ARCATA FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting
October 8, 2026
5:30 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 5:30 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 Mendosa, Director Akana, Director Maynor and Director Loudenslager.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Board considered approval of the agenda. A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda.

Motion: Approve the agenda.
Second: A second was made by Director Maynor
Roll Call: N/A
Ayes: Johnson, Akana, Mendosa, Loudenslager, Maynor
Nays: N/A
Absent: N/A
Result: Motion passed

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

There were no ceremonial matters.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ ASSOCIATION REPORTS

A member of the public identified as Alex addressed the Board regarding the District's name and the possibility that residents outside Arcata may not recognize that the

District provides services to their communities. The speaker suggested considering a gradual approach to a potential name change

Following the conclusion of public comment, the Board of Directors convened into closed session at 5:12 pm to discuss matters identified on the posted agenda.

The Board reconvened into open session at 8:12 pm. The board gave direction to staff.

CONSENT CALENDAR

The Board considered the Consent Calendar, which consisted of the September 24, 2026 Special Meeting minutes; September 10, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes; September 2026 Financial Report; accept GASB 75 Actuarial report.

No Board questions or comments were received.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Consent Calendar

Motion by: Approve the Consent Calendar as presented.
Second by: Director Loudenslager
Ayes: Johnson, Akana, Mendosa, Maynor and Loudenslager
Absent: N/A
Result: Motion passed

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. Government Relations Discussion /Action

The Board reviewed the Government Relations agenda item, which was established following the February 2025 Board meeting to provide an opportunity to discuss ongoing matters affecting the District, including community projects, intergovernmental relationships, and future planning.

The Fire Chief reported that, pursuant to previous Board direction, staff prepared a draft letter to Cal Poly Humboldt addressing concerns identified during a recent housing drill. The draft was provided to the Government Relations Ad Hoc Committee for review, and revisions were incorporated based on committee feedback.

The Board discussed the letter and the importance of continued engagement with Cal Poly Humboldt regarding emergency response staffing needs and public safety. Discussion included the need for state-level recognition and financial support to address staffing concerns identified in the District's Standards of Cover.

Board members expressed interest in establishing a renewed working relationship with Cal Poly Humboldt's current administration and continuing discussions regarding potential solutions.

The Board also discussed maintaining the matter as an ongoing agenda item to monitor correspondence, responses, and future developments.

- A rollover traffic collision at Bayside Cutoff, during which a second collision occurred at the same location.
- A vegetation fire involving driftwood at the beach, where District personnel provided water supply assistance for approximately six hours.
- A response to a commercial structure fire in Blue Lake.
- A vegetation fire involving a downed power line.

The Fire Chief noted that the District anticipated compensation for certain responses involving assistance to CAL FIRE.

Emergency Response Statistics

The Fire Chief reviewed emergency response activity, including medical incidents, fire incidents, incident locations, and overlapping calls.

Breathing problems were identified as the leading medical call category. Outdoor fire incidents included encampment-related fires and campfires.

One- and two-family dwellings and multifamily dwellings continued to be among the primary incident location types.

Approximately 47% of incidents were reported within the City of Arcata, with approximately 39% attributed to another service area identified unclearly in the transcript.

Overlapping calls continued to account for approximately 30% of emergency response activity.

Apparatus and Equipment

The Fire Chief reported that an engine was out of service for repairs involving a damaged pump housing.

Concerns were expressed regarding speed humps on K Street in Arcata and their potential impacts on emergency apparatus.

The 2006 Ferrara engine was reported as removed from service following the arrival of the replacement engine. Staff indicated that the apparatus would be brought before the Board for consideration of surplus disposition.

DIRECTORS' MATTERS

One Director reported having no additional matters.

A Director reported attending a September 11 firefighter recognition dinner at the Masonic Lodge and the District's Open House.

Directors also shared observations regarding the Open House.

Public Comment: No public comment was received

CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

The Board acknowledged receipt of drawings from Pacific Union commemorating September 11 and expressed appreciation for the correspondence.

Committee Report

Fiscal Year 2026–2027 Budget Committee

The Committee reported that budget matters had been discussed extensively during the recent special Board meeting. No additional substantive updates were provided.

Government Relations Ad Hoc Committee

The Committee reported reviewing the draft correspondence to Cal Poly Humboldt and providing suggested revisions.

Fire Chief Evaluation Ad Hoc Committee

The Committee reported meeting to discuss the Fire Chief evaluation process. The Committee indicated that the process would continue, with the possibility of an agenda item at an upcoming special Board meeting during the week of October 19, 2026

Fire Chief's Report

The Fire Chief presented the monthly report, highlighting administrative activities, intergovernmental coordination, personnel development, emergency response operations, and community engagement.

Administrative and Intergovernmental Activities

The Fire Chief reported participating in a Cal OES disaster readiness panel involving state and regional emergency management representatives, including the Deputy Director of Cal OES.

The Fire Chief and Captain Tony Freeman provided disaster preparedness training to DANCO.

Additional activities included attendance at Board meetings, a Captain's meeting, City of Arcata directors' meetings, Finance Committee meetings, and meetings with administrative staff and the District's financial consultant.

The Fire Chief also conducted a safety consultation and walking tour at Town and Country Mobile Villa, participated in interviews for the part-time Fire Inspector position, and met informally with a chief of staff regarding current activities.

Training and Personnel Development

The Fire Chief reported providing incident command and control training involving progressively complex emergency scenarios, ranging from structure fires to major incidents.

Additional training and personnel development activities included familiarization with the new fire engine and preparation for Firefighter I and II certification examinations.

Assistant Chief Ross McDonald participated as a panelist in a fire and forestry class at Cal Poly, discussing fire service career opportunities, professional qualifications, daily responsibilities, and prescribed burn coalitions.

District Projects and Community Engagement

The Fire Chief reported that the District conducted a push-in ceremony for the new fire engine and forwarded photographs of the event to the Humboldt Area Foundation.

The Fire Chief attended and presented at a Caltrans meeting regarding the Highway 101 corridor and associated impacts.

Additional activities included radio appearances promoting the District's Open House, budget development and financial reassessment, and refinement of financial information provided to Bartle Wells.

Painting at the Arcata Station was reported complete, and crews performed cleaning and grounds maintenance in preparation for the October Open House.

The Fire Chief reported that the Measure Z Memorandum of Understanding had been signed and that the District would proceed with the associated funding requests.

Staff were recognized for their work coordinating the District's Open House, and positive community feedback was reported.

Notable Emergency Incidents

The Fire Chief provided an overview of notable incidents, including:

- An animal rescue involving a small dog trapped in a gate.
- A vegetation fire in the McKay Community Forest, during which the District's water tender supplied approximately 11,000 gallons of water.
- A fire involving an electric scooter, highlighting concerns regarding lithium battery safety.

Mobile Command Vehicle and Interagency Coordination

A Director discussed the City of Arcata Police Department's mobile command vehicle and the potential for shared use between the Police Department and Fire District.

The discussion included the vehicle's capabilities, anticipated radio upgrades, operator training, and opportunities to improve utilization during emergency incidents.

The Director referenced the original intent for the vehicle to benefit both police and fire operations and expressed interest in exploring a shared operational arrangement.

No formal Board action was documented.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting was announced for **November 12, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.**, at the Arcata Downtown Fire Station, 631 9th Street, Arcata, California.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded.

Adjournment Time: 8:38pm

Respectfully submitted,
Anali E. Gonzalez
Anali Gonzalez

Clerk of the Board
Arcata Fire Protection District

Date Approved: 11/12/26.