



**VISTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Special Board of Directors Meeting - Workshop**  
**Minutes – February 27, 2025**

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*These minutes reflect the order in which items appeared on the meeting agenda and do not necessarily reflect the order in which items were considered.*

**WORKSHIP – AGENDA – 1:00 PM**

President Ploetz called to order the regular meeting of the Vista Fire Protection District Board of Directors at 1:03 PM at the “Smart Space” conference room located at 450 South Melrose Drive, Vista CA.

**CALL TO ORDER**

A. Roll Call

Directors Present: Elliott, Fougner, Hill, Miller, Ploetz

Directors Absent: None

Staff Present: Karlena Rannals, Administrative Manager; Gerard Washington, Fire Chief; Bret Davidson, Mark Vierow, Fire Marshal; James Kozakiewicz, Fire Inspector; and Chris Cardinale, Legal Counsel

**FLAG SALUTE**

Director Miller led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ORAL COMMUNICATION (PUBLIC COMMENT)**

No one requested to speak to the Board of Directors.

**DISCUSSION**

A. Vegetation Management Program 2025

Chief Washington began his comments by showing the **60 Minutes** video segment about the Los Angeles City/County wildfires that occurred January 2025. At the conclusion of the video, he acknowledged that there were many lessons learned from the 2024 vegetation management program. Through the feedback from the board and staff (both verbal and written) the overview that was being presented takes into consideration all of those comments.

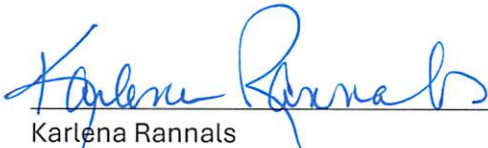
Chief Davidson delivered a PowerPoint presentation that summarized the achievements and the current status of the 2024 program. He highlighted that the inspectors accomplished over 8,000 inspections, with only 14 properties to date that have proceeded to force abatement. He reminded the board members that the goal has also been to work with the property owners, but there are property owners that will not communicate with the fire department.

He reviewed the recommendations for the 2025 program that included updating the ordinance for clarity, while integrating UL defensible space, implementing aerial photography for first and second notices, and creating a community engagement plan.

Ms. Rannals provided the timeline to adopt a new vegetation management ordinance, so that it would be in effect when the 2025 vegetation management program begins. Staff responded to questions from the board. This meeting was informational only and there was no action taken or direction given to staff.

**ADJOURNMENT**

President Ploetz adjourned the meeting at 3:38 pm.

  
Karlana Rannals  
Board Clerk

  
John Ploetz  
President