



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **\$7 Million for Fire Stations, Equipment, and Services From Agreement Between SBCoFD and the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians**

The San Bernardino County Fire Protection District has entered into a partnership with The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to assist with the cost of replacing two fire stations located within the City of San Bernardino. Beginning on July 1, 2018, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians will donate a total of \$7 million to provide a reciprocal exchange of fire, rescue, and emergency medical services from the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District over a 10-year period. Payment from the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians will be provided in two \$3.5 million deposits; one payment in the 2018-2019 fiscal year and an additional payment in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

“Many of the fire stations in the City of San Bernardino were built as modular construction over 50 years ago with the intent to physically move the fire stations and reposition them to provide the best service possible,” explains San Bernardino County Fire Assistant Chief Dan Munsey. “Over time, the modular fire stations were placed on permanent foundations leading to infrastructure problems, including subfloor failure, asbestos and black mold issues. This agreement will provide for two new replacement stations and will allow the district to avoid budgeting the millions of dollars that are required for the significant modifications that these stations need to ensure the safety of our firefighters.”

As part of the agreement, the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District will provide repairs of equipment, aerial truck response, fuel reduction, and joint training opportunities to the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. The agreement will better protect the public in both agency jurisdictions by expediting response times during emergency situations. Munsey continues, “If the reservation is impacted by any kind of emergency, the fire district will provide as much aid as it possibly can to mitigate the emergency. For example, if there is a vegetation fire transitioning from the National Forest down into tribal lands, the fire district would assist with incident command, as well as provide resources such as bulldozers, fire engines, and hand-crews without cost to the tribe.”

Both agencies are pleased to work together to better protect the public by providing expedited response to day-to-day emergencies, as well as guard against the increasing emergency incidents within San Bernardino City.

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