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East Contra Costa Fire Protection District



“EAST CONTRA COSTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AND CITY OF OAKLEY SETTLE DISPUTE WITH SHEA HOMES TO PROVIDE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW FIRE STATION AT SUMMER LAKE”

ECCFPD Fire Chief Brian Helmick

Brentwood- On November 14, 2017, the City of Oakley gave the final approval for an agreement with Shea Homes, LP and the East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District ("ECCFPD" or "District"), settling a lawsuit Oakley filed against Shea Homes in March 2016. Under the agreement, Shea Homes will contribute \$3.7 million for the City to use to construct and equip a new station for the District at the corner E. Cypress Road and Summer Lake Drive.

Oakley's lawsuit alleged that, as part of the development agreement that allowed for the construction of the Summer Lake residential development, Shea Homes had agreed to construct and equip a new fire station, once certain conditions were met. According to the City, those conditions were met, yet Shea Homes refused to construct or equip the new fire station. As a result, Oakley sued to force compliance with the terms of the development agreement. Shea Homes responded, disputing the City's claims. This led to lengthy settlement negotiations between Oakley, Shea Homes, and the District, and resulted in the agreement that received final approval on November 14. The District never became a party to the litigation, but will benefit from its resolution.

Under the terms of the agreement, Shea Homes will pay the City of Oakley \$3.7 million. The City will use the funds to construct the new fire station and fund ECCFPD's purchase of a new fire engine. The City will then dedicate the newly-built station to the District's permanent use. The agreement sets out the minimum requirements, size, and features of the new station and engine, but the City and ECCFPD plan to work cooperatively on more specific and detailed plans and timelines. For now, the ECCFPD is pleased to have a conceptual framework laid for the new station and equipment it sorely needs.

Joel Bryant, President of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District Board of Directors reacted to news of the settlement today, saying: "This settlement agreement is a relief to the District, which has been waiting to see the benefits of the City and Shea's development agreement. The construction of a modern fire station and replacement of a fire engine that has outlived its useful life will be a boost to our staff and to the citizens we

serve." He also observed: "The settlement negotiations and upcoming construction process shine a spotlight on the cooperation between two agencies focused on serving this community."

Oakley Mayor Sue Higgins, added: "We are pleased that issues regarding the to-be-built fire station near the Summer Lakes subdivision have been resolved. This will allow the station to finally be built and construction will start next year."

ABOUT THE EAST CONTRA COSTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT: The East Contra Costa Fire Protection District is a rural-funded fire district that protects approximately 249 square miles and over 114,000 residents. The District provides firefighting personnel and emergency medical services (basic life support) to the residents and businesses of the Cities of Brentwood and Oakley, the Township of Discovery Bay, and the communities of Bethel Island, Knightsen, Byron, Marsh Creek, and Morgan Territory.

As of July 1, 2017, ECCFPD has three (3) fire stations staffed by three (3) firefighters, for total district staffing of nine (9) firefighters per day. The district responds to over 6,900 calls a year that depend on approximately 9,000 fire engine responses. ECCFPD's Master Plan calls for nine (9) stations to adequately provide coverage to the District's citizens and businesses.

You can visit us on the Districts website, www.eccfpd.org or through our social media pages on Facebook (East Contra Costa Fire Protection District), Instagram (@east_contra_costa_fire) , Twitter (@ECCFPD) and our YouTube channel (East Contra Costa Fire Protection District) for more information on the Fire District.