



Schell Vista Fire Protection District

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MEETING MINUTES Schell-Vista Fire Protection District Board of Directors Regular Meeting

Date: Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: 22950 Broadway -Station #1

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM

Director Ken Finn called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Directors Bob Kruljac, Bill Steach, and Jacques Janson were present. A quorum was met. Director Hal Stober was absent.

Also present were Assistant Chief Mike Mulas, District Accountant Stacie McCambridge, Clerk of the Board Robin Woods, and Firefighters Jerry Jauregui and Dave Volot.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public comments

3. AGENDA ADJUSTMENT AND CONSENT

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR

a. Approval of the Minutes of August 12, 2026, Regular Meeting- **Discussion and Action**

Director Finn introduced the August 12, 2026, minutes. Director Kruljac made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2026, meeting. Director Steach seconded the motion. Director Finn opened the floor to questions, discussion and public comments. There were no public comments. A vote was called, and the motion passed. The Minutes were approved by the following vote:

Ayes-4 Noes-0 Absent-1 Abstain-0

b. Review of the September 2026 Accountant's Report (Stacie & Robin)-**Discussion and Action**

Director Finn introduced the Accountant's Report. Director Kruljac made the motion to accept the Accountant's Report for September 2026, as presented. Director Steach seconded the motion. Director Finn opened the floor to discussion and public comment. There were no public comments. A vote was called, and the motion passed. The Financial Reports were accepted by the following vote:

Ayes-4 Noes-0 Absent-1 Abstain-0

5. CHIEFS' REPORT

Chief Ray Mulas was absent. Director Finn read the Chief's report to the Board.

Administrative:

1. *Sonoma County Fire Chiefs: The membership was in support of moving forward with the Countywide Hazmat Team Proposal. The team will provide an executive summary that will be shared with the Chiefs' association at a later meeting.*
2. *PGE will be hosting a 4-hour lithium battery training on September 29th at the Freeman Center. I will send out the registration when I receive it.*
3. *SB827 Training confirmed on October 7th at the Petaluma Community Center. California Senate Bill (SB827) requires specified local agency officials and designated staff to complete at least two hours of mandatory fiscal and financial management training every two years.*
4. *Redcom's strategic plan was approved at their last meeting.*
5. *AwareCA went live on the 24th of this month.*
6. *I approved the ordering of locking keypads for the Kitchen, Day Room, and Hose Tower for security purposes.*

Operational

1. *Engine 3861 is out of county on the Timber Fire in Monterey County.*

Chief Mulas also presented the board with handouts on *AwareCA Talking Points* and *AwareCA Frequently Asked Questions*. (See attached)

Assistant Chief Mulas advised the Board that all for the trucks have been re-numbered and the sign At station 2 has been repaired.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS/BUSINESS (Directors to report on Committee activities)

a. ` Reports-**Discussions & Possible Actions**

1. Facilities Committee (Bill Steach)

Assistant Chief Mulas informed the Board that the center area of the parking lot is cleared and they will be putting in fire resistant plants. Assistant Chief Mulas will talk to SC Firewise to see if they will work with the district in planning. He will also work on getting rock to put down to prevent mud in the winter.

2. Budget Committee (Bob Kruljac)

a. FYE 2027 Proposed Final Budget for Review and Approval-**Discussion and Action**

Director Kruljac introduced the Proposed FYE 2027 Budget to the Board. Director Finn opened the floor for discussion and questions.

Director Steach made the motion to approve the Budget as presented. Director Janson seconded the motion. Director Finn called for a vote. The motion passed. The FYE Budget was approved by the following vote:

Ayes- 4 Noes-0 Absent- 1 Abstain-0

3. Legislative Committee (Ken Finn)

Director Finn informed the Board about the new zone for fire prevention that will Require 1–5-foot clearance near homes. More information will be coming..

Director Janson agreed to take over the Legislative committee going forward.

4. Outreach Committee (Ken Finn)

Director Finn will work with Chief Mulas on a winter pamphlet to the public.

7. NEW BUSINESS AND CONTINUE UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Filling Open Board Officer Position- **Discussion and Action**

The Board discussed the open position of President.

Director Kruljac made the motion to appoint Director Stober to the position of President and director Finn to the position of Vice President. Director Finn opened the floor for discussion and questions. Director Janson seconded the motion. The motion passed with the following vote:

Ayes-4 Noes-0 Absent-1 Abstain-0

b. SVFPD Fiscal Year End Report- **Discussion and Action**

Clerk Woods introduced the Fiscal Year End Report for FYE 2026 to the Board. Director Finn opened the floor for discussion and questions.

Director Kruljac made the motion to approve the report as presented. Director Janson seconded the motion. Director Finn called for a vote. The motion passed. The SVFPD Fiscal Year End Report was approved by the following vote:

Ayes-4 Noes-0 Absent-1 Abstain-0

c. Status of the Return of the Association Funds-**Discussion and Possible Action**

Director Finn presented a history of the money transfer from the Volunteer Association and the District. He stated that once notified of the issue, the Board's intention has always been to correct it. He further stated that the Board is waiting for an ageement indemnifying all members of both parties.

Treasurer of the association, Dave Volat, joined the meeting and explained his concerns regarding the funds transfer and the status of the Associations 501(C)(3). He said he would work with the Association to complete the settlement agreement.

d. 2018 Tax Measure Updates – Discussion and Possible Action

Clerk Robin Woods informed the board that the required documents have been submitted to the Registrar of Voters and have been accepted for submission on the ballot. The Statement of Accuracy (which includes arguments for the measure) has been submitted to the Registrar, reviewed, and accepted.

Director Finn will ask Bill Adams for advice on what the Volunteer Association can include on the information card to the members of the District. Assistant Chief will let the Association know about sending the card.

e. Calendar Review (Robin)

Clerk Robin Woods reviewed upcoming calendar items with the board.

-Calendar Review Tax Measure

January -Determine the Preliminary Tax Rate

February-Request the Parcel Report from the county using the preliminary rate.
 March-Notice of Public Hearing (2026 Public meeting to be set for June, Posting needs to be mid-May)
 April 2026-Reminder that the renewal of the Tax Measure needs to go to the voters.
 April/May-Conduct Public Hearing (**Public Hearing will be held in June**)
 May2026- Board needs to approve a Resolution & Ordinance to place the Special Tax on the Ballot. (This will be added to June Agenda)
 May/June-Allow time for property owner appeals of the tax levy.
 June-Approval of the District Preliminary Budget
 July-Approval of the Distract Tax Roll and Appropriations Limit
 August 2026-The Special Tax election data needs to be to the Registrar of Voters the First week of August.
 July/August- At the end of the Fiscal year, The District Board of Directors will be presented with the *Fiscal Year-End Report* containing information regarding the amount of special tax revenue collected and expended as well as the status of projects funded with proceeds of the special tax. (Ord. Section VII)
 August/September-Tax Roll and Appropriations Limit Resolution sent to the County.

-Calendar Review General Business

Jan-Feb-Board to appoint Board Labor Negotiators for upcoming contract
 April-Set up Budget Committee meeting to prepare preliminary budget for June meeting.
 April-Annual Physicals
 June-Preliminary Budget review and approval.
 July 15-August 9 Board Members file for re-election with the Registrar of Voters.
 (Terms ending in 2026 are Director Kruljac, Director Neves, and Director Steach)
 August-Budget Committee meet to prepare final budget for Board approval in September.
 September-Final Budget review and approval.
 Nov-Nomination of Officers of the Board (Every 2 years. Next election 2027)
 Dec-Election of Officers of the Board for January 1 start date. (Every 2 Years. Next election 2027)

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/GOOD OF THE ORDER

Director Finn Presented the LAFCO Ballot request to the Board and introduced the 2 Candidates, William Norton and Rob Steward. He opened the floor for discussion. Director Kruljac made the motion that the Board vote for William Norton. Director Steach seconded the motion. Director Finn called for a vote. The motion passed by the following vote:
 Ayes-4 Noes-0 Absent-1 Abstain-0

9. CLOSED SESSION

1. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation (*Govt Code section 54956.9(d)(2)) - Claim of Schell-Vista Volunteer Fireman's Association.*
2. Conference with Legal Counsel - *Anticipated Litigations (Govt Code section 54956.9(d)(2))*

*Director Finn called for a closed meeting at 7:54
 Director Finn resumed the open meeting at 8:48
 Report: Nothing to Report*

10. CLOSED SESSION REPORT - **Discussion and Possible Action**

Nothing to Report.

11. ADJOURMENT

Director Kruljac made the motion to adjourn at 9:17 PM. Director Steach seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned

Next scheduled meeting is October 7, 2026

If Applicable, Board meeting documents are available to review at SVFPD Station 1, 22950 Broadway, Sonoma, CA 95476. Please call (707)938-2633 for an appointment



AwareCA Talking Points

Public safety agencies are the primary source of verified emergency information, working to keep Californians informed during wildfires, using all available tools -- social media, news partnerships, websites, in-person, and other available communication channels. Now, with AwareCA, we're building on that foundation—using trusted tools and modern technology to share critical information even faster, and delivering where people want it most, their mobile devices.

1. AwareCA is the authoritative source for real-time public safety information in California.

The platform replaces fragmented alerts and cuts through misinformation by delivering verified updates directly from fire departments and public safety agencies.

2. AwareCA provides accurate, timely, and actionable information that Californians can rely on during fast-moving emergencies.

With near-real-time updates, easy-to-understand maps, and critical notifications, users can act with confidence.

3. The AwareCA app strengthens statewide emergency communications by enabling fire departments and public safety agencies to share verified information on one platform.

It supports multi-agency coordination, reduces conflicting messages, and improves situational awareness for both the public and responders.

4. AwareCA empowers fire and public safety officials to control their message and tell their story with credibility.

Government communicators now have a modern, mobile-first platform optimized for how people consume information today—on their phones.

5. Californians want accurate information fast—and AwareCA delivers.

With millions seeking reliable updates during recent wildfires, the demand for authoritative information has never been clearer. AwareCA ensures the public always knows where to go for the truth.



AwareCA Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is AwareCA?

AwareCA is California's new mobile application for authoritative, near real-time emergency information delivered directly from participating fire departments and public safety agencies.

The platform supports statewide coordination among agencies to ensure communities receive consistent and reliable updates.

AwareCA is designed to help Californians stay informed about emergency-related activity near places they care about, such as home, work, school, and family locations.

Why was AwareCA created?

AwareCA was created to provide Californians with one trusted source for emergency information and to meet overwhelming public demand for mobile-first, verified, timely, and unified emergency updates.

AwareCA is a natural progression for public safety agencies who have always been committed to keeping Californians informed during wildfires. Now, we have the trusted tools and technology to bring those updates to Californians where they want it most, their mobile devices.

The app was designed to reduce misinformation and provide a single authoritative source, directly for first responders.

Who provides the information in AwareCA?

Information in AwareCA comes directly from public safety agencies, and fire departments managing incidents.

Data flows from multiple authoritative systems used by emergency responders and from information that agencies choose to publish for public awareness.

How is AwareCA different from social media or crowd-sourced apps?

Unlike crowd-sourced apps or unofficial social media pages, information shared through AwareCA comes directly from fire departments and public safety agencies.

What type of information does AwareCA provide?

Each agency has the unique ability to share information their jurisdiction chooses.

Features include:



- Push notifications
- Near real-time incident updates
- Interactive 3-D incident maps for enhanced situational awareness
- Real-time aircraft tracking
- Authorized, delayed command audio, with strict rules preventing the broadcast of restricted or sensitive communications. (CAL FIRE Command Frequencies)
- Evacuation zones, mapped and listed
- Road closures
- Shelter and assistance locations
- Hazard information

The platform is designed to provide persistent situational awareness during and after emergencies.

Will AwareCA send emergency alerts and notifications?

Yes. AwareCA supports push notifications to help users stay informed about nearby threats and evolving incidents.

How does AwareCA help during wildfires?

The app helps users access trusted information quickly during fast-moving incidents.

Key features include push notifications, near real time incident updates, verified mapping data, locations of interest, traffic camera views, and consistent statewide messaging.

How does AwareCA improve public safety?

Accurate information helps people make informed decisions during emergencies.

AwareCA improves public safety by delivering timely, verified information directly from fire departments and public safety agencies, helping communities stay informed and prepared.

Why is authoritative information so important?

Incorrect or unofficial information can cause public confusion, noncompliance with evacuation orders, and reputational damage to agencies. AwareCA helps to mitigate those risks.

What does “persistent situational awareness” mean?

Persistent situational awareness means users receive ongoing updates throughout an incident — not just a single alert.



AwareCA provides continuous information as incidents evolve so communities can stay aware of changing conditions.

How often is incident information updated?

Incident information is updated when the agency responsible publishes new information. Some incidents may be updated frequently, while others may only be updated when meaningful changes occur.

Why is a statewide platform important?

Large emergencies in California often involve multiple agencies and jurisdictions that can be confusing to the public during an emergency.

AwareCA helps improve coordination and reduce conflicting messages by providing one centralized platform for verified public information directly from first responders.

Is AwareCA free to use?

Yes. AwareCA and all its features are available to the public at no cost.

Is AwareCA available statewide?

Yes. AwareCA is designed as a statewide platform that supports fire agencies and emergency response organizations throughout California who choose to participate.

Can media organizations use AwareCA?

Yes. AwareCA was designed to support the public, media outlets, elected officials, and emergency response agencies with reliable, verified emergency information.

Media organizations can use AwareCA as a centralized source for official incident updates.

Where is AwareCA available?

AwareCA is available through the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

Additional information about the platform is available at Aware.CA.gov.

