

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 2013-11

ADOPTING FINDINGS SUPPORTING
AMENDMENTS TO THE 2013 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE

FALLEN LEAF LAKE FIRE DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the District intends to adopt an ordinance adopting the California Fire Code, 2013 Edition, and prescribing regulations governing conditions hazardous to life, property, and the environment from fire, explosion, hazardous materials and hazardous uses; and

WHEREAS, the unique local climatic, geological, and topographical conditions existing within the boundaries of the District make it reasonably necessary for the District to impose more stringent requirements that set forth in the California Fire Code and pursuant to California Health and Safety Code sections 13869.7 and 17958.7, the District desires to make express findings to that effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the FALLEN LEAF LAKE CSD hereby adopt the following findings concerning current unique local conditions that together make each modification to the California Fire Code, 2013 Edition, reasonably necessary to provide adequate and effective protection of life, property, and the environment.

- A. **General.** After due consideration, the Board of Directors of the Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Department, hereby finds that due to local climatic, geologic, and topographic conditions as stated within this document, there is a need to provide the modifications and changes contained in the adoptive Ordinance of the 2013 California Fire Code. Such changes are deemed to be reasonably necessary to provide adequate and effective protection of life, property, and the environment.

The Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Department provides fire protection, fire prevention, EMS, and rescue services for unincorporated county area of El Dorado with a total District size of 6.5 square miles.

- B. **Climatic.** The Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Department is located within a mountainous alpine region. The District is subject to four seasons with annual average snow fall in the winter months of 225 inches (20 feet) in addition to an average rainfall of 32 inches per year. The record annual snow fall in the Lake Tahoe Basin is 884 inches (74 feet) set in the winter of 1906-07. These adverse weather conditions create severe hazardous road conditions, as well as into the District from the surrounding areas. Due to periods of heavy snow and rainfall, along with repeated road closures, the ability of the Fire Protection District to provide immediate emergency response is often delayed. The climatic conditions often result in a substantial or total lack of ability of the Fire Department to respond immediately to other types of emergency situations that occur. Examples of these emergency situations include structure fires, wildland and forest fires, hazardous materials incidents, emergency medical calls, vehicle accidents, or high angle rescues. The mutual aid agreements established with adjoining fire agencies might not be possible due to adverse climatic conditions having restricted or totally blocked access into the District.

- C. **Geological.** The Fallen Leaf Lake Fire Department is located within a moderate activity seismic Zone. The seismic geological conditions present a potential for multiple fires, major breakage of water mains, major breakage of propane gas mains and individual connections, multiple electrical power failures, multiple collapsed structures, large number of calls for emergency medical aid, all of which may occur simultaneously during a seismic event. The water district has limited water-pumping systems used for fire suppression water delivery as well as water storage tanks providing water system pressure. A majority of the pumping systems are dependent on electrical power for operation. Such electrical power may not be available during a seismic event. Water storage tanks used for the storage of required fire suppression water may also collapse in such an event forcing the additional needs to transport water via additional pieces of fire apparatus which will place a significant restraint on the ability of the District to provide the required emergency services.
- D. **Topographical.** The District is primarily composed of areas that are considered by the State fire hazard severity zone mapping system to be of very high fire severity zones and wildland. Much of the District is located within mountainous terrain covered with highly combustible vegetation including the presence of many coniferous forested areas. The elevation within the District ranges from lake level at 6,347feet to over 9,000 feet at the highest peak. The structures within the areas of mountainous terrain have very limited fire access due to narrow roadways with steep grades and poor road surface conditions. The presence of many existing structures within the very high fire hazard severity zone areas provides for a very high potential of a structure fire spreading into a wildland or forest fire condition as well as the potential for a wildland or forest fire spreading to structures.

INTRODUCED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fallen Leaf Lake CSD on _____, 2013

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fallen Leaf Lake CSD on _____, 2013 by the following roll call vote:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

President, Board of Directors
Fallen Leaf Lake CSD Fire Department

ATTEST:

Secretary of the District