



## OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

South San Joaquin Fire Authority  
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### MEMORANDUM

Date: October 11, 2022  
To: Board of Directors  
From: Chief Bradley  
Subject: Monthly Fire Chief Update – September 2022

#### Captain Greg Boswell Retires



On October 4, 2022, after almost 40 years of service, Captain Greg Boswell retired from South County Fire. He was initially hired as a volunteer with the Tracy Rural Fire District in 1983 and became a fulltime firefighter in January 1991. In 1992 he was promoted to Engineer and he became a Captain in 1999 after the consolidation between the City of Tracy and the Tracy Rural Fire District.

During his tenure he managed the rescue, weed abatement, and SCBA programs. He served as the Union President for the Tracy Rural Firefighters and led their transition to become affiliated with the International Association of Firefighters. After consolidation he managed South County Fire's rescue program which included instruction for all seven rescue disciplines. He all served as the chairman for the San Joaquin County rescue committee and served as the rescue Strike Team Leader in south county. Captain Boswell also served on the Training, Standard Operating Procedures and Sub-Jac committees and developed and taught SCFA's wildland chainsaw curriculum.

Captain Boswell's many out-of-county deployments included 30 days at Hurricane Katrina, Santa Rosa & Tubbs Fire, Carr Fire, and the Camp Fire. In 2005 he was a coach and player when South County (Tracy Fire) won a gold medal at the Firefighter Olympics. I hope you will all join me in thanking Captain Boswell for 40 years of service and congratulate him on his retirement.

#### Rudy Gonzales Promoted to Captain



I am pleased to announce the promotion of Firefighter Paramedic Rudy Gonzales to the rank of Captain. Rudy started his career with our fire agency in December of 2000 as a reserve Firefighter and was hired full time in February 2004. In 2001 Rudy received his A.S. Degree in Fire Science from Las Positas College. He completed his paramedic training from NCTI and became a licensed paramedic in 2009. In 2019 Rudy completed Hazmat training through CSTI and joined the Hazmat team as a Hazmat Specialist. Rudy has two sons, Carlos (24) and Jasen (16). He resides in Newman with his wife Pricilla. During his free time Rudy enjoys

spending time with his family, camping, hunting, fishing and playing a round of golf. His promotion was effective October 9th and he was assigned to A Shift, Station 94. Please join me in congratulating Captain Gonzales on his well-deserved promotion.

#### **Nicole Boswell Hired as Executive Assistant**



In September, Nicole Boswell was hired as South County Fire's new Executive Assistant. Prior to SCFA she worked for the City of Manteca for nearly seven years where she served as the City's Risk Analyst. As the Risk Analyst, she oversaw everything from training, workers compensation, liability claims, lawsuits, subrogation and insurance renewals to personnel issues and investigations. Nicole is currently working on completing her certification in Risk Management. She also worked in the private sector as an Office Manager and has a total of 15 years of experience in advanced administrative work with a focus on human resources and risk management. She lives in Manteca with her husband Dustin and their four-year-old son Easton. During her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, traveling and spending time outdoors (especially on the water). Nicole grew up in Tracy and graduated from Tracy High School. Please join me in welcoming Nicole to her new position as South County Fire's Executive Assistant.

#### **Joanna Lopez-Alferez Hired as Permit Technician**



In August, Joanna Lopez-Alferez was hired a Community Risk Reduction's (CRR) Permit Technician. Joanna joins the CRR Division with many years of experience in fire prevention with the Stockton Fire Department. She graduated from California State University - Stanislaus with a degree in Business Administration. She currently resides in Stockton with her husband Chris and their six-year-old daughter Jaslynn. In her spare time, she enjoys traveling and spending time with family. Please join me in welcoming Joanna to her new position as Permit Technician.

#### **Jessica Rasmussen Hired as CRR Administrative Assistant**



In September, Jessica Rasmussen was hired as CRR's Administrative Assistant. Jessica is a long time Tracy resident and she graduated from West High Class of 2014. Jessica holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Finance from CSU Stanislaus and currently pursuing her MBA in Management at San Francisco State. She spent two years in the mortgage industry as a loan processor before joining the Fire Authority. In her free time, she likes to read, spend time with family, and walk her golden retriever, Annie. Please join me in welcoming Jessica to her new role as Community Risk Reduction's Administrative Assistant.

### **2021/22 Budget Closeout**

Staff is currently working on the 2021-2022 fiscal year end close-out and the Authority is projected to end the year with a fiscal surplus. The total surplus is expected to be at \$280,400. Less \$218,521 for legal expenses incurred from EMS litigation that was previously approved by the Board and outside of the Authority's approved budget, the Authority will have a net surplus of \$61,878. The excess revenue will be credited/refunded back to each member agency proportionately to each agency's cost share. TRFPD's anticipated credit/refund will be \$23,204 and the City's credit/refund will be \$38,674.

### **ARPA Funding for Training Facility, Watercraft and Mobile Radios**

On October 4, 2022 the County Board of Supervisors awarded South San Joaquin County Fire Authority ARPA funding in the amount of \$2,599,235 for Phase 2 of our training facility. We will now combine Phase 1 and Phase 2 for better continuity and to achieve some economies-of-scale. The Training Committee will be meeting in the near future to provide final programming for the training facility. South County Fire was also awarded \$208,000 to purchase watercraft that can respond to emergencies in the rivers and canals. Last, we were awarded \$160,000 to purchase dual band mobile radios.

### **Portable Radio Assistance to Firefighters Grant**

As part of a regional FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant request, South County Fire was awarded \$400,000 to purchase new portable radios that will improve interoperability with law enforcement and other fire agencies. The grant requires a ten percent match (\$40,000). The ten percent match will be offset by selling a portion of our current stock of older model portable radios.

### **Proposition 172 Funds**

In 1992, the State of California enacted legislation that shifted partial financial responsibility for funding education to local government (cities, counties and special districts). The state did this by instructing county auditors to shift the allocation of local property tax revenues from local government to "educational revenue augmentation funds" (ERAFs). In 1992, California voters approved Proposition 172, which provided sales tax funding for police, fire and other public safety programs to offset the impacts of ERAF. In 2022/23 San Joaquin County received \$99.5 million dollars in Proposition 172 funding. The money was allocated to the Sheriff's Office (68.1%), Probations (13%), District Attorney (11%) and the Public Defender's Office (8%). In San Joaquin County, no funds from Prop 172 have ever been allocated to fire agencies. In 2023/24 Prop 72 funding is expected to increase by \$3 million. In 2022-23 the Tracy Rural Fire District lost \$476,479 to ERAF and received no funds from Prop 172. At the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors meeting on October 4, 2022, there was a proposal (1 of 4) to reallocate \$1 million to fire agencies in the 2023/24 budget year and Tracy Rural Fire would receive \$223,000 of the reallocated funds. County staff recommended against the reallocation. After a lengthy discussion, the item was tabled for a future date. The Fire Chiefs Association is writing a letter to the County Board of Supervisors to encourage them to bring the item back and approve the funding. Based on discussions with County Supervisors, the Fire Chiefs Association is confident that the Supervisors will strongly consider reallocating Prop 172 funds to San Joaquin County Fire Agencies.

### **Continuing Education (CE) Provider Audit**

In August 2022 the San Joaquin County EMS Agency (SJCEMSA) audited South County Fire's CE Provider program. The audit identified the following areas of concern:

- Class rosters were inaccurate and did not contain required information
- Instructors listed were not on file with the SJCEMSA and were not listed correctly on the class rosters
- Concerns about integrity because staff did not maintain control of the tests at all times.

Due to the concerns identified in the audit, EMTs were required to repeat some training through a different CE provider. Staff is working with SJCEMSA to address the findings in the audit.

### **Training**

During September 2022, the South County Fire Authority Division of Training facilitated the following training events:

- Initial on scene reports when arriving at an emergency
- EMS policy review and implementation
- EMS training standardization of equipment
- Trained with DLA fire and police on responding to an active shooter event
- SCFA crews trained on vehicle stabilization with overturned vehicles and vehicles on their side.
- Our new recruits are on their sixth week of the academy. They are all doing well and are learning all the necessary skills to be a successful and safe firefighter.

At the company level our firefighters are training daily to better prepare to mitigate emergencies in our community. Personnel logged over 700 hours of training in the month of September.



## Emergency Medical Services

- In August the South County Fire purchased the CAE Ares Manikin. CAE Ares is CAE Healthcare's newest mid-fidelity mannequin, designed to help fulfill the requirements for Advanced Life Support (ALS) and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) training for paramedics and EMTs. The mannequin will allow personnel to perform ALS skills, including: intubation, IV, ECG and IO. Scenarios can be programmed to include vital signs, lung sounds, ECG rhythms, and speak through the mannequin for patient assessments. It also provides feedback for effectiveness of ventilations and CPR. We are able to change all settings on the fly to simulate positive treatments or have the simulator decompensate if the incorrect action is taken. The cost of the mannequin was \$30,000 and the purchase was split between SSJCFA and the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship funds. In September Captain Bunch, Engineer Gonzales, Captain Hampton, Captain Meineke and Engineer Vickers attended an in-person ARES mannequin training at Delta College.



- Microsoft Surface tablets have been distributed and implemented in the field. The tablets will allow personnel to complete electronic PCR's in the field and transfer information to the transporting agency and the hospital. This is a major accomplishment that will improve record keeping, eliminate duplicate efforts and improve overall patient care. Reception has been well received, and PCR numbers have gone up as a result.
- Staff continues to work on the full transition to our new Records Management System. Staff is working to obtain a Computer Aided Dispatch data component that will be implemented by Stockton Fire Dispatch that will be needed to ensure accurate NFIRS reporting.

## Out-of-County Deployments



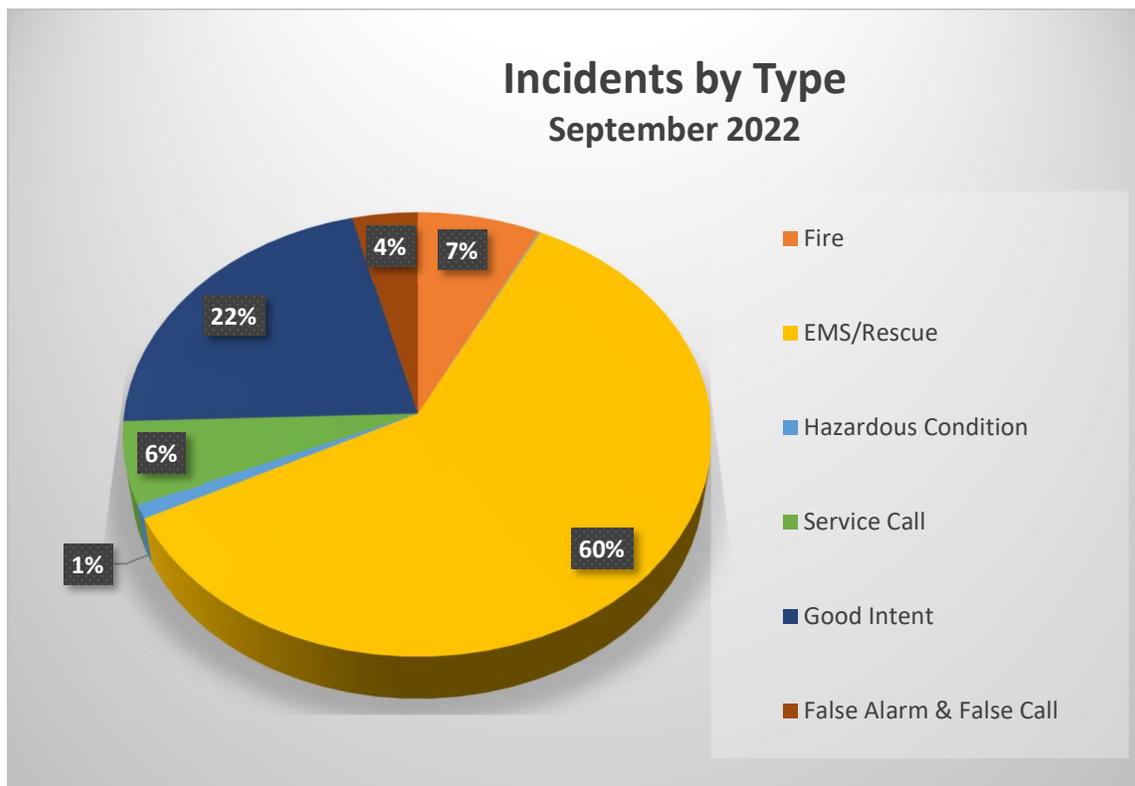
The month of September was a busy month for mutual aid deployments. We have had up to four single resource deployments to various incidents. We have to deploy a Strike Team Leader, Strike Team Leader Trainee, Communications Technician and a Training Specialist. We have also deployed a Type IV OES engine with four personnel and a Type I OES engine with four personnel. Both engine companies returned from their deployments on September 18<sup>th</sup> and the all-single resource deployments returned by October 5<sup>th</sup>. During these deployments we continued to staff all local stations and apparatus through the use of overtime. The Authority is fully reimbursed for the cost of the deployments and the cost of back-fill overtime.

## EMS Litigation

The attorneys are working on finalizing the judgment to present to the court. Concurrently, SCFA and County EMS are negotiating a potential ALS Agreement. After the final judgement is entered, SCFA member agencies will determine if it is in their best interest to appeal the judgement.

## September 2022 Response Data

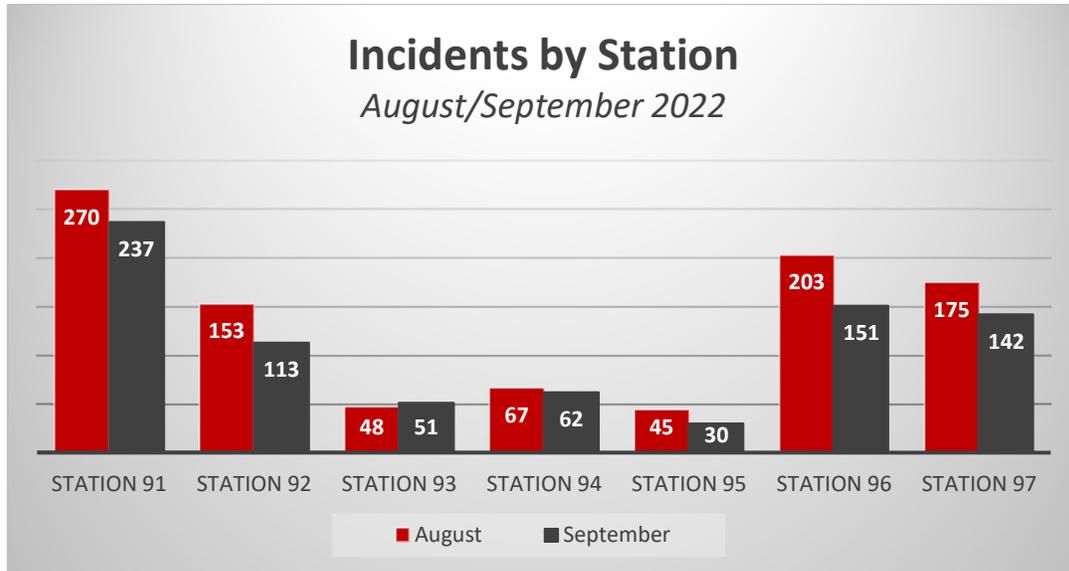
There were 787 total reported incidents in the month of September 2022. With cooler temperatures, September was 18% slower than August. EMS incidents continue to be the predominant incident type (472 incidents comprising 60% of all calls for service). While there were 787 calls for service, it is important to note that some calls require multiple apparatus. In total there were 1245 total apparatus responses in September.



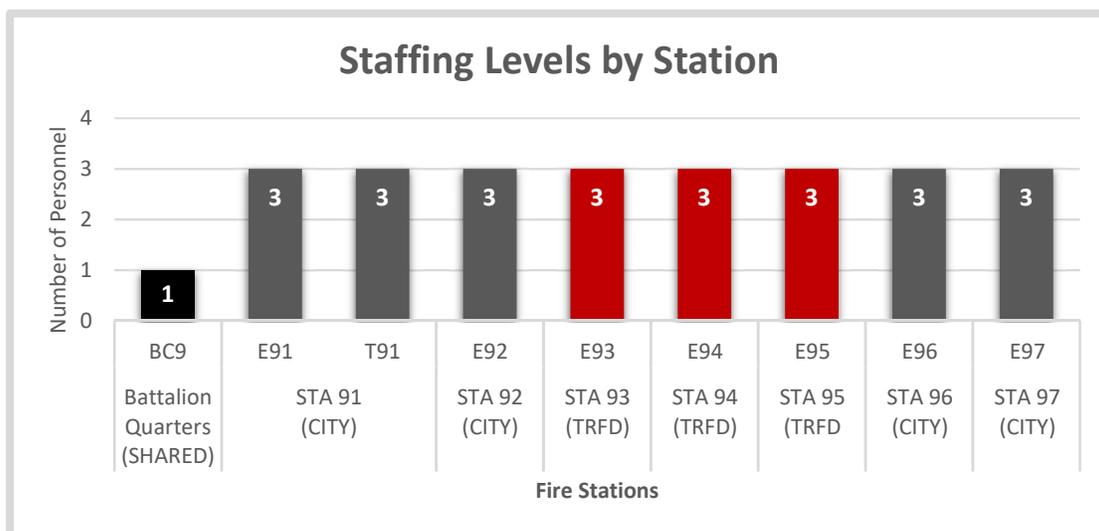
| Incident by Type                         | #Incidents | % of Total |
|--|------------|------------|
| Fire                                     | 58         | 7.37%      |
| Overpressure Rupture, Explosion, no fire | 1          | 0.13%      |
| EMS/Rescue                               | 472        | 59.97%     |
| Hazardous Condition                      | 8          | 1.02%      |
| Service Call                             | 47         | 5.97%      |
| Good Intent                              | 170        | 21.60%     |
| False Alarm & False Call                 | 31         | 3.94%      |
| Total                                    | 787        | 100.00%    |

**September 2022 Response Data (continued)**

Station 91 continued to be the busiest fire station in the month of September. There are two staffed units responding from Station 91; Truck 91 and Engine 91. All other fire stations are staffed with a single fire engine. In September, all stations experienced modest decreased call volume.



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

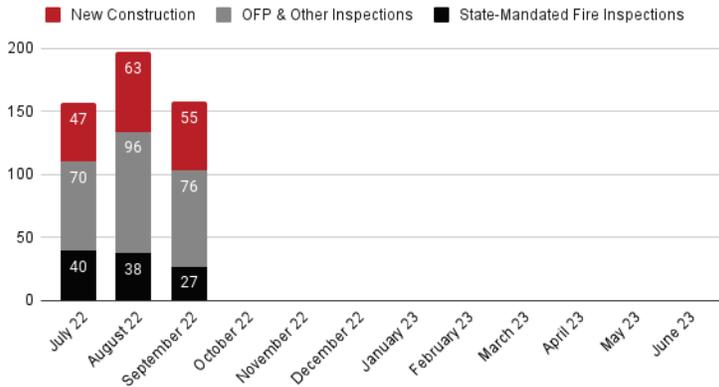
First Quarter FY 22/23

July - September

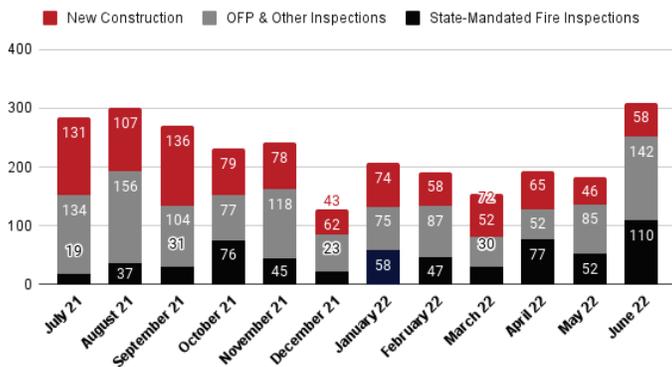
## FIRE INSPECTIONS

### Fire Inspection Totals:

FIRE INSPECTIONS FY 22/23



FIRE INSPECTIONS FY21/22



### YTD STATE-MANDATE INITIAL FIRE INSPECTIONS

|   | Completed | Total | %    |
|---|-----------|-------|------|
| Multi-family Residential and Hotel/Motels | 1         | 162   | .62% |
| Schools (K-12)*                           | 0         | 35    |      |

## Annual Revenue

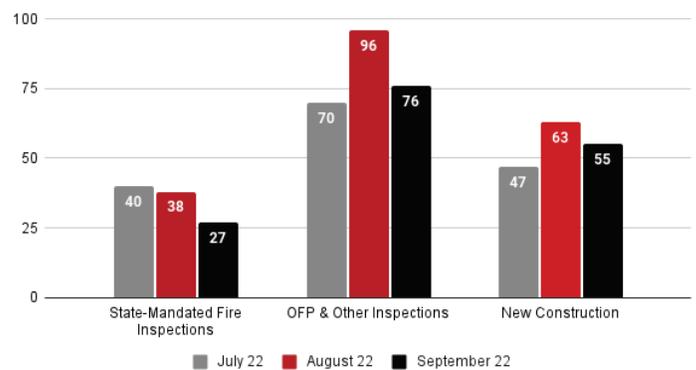
COT CRR Fees

\$139,566.22

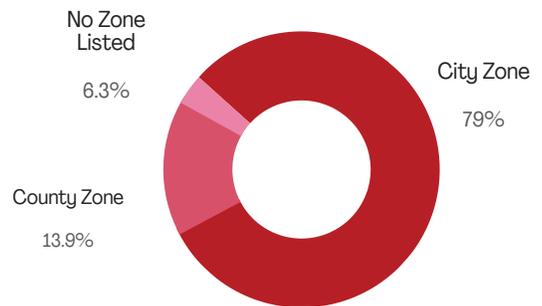
TRFPD CRR Fees

\$16,043.55

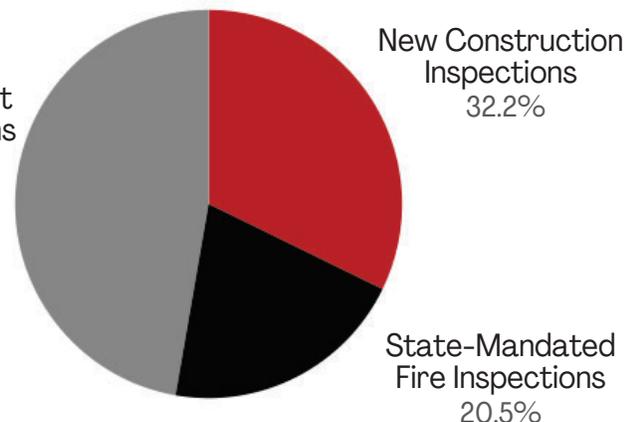
MONTHLY COMPLETED INSPECTION COMPARISON



## 1ST QTR FY22/23 INSPECTION OVERVIEW



Operational Permit & Other Inspections  
47.3%

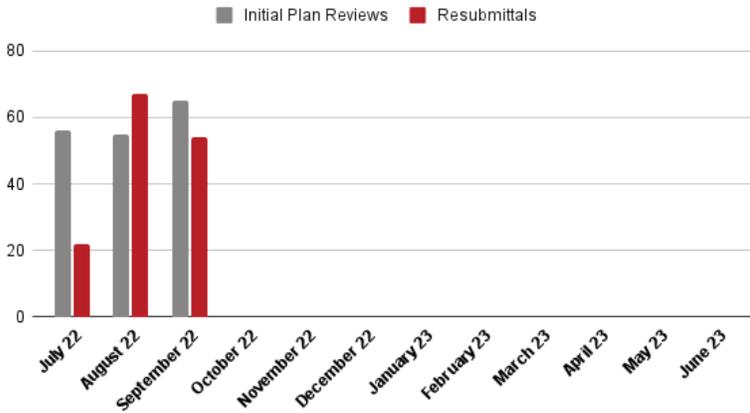


# Community Risk Reduction Statistics

First Quarter FY 22/23

July - September

## PLAN REVIEWS FY22/23



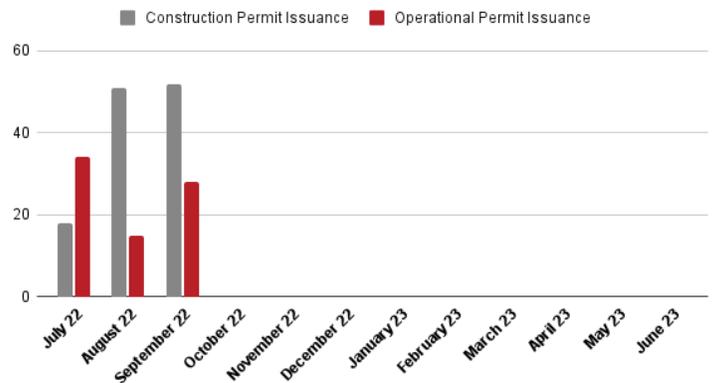
## PLAN REVIEW ACTIVITIES

- There were 78 plan check activities in July, 122 plan check activities in August, and 119 plan check activities in September
- The average plan check turn around time for July was 10 days, August was 7 days, and September was 8 days
- In July there were 6 occurrences where an initial plan check exceeded 20 days, August had 1 occurrence, and September had 1 occurrence

## PERMIT ACTIVITIES

- 121 new construction permits were issued in Q1 of FY22/23
- 77 operational fire permits were issued in Q1 of FY 22/23

## PERMIT ISSUANCE FY 22/23



## Q1 FY 22/23 SOCIAL MEDIA OVERVIEW

**130**

New "Follows" on Facebook

**29.5K**

People reached on Facebook

**1,117**

People reached on Instagram



Wed Sep 21, 12:43pm  
Yesterday at 4:34 pm Sou...  
Post  
Reach 12,249



Fri Aug 5, 5:46pm  
It has been a busy day th...  
Post  
Reach 11,639



Thu Jul 21, 7:19pm  
TRACY, CA - On July 21, 2...  
Post  
Reach 2,980



Sun Jul 31, 7:40pm  
Last night our organizati...  
Post  
Reach 2,912



Wed Sep 7, 12:20pm  
We are now hiring for a F...  
Post  
Reach 2,158



Tue Aug 2, 8:23pm  
Your local neighborhood ...  
Post  
Reach 1,770