

Sutter Basin Fire Protection District

ENDORSED FILED

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P.O. Box 134
Robbins, CA 95676

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SUTTER
CLERK OF THE COURT
By JACKIE LASWELL Deputy

Dear Honorable Judge Susan E. Green:

This letter is in response to the 2020-2021 Grand Jury report on Sutter County Fire and Emergency Services – “Is Sutter County Playing with Fire?”

The Sutter Basin Fire Protection District (Robbins Fire Dept.) Board of Commissioners would like to correct some mistakes, and clarify some of the Grand Jury findings. The report states several times that the Robbins Fire Department had a paid chief that resigned in 2017 and was not replaced. In reality the Robbins Fire Department has never had a paid chief. The Department has always been comprised of volunteers, including the chief. The most recent volunteer chief resigned from the department in the fall of 2020. The Department has been without a chief since that time. We have been and continue to work on finding a replacement.

However, given the demands of the position it has been difficult to find a volunteer replacement. We currently have a small number of volunteers that are responding to some calls.

The second issue concerns the reference to Audited Financial Reports for the Sutter Basin Fire Protection District. The Audited Financial Reports for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 were recently submitted to Sutter County's Auditor office. At this time, the 2019-2020 Audited Financial Reports have been completed, and await approval by the SBFPD Commissioners at the September 14, 2021 board meeting.

In conclusion, the SBFPD Fire Commissioners agree in principle with the Grand Jury recommendation for Sutter County to have one paid supervisory chief for all districts. The County wide Fire Chief position is a cost effective approach that would insure a more professional volunteer fire protection system throughout the County. It is financially very difficult for most small districts to hire their own chief. In addition, the demands of being a fire chief place a heavy burden on any volunteer.

Sincerely,



Mark Richter

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