



South San Joaquin County Fire Authority  
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FIRE ADMINISTRATION

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# Memorandum

Date: February 1, 2021  
To: Board of Directors  
From: Chief Bradley *RB*  
Subject: Fire Chief Update

The following is an update of the Fire Authority activities. Please let me know if additional information is required. I have repeated some of the specific project information to update our newest Board Members.

- Station 95 (Tracy Hills) continues to be on schedule. See picture below. Construction is scheduled to be completed in July with an opening scheduled for September 1, 2021.



- The Fire Authority has completed the recruitment and initial interview process to fill the positions that will be created by the opening of Station 95. Station 95 will be staffed as a Tracy Rural Fire District (TRFD) fire station. I will be providing a staff report at the next regular TRFD Board Meeting concerning the cost of the training required to staff the station and the change in the budgetary allocation once the station is operational.
- The Fire Authority will be updating our Strategic Plan in March 2021 through a labor/management strategic planning process. At the JPA Meeting in February we will be working with the JPA Board to identify our strategic objectives for the next three years.

- The Fire Authority is working with the County and the City to develop planning processes for the delivery of vaccinations in the Tracy area.
- Most of the Firefighters that requested COVID-19 vaccinations have received both doses of their vaccinations. A small number are scheduled to receive their second dose later this week and then all requested vaccinations will be complete.
- After initiating and completing an RFP process, the Fire Authority is taking the lead on working with consultant Tetra Tech to complete a major update to and implement the Emergency Operations Plan.
- From December 11, 2020 through January 20, 2021, Engine 91 was relocated to the Battalion Chief quarters at the administration building and the Battalion Chiefs were relocated to temporary quarters. The move was in response to the surge in COVID-19 cases prior to firefighters becoming vaccinated. Station 91 is our only station with two fire companies and the move limited the possibility that two companies could become exposed and quarantined if there was a positive COVID-19 test. Over 80 percent of the firefighters assigned to Station 91 have now been vaccinated which limits the risk of exposure.

- To help address the healthcare worker shortage in hospitals, California OES has requested help from the California Fire Service to utilize firefighter/paramedics and firefighter EMTs to augment staffing levels in hospitals throughout California. SSJCFA sent four firefighter/paramedics to Loma Linda University Hospital to augment emergency room staffing.



FF/Medic Laura Hernandez, Eng/Medic Ryan Gall, Eng/Medic Ray Gonzalez and FF/Medic Justin Legasa were deployed for 14 days. They received high praise from the hospital staff for their efforts and we will be recognizing them at a future Board meeting.

- Three new fire engines (2 City, 1 District) continue to progress through the manufacturing process, here is a link to pictures of the progress.  
<https://goldenstatefire.com/production/south-san-joaquin-county-fa-35130-1/>
- I am unaware of any new annexations, rezoning or conditional use permits that would impact the JPA or District. I have requested that City staff provide an update to TRFD Board concerning future annexations and rezoning requests.

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- Standalone, continues to move forward. We are working with our attorney and HR consultant to address City concerns. We were hoping to have the work completed by the end of January but it will continue into February. I met with the City's consultant that is evaluating the impacts on the City. I believe the final report will be provided to the City Council in March.
- The EMS lawsuit is in the "discovery phase." We are now expected to go to trial in the Fall of 2021. We continue to look for opportunities to settle the lawsuit before it goes to trial. The primary purpose of the lawsuit is to ensure we are able to provide paramedic services in the future and to ensure that we maintain local control over personnel and resources.
- We are in the process of completing the install of large screen monitors and video systems at each fire station that will be used to conduct training and meetings without placing companies out-of-service or out-of-position and will also limit exposures (COVID-19) between personnel. The project is scheduled to be completed on February 2, 2021. The system was purchased through a joint apprentice program between the California Professional Firefighters and the California State Fire Marshal's Office. Under the program, SSJCFA receives reimbursement for completing specific training elements and the reimbursement is used to enhance SSJCFA training programs.
- Four lateral recruits have completed their academy training and have been placed on shift to fill vacancies. Please see the attached announcement with biographies.
- We have completed the Battalion Chief promotional process and the results of the process should be published today (February 1, 2021).
- We continue to fully transition to a new records management system. The new system will streamline the data collection and retrieval processes that will allow for a more systematic evaluation of performance data (response times, turnout times and dispatch times).

I hope everyone has had a good start to their new year!

Sincerely,

Chief Bradley

CC: Tracy Rural Fire District Board of Directors  
Mark Bowman, Counsel, Tracy Rural Fire District  
Raychel Jackson, Clerk, Tracy Rural Fire District  
Jenny Haruyama, City Manager, City of Tracy



# South San Joaquin County Fire Authority

## NEW HIRE INTRODUCTIONS

The SCF DOT would like to welcome and congratulate our four new Lateral Probationary Firefighters. They will continue to work hard in establishing themselves as valued members of our organization. Please welcome each of them as you get the opportunity to train and work together.



**Alex Breasher:** Grew up in Patterson and currently lives in Manteca. After high school, Alex completed Fire Academy through Modesto Junior College. He was a reserve firefighter with Patterson Fire Department, and has worked for AMR Modesto, Patterson Ambulance, and Westside Ambulance as a Paramedic. Prior to joining SCF, Alex worked for six years as a Firefighter/Paramedic in Elk Grove with the Cosumnes Fire Department. Alex's wife is a teacher in Manteca; together they have a 10 year-old son and a 3 year-old daughter.



**Hendrik de Witte:** Born and raised on his family's almond ranch, west of Modesto, Hendrik's first career was as an almond and walnut farmer. In his early twenties, Hendrik started volunteering with the Woodland Avenue Fire Department --it was that exposure which sparked his love for the fire service and inspired him to change careers. Hendrik attended Modesto Junior College, studying Fire Science and Agriculture. He began his professional career with Oakdale City Fire Department, where he worked for seven years and attained the rank of Fire Engineer. He then worked for six years with Stanislaus Consolidated Fire Protection District, where he served on various committees and participated in numerous community



events. Hendrik has been married to his wife Nicole for 13 years. Together they have two children, Colton (8) and Colette (6). They enjoy spending time outdoors --camping, dirt bike riding, and skiing. Hendrik is excited and looking forward to his future with SCF.



**Ricky Granados:** Born and raised in Tracy, Ricky is a third-generation Tracyite. After graduating from Tracy High, Ricky attended Delta College in Stockton, where he earned an AA in Public Safety. Ricky's start in the fire service was as a Tracy Fire Reserve, from 2002 to 2005. Ricky gained full-time employment with the City of West Sacramento Fire Department in 2006, and in 2017 attained the rank of Engineer; additionally, he was a member of the Fire Mechanics Program.

Ricky lives in Tracy with his wife of 16 years, Jennie, and their two sons --Ricky Jr. (14) and Abel (7). Outside of work, Ricky coaches for Tracy's Babe Ruth youth baseball. Ricky's desire to return to the department that gave him his start in the fire service and serve the community that raised him is his motivation for joining SCF.



**Joseph Jarratt:** Born in Sonora, Joseph grew up on a small ranch in Catheys Valley, just east of Yosemite. Shortly after graduating from Mariposa County High School, Joseph spent two years as a sawyer on a hand crew in Yosemite National Park. He then enlisted in the Air Force. Upon completion of basic training at Lackland AFB in Texas, he received a direct-duty assignment at Travis AFB. While there, Joseph was recognized as 2011 'Airman of the Year' and spent close to ten years as a fuels technician and ARFF firefighter. He was a

member of the Suisun City Fire Department for four years, where he received rookie firefighter of the year in 2012. In 2014, Joseph was hired by the City of Merced Fire Department, where he worked before joining SCF. Joseph has earned an AS in Fire Science and is currently working toward a BS in Health and Wellness. He's earned certifications in Rescue Systems, Confined Space Rescue, Trench Rescue, Rope Rescue, and Swift Water Rescue. Joseph and his wife Katie have two kids, Harper and Jameson. Joseph is a high-energy firefighter and very excited to be joining SCF.