

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01

**AN ORDINANCE OF CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY SETTING BOARD MEMBER COMPENSATION**

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2022, the Board of Directors ("Board") of Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County ("District") enacted Ordinance No. 2021-01, in which it set each Director's compensation at \$185 per day for each day's attendance at meetings of the Board or for each day of Board service; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Central Fire District Resolution 2024-04, effective April 1, 2024, the Board increased Board Member compensation to \$207.47 per day for each day's attendance at meetings of the Board; and

WHEREAS, California Health and Safety Code Section 13857(a) (also known as the Fire Protection District Law of 1987) permits Fire District Board Members to receive compensation in an amount set by the Board not to exceed \$100 for attending each meeting of the Board, up to six meetings per month. Section 13857(b) permits the Board, by Ordinance adopted pursuant to California Water Code Section 20200 *et. seq.*, to increase Board Member compensation above the amount prescribed by subdivision (a); and

WHEREAS, California Water Code Section 20202 states that any Ordinance increasing compensation for Board Members above the amount of \$100 per day may not increase compensation in excess of 5% for each calendar year following the operative date of the last adjustment, and may not authorize compensation for more than 10 days in each calendar month; and

WHEREAS, April 1, 2024 is the operative date of the last salary adjustment for Board Members and, on that date, salary was increased to \$207.47 per day for each day's attendance at meetings of the Board; and

WHEREAS, the Board did not take an increase in 2025 in order to catch up with past increases; and

WHEREAS, the Board may increase its salary by 5%, totaling \$217.82, effective April 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the District caused notice of this Ordinance to be published in the Santa Cruz Sentinel once per week for two weeks leading up to this first reading in accordance with Water Code Section 20203.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL FIRE DISTRICT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. Recitals.

The Board of Directors finds and determines the foregoing recitals to be true and correct and hereby adopts them as findings demonstrating the need for the increased compensation and hereby makes them a part of this Ordinance.

SECTION 2. Enactment.

The salaries of the Board members shall be increased by 5%, from \$207.47 to \$217.82, for each day's attendance at any number of meetings of the Board or for each day's Board service.

SECTION 3. Severability.

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision will not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Board of Directors declares that it would have passed this ordinance and each and every section, subsection, sentence, clause, or phrase not declared invalid or

unconstitutional without regard to whether any portion of the ordinance would be subsequently declared invalid or unconstitutional.

SECTION 4. Publication.

The Secretary of the Board of Directors is directed to cause this ordinance to be published as required by State law.

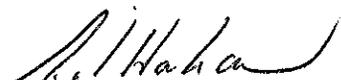
SECTION 5. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect on April 1, 2026 or 60 days after adoption, whichever comes later.

This Ordinance was introduced before the Central Fire District of Santa Cruz County at a regular meeting on December 11, 2025, and passed on January 8, 2026, by the following vote:

AYES: **5** *Faulkner, Hess, Hushaw, Littlefield, Lucchesi*
NOES: \emptyset
ABSENT: \emptyset
ABSTAIN: \emptyset

SO ORDERED:



Michael Hushaw, Board Chair

ATTEST:



Nigel Miller, Fire Chief
Secretary to the Board of Directors
