



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence
County Manager



Date: March 20, 2014
Board Meeting Date: April 22, 2014
Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Peggy Jensen, Deputy County Manager
Marc Colbert, Acting Fire Marshal, San Mateo County Fire Department

Subject: Ratification of the Ordinance Codes of the Coastside Fire Protection District, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, Woodside Fire Protection District, Colma Fire Protection District and Belmont Fire Protection District

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution ratifying the ordinance codes of the Coastside Fire Protection District, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, Woodside Fire Protection District, Colma Fire Protection District and Belmont Fire Protection District for enforcement within the unincorporated areas of San Mateo County lying within their jurisdictional boundaries and delegating enforcement to the Fire Chief of each Fire Protection District.

BACKGROUND:

The California Fire Code is published every three years by order of the California Legislature. The 2013 edition of the Fire Code incorporates by reference the 2012 edition of the International Fire Code (IFC) published by the International Code Council. State law requires the adoption of the IFC by local fire agencies, as amended by the California Fire Code. Cities and fire agencies throughout the County have adopted the updated codes, which became effective in January 2014. With this adoption, cities and fire agencies are able, upon making required supporting findings, to amend the codes to address specific climatic, geographic, and topographic conditions that are specific to the local areas.

Once a fire agency, such as the instant fire protection districts, adopts amendments to its ordinance to incorporate such changes, the fire protection district must thereafter present the ordinance for ratification, modification or denial to the city or county within which it will apply. Upon ratification, the County must file a copy of each of the ordinances with the California Department of Housing and Community Development.

DISCUSSION:

The County provides fire protection services to most of the unincorporated area through an agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal-Fire). However, some of the unincorporated areas of the County lie within the jurisdictional boundaries of the above fire protection districts. These fire districts are responsible for, among other things, enforcing the local fire codes. Each district has adopted their own ordinances that incorporate the State Fire Code and make certain findings and amendments that are specific to their unique local conditions. The Coastside Fire Protection District, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, Colma Fire Protection District, Woodside Fire Protection District, and Belmont Fire Protection District Ordinance Codes are included as exhibits.

We have also included documents that compare each of these fire protection district ordinances to the San Mateo County Fire Protection Ordinance (with the exception of the ordinance for the Belmont Fire Protection District, which did not provide such a comparison document).

The new codes will apply to projects submitted after the ratification of the new ordinances. Existing projects already underway will not be affected by these changes.

County Counsel has reviewed and approved the Resolution as to form.

Updating the fire codes for the unincorporated area meets the County vision of a healthy community by protecting the health, safety and welfare of residents and property.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. Enforcement of each fire district fire protection regulations is funded through current fire district funding.

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. Ordinance No. 2013-03, Coastside Fire Protection District
- B. Menlo Park Fire Protection District Ordinance No. 36-2013
- C. Ordinance No. 13, an Ordinance of the Colma Fire Protection District Adopting and Amending the Fire Prevention Code
- D. Ordinance No. 10, Board of Directors of the Woodside Fire Protection District
- E. Belmont Fire Protection District, Resolution No. 2013-015
- F. San Mateo County Fire Protection Ordinance vs. Coastside Fire Protection District Ordinance, Ordinance 2013-03
- G. San Mateo County Fire Protection Ordinance vs. Menlo Park Fire Protection District, Ordinance 36-2013
- H. San Mateo County Fire Protection Ordinance vs. Colma Fire Protection District, Ordinance No. 13
- I. San Mateo County Fire Protection Ordinance vs. Woodside Fire Protection District Ordinance, Ordinance 10