10% to 75% for the sector in 2025.

Fewer insurers underwrite the risk, and those that will have become very selective, said Dan Curran, Portsmouth, New Hampshire-based senior vice president and underwriting officer at Amwins Program



Underwriters Inc.

Insurers "want all the details of the occupancy, what they're recycling, how they do it, what controls they have in place for screening material, and the fire safety, protection and recovery plans," Mr. Curran said.

Capacity has been reduced, prices are "up in the multiples," terms and conditions have tightened, and limits are lower, he said.

Insurers don't want to take on more than a \$1 million to \$5 million slice of a layer in a property program, said Richard E. Rabs, Chicago-based vice president of risk management at Lakeshore Recycling Systems LLC.

"It has to be a structured program where the layers are shared," and those layers come at a higher cost, Mr. Rabs said.

RECYCLING BLAZES

A report issued in January by the National Waste and Recycling Association in Arlington, Virginia, found that:

- More than 5,000 fires occur annually at recycling facilities, many of which are linked to lithium-ion batteries.
- The rate of catastrophic losses at such facilities rose by 41% in the past five years.
- Property insurance costs for material recovery facilities have increased from less than 20 cents per \$100 insured property value to as much as \$10 per \$100 insured property value.

LRS has invested \$3 million in Fire Rover, an advanced fire detection and suppression technology, and spends an additional \$500,000 annually to maintain the system, he said, adding, "It's not inexpensive technology, but we feel strongly that we need to do something to combat lithium-ion batteries."

Fire claims are affecting commercial auto,

general liability and workers compensation lines, too, several sources said.

Lithium-ion batteries damaged in waste collection and compacting create fire risks for trucks in addition to facilities, said Josh Wilson, Reno, Nevada-based senior consultant, property and casualty, environmental, at Axa XL, a unit of Axa SA.

"The battery itself might not explode or catch fire, but it heats up. When that battery heats up and gets compacted with the other refuse, that's where the fire occurs, and that's what we call a hot load," he said.

Vehicle fire claims can be particularly expensive for insurers because of rising replacement costs. "I rarely see one that is replaced or that catches fire that's not a \$200,000 claim," Mr. Wilson said.

When lithium-ion batteries ignite, the fires can be hard to extinguish, said Craig Stromgren, Topeka, Kansas-based president of World Safety Consulting, a World Insurance Associates company.

"They're mixed in with other materials. It's hard to isolate them," and the fires can't be put out with a regular extinguisher, he said.

From a regulatory perspective, there are gaps between federal and state regulations for the recycling and disposal of batteries and in some instances in companies' understanding of those regulations and the hazards, said Michael Kline, Denver-based executive vice president, partner at CCIG.

"It's a no man's land," he said.

Many batteries are labeled with a chasing arrows symbol that tells consumers to dispose of them in a recycling bin, but they are supposed to be recycled through a separate channel, said Jerry Sjogren, senior director of safety at the Recycled Materials Association in Washington.

"There are avenues to recycle these batteries safely, that can help us keep them out of the stream," and educating the public on this issue is critical, Mr. Sjogren said.

FIRE-SPOTTING, SUPPRESSION TECH CRUCIAL

Investing in fire detection and suppression technologies can help mitigate the risks associated with waste processing of lithium-ion batteries, experts say.

Detection technology acts as a "watchdog," finding and extinguishing fires on the tipping floor, where trucks unload materials to be processed, said Richard E. Rabs, Chicago-based vice president of risk management at Lakeshore Recycling Systems LLC.

"Our buildings tend to be tall, so fire suppression systems like sprinklers are 30 feet in the air. How big do you think that fire needs to be before the sprinkler system goes on?" he said.

Some larger entities use thermography cameras to determine heat sources and spots in materials when a load enters a facility, said Josh Wilson, Reno, Nevada-based senior consultant, property and casualty, environmental, at Axa XL, a unit of Axa SA.

Operators should ensure they have robust fire and smoke detection systems and round-the-clock monitoring at facilities, said Craig Stromgren, Topeka, Kansas-based president of World Safety Consulting, a World Insurance Associates company. Employee training in fire safety and response is critical, he said.

"If the system detects the fire in its early incipient stages, it might be able to be put out more quickly or moved outside of the facility," preventing a loss, Mr. Stromgren said.

Fire detection and suppression technologies are often a differentiator regarding whether an insurer will look at a risk, said Pam Caron, Boston-based senior vice president, waste and recycling practice leader at Risk Strategies Co.

"They're expensive, there's no doubt about it, but we've been able to get insurers to not charge a premium on the system," Ms. Caron said.

Claire Wilkinson

EXHIBIT B



Fig Garden Fire Protection District Bylaws

Effective January 1, 2025

Name, Authority, and Purpose

Name:

The name of this District shall be “Fig Garden Fire Protection District,” referred to herein as “District.”

Authority:

The Fire Protection District Law of 1987 is the foundation for a fire protection district in the State of California and is found under the California Health and Safety Code 13800. The Board of Directors is the legislative body that governs the District. The board sets long term goals and objectives for the District, oversees and approves financial matters and takes governance action by motion, resolution, and ordinance. Through contractual agreement, the board provides the Fire Chief the authority to manage the day day-to-day administration and operations of the District.

Purpose:

The purpose of the District shall be:

- To provide an effective level of fire protection and emergency services response for the preservation of life and property within the District.
- To provide leadership that results in the highest quality of service to its constituents.
- To develop and maintain a working relationship with the Fire Chief and their designees, to ensure current issues, concerns and district projects can be discussed and addressed appropriately.

Meetings and Order of Business

Meetings:

The District board shall hold regular meetings at Fig Garden Fire Station/Fresno Station 20, located at 4537 N. Wishon Avenue, Fresno, CA, at 5:30 p.m., on a quarterly basis or no less than four (4) time per year as determined by the Board. When the day for a regular meeting of the District falls on a legal holiday, or needs to be changed to accommodate schedules, the board shall determine the time and date of any rescheduled meeting and make appropriate notifications 30 days in advance.

The meeting site may be changed for convenience, to accommodate larger attendance, and for other reasons, provided that the alternate location is within the District. The

alternate location shall also be accessible as required pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the alternate location is posted at the District board room and on its website. (Govt. code Section 54954).

All regular, adjourned, special, and emergency meetings of the District Board shall be open to the public, provided, however, the District Board may hold closed sessions from which the public may be excluded for the consideration of matters authorized by the Brown Act.

Special Meetings and Emergency Meetings

Special and emergency meetings shall be held and noticed in compliance with the Brown Act, Government Code Sections 54956 and 54956.5.

Special meetings may be called by the Board President or majority of Board Members on not less than 24 hours notice, as set forth in Government Code Section 54956. The notice shall specify the time and place of the special meeting and the business to be transacted or discussed. Only matters contained in the notice may be considered.

Order of Business:

A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The District Board shall act only by ordinance, resolution, or motion. Except as specifically provided to the contrary by statute, a recorded vote by a majority of the total members of the District Board is required on each action. (Health and Safety. Code Section 13856).

The Board President shall be responsible for setting items of business on the Board's agenda. Any board member wishing to include an item of business on the agenda shall notify the Board President at least one (1) week before the Board's regular meeting or at least three (3) days before any special meeting. The Board President shall consider all such requests and, in his or her discretion, set the agenda. If an item of business requested by a board member is not placed on the agenda by the Board President, a request to place the item on a future agenda may be raised by the member under the board members comments section of the agenda. If a majority of the Board concurs, the item shall be placed on the next regular or special agenda. Items to be placed on the agenda by other district members shall be processed as described above.

The meetings of the Board shall be conducted pursuant to the most current edition of Roberts Rules of Order. Board members shall defer to the Board President for conduct of meetings but shall be free to question and discuss items on the agenda. All comments should be confined to the matter being discussed by the Board.

Agenda:

In order to facilitate the orderly conduct of the business of the Board, the Board Clerk shall prepare an agenda for each regular Board Meeting. The agenda prepared by the clerk shall, at a minimum, include:

1. The date of the meeting
2. The time of the meeting
3. The location of the meeting
4. A specified period of time for members of the public to address the District Board on items of interest to the public that are not listed on the agenda and within the jurisdiction of the District Board
5. A specified section under which Board Members and Staff may present information-only reports
6. A brief general description of each item of business to be transacted and discussed.

The Order of Business of each regular meeting shall be as contained in the Agenda prepared by the Board Clerk. The Agenda shall be a listing by topic of the subjects which shall be taken up for consideration in the following order:

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
5. PUBLIC COMMENT
6. BOARD MEMBER COMMENT
7. OLD BUSINESS
8. NEW BUSINESS
9. FINANCIAL UPDATE
10. FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE
11. COMMITTEE REPORTS
12. REQUESTS FOR ITEMS ON FUTURE AGENDA
13. ADJOURNMENT

At the discretion of the Board President or on a majority vote of the Board, items may be taken out of the order prescribed above, so long as there is no discernible prejudice to the right of the public to be heard on the matter.

The Board may not take any action or discuss any item not appearing on the agenda, except as provided in this section. As provided in Government Code section 54954.2(a)(3), a Board member or staff may briefly respond to statements made or questions posed by members of the public during public comment. A board member or staff may ask a question for clarification, make a brief announcement, or make a brief report on his or her own activities. A board member may provide a reference to staff or other resources for factual information, request staff to report back to the Board at a

subsequent meeting concerning any matter, or, if approved by a majority vote of the Board, take action to direct staff to place a matter of business on a future agenda.

As provided in Government Code section 54954.2(b), the District Board may take action on items of business which do not appear on the posted agenda under any of the following conditions or circumstances. The Board shall publicly identify the item and the basis for taking action.

1. Upon a determination by a majority vote of the District Board that an emergency situation exists, as defined in the Brown Act;
2. Upon a determination by a two-thirds vote of the District Board, or, if less than two-thirds of the members are present, by a unanimous vote of those members present, that the need to take immediate action arose subsequent to the Agenda having been posted;
3. The item was posted for a prior meeting of the District Board occurring not more than five calendar days prior to the date action is taken on the item, and at the prior meeting the item was continued to the meeting at which action is proposed to be taken.

Governing Board

Board Members:

The District shall be governed by a Board consisting of five (5) persons elected or, when there is a vacancy, appointed in accordance with the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, as amended, and other laws of the State of California to exercise the powers, privileges, and the duties of the District. Each member of the board shall be a registered voter residing within the district.

Officers:

The board shall elect the following officers: President and **Secretary**. The Board may also elect such additional officers be created.

No board member shall serve in the same position of President or Secretary for more than one consecutive year unless all other Board members decline to accept the nomination to serve as either President or Secretary, in which case the members may serve a second term.

Each member of the Board is expected to attend each meeting of the Board and each meeting of the any committee to which the Director has been appointed. Members of the Board shall be responsible to inform the Board President and Board Clerk at least 96 hours in advance of a scheduled meeting if the member expects to be absent. If an

unexpected absence is necessary, the member should inform the Board President and Board Clerk as soon as possible before the commencement of the meeting.

Duties:

The President of the Board shall serve as chairperson at all meetings of the Board. If the President is not able to attend or act, they shall appoint a member to take their place and perform the required duties. The President or their designee shall have the following duties:

- Shall preside over all meetings
- Shall sign such contracts, conveyances, and other instruments on behalf of the Board.
- Shall be responsible for coordination and liaison with District legal counsel, auditors, and consultants.
- Designate members of the Board to undertake special responsibilities and to report to the Board on those activities.
- Appoint members to committees.
- Represent the Board at official functions as necessary.

Secretary – Consider changing this title to vice president?

Board Clerk

Elections and Vacancies

Elections:

The Board shall be elected as provided in the Fire Protection District Law of 1987. The Board of Directors shall be elected consistent with the provisions in Elections Code section 10010, et seq.

The term of office for each Board Member shall be four (4) years or until his or her successor qualifies and takes office, as provided in California Health and Safety Code section 13843.

Vacancies:

Any vacancy on the Board shall be filled by appointment or election as prescribed in California Health and Safety Code section 13852 (b) and California Government Code sections 1779 and 1780.

Any member of the Board may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board President or Secretary. Any such resignation shall take effect on the date the notice is

received or any later time specified in the notice. Unless specified in the notice, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make the resignation effective.

Compliance

Ethics Training:

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 53235 et. Seq., all Directors shall receive two (2) hours of training in general ethics principles and ethics law relevant to public service within one (1) year of election or appointment to the Board., and at least once every two (2) years thereafter. All ethics training shall be provided by entities whose curriculum has been approved by the California Attorney General and the Fair Political Practices Commission. (Or – All ethics training shall be provided by the fire and emergency services provider).

Disclosure of Economic Interests:

Board members who have a financial interest in a decision within the meaning of California Government Code Section 87100 et. Seq., shall publicly identify in detail the economic interest that creates the conflict, recuses themselves from discussing and voting on the matter and leave the room until after the discussion, vote, and any other disposition of the matter is concluded.

Training and Conferences

Board members are encouraged to attend educational conferences and professional meetings when the purpose of such activities is to improve District operations.

It is the policy of the District to encourage Board development and increased performance by reimbursing expenses incurred for tuition, travel, lodging and meals as a result of the training and conferences.

Nondiscrimination Policy

The District, including its Board Members, shall not engage in discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status.

Amendments to Bylaws

Amendment by Majority:

The District Bylaws may be amended by affirmative vote of majority of the total members of the Board at any Regular or Special meeting, provided a full statement of such proposed amendment shall have been sent to each member of the Board not less than ten (10) days prior to the meeting.

Action to Amend:

Affirmative action may be taken to amend the Bylaws by unanimous vote of the entire membership of the Board at any regular or special meeting of the Board in which event the provision for ten (10) days' notice shall not apply.

To Do:

Add cover page

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Add language that is codified in the contract.