



MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting

March 12, 2026

4:30 p.m.

Location: 631 9th Street, Arcata

Arcata Fire Station Classroom

Board of Directors

*Nicole Johnson (Division 2) - President, Randy Mendosa (Division 3) - Vice President,
Blaine Maynor (Division 1) - Director, Eric Loudenslager (Division 4) - Director,
Jason Akana (Division 5) -Director,*

CALL TO ORDER

The regular session of the Board of Directors for the Arcata Fire District was called to order by President Nicole Johnson at 4:30 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

The meeting continued with a quorum, and the following were present: President Nicole Johnson, Vice-President Randy Mendosa, Director Akana,

Absent: Director Loudenslager and Director Maynor.

Additional District administrative staff included Fire Chief Chris Emmons, Assistant Chief Ross McDonald, Assistant Chief Peabody, and Board Secretary Anali Gonzalez

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda. No public comment was received. The motion passed.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the agenda by Director Mendosa

Second: A second was made by Director Akana

Roll Call:

Ayes: Johnson, Mendosa, Akana

Nays:

Absent: Loudenslager, Maynor

Result: Motion passed

PUBLIC COMMENT/ ASSOCIATION REPORTS

No public comment was received.

Association report was presented by representatives of Local 4981. Report topics included:

- Participation in several meetings over the prior months
- A meet-and-greet with Senate candidate David Conley
- Peer support orientation with Restoration Health

- Upcoming peer support team training
 - An in-house training program described as “members rights exercises,” covering FBOR, California labor law, local action, and interpretation of the MOU and policy
- The Arcata Volunteer Firefighters Association report was not presented. A dinner event in April was referenced.

Closed Session:

At any time during the regular session, the Board may adjourn to closed session to consider existing or anticipated litigation, liability claims, real property negotiations, license and permit determinations, threats to security, public employee appointments, personnel matters, evaluations and discipline, labor negotiations, or to discuss with legal counsel matters within the attorney-client privilege.

1. Conference with Labor Negotiators (Gov. Code section 54957.6) Employee Organization: Senior Management Group Agency Designated representative: District Counsel Jack Hughes

2. Government Code §54957.6 – Conference with Labor Negotiators Agency Designated Representatives: District Counsel Jack Hughes Employee Organization: Local 4981 Subject: Discussion MOU language revisions related to CalPERS compliance provisions

The Board announced that it would move into Closed Session at 4:36 p.m. Director Maynor arrived at 4:45 pm and joined the Closed Session.

The Board adjourned to Closed Session. The Board reconvened in Open Session thereafter. 5:29 pm.

The Board returned to open session and reported that directions were provided to staff.

CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Minutes from January 12, 2026, Regular Meeting
2. January 2026 Financial Report
3. February 2026 Financial Report
4. Dissolve AVFA, L4981, AFD Relations Committee (Maynor) (Staff Note)
5. Adopt Resolution 26-344 Authorizing the Transfer of Cash from Humboldt County Treasury to CalTRUST Liquidity Fund
6. Consider Accepting the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Financial Audit Report

The Board considered the consent calendar. No director comments or questions were made before the motion. No public comment was received

Motion: A motion was made to accept the consent calendar by Director Akana

Second: A second was made by Director Mendosa

Roll Call:

Ayes: Maynor, Johnson, Mendosa, Akana

Nays: N/A

Absent: Loudenslager

Result: Motion passed

Following approval, a Board member asked whether the consent calendar packet could include a first page listing what was included. Another speaker noted that such a page had been included.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. Five-Year Financial Plan

Andrew Flynn of California Municipal Advisors presented the District's five-year financial plan. The presentation addressed long-term financial planning, projected revenues and expenditures, reserve use, the effect of the new MOU, and the anticipated need for replacement revenue when the current revenue source rolls off in 2030. Mr. Flynn stated that:

- A structural imbalance exists in the interim period
- The estimated replacement revenue target is approximately \$5.7 million
- A scenario including nine new firefighters would increase the 2031 revenue target to approximately \$7.5 million

Board discussion included whether staff is planning toward the \$5.7 million or \$7.5 million target. Staff stated it is working with the thought pattern of trying to get to the nine-firefighter scenario, pending feasibility analysis.

Public comment was requested. Discussion then concluded with direction to staff to continue revenue-generating opportunities and to continue working with Andrew Flynn on the updated model for the upcoming budget cycle. No formal vote was taken for this item.

2. Fire Impact Fee Study

Blair Aas of SCI Consulting Group presented the draft fire impact fee nexus study as an information item. The presentation described:

- Fire impact fees as one-time development impact fees on new development
- The legal and policy basis for the fee program
- The role of the City and County in adopting the fee on behalf of the District
- Allowable uses of fee revenue for expanded facilities, apparatus, vehicles, equipment, and administration
- Limits on use for operational maintenance and repair
- Reporting, accounting, and update requirements

Board questions included:

- Cost of the study to date
- Whether staff had discussed the matter with the County
- Whether the County would receive an administrative fee
- Whether public university construction would be subject to the fee

Mr. Aas stated that public facilities generally are not subject to the fee, but the study could be used as a basis for a negotiated arrangement or development agreement. The Board gave direction to move forward, prepare the necessary resolution, finalize the report, and bring the item back for formal approval, with the next board meeting referenced for the District hearing. No formal vote was taken for this item.

3. Mid-Year Budget Review

Staff presented the mid-year budget update. Staff reported:

- The budget had been projected at approximately a \$60,000 deficit
- A CalPERS audit related to longevity pay affected eight members
- The amended budget showed approximately \$116,000 negative at midyear
- All line items and reserves remained fully funded
- Staff believed the gap could close to zero by year-end

Board discussion included vehicle maintenance, apparatus replacement timing, impact fee limitations on replacement apparatus, reserve use, and strike team deployment potential.

No public comment was received. The Board then approved the amended budget.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the amended budget.

Second: A second was made.

Roll Call: Maynor, Johnson, Mendosa, Akana

Ayes: Maynor, Johnson, Mendosa, Akana

Nays: N/A

Absent: Loudenslager

Result: Motion passed

4. Review of 2025 Year-End Statistics

Staff presented year-end statistics for calendar year 2025. Highlights stated included:

- 3,872 calls for service
- 232 more incidents than the prior year
- Approximately 6.3% increase from the prior year
- 166 fire incidents
- 2,126 medical rescue incidents
- 520 service calls
- 641 good intent calls
- 342 false alarm calls
- One severe weather incident

Additional discussion addressed call stacking/overlapping, property value saved, station activity, shift activity, day-of-week trends, social media activity, and fire fatality tracking.

No public comment was received. No action was taken.

5. Consider Adoption of Resolution 25-340 Establishing Goals for Staffing Stations, Equipment, and Training Facilities

Staff presented Resolution 25-340, referencing the Community Risk Assessment and Standards of Cover study and related staffing, facilities, apparatus, and training needs.

A motion was made to adopt Resolution 25-340 and direct the Chief to return with a phased implementation and fiscal strategy addressing staffing progression, benchmarks, station modernization, and development of a district-owned training facility.

Motion: A motion was made by Director Akana to adopt Resolution 25-340 and direct the Chief to return with a phased implementation and fiscal strategy.

Second: A second was made by Director Maynor.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Johnson, Mendosa, Akana, Maynor

Nays: N/A

Absent: Loudenslager
Result: Motion passed

6. Government Relations Discussion

The Board discussed government relations issues involving Cal Poly Humboldt, possible state-level advocacy, the concept of payment in lieu of taxes, possible legislative outreach, direct billing for certain incidents, and the use of university property for training purposes. No action was taken.

7. Alternative Staffing Model / Committee Assignment

The Board discussed exploration of alternative staffing models, including possible reassignment to the Finance Committee rather than use of a separate ad hoc committee. Discussion included budget impacts, deployment models, ambulance response times, and possible EMS unit concepts.

A motion was made to assign the matter to the Finance Committee.

Motion: A motion was made to assign the alternative staffing model matter to the Finance Committee by Director Mendosa

Second: A second was made by Maynor

Roll Call: Maynor, Johnson, Mendosa, Akana

Ayes: Maynor, Johnson, Mendosa, Akana

Nays: N/A

Absent: Loudenslager

Result: Motion passed

CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

The Board acknowledged receipt of thank-you cards, drawings/coloring pages, and a proclamation honoring the multi-jurisdictional fire department response to The January 2 downtown Arcata fire. An emergency kit giveaway winner was also mentioned.

REPORTS

The Fire Chief's report covered highlights from two months, including:

- Meetings related to the large fire and disaster proclamations
- Media and radio interviews
- EOC meetings
- Rotary presentation
- Funding opportunity discussions
- Homeland Security grant meeting
- Election as operational area coordinator for county OES-requested resources
- Update on the fire engine under construction
- Crew training activities
- Consideration for a documentary project
- Recognition as nonprofit of the year by the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Director Mendosa and seconded by Director Akana for adjournment. The next regularly scheduled board meeting was started as April 9, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Arcata Downtown Station. The adjournment time 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Cherie E. Kinsler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Business Manager / Board Secretary
Arcata Fire District