REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA AND RECORD OF ACTION

December 13, 2005

FROM: **NORMAN A. KANOLD,** Assistant County Administrator
Public and Support Services Group

PETER R. HILLS, County Fire Chief/Fire Warden
San Bernardino County Consolidated Fire District

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FIRE ADVISORY COMMISSIONS FOR THE REORGANIZED SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Accept report regarding input from community meetings on the establishment of advisory fire commissions for the proposed reorganized County Fire Department.
2. Approve recommendation to establish four (4) regional fire advisory commissions, each consisting of 7 members and representing county unincorporated communities and cities (non-contract) included in each regional improvement district within the newly created San Bernardino County Fire Protection District.
3. Direct the County Administrative Office and County Fire Department to work with offices of the Board to develop a community/city listing for each of the regional improvement districts from which the Board can select community/city representatives to serve on the four regional fire advisory commissions.
4. Direct the Clerk of the Board to place on a future Board agenda, following approval of the reorganization of the San Bernardino County Consolidated Fire Protection District by the Local Agency Formation Commission, the vacancy notices for members of the four regional fire advisory commissions.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: On July 26, 2005, the Board approved an application to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) for a reorganization of the County Fire Department. The application, currently pending before LAFCO, will create a single countywide fire protection district with four regional improvement districts: Valley, Mountain, North Desert, and South Desert.

At the July 26th Board meeting, staff presented two concepts regarding a fire advisory commission structure for the new district: a single countywide commission, or four regional fire commissions comprised of 5-7 members. The Board did not take any action or select a preference, but instead directed staff to provide updates to the various community groups (municipal advisory councils, advisory commissions, community associations, fire safe councils) regarding the proposed reorganization, and to solicit input pertaining to their preference regarding the configuration of the fire advisory commissions.

The County Fire Department, as of November 1, 2005, has attended sixteen community meetings, at which, every group with the exception of one, has stated their preference was for the establishment of four regional fire advisory commissions. The presentation to the Yucca Valley Town Council on October 13 was not agendized for council action, and, therefore, no formal direction was given. Staff does expect the Town Council to formally provide input at a subsequent Council meeting. Also, staff has one additional community meeting scheduled in Joshua Tree on November 17, 2005.

CC: PSSG – Kanold
Fire – Hills
County Counsel – Krahelski
CAO – Thies

File – Public and Support Services Group

mb

Rev 07/97

Record of Action of the Board of Supervisors

APPROVED BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO

MOTION	AYE	SECOND	AYE	AYE	MOVE
	1	2	3	4	5

DENA M. SMITH, CLERK OF THE BOARD

BY Jennifer Kim

DATED: December 13, 2005

ITEM 034

A separate discussion point arose during the community meetings related to whether cities that contract for services with the County Fire Department should have representation on the these commissions. The prevailing thought on this issue was that contract cities should not be represented on the commission since they directly control their fire protection expenditures and service levels via their respective contracts. Those contract cities are Adelanto, Hesperia, and Needles. Cities directly overlayed and served by the fire district are Fontana, Grand Terrace, and the Town of Yucca Valley. Representation from these cities on the fire commissions was supported during the community meetings.

Based on the overwhelming community support for regional commissions, staff recommends the Board consider the establishment of a separate 7 member advisory commission for each of the 4 regional improvement districts included in the reorganized fire protection district: Valley, Mountain, North Desert, and South Desert. These advisory commissions would provide advice and comment to the County Fire Department, in accordance with Section SD 1-4 of the Special Districts Policy Manual ("Advisory Commissions"), regarding the management and operations of the improvement districts they serve. **Recommendation No. 2** requests the Board approve this concept. **Recommendation No. 3** would direct the CAO and Fire Department to work with staff of the Board offices to formulate a community/city listing from which the Board could then formally appoint members to each commission. **Recommendation No. 4** would direct the Clerk of the Board to post the notices of vacancy for commission membership once the reorganized fire protection district has been approved by LAFCO.

It should be noted that the formation of these four advisory commissions would not result in the elimination of any of the following municipal advisory councils or advisory commissions currently charged with providing advice on special district operations: CSA 20 (Joshua Tree); CSA 29 (Lucerne Valley); CSA 53 and 53B (Fawnskin); CSA 56 (Wrightwood); CSA 56 F-1 (Pinion Hills); CSA 63 (Yucaipa/Oak Glen); CSA 70 HL (Havasu Landing); CSA 70 M (Wonder Valley); CSA 79 (Green Valley Lake); and CSA 82 (Trona/Searles Valley). These commissions would continue to exist and offer advice and comment on other functions provided by the special districts to which they are assigned.

REVIEW BY OTHERS: This action has been reviewed by County Counsel (L. Thomas Krahelski, Deputy, 387- 5436) on November 8, 2005; and by the County Administrative Office (Wayne Thies, Administrative Analyst, 387-5409) on December 2, 2005.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact from the Board's approval of the recommendations except for minor administrative costs associated with commission meetings such as printing, advertisement, and posting of agenda and minutes of official meetings. These costs will be funded by the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S): ALL

PRESENTER: Norman A. Kanold, ACA for PSSG, 387-4052
Peter R. Hills, Fire Chief, 387-5952