



ARCATA FIRE DISTRICT

MINUTES

Regular Board Meeting

May 14, 2026

5:30 p.m.

*Location: 631 9th Street, Arcata
Arcata Fire Station Classroom*

Board of Directors

*Nicole Johnson (Division 2) - President, Randy Mendosa (Division 3) - Vice President,
Blaine Maynor (Division 1) - Director, Eric Loudenslager (Division 4) - Director,
Jason Akana (Division 5) - Director,*

CALL TO ORDER

The regular session of the Board of Directors for the Arcata Fire District was called to order by President Nicole Johnson at 5:30 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ATTENDANCE AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

The meeting continued with a quorum, and the following were present: President Nicole Johnson, Director Akana, Director Mendosa, Director Maynor and Director Loudenslager

Additional District administrative staff included Fire Chief Chris Emmons, Assistant Chief Ross McDonald, and Board Secretary Anali Gonzalez

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made and seconded to move closed session to the first order of business due to scheduling constraints with legal counsel. No public comment was received. The motion passed.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the agenda by Director Loudenslager

Second: A second was made by Director Maynor

Roll Call:

Ayes: Johnson, Mendosa, Akana, Mendosa, Maynor

Nays:

Absent:

Result: Motion passed

Closed Session:

The Board adjourned to Closed Session for a conference with legal counsel at 5:36 pm. No public comment was received regarding Closed Session. The Board returned to open session 6:36 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT/ ASSOCIATION REPORTS

No public comments were received.

Local 4981 Monthly Report

A representative of Local 4989 reported that district firefighters are doing well and announced the upcoming Chili Cook-Off Championship event scheduled for June 4, 2026.

Arcata Volunteer Fire Association Report

Roy Willis provided the Volunteer Fire Association report, including:

- 26 hours of volunteer service completed.
- Driver training conducted on the flatbed utility vehicle and trailer.
- CPR instruction provided to approximately 20 students.
- Progress on grant funding for the rural address placard program.
- Continued pursuit of grant funding for hose and nozzle purchases.
- Participation in Firewise community outreach efforts.
- Development of a fire hydrant maintenance project in coordination with local water agencies.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Director Mendosa abstained from voting, stating he had been unable to review the agenda attachments.

Motion: Approve the Consent Calendar.

Motion by: Director Akana

Second by: Director Maynor

Roll Call:

Ayes: Johnson, Akana, Loudenslager, Maynor, and Mendosa

Nays: N/A

Absent:

Abstain: Director Mendosa

Result: Motion passed

DISTRICT BUSINESS

1. Memorandum of Understanding with Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services – Child Passenger Safety Program

Business Manager Gonzalez presented a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between Arcata Fire District and Humboldt County Department of Health and Human Services regarding participation in the Child Passenger Safety Program.

The agreement formalizes the District's participation in child passenger safety training and community car seat inspection events.

Motion: Approve the Memorandum of Understanding and authorize execution of related documents.

Motion by: Director Akana

Second by: Director Maynor

Vote:

Maynor – Yes

Johnson – Yes

Mendoza – Yes

Loudenslager– Yes

Akana – Yes

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Government Relations Discussion

The Board discussed ongoing governmental relations matters, including:

- Coordination among local agencies.
- Cal Poly Humboldt graduation event support.
- Participation in Coffee with a Cop.
- Trinidad Hotel project review activities.
- Coastal Commission conditions related to emergency response and fire protection considerations.

No action was taken.

CORRESPONDENCE & COMMUNICATIONS

The Board acknowledged receipt of:

- Proposed LAFCo budget for Fiscal Year 2026–2027.
- Humboldt County Sheriff's Office appreciation letter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget Committee

Staff reported that budget review activities are ongoing and a committee meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

Government Relations Ad Hoc Committee

The committee reported ongoing review and monitoring of the Trinidad Hotel project and associated Coastal Commission requirements.

Fire Chief's Report

Chief Emmons reported on the following:

Administration and Intergovernmental Activities

- Continued work with Bartle Wells Associates on the District engineering study.
- Attendance at Arcata City Council meetings.
- Participation in Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association meetings.
- Participation in Northern Humboldt regional planning meetings.

- Coordination with Cal Fire leadership.
- Participation in PG&E, Cal Poly Humboldt, and disaster preparedness planning activities.

Training and Operations

- Personnel attended company officer, instructor, drone, and Fire Districts Association training.
- Promotional testing for captain candidates was completed.
- Development of the District Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Program continues.

Capital Projects and Grants

- Battery energy storage projects continue at District stations through grant funding.
- Multiple grant applications remain pending.
- Additional grant funding secured for rural address placard projects.

Notable Incidents

- Rescue of a dog stranded on a residential roof.
- Barn fire response on St. Louis Road.
- Vehicle fire threatening a commercial occupancy.
- Vehicle accident near Baywood Golf Course.

April 2026 Statistics

- Total incidents: 320
- Fire incidents: 15
- Medical incidents: 180
- Mutual aid received: 5
- Mutual aid provided: 1
- Approximately 60% of incidents were reached within five minutes.

Public Education

District personnel conducted public education presentations at:

- Arcata Elementary School
- Cal Poly Children's Center
- Preschool and church group station tours

Social Media

Staff reported reduced social media activity due to operational demands, with the dog rescue incident generating the highest engagement.

Director Matters

Directors discussed community events, including the upcoming Chili Cook-Off and local graduation activities.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Director Mendosa and seconded by Director Loudenslager for adjournment. The next regularly scheduled board meeting was scheduled for June 11, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Arcata Downtown Station. The adjournment time is 7:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aali E. Singsaling
 Business Manager / Board Secretary
 Arcata Fire District.