



City Council Agenda Item Staff Report

CITY OF SAN BRUNO

DATE: November 8, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Jovan D. Grogan, City Manager

PREPARED BY: Ari Delay, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: San Bruno Fire Department Community Risk Assessment: Standards of Cover and Deployment Analysis Report Update

BACKGROUND:

The City has been in the process of analyzing the replacement or renovation of the City of San Bruno Fire Station 52. This station was built in the mid-1950s and serves as the City's second fire station, providing coverage to the western half of the city. The station houses on duty firefighters, trucks, and other fire equipment and is a critical component of the City's public safety for use of any such funds. The station is currently in poor condition and lacks many of the modern-day amenities considered necessary for fire service delivery.

In 2021 to assist in the planning for a new station, the City released a request for proposal for consulting firms to prepare a Community Risk Assessment: Standards of Cover and Deployment Analysis Report ("Study"). The City retained AP Triton to prepare the Study. A primary component of the Study is to evaluate the location and components of fire stations that meet the communities current and projected needs. The Study presents any gaps and outlines the capabilities, capacity, and level of service provided to enable decision makers to effectively prioritize community initiatives through data-driven decisions.

DISCUSSION:

Overview of San Bruno Fire Department

The San Bruno Fire Department (SBFD) serves San Bruno and is dedicated to protecting the health, life, and property of all persons in the City of San Bruno. The fire department has a long-standing tradition of service and excellence. SBFD provides a full range of services delivered in a responsive and cost-effective manner. The Department's priority is to ensure the safety and emergency preparedness of our citizens through outreach programs in fire prevention, public education, advanced life support, hazardous material safety, and fire suppression activities. SBFD provides all-risk fire protection, emergency medical, and prevention services to 45,000 residents and tens of thousands of visitors annually. SBFD responds to approximately 4,500 calls for service per year.

The SBFD has a service area of approximately 5.5 square miles and is adjacent to the San Francisco International Airport (SFO). The City of San Bruno also has approximately 1.5 square miles of wildland urban interface (WUI) areas that border the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission Peninsula Watershed. SBFD serves a diverse area of single-family homes, multi-residential buildings, retail and business districts, hotels, and care facilities, as well as a large industrial area. The three major highways, 101, 280, and 380, are vital vehicle transportation links between San Francisco and Silicon Valley.

San Bruno Fire Department also participates in a Joint Powers Agreement with San Mateo County, providing Advanced Life Support as part of a 20-city, 56-engine company workforce. Through a series of mutual and automatic aid agreements, each city in San Mateo County responds seamlessly to provide citizens in the county with the closest available units to mitigate any emergency dispatched through San Mateo County's Public Safety Communications.

The San Bruno Fire Department has 38.5 full-time employees. The top-ranking person of the Department is the Fire Chief, who is supported by a command staff of a Fire Marshal, three Battalion Chiefs, and an Executive Assistant. There are two strategically located and professionally staffed fire stations. Daily staffing consists of two engine companies, one ladder truck, and one Battalion Chief, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

SBFD is a participating agency in the Central San Mateo County Training Division (CSMCTD) which also includes Central County Fire Department and San Mateo Consolidated Fire Department. For fiscal year 20/21, the South San Francisco Fire Department has joined CSMCTD for a one-year trial. CSMCTD provides both operations and emergency medical (EMS) training. The Division is staffed with two Battalion Chiefs, a clinical educator, and a full-time administrative assistant.

The SBFD Fire Prevention Division comprises a Fire Marshal and a fire inspector. The CCFD Prevention Division manages several significant fire prevention initiatives, including plan review, comprehensive code enforcement activities, and fire investigation. The division is also responsible for numerous programs throughout the community intended to promote and teach fire safety and emergency preparedness.

As an all-hazard fire department, SBFD provides traditional fire protection, wildland fire response, and medical first response (MFR) at the Advanced Life Support (ALS) level utilizing Firefighter/Paramedics on each of its apparatus, low-angle rope rescue at the operational level (LARO), confined space rescue, and hazardous materials response at the operational level.

Summary of the Study

San Bruno Fire Department's service area combines urban and suburban areas with unique risks and response requirements. This can be seen by providing fire protection and EMS coverage to over 5 square miles that stretch from Hwy 101 adjacent to San Francisco International Airport to the high wildfire risk areas of the Crestmoor Canyon. Specific critical tasks must be accomplished with each type of incident and corresponding risk, and certain numbers and types of apparatus should be dispatched.

The Study is an objective-based phased study beginning with a Community Risk Assessment followed by a Standards of Coverage and Deployment Analysis consistent with State and national best practices. The Study also follows the methodologies and recommendations from

the Center for Public Safety Excellence. The Standards of Coverage includes an analysis and recommendations for future improvements of services to the SBFD community. The City will need to review the Study and ultimately establish response time objectives and identify the critical tasks and number of personnel necessary to achieve the SBFD's critical tasks identified in the Study. Following that, the SBFD can define emergency response time performance objectives.

The Study provides findings and recommendations based on the data received, onsite observations, and stakeholder interviews. There are 17 total proposed strategies and recommendations. These recommendations include the following (not in any particular order):

1. The department should start conducting performance and outcome measurements.
2. Consider replacing both Station 51 and Station 52 with new facilities.
3. Consider replacing Station 52 with a new facility in a more strategic alternative location.
4. Consider shared services with outside agencies when efficiencies can be recognized and duplication eliminated.
5. Consider building training facilities and infrastructure for San Bruno.
6. Find a location for Reserve Truck 151 to be stored and equipped within the city of San Bruno.
7. Provide more suitable facilities and equipment for the on-duty shift mechanic program.
8. Consider hiring enough additional firefighters to staff Truck 51 to ensure a minimum of 4-person staffing daily.
9. Consider hiring enough additional firefighters to ensure a minimum of 4-person staffing daily on Engine 51 and Engine 52.
10. Consider conducting a management staffing analysis for the potential hiring of additional management staff.
11. Continue to support and update San Bruno Fire Department's succession planning and career development programs.
12. Develop and update standard operating guidelines and all policies and procedures.
13. Consider developing a Strategic Plan for San Bruno Fire Department.
14. Consider writing and implementing a Firefighter's Safety Highway Response Standard Operating Guideline (SOG).
15. Consider further analyses of the call answering times, call processing times, and specifically call transfer times from the San Bruno Police Dispatch Center to San Mateo County Dispatch Center.
16. Consider studying turnout time performance measures and possible causes.
17. Find suitable locations for workout exercise areas outside of the apparatus bays at both Station 51 and Station 52.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact from the receipt of this report. There are sufficient funds appropriated in the CIP budget to prepare this Study.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

Receiving this report on the Community Risk Assessment: Standards of Cover Analysis Report does not have the potential for creation of a significant environmental impact pursuant to the

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and as such are exempt from further environmental consideration per CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive update on the San Bruno Fire Department Community Risk Assessment: Standards of Cover and Deployment Analysis Report and address any questions or comments to staff.

ATTACHMENT:

1. Community Risk Assessment: Standards of Cover and Deployment Analysis Report