



**DIANNE JACOB**  
**CHAIRWOMAN**  
SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**AGENDA ITEM**

**DATE:** June 17, 2014

**01**

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**SUBJECT:** EVALUATING AND ENHANCING FIRE PROTECTION IN THE REGION  
(DISTRICTS: ALL)

**Overview**

As the wildfires this past May made painfully clear, the San Diego region is home to a year-round fire threat. In just over a decade, San Diego County has battled numerous major wildfires. Of additional concern, fire experts predict this upcoming fall to be the worst fire season in years.

Since the 2003 Cedar Fire, the County has invested approximately \$285 million to bolster our fire protection efforts. Among other important fire protection assets, these funds have led to the creation of the reverse-911 system, two firefighting helicopters and a unified command of approximately 700-800 firefighters through the creation of the San Diego County Fire Authority and our partnership with CAL FIRE.

Although we have made major improvements over the years to improve our coordination, response and recovery, more can always be done. Today's action will provide for a presentation of the After Action Report for the May 2014 Wildfires, convene a workshop to develop recommendations to enhance fire protection in the region, and hold a meeting with fire and public land management agencies in the region to standardize policies and regulations during red flag events and extreme fire conditions.

**Recommendation(s)**

**CHAIRWOMAN DIANNE JACOB**

1. Receive a presentation of the After Action Report for the May 2014 Wildfires.
2. Direct the CAO to work with the Chair to convene a workshop with elected officials and fire officials at the local, state and federal level, including tribal nations and the military, to develop recommendations on next steps to further enhance fire protection in the San Diego region and set a date for the workshop within 45 days.
3. Direct the CAO to hold a meeting with CAL FIRE, the Sheriff's Department, tribal nations, and representatives from public land management agencies at the local, state and federal level to standardize policies and regulations during red flag events and extreme fire conditions for consistency throughout the region and report back to the board with

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recommendations within 90 days.

**Fiscal Impact**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this item.

**Business Impact Statement**

N/A

**Advisory Board Statement**

N/A

**Background**

As the wildfires this past May made painfully clear, the San Diego region is home to a year-round fire threat. In just over a decade, San Diego County has battled numerous major wildfires. Of additional concern, fire experts predict this upcoming fall to be the worst fire season in years.

During the middle of May 2014, 14 separate wildfires broke out throughout various communities in the San Diego region and Camp Pendleton. It is estimated that these fires scorched over 27,000 acres, caused approximately \$30 million in property damages, and destroyed 61 homes, 1 multi-family 18 unit apartment complex, 1 church, 2 commercial buildings, 1 modular building, and 14 accessory structures.

Since the 2003 Cedar Fire, the County has invested approximately \$285 million to bolster our fire protection efforts. Among other important fire protection assets, these funds have led to the creation of the reverse-911 system, two firefighting helicopters and the creation of the San Diego County Fire Authority that combines approximately 700-800 career and volunteer firefighters.

Although we have made major improvements over the years to improve coordination between fire agencies, local jurisdictions, and first responders, more can always be done to be better prepared. Our region's response to the wildfires this past May provides a pivotal opportunity for a high-level policy discussion amongst every fire agency in the region to make sure we are the best prepared we can be when the next wildfire hits our County.

We also need to step up our efforts to prevent wildfires from occurring in the first place. We have local, state, and federal public land management agencies in the San Diego region who have their own policies and regulations during red flag warning events and extreme fire conditions. There is a need to develop uniform policies and regulations amongst these agencies to prohibit activities that may lead to the outbreak of wildfires, such as campfires, shooting, and hunting.

Today's action will provide for a presentation of the After Action Report for the May 2014 Wildfires, convene a workshop to develop recommendations to enhance fire protection in our region, and hold a meeting with fire and public land management agencies in the region to standardize policies and regulations during red flag events and extreme fire conditions.

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**Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan**

This request supports the Safe Communities Initiative of the County's 2013-2018 Strategic Plan by supporting activities that maximizes the County's capability to help communities prepare, respond, and recover from natural disasters, public health threats, environmental hazards, and other emergencies such as a wildfire through greater coordination and communication.

Respectfully submitted,

DIANNE JACOB  
Chairwoman

ATTACHMENT(S)

N/A

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**AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET**

**REQUIRES FOUR VOTES:**        Yes      No

**WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED**  
   Yes      No

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:**  
N/A

**BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:**  
N/A

**BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:**  
N/A

**MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:**  
N/A

**ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):**  
N/A

**ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT:** District 2, Board of Supervisors

**OTHER CONCURRENCES(S):**

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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