



ADAM A. HOUSE  
Fire Chief

# Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District

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## ADOPTED ACTION SUMMARY MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT  
Thursday, March 26, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

Held at the following locations:  
10545 Armstrong Avenue – Board Room  
Mather, California  
&  
Remotely Via Zoom

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Costa. Board members present: Clark, Costa, Goid, Jones, Rice, Saylor, Webber, and Wood. Board members absent: Stark. Staff present: Chief House and Board Clerk Rittburg.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were received.

### CONSENT ITEMS

Moved by Director Wood, seconded by Clark, and carried unanimously by members present to adopt the consent calendar as follows:

- 1. Action Summary Minutes**  
**Recommendation:** Approve the Action Summary Minutes for the Regular Board Meetings of February 26, 2026.  
**Action:** Adopted the Action Summary Minutes.
- 2. Purchase Approval – Switches and Wireless Access Points**  
**Recommendation:** Approve the Purchase of switches and wireless access points from SHI International using the City of Mesa/OMNIA Partners IT Solutions, Products & Services contract # 2024056-02.  
**Action:** Approved.
- 3. Continuing Emergency Work Approval – 10545 Armstrong Avenue**  
**Recommendation:** Determine that an emergency continues to exist and authorize contracting without a competitive solicitation for bids pursuant to PCC Section 22050 for the repair, demolition, and clean-up services required to restore 10545 Armstrong Avenue to a condition safe for occupancy.  
**Action:** Approved.

## PRESENTATION ITEMS

### 1. 2025 Year-end Review

*(PIO Nunez)*

**Recommendation:** Receive the presentation.

**Action:** PIO Nunez introduced the 2025 year-end video. The video will be uploaded to the District's website and on our social media pages.

## REPORTS

### 1. PRESIDENT'S REPORT - *(President Costa)*

President Costa invited scout-led Troop 217 to the front of the room to receive their Citizenship in the Community Merit Badges. President Costa reported he met with Integrated Communication Strategies (ICS) regarding the strategic plan and where we are.

### 2. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT — *(Chief House)*

Good evening, Directors, Colleagues, and Members of the Public

Reminder: Fire Academy Class 25-2 Graduation is tomorrow, March 27, at 6 PM, at the Officers' Club in McClellan Park, 11 will be graduating.

## **Branch Realignment Update:**

### **Fire Chief**

- Chief House stated when he stepped into the role, it was clear we needed to better balance workload and align the organization to stay effective long-term.
- This realignment was designed to spread responsibilities more evenly while strengthening leadership across both operations and administration.
- Taking action on the Board's direction around communication by developing a centralized communications and engagement team to better connect our organization internally and with the community.
- With that, I'll hand it over to DC Wagaman to talk about what this looks like on the operations side.

### **Deputy Chief of Operations (DC Wagaman)**

- DC Wagaman stated from an operations standpoint, this has helped us sharpen our focus on field-level service delivery and clarify span of control.
- We're seeing improved support to line personnel, staffing, Wellness/Health/Safety, and our shift commanders.
- We've maintained a clear operational chain of command for field operations, which has been important through this transition.
- It's also given me more time in the field with crews and chief officers, which has been a positive change.
- At the same time, we've had some growing pains—particularly around how we communicate across branches now that operational responsibilities are shared.
- We're actively working through those challenges and adjusting as we go to make sure coordination stays strong.
- I'll pass it to DC Mitchell to walk through how this is coming together on the support and EMS side.

### **Deputy Chief of Support & EMS (DC Mitchell)**

- DC Mitchell stated this structure has allowed us to better integrate EMS, CRRD, Planning and Development, Logistics, Fleet, and Facilities with operations.
- We're seeing stronger collaboration between our support/professional staff and the field, which has been a real benefit.
- Decision-making and accountability across these areas are becoming more streamlined.
- Like Operations, we've also had to work through some communication challenges as roles and connections between branches evolve.
- That's part of why we're leaning into the development of a centralized communications and engagement team—to help close those gaps and improve consistency.
- Overall, we're seeing progress and continuing to adjust as we identify opportunities to improve.
- I'll turn it over to DC Fiorica to talk about how Administration is supporting this and helping move the communications effort forward.

### **Deputy Chief of Administration (DC Fiorica)**

- DC Fiorica stated from the Administration side, we're seeing better alignment and consistency across functions like HR, Finance, IT, and Training.
- There's also been more connection to operational priorities, which is helping us support the field more effectively.
- In response to the Board's direction, we're helping with the development of a centralized communications and engagement team.
- We're still building out what that team will look like, and that will be brought forward to the Executive Committee as part of the April 9<sup>th</sup> update with CDO Frye and DC Mitchell.
- This is a good example of how we're staying adaptable—recognizing challenges, making adjustments, and continuing to improve how we operate.
- While there have been some growing pains, especially around communication across branches, we're identifying those gaps and actively working to improve them.

Chief House called up newly promoted Battalion Chief Jewell who spoke about recent incidents that occurred during one shift.

### **OPERATIONS REPORT – (Deputy Chief Wagaman)**

Chief Wagaman stated we transitioned to wildland season last year on May 5<sup>th</sup> and that was early and things are already burning. So that's very concerning for us. Please take defensible space seriously. Clear stuff away from your house. Don't wait until it's too late and follow all the rules. Chief Wagaman congratulated Captain Quinn and Battalion Chief Malinowski who were both promoted effective March 21<sup>st</sup>. Director Rice requested an update on brownouts and staffing which will be brought to a future meeting.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT – (Deputy Chief Fiorica)**

No Report

### **SUPPORT & EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES – (Deputy Chief Mitchell)**

No Report

### **3. SMFD – FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 522 REPORT – (Captain Sean Scollard, Local 522 Vice President)**

Vice President Scollard acknowledged upcoming graduation of 11 academy recruits.

He noted recruits are well-trained, motivated, and ready for field deployment. He anticipates positive operational contribution despite smaller class size. Recognized recent promotions and retirements. Commended BC Jewell for strong recent performance and leadership. Identified paramedic staffing shortage as a key issue and having to temporarily transition of some ALS units to BLS due to staffing. VP Scollard addressed discussion on resuming monthly labor-management meetings. He stated current priority is active contract negotiations due to upcoming expiration. He noted many labor-management topics are already being addressed within negotiations and that he is open to resuming monthly meetings after contract completion. A discussion occurred on the frequency of meetings. President Costa added that the Board is looking forward to working with 522 and making sure we're bringing both sides together so we can move this organization forward.

#### **4. COMMITTEE AND DELEGATE REPORTS**

*All Committee Meetings will be held at the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Board Room, 10545 Armstrong Avenue, Mather, California unless otherwise specified.*

##### **A. Executive Committee – (President Costa)**

No Report

##### **B. Communications Center JPA – (Deputy Chief Fiorica)**

No Report

##### **C. Finance and Audit Committee – (Director Jones)**

No Report

##### **D. Policy Committee**

No Report

#### **BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

Director Jones Director Jones acknowledged and expressed appreciation to CFO O'Toole and executive staff for ongoing budget meetings. She noted participation in a detailed review of board line items, which was described as productive and informative. Legacy artifacts were identified within budget lines that may require cleanup. Following the review of the Finance & Audit Committee, will bring recommendations forward to the full Board.

Director Saylor reported that the Measure O Independent Citizens Oversight Committee Ad Hoc Committee met this week to discuss the ongoing application process. In an effort to ensure as robust of a pool of candidates as possible, the Ad Hoc Committee has decided to recommend an extension of the application deadline, from March 31 to April 30. This extension will not affect the proposed on-boarding date of the ICOC, on or around July 15. The Ad Hoc Committee intends to bring forward formal adoption of this extension at the April 9 Board Meeting through revisions made to the ICOC Charter. These revisions seek to support transparency and accountability. Director Saylor asked her fellow Directors continue to share this opportunity to their constituents.

Director Goold highlighted mutual aid as a significant factor impacting staffing and operational readiness during the upcoming fire season. He requested a more direct and transparent discussion regarding the effects of mutual aid on the organization. He noted that mutual aid commitments may strain limited resources, particularly when considering potential brownouts

and staffing shortages. He stressed the importance of prioritizing service delivery within Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District boundaries. Recommended including mutual aid impacts as a formal component of future staffing and resource allocation discussions.

Director Wood expressed appreciation to the Arden Arcade Rotary for hosting a successful annual poker night fundraiser in partnership with the Firefighters Burn Institute. He noted the strong turnout and significant funds raised at the event held at Niello BMW, and thanked all sponsors and participants. He encouraged staff to increase participation in Firefighters Burn Institute events; please regularly review the Institute's event calendar and increase attendance/support. Thanked the Fire Chief and personnel for their continued efforts. Director Wood stated he attended the Station 50 Open House and commended crews at Station 50, including Captain Nunez, the CERT team, and all participants for hosting a successful and well-received open house event.

Director Rice emphasized the critical importance of mutual aid and the District's leadership role as one of the largest fire agencies in the state. He urged the Board and staff to prioritize participation and preparedness, noting Sacramento's responsibility as a capital-region agency. Directed staff to incorporate mutual aid considerations into future planning and reporting. He stressed the obligation to support statewide fire response efforts beyond local priorities. He cautioned against limiting perspective to local-only concerns; reaffirmed commitment to protecting broader California resources and communities. Director Rice formally requested a detailed report (within 24 hours) on the labor negotiator's billable hours, including: Number of meetings conducted, Total hours billed, Total costs incurred. Requested distribution of the report to all Board members. He expressed concerns regarding lack of visible progress as contract deadline approaches. He emphasized necessity for alignment between the District and the union on financial assumptions. Stated that agreement on financials is foundational to successful contract negotiations. Director Rice reinforced expectation that all parties fulfill their responsibilities to complete negotiations effectively and timely.

Director Webber congratulated staff recently promoted. Thanked Engine 29 for the assistance yesterday.

President Costa thanked staff for the great reports tonight and a lot of great information. He expressed it's important that we continue to not just inform the board, but all the members of this organization and the public what we're doing. Troop 217, thank you for coming tonight.

#### **CLOSED SESSION:**

The Board recessed to closed session at 7:06 p.m. on the following matter(s):

#### **1. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR**

##### **Pursuant to California Government Code Section 54957.6**

- A. District Negotiator: Jack Hughes, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore  
Employee Organization: Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522
  
- B. District Negotiator: Jack Hughes, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore  
Employee Organization: Battalion Chiefs Bargaining Group,  
Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522
  
- C. District Negotiator: Jack Hughes, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore  
Employee Organization: Administrative Support Personnel (ASP)  
Affiliate of Sacramento Area Fire Fighters Local 522

- D. District Negotiator: Jack Hughes, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore  
Employee Organization: Safety Senior Management, Management and Unrepresented Confidential Employees
- E. District Negotiator: Jack Hughes, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore  
Employee Organization: Non-Safety Senior Management, Management and Unrepresented Confidential Employees
- F. District Negotiator: Jack Hughes, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore  
Employee Organization: EMT and Paramedic Memorandum of Understanding

**CLOSED SESSION REPORT OUT:**

The Board reconvened in open session at 8:33 p.m. General Counsel John Lavra reported that the Board met in closed session on one item:

- 1. Conference with Labor Negotiator; the Board met with its designated labor negotiator; no reportable action was taken in closed session.

To view the video of the meeting, please visit the Metro Fire Website or our YouTube channel:

<https://metrofire.ca.gov/2026-03-26-board-meeting>

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9t-uKlc\\_oOUGNrmogdQ\\_QA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9t-uKlc_oOUGNrmogdQ_QA)

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

  
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John Costa, Board President

  
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Brian Rice, Secretary

  
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Marni Rittburg, CMC  
Board Clerk