

VENTURA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MARK LORENZEN
County Fire Chief



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October 4, 2016

Board of Directors
Ventura County Fire Protection District
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT:

Adoption of Ventura County Fire Protection District (Fire District) Ordinance No. 29 Adopting Fire Apparatus Access Requirements Previously Contained in Ordinance No. 28.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Introduce and read in title only the attached, proposed Fire District Ordinance No. 29 (Exhibit 1), which would adopt fire apparatus access requirements previously contained in Ordinance No. 28; and continue the matter for final adoption of Ordinance No. 29 on October 25, 2016.
2. Schedule a public hearing for October 25, 2016, at 7 p.m., in the main council chambers at the City of Camarillo for the purpose of adopting Ordinance No. 29.
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to publish notices of such public hearing and a Summary of proposed Ordinance No. 29, prepared by the Fire Chief or his designee and approved by County Counsel, pursuant to subdivision (b) of Government Code Section 25124.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no additional fiscal impact associated with this Board letter.

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DISCUSSION:

Fire apparatus access requirements have long been contained within the fire code but are not considered to be a building standard as defined by the California Health and Safety Code Section 18909. As a result, the California State Fire Marshal's Office does not adopt these requirements as part of the provisions under Title 24, Part 9, of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). Adoption of these requirements are done at the local level by the authority having jurisdiction.

The Fire District has adopted these requirements continuously over the years through its triennial code adoption cycle. The requirements for fire apparatus access have remained mostly consistent over that time. Although some of the requirements are based on those contained within the International Fire Code (IFC), the majority of the requirements have been developed by the Fire District to address the specific needs of our jurisdiction.

The Fire District is proposing to move the fire apparatus access requirements into a self-sufficient ordinance. This will streamline the triennial code adoption process by reducing staff time in processing documentation on requirements that are not changing in the adoption cycle. The move will also allow the Fire District to move forward with submitting these access requirements to the California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to have them reviewed and certified as providing the same practical effect as CCR Title 14 Regulations that are applicable within the state responsibility areas of our jurisdiction. This will allow for a single set of fire apparatus access requirements throughout the Fire District's jurisdiction.

The ordinance before your Board adopts existing fire apparatus access requirements of the Fire District into a self-sufficient document and was formulated pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 13861, which authorizes the District to adopt ordinances.

If the proposed ordinance is not approved, and Ordinance No. 28 is repealed (as requested in a separate item submitted to your Board today), the Fire District's existing fire apparatus access requirements will not be enforceable.

The County Executive Office, the Auditor-Controller's Office, and County Counsel have reviewed this letter and proposed ordinance.

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If you have any questions regarding this item, please call me at 389-9704 or
Fire Marshal Massoud Araghi at 389-9729.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Lorenzen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Lorenzen
Fire Chief

ML/MA:II

Attachments: Exhibit 1 – Proposed Ordinance No. 29