

*Bylaws of the Sonoma County Fire Districts Association
(As amended and approved January 31, 2019)*

Article I- Purpose:

The purpose of this Association is to promote cooperation between the various fire protection agencies in the County of Sonoma and to provide an association to foster the mutual exchange of ideas among the policy-making bodies of each member agency responsible for the protection and preservation of life and property from fire and other emergencies. This Association shall seek to develop uniformity in the administration, management, and the operations of the various fire protection agencies in the County of Sonoma. This Association will cooperate with the Sonoma County Fire Chief's Association (plus all subsections) and the Sonoma County Volunteer Fire Company Association in order to promote the highest level of service among all the fire prevention agencies in this county.

Article II- Name:

This Association shall be known as Sonoma County Fire Districts' Association.

Article III- Principal Office:

The principal office of this Association shall be located at the office of the appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the organization; however, the principal office of this Association shall never be located outside the County of Sonoma.

Article IV- Membership:

Section 1- Classes of Membership:

There shall be three (3) Classes of Membership:

- (A) Regular Membership
- (B) Associate Membership
- (C) Honorary Membership

Section 2- Eligibility for Membership:

(A) Regular Membership:

Regular Membership shall be open to all independent Special Districts which provide fire protection services to the people of Sonoma County. Each district shall be recognized as one (1) membership.

(B) Associate Membership:

Associate Membership shall be open to all other agencies within the County of Sonoma with an interest in fire protection.

(C) Honorary Membership:

Honorary Membership may be awarded, by a majority vote, to any individual who has performed outstanding service to the Association.

Article V- Dues:

Annual dues shall be set by majority vote at this Association's last regular meeting of the calendar year. Dues shall be payable on the first day of February of each year. Members in arrears in payment of dues for a period of three (3) months, shall be notified in writing by the Secretary-Treasurer; and, if such dues are not paid within one (1) month of such notice, members shall be dropped from the roster of active membership and may be reinstated only upon written application and payment of the annual dues for the year in which application for reinstatement is made.

Associate Members shall pay 50% of the annual membership dues as set at the last regular meeting of the calendar year. Honorary Members shall pay no dues.

Article VI- Quorum:

The presence of one-half (1/2) of active Regular Membership Districts, at time of meeting, and at least one (1) elected officer shall constitute a Quorum for the transaction of business.

Article VII- Voting:

Regular Members shall be entitled to one (1) vote. Vote shall be cast by designated representative of said District, upon a Roll Call Vote. Neither Associate nor Honorary Members are entitled to vote.

Article VIII- Officers:

Section 1- Number and Description:

The Officers of this Association shall be a President, a Vice President, and an appointed Secretary-Treasurer.

Neither Associate nor Honorary Members may hold office.

Section 2- Term of Office:

Officers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years.

Section 3- Election of Officers:

Officers shall be elected at the last regular meeting of the calendar year of even years and shall assume office on January 1st.

Section 4- Vacancy of Office:

In the event an elected officer is no longer representative of a member agency, they are no longer eligible to hold office in this Association. The seat shall be declared vacant. The office shall be filled by either succession or by vote of the membership at the next regular meeting.

Section 5- Removal of Office:

Any officer may be removed for cause, by a majority vote of the Regular Membership present at a meeting called for such a purpose.

Notice shall be given to the officer sought to be removed, at least one (1) week prior to the meeting called to consider his/her removal.

Article IX- Committees:

Section 1- Standing Committee:

There shall be one (1) Standing Committee of this Association, that being the Financial Review Committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to review the books and accounts of the Secretary-Treasurer, at least once per year, and to submit a report at the last regular meeting of the calendar year. The President shall appoint three (3) members to the Financial Review Committee by May 1st.

Section 2- Other Committees:

Other committees may be appointed by the President from time to time as may be necessary.

The President shall designate an individual to serve as chairman of each such committee created.

The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

Article X- Meetings:

Section 1- Annual Meeting:

The annual Meeting of this Association shall be held on the last regular meeting of the calendar year.

Section 2- Regular Meeting:

Regular Meetings of this Association shall be held quarterly as determined by the President. Additional meetings shall be called by the President.

Section 3- Notice of Meetings:

Notice of Meetings shall be given by the Secretary-Treasurer, of each Regular and Special Meeting.

Article XI- Liability of Members:

No member of this Association shall be personally liable to any of the creditors, nor for any of the indebtedness, nor for any liabilities incurred by the Association.

All creditors shall look only to the asset of this Association for payment of any claims arising out of the activities of this Association.

Article XII- Rules and Regulations:

Meetings of this Association shall be conducted pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order, and in accordance with the Bylaws of this Association.

Any conflict between Robert's Rules of Order and the Bylaws of this Association, the Bylaws of this Association shall prevail.

Article XIII- Amendments of Bylaws:

These Bylaws may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Regular Membership present at any meeting.

Article XIV- Preliminary Adoption:

These Bylaws shall become effective only after a first reading at a regularly scheduled meeting and ratification at a second reading at the following regularly scheduled meeting.

Pending ratification this Association shall be governed by the Bylaws as read at the first reading.

Approved at a Regular Meeting held January 31, 2019 by the following vote:

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| Bennett Valley - Absent | Roseland - Absent |
| Bodega Bay - Aye | Schell Vista - Aye |
| Cazadero CSD - Aye | Timber Cove - Aye |
| Cloverdale - Aye | Valley of the Moon - Absent |
| Forestville - Absent | Windsor - Aye |
| Glen Ellen - Absent | |
| Graton - Absent | |
| Gold Ridge - Aye | |
| Geyserville - Aye | |
| Kenwood - Aye | |
| Monte Rio - Aye | |
| No Sonoma Coast - Aye | |
| Rancho Adobe - Aye | |
| Rincon Valley - Aye | |
| Russian River - Aye | |

Ayes – 14 Noes – 0 Absent – 6