

RESOLUTION No. 2010.16

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DIAMOND SPRINGS / EL DORADO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ADOPTING FINDINGS SUPPORTING AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE, 2010 EDITION

WHEREAS, the District intends to adopt an ordinance adopting the California Fire Code, 2010 Edition, and prescribing regulations governing conditions hazardous to life, property and the environment from fire, explosion, hazardous materials and hazardous uses; and

WHEREAS, the unique local climatic, geological, and topographical conditions existing within the boundaries of the District make it reasonably necessary for the District to impose more stringent requirements than set forth in the California Fire Code and pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 13869.7 and 17958.7, the District desires to make express findings to that effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Diamond Springs/El Dorado Fire Protection District hereby adopts the following findings concerning current unique local conditions that together make each modification to the California Fire Code, 2010 Edition, reasonably necessary to provide adequate and effective protection of life, property and the environment.

- A. **General.** After due consideration, the Board of Directors of the Diamond Springs/El Dorado Fire Protection District, hereby finds that due to local climatic, geologic and topographic conditions, as stated within this document, there is a need to provide the modifications and changes contained in the adoptive Ordinance of the California Fire Code, 2010 Edition. Such changes are deemed to be reasonably necessary to provide adequate and effective protection of life, property and the environment.

The Diamond Springs/El Dorado Fire Protection District provides fire protection, emergency medical services and specialized rescue services to approximately twenty four thousand people in a 93 square mile area. The District is located on the western slope of El Dorado County. The topography of the District ranges from rolling hills of grass and oak woodland in the west and oak-timber in the steep drainages of the east portion. The weather conditions vary from freezing temperatures with occasional snow in winter, to summer temperatures that regularly exceed 100 degrees.

The District can be divided into three distinct areas: The core area encompasses the townships of Diamond Springs and El Dorado and the Missouri Flat Road corridor. The core area is more urban and contains most of the District's commercial development and potential for major commercial development. The north and south areas typically contain

small subdivisions and isolated residential developments. These areas are characteristic of the suburban or ranch environment. The north and south areas become very isolated and more rural as one moves further away from the core of the District.

The Diamond Springs/El Dorado Fire Protection District is an “all-risk” agency. The District participates in a sophisticated automatic aid program and is dispatched through agreement by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal-Fire), at Camino. The resources of the District will respond to, and deal with, any type of emergency. The term “Fire Protection” in this document is broad and includes responses to fires, smoke and odor investigations, alarms, public assist calls, hazardous materials incidents, medical aid and specialized rescues.

The District has established two, full-time, staffed fire stations and three volunteer fire stations to provide emergency services to the community. Fire Station 49 is located in the unincorporated town of Diamond Springs, at 501 Main Street. Fire Station 46, a volunteer station is located in the unincorporated town of El Dorado, at 6170 Pleasant Valley Road. Fire Station 48, staffed with paramedic/firefighters assigned to an ambulance, is located at 3840 Missouri Flat Road, Placerville, just north of Highway 50. Fire Station 44, a volunteer station, is located in the Logtown area at 6109 Quartz Drive, El Dorado. Fire Station 47, a volunteer station, is located in the Sleepy Hollow subdivision, at 2312 Oakvale Drive, Shingle Springs. The District has 23 full-time, career personnel and 30 volunteer firefighter positions, along with three management and three administrative support positions.

- B. **Climatic.** The Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District is located within a foothill region. The District is subject to four seasons, with an annual average snow fall in the winter months of 2 inches, in addition to an average rainfall of 45 inches per year. These adverse weather conditions create severe hazardous road conditions as well as rock slide hazards along the main access roads within, as well as into, the District from the surrounding areas. Due to periods of rainfall, along with repeated road closures, the ability of the Fire Protection District to provide immediate emergency response is often delayed. These same adverse climatic conditions often result in a large number of vehicular accidents that place extreme restraints on the availability of emergency response to perform emergency rescue, first aid, hazardous materials control and fire fighting. The climatic conditions often result in a substantial or total lack of ability of the Fire Protection District to respond immediately to other types of emergency situations that occur. Examples of these emergency situations include structure fires, wildland and forest fires, hazardous materials incidents, emergency medical calls, vehicle accidents and vertical rescues. The mutual aid agreements established with adjoining fire agencies might not be possible due to adverse climatic conditions, restricting or totally blocking access into the District.

- C. **Geological.** The Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire Protection District is located within moderate activity seismic Zone Three. The seismic, geological conditions present a potential for multiple fires, major breakage of water mains, multiple electrical power failures, multiple collapsed structures and a large number of calls for emergency medical

aid, all of which may occur simultaneously during a seismic event. The water district has numerous water-pumping systems used for fire suppression water delivery, as well as water storage tanks providing water system pressure. Most of the pumping systems are dependent on electrical power for operation. Such electrical power may not be available during a seismic event. Water storage tanks used for the storage of required fire suppression water may also collapse in such an event forcing the additional need to transport water via additional pieces of fire apparatus which will place a significant restraint on the ability of the District to provide the required emergency services.

- D. **Topographical.** The District is primarily composed of areas that are considered by the State fire hazard severity zone mapping system to be of very high fire severity zones and wildland. Much of the District is located within foothill terrain, covered with highly combustible vegetation, including the presence of many coniferous forested areas. The elevation within the District ranges from at 1,000 feet to over 1,800 feet at the highest point. Slope within the District ranges from 0 degrees to 90 degrees. The structures within the areas of foothills terrain have very limited fire access, due to narrow roadways with steep grades and poor road surface conditions. The presence of many existing structures within the very high fire hazard severity zone areas provides for a very high potential of a structure fire spreading into a wildland or forest fire condition as well as the potential for a wildland or forest fire spreading to structures.

INTRODUCED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Diamond Springs/El Dorado Fire Protection District on October 13, 2010

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Diamond Springs/El Dorado Fire Protection District on October 13, 2010 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Charles J. Hoff, Chair
Diamond Springs/El Dorado
Fire Protection District
Board of Directors

ATTEST:

Caroline Falconer, Board Secretary