



**VISTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Special Board of Directors Meeting
Celebrating Community Excellence
Minutes – January 22, 2026**

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.

WORKSHOP – AGENDA – 10:00 AM

President Ploetz called to order the regular meeting of the Vista Fire Protection District Board of Directors at 10:15 AM at the “The Havens Country Club” located at 29354 Vista Valley Dr, Vista, CA 92084

CALL TO ORDER

A. Roll Call

Directors Present: Elliott, Miller, Ploetz

Directors Absent: Fougner, Hill

Staff Present: Karlena Rannals, Administrative Manager; Gerard Washington, Fire Chief; Bret Davidson, Deputy Chief; Mark Vierow, Fire Marshal; Medi Maldonado, Assistant Fire Marshal; and Chris Topping, Fire Inspector

ORAL COMMUNICATION (PUBLIC COMMENT)

No one requested to speak to the Board of Directors.

DISCUSSION

A. COMMUNITY MEETING

Chief Washington welcomed the community members in attendance. He commended the Vista Valley Villas and The Havens Country Club for their efforts in achieving the Firewise USA® designation. The following representatives presented a certificate and/or proclamation to committee members led by Daniel Gomez:

- Representing Senator Brian Jones, 40th District
 - Kyle Herman, District Representative
- Representing Assembly Member Laurie Davies
 - Gradon McDermott, Field Representative
- Representing Supervisor Jim Desmond, 5th District
 - Adrienne Cesneros-Selekman
- Representing Vista Fire Protection District Board of Directors
 - John Ploetz, President, Board of Directors


Chief Davidson and Assistant Fire Marshal Maldonado presented a summary report on the success of the 2025 vegetation management program and outlined planned changes for 2026. Staff also responded to questions from the community.

In addition, a Simtable was onsite to demonstrate an interactive wildfire simulation of the local community using real terrain and data. Advanced computer modeling showed fire progression—such as the Lilac Fire—by incorporating wind speed and direction, terrain, slope, and fuel types, providing an engaging, firsthand learning experience.

Chief Washington closed the meeting by thanking all who attended and encouraged other communities to seek the Firewise USA® designation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 am.



Karlena Rannals
Board Clerk



John Ploetz
President