



 **Fire Chief's Report**
 *January 20, 2022*

JPA (Joint Powers Authority)

- **Contract discussions** with the County for a **2-year extension** are underway. The JPA Contract Working Group includes:
Deputy Director Jorgensen, Chief Johnson, Chief Brown, Chief Norman, and myself. Meetings are occurring approximately every two weeks.
 - The JPA will be **contracting with a consultant** to perform a **comprehensive system analysis** of West Slope operations within the JPA's jurisdiction.
 - **Strike team and open position costs** have been reviewed and reconciled, reducing the previous budget overage from the last fiscal year.
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American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

- The County has allocated **\$500,000** for disbursement to fire districts. The **County Fire Chiefs Association (FCA)** is developing a methodology for **distribution and qualifying expenditures**.
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Hiring Update

- **Five new firefighters** (3 EMTs and 2 paramedics) are scheduled to come onboard in the coming weeks.
 - An additional **Firefighter/Paramedic** recently started and has been assigned to **Station 19**.
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City of Placerville

- Staff continues regular engagement with City personnel, attending **City staff meetings and City Council sessions**.
- The **Fire Prevention Bureau** is actively involved in several **development projects**, including a potential **new hotel**, an **apartment complex**, and a **temporary homeless shelter**.

- **Dewberry Consulting** continues work on the **Public Safety Building (PSB)** project. A **joint City Council/Board meeting** is scheduled for **February 22, 2022 at 3:00 PM**, featuring an update and presentation on the needs assessment. Materials will be distributed prior to the meeting.
 - Staff has initiated a **joint public messaging campaign** to raise awareness about the **critical needs and deficiencies** of both **Station 25** and the **Placerville Police Department facility**.
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District Information

- A **Public Records Act (PRA) request** was received and fulfilled, providing Board and committee agendas, minutes, and recordings.
- Following the **promotion of 14 Engineers**, the District is transitioning to **permanent engineer staffing** across all shifts and stations.
While **COVID-19 and FMLA leave** presented some challenges, progress continues.
- Two **Captains' Meetings** were held with solid attendance and meaningful discussion. Several Chief Officers also participated.
- **Homeland Security Funds** have been approved to purchase **four side-by-side UTVs** for local fire agencies.
 - ECF will receive one unit (ownership will remain with ECF), and will be responsible for acquiring a **trailer and outfitting** the vehicle.
 - The other units will go to **Diamond Springs, El Dorado Hills, and Georgetown**.
- The **regional grant for new Zoll heart monitors** is complete.
 - ECF will receive **10 monitors**, with a **10% cost match (\$38,991)**.
 - Thanks to **Captain Snyder** for his excellent work assembling the required documentation.
- The **District website** continues to improve under **Captain Poganski's leadership**.
 - A new **"Engage" feature** allows residents to sign up for updates.
 - During recent winter storms, the **emergency banner tool** was used to notify the public of warming shelters.
- The District received **\$114,500 from the CSDA ARPA Special District Fund**, approximately **70% of the original request**.
- The **FEMA/OES reimbursement process for the Caldor Fire** is nearing completion.
 - The claim totals approximately **\$51,000**, primarily covering **overtime, apparatus usage, and administrative support**.
- ECF remains actively engaged with **Red Hawk Casino** as they develop their **hotel and entertainment center**.
 - The District appreciates their **partnership and responsiveness** to our operational needs.
- **Station 28:** Caulking repairs have been completed and are being monitored to mitigate ongoing **settling issues**.
- **Station 17:**
 - The **RFP for a construction manager** has been distributed.
 - **Two bids** have been received.
 - A **draft request for Development Impact Fees** has been submitted to the County for review.

- The **Omicron COVID-19 variant** has impacted staffing levels.
 - The recent shift to a **5-day quarantine period** has helped alleviate some of the burden.
 - A **mask mandate** was reinstated in accordance with **CDPH guidance** to ensure workforce health and operational readiness.
 - The District is evaluating the transition from **Firehouse RMS to ImageTrend**.
 - A formal request will be brought to the Board; however, **funding must still be identified**, as the ARPA request was not approved.
 - An **AFG Grant application** was submitted for the **replacement of Water Tender 28**.
 - Gratitude to **Captain Snyder** for his continued leadership in **grant writing efforts**.
 - **Town Hall** is expected to remain the venue for our **monthly Board meetings**.
 - The County building remains unavailable for the foreseeable future.
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Ancillary Roles (2022)

- **Chair**, El Dorado County Fire Chiefs Association
 - **Vice Chair**, JPA Board
 - Member, **County Wildfire Resiliency Committee**
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Upcoming Training

- I will be attending the **Wildland-Urban Interface / Fire-Adapted Communities** course at the **National Fire Academy** next week, alongside **Captain Shepard**.
 - I will be available via **phone and email**.
 - **Chief Lohan** will oversee District operations during my absence.
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December–January Winter Storms

- Severe **snowstorms** in late December and early January affected the District as far west as **Shingle Springs**.
 - **Widespread power outages** and **fallen trees** significantly impacted operations.
 - **Station 19's backup generator failed** during the storm; a temporary unit was secured thanks to the resourcefulness of staff and assistance from the County.
 - **Chief Williams** is working on repairs or replacement.
- Despite road closures and difficult conditions, our personnel demonstrated **exceptional resilience and dedication**, ensuring **continued emergency response** to the community.