



## OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

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### MEMORANDUM

Date: January 8, 2024  
To: Board of Directors  
From: Chief Bradley  
Subject: Monthly Fire Chief Update – December 2023

#### Jon Mendoza Hired as Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Manager



I am pleased to announce that Jon Mendoza started as the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Manager for South San Joaquin County Fire Authority on December 4, 2023. Jon started his career in public safety as a Reserve Firefighter with the City of Tracy in 1999. He quickly discovered his passion for the EMS side of public safety and became an EMT with San Joaquin County AMR in 2000. In 2002 he began a 17-year career with Manteca District Ambulance as a Paramedic, and was later promoted to Paramedic Supervisor, Fleet Manager and then Division Manager. From 2019 – 2023, he has served as an EMS Captain and EMS Commander with Falck, and with Medic Ambulance Service in Solano County as an Administrative Manager. Throughout his career he has had many professional accomplishments, but says his greatest is serving the local community. Jon has his AA in Public Safety from San Joaquin Delta College and he recently returned to Delta College to serve as an Adjunct Associate Professor with their new EMT Program. He and his wife have three daughters and they enjoy soccer, movie nights, SF Giants baseball and serving in their local community church. Please join me in welcoming Jon to his new position as South County Fire's EMS Manager.

#### Firefighter of the Year

Clarke Caldwell was selected as Firefighter of the Year by his members of the Local 3355. This



award was well deserved as Clark has always taken an active programmatic role in supporting emergency operations and a variety of administrative functions. He serves as the Authority's primary data person who is responsible for the submission of state and federal required National Fire Incident Reporting data and he is also responsible to submit Cal-Jac data to receive training funds. Clark always has a positive "can do" attitude and I congratulate him on being selected as Firefighter of the Year by his peers.

### **Firefighter Recruitment**

Four firefighter candidates are scheduled to be hired on January 29, 2024. All candidates have successfully completed comprehensive background checks and are in the process of completing medical and psychological examinations. Upon successful completion of medical and psychological exams, three of the four candidates will start Stockton Fire Department's fire academy on February 2, 2024. The fourth candidate is "lateral" hire and will complete a three-week in-house indoctrination academy.

### **Travel & Conferences**

No official travel or conferences in the month of December.

### **EMS**

SSJCFA, Lodi and Stockton Fire Departments entered into an agreement with AP Triton to conduct an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) System Evaluation and Delivery Modeling. AP Triton continues to collect data and prepare the initial financial reports.

Ambulance delays on emergencies continue to be problematic within SSJCFA's response areas. It is not uncommon for our engine and truck companies to wait up 30 minutes for an ambulance. San Joaquin County EMS Agency attributes the delays in ambulance responses to ambulance patient offload times (APOT) at hospitals. There also seems to be some indication that there is a shortage of ambulance paramedics that is attributing to lack of ambulance availability.

San Joaquin County EMS hired Healthcare Strategists to conduct an EMS system review and to develop an RFP for the next ambulance contracts. The project is estimated to take approximately six months to complete and we hope to have the final report by mid-year, 2024. The lead consultant participated in a ride-along with our EMS Manager on December 27, 2023.

### **Arrival of New Boat**

In December, SSJCFA took possession of a new 21-foot Wooldridge hard bottom aluminum boat. The watercraft was funded by a San Joaquin County ARPA grant. The funding included the training of SSJCFA personnel in boat operations and water rescues. The boat is outfitted to navigate waterways and will be an integral part of SSJCFA's Water Rescue program. It is expected to be placed in full service in the next 90 days.



### **Pacific Gateway Fire Station**

SSJCFA and Tracy Rural Fire District staff met with the Pacific Gateway developer to review the description of a new fire station in the proposed site plan. Pacific Gateway is the large logistics project that is proposed for the I-580 corridor. A standards of cover review of the project determined a new fire station would be required if the project moves forward. A nexus study was completed by Harris and Associates that determined the development would need to produce approximately \$10 million in developer fees to build the fire station and purchase a new fire engine. The developer has committed to pre-funding the fire station based on a development trigger determined by the Tracy Rural Fire District. The developer has also committed to signing an MOU that would codify the commitment to pre-fund the new fire station and fire engine. The project is going through the CEQA process and is tentatively scheduled to be considered by the Board of Supervisors in November 2024.

### **Radio Communications**

Antennae on Station 92 and 96 were relocated to improve radios communications in north Tracy. An initial review of the system indicates the relocation of the antennas had provided a significant improvement in radio coverage.

SSJCFA is in the process of conducting an assessment to determine if fiber optics can be used to address poor radio system connections that are attributed to the lack of phone line maintenance. The initial indication is that all fire stations have access to fiber and transitioning to a fiber solution may be the best option and won't require a major capital outlay.

Staff met with a representative from Congressman Duarte's office to identify potential grant funding for a radio tower at Station 93. The Congressman's representative indicated that a communication tower should be a competitive grant request and encouraged the submittal of a grant application. The grant application has been completed and will be submitted within the week.

### **Training Facility**

Training Facility construction drawings are now 100% complete and are now in the review process. City Engineering has provided plan review comments that are in the process of being addressed by the consultant. A project update and allocation of the 5.23 acres was scheduled to be considered by Tracy City Council on January 16, 2024. The city has informed SSJCFA that Training Facility item will be moved to a later date.



SSJCFA and the City of Tracy have developed a federal grant request to fund the second phase of the training facility. The \$2,000,000 grant request would be used to expand the training facility hardscape, fund a storm water retention basin and fund a variety of training props. The completed construction drawing includes Phase 2 of the project.



## Training

During December, the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority Division of Training continued to facilitate all risk emergency training events.

- Eight personnel attended Small Vessel Boat Operations class led by Chief Vickers
- All personnel attended Confined Space Awareness training
- Hazmat personnel attended a Hazmat walk through of the Leprino Foods facility
- All shift personnel attended Commercial Structural fire drills at Red Robin for six days

Authority personnel logged over 2,000 hours of training during the month of December.



## Procurement of Training Equipment through Cal-Jac

Utilizing Cal-Jac funds, SSJCFA purchase a portable communication system from FireCom. The portable system allows one instructor to communicate with up to four students during mobile training operations. The advantage of this system is that it allows the instructors to be stationed outside of the apparatus, allowing them to better assess the scenario and conduct more effective training drills. It can be upgraded to add more users if necessary for future training scenarios such as confined space entry and pumping operations.



SSJCFA also used Cal-Jac funds to purchase a 36" Catalyst Forced Entry Door training device. This door is a standalone forcible entry training prop that is fully customizable. The versatility of the door provides for multiple training scenarios that simulate all types of commercial and residential doors.

Cal-Jac (California Firefighter Joint Apprentice Committee) is an apprentice program sponsored by the California State Fire Marshal's Office and the California Professional Firefighters. Participating fire agencies receive partial reimbursement for academy training hours and follow up training that supports academy instruction. The reimbursement funds can be utilized to purchase training equipment.



## Training at Red Robin Restaurant

SSJCFA obtained permission to train at a commercial building that was scheduled to be demolished. The building that was previously the Red Robin restaurant was used over a six-day period to allow crews to train on the newly implemented residential and small commercial structure fire response policy. Crews worked on advancing multiple hose lines, conducting primary search and rescues, vertical ventilation, connecting to sprinkler systems, Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) deployments and rescuing a downed firefighter. While the training did not include “live” burns, a smoke simulator was used to create realistic training scenarios.



## Emergency Response Highlights

- **December 17, 2023** – At approximately 6:49 am crews were dispatched to a call for a backyard shed on fire on Sequoia Boulevard, just across the street from Station 91. Upon arrival crews found an active fire on the fence between two homes. The fire was brought under control and kept from affecting the surrounding residences. No injuries were reported.
- **December 24, 2023** – A call came in just after 11:05 am for a vehicle that drove off the roadway and in to a tree. Upon arrival crews located a single vehicle and extricated one patient who sustained moderate injuries.
- **December 27, 2023** – Just before 11:30 AM, crews were dispatched to a call for smoke coming from a single story home on the 7800 block of Arbor Road. Upon arrival crews found that the smoke was coming from a working fire in the basement. The fire was brought under control and no injuries were reported.





## Community Events

- **December 2, 2023** – Engine 91 closed out the City of Tracy’s annual Parade of Lights in downtown Tracy with Mr. and Mrs. Claus on the back of the engine.
- **December 2, 2023** – The Union hosted their annual SSJCFCA Christmas Party at the Elk’s Lodge and honored the 2023 retirees, which included Division Chief of Administration Chris Martin, Battalion Chief Mark Richardson, Captain Tad Neave, and Reserve Firefighters – Derrick Davis and Alan Cocilova. They also selected Captain Caldwell as their Firefighter of the Year and presented him with an award.



- **December 9, 2023** – The Union hosted the annual Kid’s Christmas party for all of the authority personnel and their families. The kid’s have a great time doing arts and crafts, decorating cookies, having pizza and dessert, and receive a gift from Santa himself.
- **Brighter Christmas** – Each year a family is “adopted” by each Fire Station and the Administration Building, for a minimum of nine Tracy families being helped. We make every effort to meet their need and wants and all items purchased are fully funded by our personnel. SSJCFCA also participates in the Jail & Bail fundraiser, where the Fire Chief is placed into a virtual jail and receives bail money through donations to the Brighter Christmas fund.

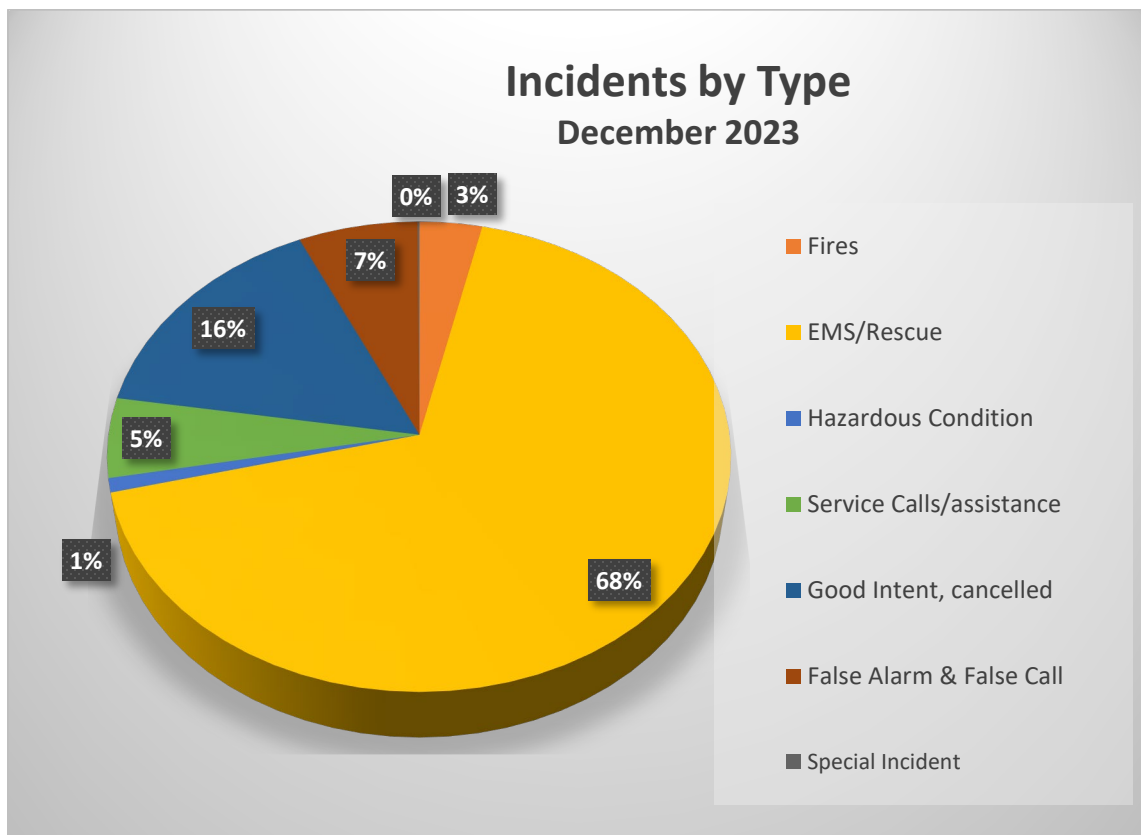


## Board Action Recap

The Board of Directors for the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority met in a Regular Meeting on December 13, 2023. Action was made to accept Consent Items to include Meeting Minutes, Monthly Check Voucher and a Financial Report; the Board received updates from Chief Bradley; and met in closed session.

## December 2023 Response Data

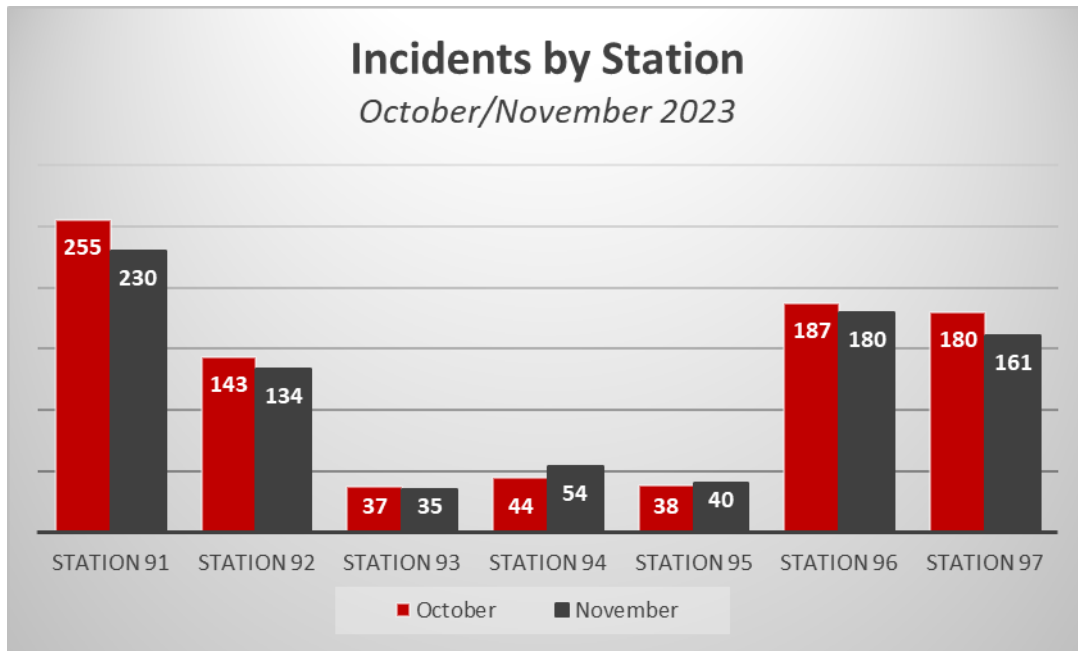
There were **931 reported incidents** in the month of December 2023, reflecting an 11.5% increase in the number of calls from November. EMS incidents continue to be the predominant incident type (629 incidents comprising 68% of all calls for service). While there were 931 calls for service, it is important to note that some calls require multiple apparatus. There were **1,495 total apparatus responses** in December.



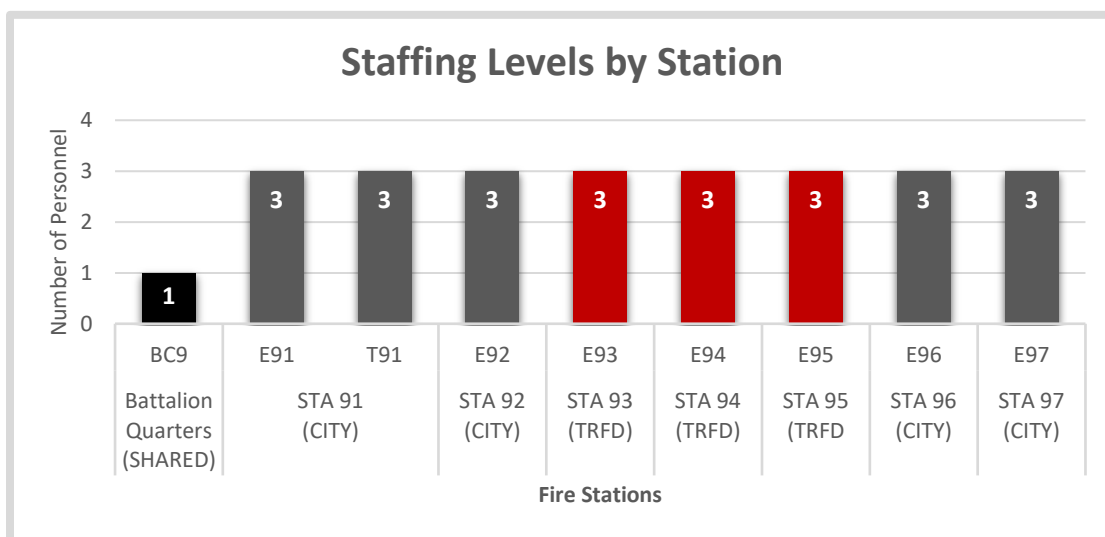
Incident by Type	# of Incidents	% of Total
Fires	33	3.54%
Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, no fire	0	0.00%
EMS/Rescue	629	67.56%
Hazardous Condition	9	0.97%
Service Calls/assistance	51	5.48%
Good Intent, cancelled	145	15.57%
False Alarm & False Call	63	7.19%
Special Incident	1	0.11%
Total	931	100.00%

## December 2023 Response Data (continued)

Station 91 continues to be the busiest fire station in the month of December. There are two staffed units responding from Station 91; Truck 91 and Engine 91. Lastly, we are trending slightly below last year's call volume with **10,572** alarms in 2023 compared to **10,713** alarms in 2022.



The Joint Powers Agreement of the South San Joaquin County Fire Authority states the Chief Executive Officer will provide the Board of Directors a report on the staffing levels at each station. Authority fire engines and the ladder truck are staffed with 3 persons each. There is one Battalion Chief on duty each day to supervise one of three shifts.





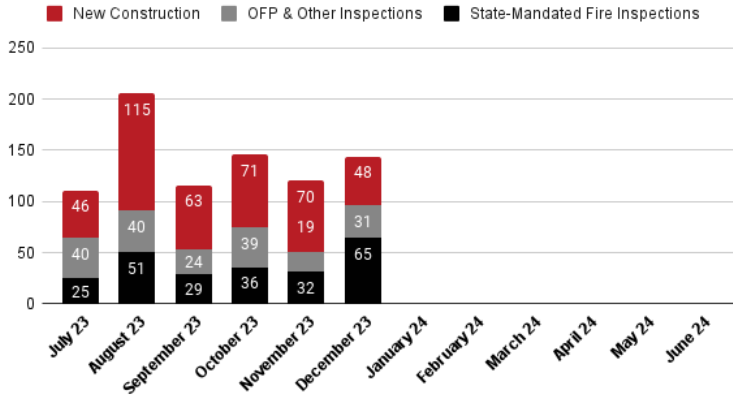
# Community Risk Reduction Statistics

## December FY23/24

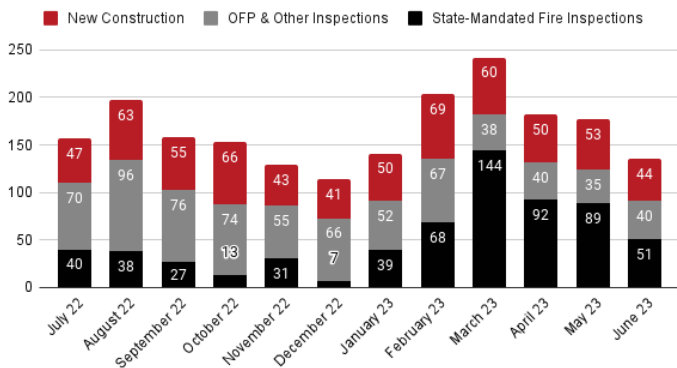
### FIRE INSPECTIONS

#### Fire Inspection Totals:

##### FIRE INSPECTIONS FY23/24



##### FIRE INSPECTIONS FY 22/23



#### YTD STATE-MANDATE INITIAL FIRE INSPECTIONS

	Completed	Total	%
Multi-family Residential and Hotel/Motels	33	159	20.75%
Schools (K-12)*	28	35	80%

### Annual Revenue

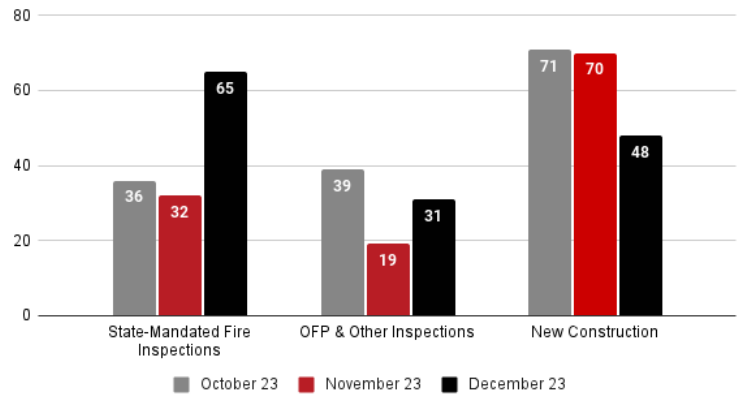
COT CRR Fees

\$264,269.06

TRFPD CRR Fees

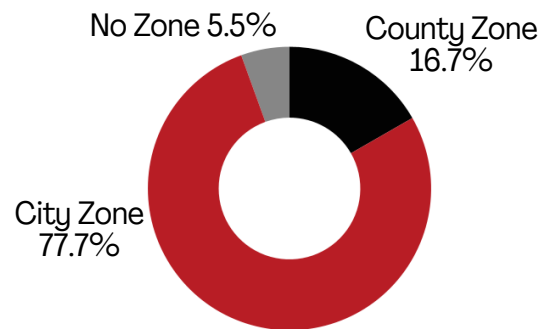
\$14,586.19

#### MONTHLY COMPLETED INSPECTION COMPARISON

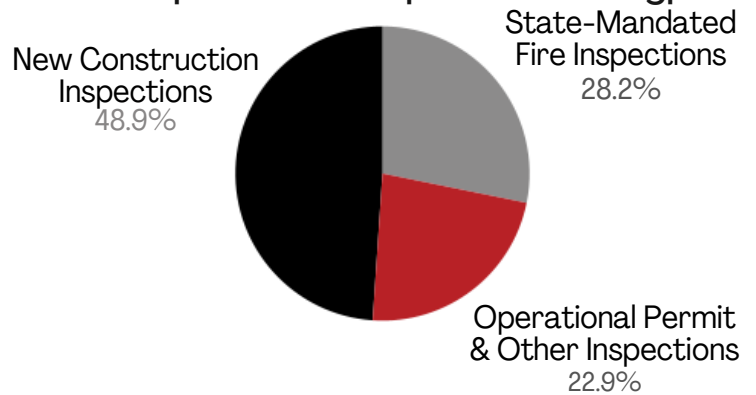


#### YTD FIRE INSPECTION OVERVIEW

##### Completed Fire Inspections Per Zone:



##### Completed Fire Inspections Per Type:

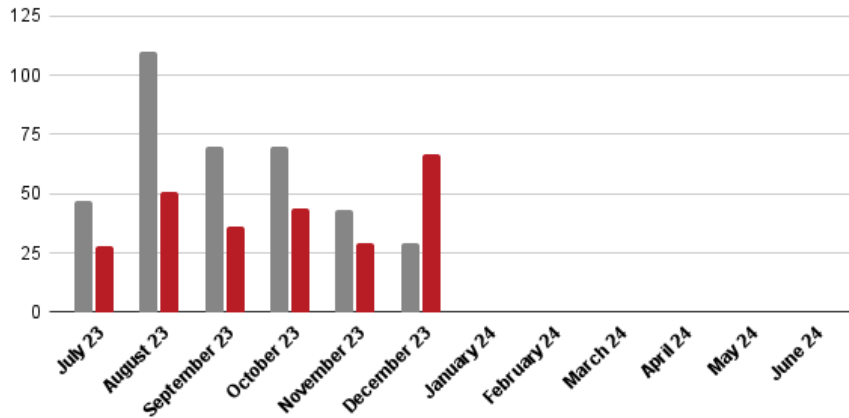


# Community Risk Reduction Statistics

## December FY 23/24

### PLAN REVIEWS FY23/24

■ Initial Plan Reviews ■ Resubmittals



### PLAN REVIEW ACTIVITIES

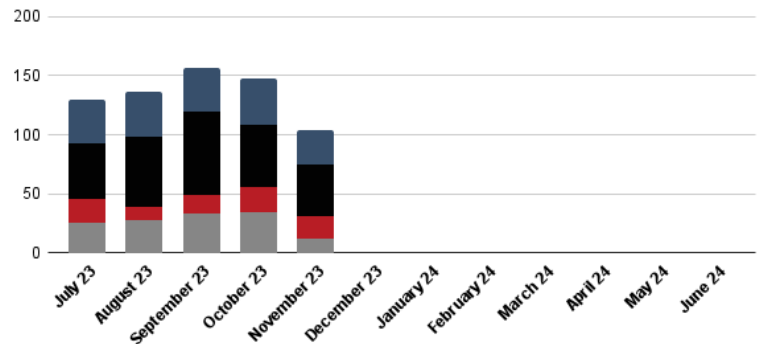
- There were 67 plan check activities in December
- In December 30% of the plan check activities were initial submittals and 70% were resubmittals

### ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

- 24 new construction permits were issued in December
- Received and processed 28 new plan submittals
- Received and processed 45 resubmitted construction documents
- 15 operational fire permits were issued in December

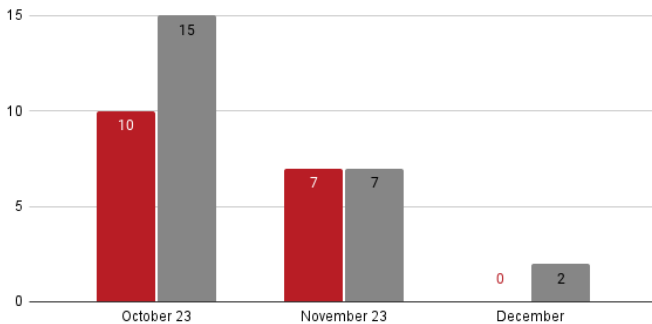
### ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES FY 23/24

■ Construction Resubmittal Intake ■ Construction Plan Intake ■ Operational Permit Issuance ■ Construction Permit Issuance



### Weed Abatement Inspections

■ Initial Inspections ■ Re-inspections



### WEED ABATEMENT

- In December 2 re-inspections.