

**Carpinteria – Summerland Fire Protection District
Citizens Ad-Hoc Committee on Capital Improvements**

**Report of Recommendations
February 18, 2014**

Introduction

Early in November of 2013, the District Fire Chief established a working committee of citizens to discuss the capital improvement needs of the Fire District, specifically fire stations. The committee was charged with these objectives:

- Review current fire station improvement plans
- Recommend additions or deletions
- Prioritize Capital Improvements
- Evaluate funding sources for Capital Improvements
- Summarize the committee recommendations and report them to the Fire District Board of Directors

Committee Selection and Process

There were 11 active members who attended 5 meetings from November 14, 2013 to February 11, 2014. The Fire Chief sent an invitation for membership to a broad spectrum of 26 District residents with input from stakeholders. 12 community members answered the invitation. Membership was composed of three Summerland residents, four City of Carpinteria residents that included two chamber of commerce volunteers. A representative of IAFF Local 2046. A City Planning Commissioner and a past CVWD Board member, two retired Carpinteria–Summerland FPD Officers (one who lives in the city of Carpinteria and one who lives in the Serena Park), and four HOA and Citizen Association Board members representing Silver Sands, Serena Cove, Ocean View Estates and the Summerland Citizens Association.

The meetings included an introduction of the members and their concerns. The committee reviewed the proposed plans and the work already accomplished. The group took a tour of new fire station construction in the City of Santa Barbara as well as our District's existing facilities. The committee briefly toured the approved Summerland relocation site that is occupied by the Mosquito and Vector Control District. The committee also spent some time learning about the financial status of the Fire District and the financing tools available for public capital improvement

projects. Those financial tools included General Obligation Bonds, Certificates of Participation, Parcel Tax, Assessment Districts and Lease Buy-Back options.

Diamante Partners consultants attended the fourth meeting to assist with their data gathering. At that meeting there was a question and answer session with the consultants. The committee received a letter from the District's architects giving their opinion on rebuilding the Summerland station on its existing site. The committee was provided a summary of findings from Diamante Partners at meeting number 5.

Recommendations

At the final two meetings the committee worked on consensus building. As a result of the entire process the committee recommends that the Board consider the following:

- 1) The entire group agreed that the Summerland station needs to be addressed and time is of the essence in that matter.
- 2) In light of current forecasts predicting an adequate and sustained revenue source to fund future operating costs, the entire group agreed that a General Obligation Bond (GOB) is the most desirable method to produce the revenue for fire station construction since GOBs can only be used for the intended capital improvement project.
- 3) The entire group agreed that the relocation of the Summerland station to the proposed site at 2450 Lillie Avenue is the best option considering the results of the distribution study and the County Planning Department's allowable building footprint on the current Summerland Fire Station site.
- 4) The entire group agreed that in moving forward, if it were the desire of the Fire Board to hire a polling consultant that the Committee requests to be involved in the preparation of the polling questions.
- 5) The entire group agreed that if a bond measure was to move to the voters that it should also include long-term funding for the Carpinteria Fire Station improvement.
- 6) The committee recommended that the Board look at using existing funding sources to secure the purchase the 2450 Lillie Avenue site as soon as possible. This action would reduce the amount of the bond and secure the project location.
- 7) The group realized that the smaller the amount of annual tax asked for in a bond, the higher the chances of voter approval. To address that fact, the

committee recommended that the Summerland project be reviewed and a current cost of construction analysis be performed. The Committee also felt it may useful to review the Summerland Fire Station plans to reaffirm the proposed layout and components before the amount of the bond is fixed.

- 8) The committee recommended that the scope of the Carpinteria Fire Station project be better defined for the voters.

In conclusion, the committee wants to thank the District Board and staff for allowing citizen input into this very important question. The committee unanimously agrees that if the Fire District moves forward with a ballot measure, it will be imperative that the Board, the labor groups and the administration unite in support of the measure to improve the chances of a successful outcome.

Respectfully Submitted,

The block contains two handwritten signatures in dark ink. The first signature is written above the second one. Both signatures appear to be in cursive and are somewhat stylized.

Doug Qualls and David Hill
Committee Representatives