

Resolution

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA
RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING

La Honda Fire Brigade

WHEREAS, on Sunday, August 16, 2020, a historic fierce lightning storm struck the Santa Cruz Mountains and sparked the CZU Lightning Complex fire; and

WHEREAS, the La Honda Fire Brigade is staffed by a dedicated corps of professional volunteer firefighters; Who have served the community of La Honda and the South Coast of San Mateo County since 1953; and

WHEREAS, the La Honda Fire Brigade staffed fire apparatus in anticipation of this forecasted weather event and monitored lightning strikes throughout the area and began aggressive fire patrols as the storm passed through the county; and

WHEREAS, the La Honda Fire Brigade located and controlled the 5-5 fire that imminently threatened the communities of Middleton Tract, Portola Heights and Portola Redwoods State Park the morning of August 16th working with CalFire E-1765, E-1781 and Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space Area Manager Craig Beckman using only hand tools and the water they could carry on their backs as the fire was over a mile hike from vehicular access in rugged and steep terrain; and

WHEREAS, the La Honda Fire Brigade worked cooperatively with the San Mateo County Parks Department, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, Woodside Fire Protection District, Redwood City Fire Department, North County Fire Authority, Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space and CAL FIRE to establish and maintain a fire break on the Old Haul Road from the community of Loma Mar past Trestle Creek to the San Mateo County line; and

WHEREAS, the establishment and maintenance of the fire break on the Old Haul Road was critical to defending the southern portion of San Mateo County from the threat of wildfire; and

WHEREAS, the La Honda Fire Brigade patrolled the fire to monitor for hot spots and worked under the direction of Cal Fire Division K to control the Northern progression of the CZU fire for two days with the Kings Mountain Fire Brigade, Loma Mar Fire Brigade, Menlo Park Fire Protection District, San Mateo County Parks, and CalFire; and

WHEREAS, the La Honda Fire Brigade responded throughout San Mateo County in the subsequent weeks to many reported fires from the Southern County line to the City of San Bruno; and

WHEREAS, the La Honda Fire Brigade aided by SC4ARES Ham radio group, South Coast CERT, South Skyline CERT, Coastside CERT and the San Mateo County Large Animal Evacuation Group provided firefighting resources, emergency incident communications, animal evacuations and logistical support to firefighters working the Fireline on the Old Haul Road during the incident at no cost to San Mateo County or the State of CA.; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of San Mateo County hereby recognizes, commends, and is grateful to the members of the La Honda Fire Brigade for their heroic effort to combat the CZU Lightning Complex of August 2020.

Dated: November 17, 2020 SUPERVISORS:

WARREN SLOCUM, PRESIDENT

DAVE PINE

CAROLE GROOM

DON HORSLEY

DAVID J. CANEPA

Attest: _____
Deputy Clerk of the Board of Supervisors