

MARINWOOD FIRE COMMISSION: MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026, 7:00PM

Marinwood Community Center, 775 Miller Creek Road, San Rafael, CA 94903

Instructions on how to make a public comment during the meeting: At points in the meeting when the meeting chair requests public comment, members of the public shall indicate their desire to speak. All public comments shall be addressed to the Commission and limited to three minutes per speaker. The Commission may choose to respond to comments or request staff to respond at the conclusion of the respective public comment period.

#	Item	Commission Action
1	Agenda	Adopt
2	Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items <i>Speakers are asked to limit comments to three minutes. Speakers may comment only on non-agenda items within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission may not take action on, consider or debate items not on the agenda except under narrow circumstances meeting statutory tests. Response to comments on non-agenda items will be limited to factual information or clarifying questions from staff or Commission. The Chair may refer the matter to staff or to a future meeting agenda.</i>	
3	Commissioner Items of Interest	Discuss
4	Draft Minutes of April 7, 2026 Fire Commission Meeting	Approve
5	Update on Discussions Between Marinwood CSD and City of San Rafael regarding a Potential Amendment to Existing Shared Services Agreement and Possible Future Transition to Long-Term Regional Fire Services Delivery Model	Review
6	Chief Officer Report and Activity Summary	Review
7	Commissioner Requests for Future Agenda Items	Discuss
8	Adjourn	

Requests for disability-related modifications or accommodations, aids or services may be made to the District office no later than 72 hours prior to the meeting by contacting (415) 479-0775

NEXT REGULAR FIRE COMMISSION MEETING TO BE HELD AUGUST 4, 2026
AT MARINWOOD COMMUNITY CENTER

MARINWOOD COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
DRAFT MINUTES OF FIRE COMMISSION MEETING
April 7, 2025

Time and Place: 7:00PM at Marinwood Community Center, 775 Miller Creek Rd, San Rafael

Present:

Commissioners: Chair Steve Farac, John Seratt, Greg Stilson, Pete Stout

Absent: Pascal Karsenti

Staff: Deputy Fire Chief Robert Sinnott, District Manager Eric Dreikosen

1. Agenda

Chair Farac adopted the agenda as presented.

2. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

No comments from the public were received.

3. Commissioner Items of Interest

-Commission discussed upcoming Firewise USA community presentation occurring on April 22, 2026

-Commissioner Stout inquired about condition of Queenstone Fire Rd heading into summer season

-Commissioner Farac inquired about status of housing development proposed for Marinwood Plaza site

4. Draft Minutes of February 3, 2025 Fire Commission Meeting

M/s Seratt/Stout to approve Draft Minutes of February 3, 2026 Fire Commission Meeting as presented.

Ayes: Farac, Seratt, Stilson, Stout. Nays: None. Absent: Karsenti. Motion carried.

5. Chief Officer Report and Activity Summary

Commission received Chief Officer Report and Activity Summary.

6. Commissioner Requests for Future Agenda Items

-None.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:38pm.

Eric Dreikosen



Staff Report

To: Fire Commission
From: Eric Dreikosen, District Manager
Date: June 2, 2026
Re: Proposed Amendment to Existing Shared Services Agreement and Potential Future Transition to Long-Term Regional Fire Services Delivery Model

Commissioners,

The following report was provided to the Board of Directors at their meeting conducted on May 12, 2026. It is being shared with the Commission for informational purposes. Representatives from Marinwood CSD and the City of San Rafael have been engaged in detailed dialogue to explore and identify a sustainable long-term model for regional fire protection and emergency response services.

Background:

For over 50 years, Marinwood Community Services District (District) and the City of San Rafael (City) have benefitted from a partnership in delivering fire protection and emergency response services to our collective communities. While this partnership has been formalized through various agreements during that span, in 2014 the two agencies entered into a Shared Services Agreement (SSA) that remains in effect to this day. At that time, the SSA included an identified exchange of services from each agency to the other. These services primarily include:

- The District provides the City with first response fire and emergency services to an identified area of Northern San Rafael. The District currently responds to over 900 calls annually within the San Rafael City Limits, representing over half of the fire departments annual response calls.
- San Rafael provides the District with:
 - Emergency 911 dispatch services;
 - Fuel for fire engines;
 - Emergency Medical Services (EMS) oversight & supplies and reimbursement of paramedic special compensation paid to Marinwood firefighter-paramedics.

In 2018 upon the retirement of the Marinwood Fire Chief, the SSA was first amended to include the provision of Chief Officer Services from the City to the District on a fee basis. Currently, the District pays the City approximately \$120K annually for Chief Officer Services.

Financial Challenges:

As a relatively small special district with finite financial resources, the District has been heavily challenged to keep pace with the rapidly rising costs of operating a professionally staffed full-service fire department. These disproportionate financial constraints are simply unsustainable over the long run.

Beyond the escalating costs of supplies, equipment and apparatus, the District is hard-pressed to provide market-level wages in a highly competitive firefighter-paramedic labor market, resulting in long recruitment efforts and additional challenges in retaining personnel. Labor expenses are further compounded by escalating retirement costs of pension and retiree health expenses.

Multi-Phase Transition to a Regional Fire Services Delivery Model:

Marinwood CSD has long recognized the above sustainability concerns. To best serve the District and the residents we serve, the District should explore all possibilities to fully dissolve the legal responsibility for fire protection via a full consolidation of fire services into a better resourced agency.

Given the long and successful history of fire services partnership coupled with the overlapping geographical proximity in areas served, the City of San Rafael is the most logical agency with which to analyze what may be possible in a further collaboration, ideally leading to consolidation.

Reinforcing this understanding, in the most recent Municipal Service Review of the greater San Rafael area as performed by LAFCo, their review recommends “a concerted effort be made towards the formal consolidation of the Marinwood Community Services District’s provision of fire and emergency medical services to the City of San Rafael.”

Through thorough analysis involving candid discussions and sharing of information, staff from the District and the City have identified a potential framework by which to progress towards a possible regional service delivery model.

This transition contemplates the following incremental approach:

1. Amendment to the existing Shared Services Agreement between Marinwood CSD and the City of San Rafael, effective FY 2026-2027.
2. Potential transition to a contract for Services arrangement wherein Marinwood CSD contracts with the City of San Rafael to provide for all staffing and related services & supplies, effective FY 2027-2028.
3. Potential transition to a comprehensive regional service delivery model that transfers legal responsibility for fire and emergency medical services to a single entity serving Marinwood, San Rafael, CSA 13 and CSA 19.

Phase 1: Proposed Amendment to existing Shared Services Agreement

While negotiations between the District and the City are still underway, key aspects of the proposed amendments are anticipated to include the following:

- The District will no longer pay for Chief Officer services (approximately \$120K annually) which will continue to be provided by the City.
- The District will receive \$350,000 from the City to supplement its existing fire services budget for FY 2026-2027.
 - Addition of a provision whereby, should the amended SSA continue into FY 2027-2028, the City’s annual payment would increase to \$500,000, and be adjusted by an inflation index (CPI) annually thereafter.
- Existing SSA termination clause is extended from 90 days to 12 months unless waived by both parties.
- Both parties commit to moving forward towards reorganization of fire and EMS services to a comprehensive regional model.
- All other aspects of existing SSA remain unchanged.

Through this amendment a significant financial inlay would be provided to the District allowing for the following:

- Ability to better stabilize Marinwood Fire Department staffing levels to ensure a consistent high level of service and Advanced Life Support (ALS) capability;
- Maintain reliable response coverage to communities served;
- Invest in enhanced fire-related capital, supplies and equipment needs;
- Ability to better address labor-related long-term debt concerns.

As both agencies would retain their current staffing and existing operational areas, it is not believed that a formal review by Marin LAFCo would be needed for this amendment to an existing agreement.

Phase 2: Contract for Services

Phase 2 would potentially occur in FY 2027-2028, and contemplates transitioning to a Contract for Services arrangement to include:

- The City of San Rafael would assume responsibility for staffing and identified supplies & services for Marinwood Station 58 via a Contract for Services;
- Eligible Marinwood Fire Department personnel would be offered employment in the City of San Rafael Fire Department;
- Marinwood CSD would provide funding to the City of San Rafael in support of the Contract for Services with annual increases based on one or more established Indices or benchmarks;

Negotiations are ongoing for this phase, with a potential start date of July 1, 2027. There are numerous considerations to be resolved, including but not limited to meeting and conferring as necessary with impacted labor groups and discussions and potential approval with LAFCo.

Phase 3: Comprehensive Regional Service Delivery Model

Consistent with the recommendations from past studies, the parties envision ongoing collaboration toward a sustainable, comprehensive regional service delivery model for the provision of fire protection and EMS services to Marinwood, San Rafael and selected unincorporated areas of Marin County (CSA 13, CSA 19). This phase necessitates engaging with additional partners and stakeholders as well as involving a more extensive independent study and LAFCo consultation and approval process.

In the short term, the proposed Amendment to the Shared Services Agreement (Phase 1) would include a commitment by all parties to collaborate on any updated studies required to advance this ultimate long-term objective.

Next Steps and Anticipated Timeline:

The following is a brief overview of the anticipated timeline and next steps required to execute an amended shared services agreement:

- May 4, 2026: Presentation to San Rafael City Council (<https://www.cityofsanrafael.org/meetings/city-council-may-4-2026/#/tab-video> - 1:53:00 mark)
- May 12, 2026: Presentation to Marinwood CSD Board of Directors (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUCZIKW6Oqw> – 29:50 mark)
- May/June 2026: Ad Hoc Marinwood CSD / City of San Rafael Subcommittee to review final draft Amended Shared Services Agreement prior to forwarding to each governing body.
- June 9, 2026: Marinwood CSD staff to present to Board of Directors for their consideration, final draft Amended Shared Services Agreement and a resolution to authorize executing the Amended Shared Services Agreement.
- June 15, 2026: City of San Rafael staff to present to City Council for their consideration, final draft Amended Shared Services Agreement and a resolution to authorize executing the Amended Shared Services Agreement.
- July 1, 2026: Amended Shared Services Agreement goes into effect.
- June 2026 – May 2027: Parties negotiate potential Contract for Services (Phase 2) as outlined above; Impacted parties initiate required 3rd-party studies to analyze Regional Comprehensive Fire Services Delivery Model options (Phase 3)



MARINWOOD FIRE COMMISSION – FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT

Abraham Roman, Fire Chief

Meeting Date: June 2, 2026

- **Firewise USA® Neighborhood Meeting.** On April 23, 2026, Wildfire Mitigation Specialists Calvin Schrader and Joe Aiello held a Firewise USA Neighborhood meeting at the Marinwood Community Center. Approximately 30 Marinwood residents attended the session.

Achieving Firewise USA® recognition is a collaborative and ongoing process. Each step is designed to empower residents and stakeholders to work together to enhance their local area’s wildfire resilience.

The Firewise USA® program, led by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), offers a structured approach for communities to enhance their wildfire resilience in California. This initiative promotes collaborative efforts among residents, local fire departments, and other key stakeholders to bolster the fire resistance of homes and surroundings. Integral to California’s wildfire preparedness strategy, the program is supported by CAL FIRE’s Community Wildfire Preparedness & Mitigation Division, aiding communities in achieving Firewise designation.



- **Marinwood D-Space Inspections.** A team of five seasonal defensible space inspectors is currently conducting approximately 900 property inspections throughout Marinwood, focusing on properties that border or are near open space. Property owners were notified in advance via email about the upcoming inspections and were also given the option to receive a comprehensive property evaluation by completing a right-of-entry form and placing it near their front door.

Also, this year, Marinwood has been incorporated into San Rafael’s grant [program](#). In addition to streamlining the process for property owners, this change increases the available grant funding from \$1,500 under the MWPA program to \$2,500. These funds may be used for home hardening improvements as well as the removal of hazardous vegetation, including juniper and bamboo.



San Rafael Defensible Space inspectors (l to r) Trent Ferguson, Moi Vera, Griffin McBride & Connor Fitzpatrick performing Marinwood inspections

- **ISO Survey.** Marinwood and San Rafael are currently engaged with the Insurance Services Office (ISO). Chief Sinnott is overseeing the process. Marinwood is presently a 2/2X agency—an exceptional rating. The last ISO evaluation for Marinwood was in 2020.

The ISO evaluation assesses a community’s fire protection capabilities, including emergency communications, fire department operations, and water supply. These ratings are used by insurers to help establish property insurance premiums, while also providing agencies with a valuable benchmark to measure performance and identify opportunities for improvement.

Submitted by Robert Sinnott, Deputy Fire Chief