

Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

11000 Main Street
P. O. Box 1029
Penngrove, California 94951

Telephone: (707) 795-6011
Fax: (707) 795-5177
www.rafd.org

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 18, 2026 — 7:00 P.M.
COTATI FIRE STATION - #1 EAST COTATI AVE.
COTATI, CALIFORNIA**

Closed Session was opened at 5:05 p.m.

I. CLOSED SESSION

- A. Pursuant to Government Code §54956.9(e)(2), the Board will hold a closed session for the following reason: CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL. Significant Exposure to litigation.
Number of Potential Cases: 1
The District is in receipt of information concerning facts and circumstances of a threatened claim from one known employee raising allegations that the District has violated their employment related protections/rights.
Action Taken: None

Closed Session was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

II. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Bob Moretti, called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The agenda for this meeting was posted on March 13, 2026.

Directors Present: Brian Proteau, Bob Moretti, Bret Herman, Ray Peterson, Pete Albin, Mark Hemmendinger, Michael Gadoua

Minutes Conducted by: Jennifer Bechtold

III. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Citizen Business/Public Comments on Items not appearing on Agenda

There was no public comment.

- B. Correspondence and/or Presentations

There was no correspondence.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. Regular Board Meeting of February 18, 2026

Motion moved by Mr. Herman to approve the minutes of February 18, 2026 and seconded by Mr. Albin.

Motion Carried: Aye 5 No 0 Abstain 2 (Mr. Hemmendinger, Mr. Gadoua) Absent 0

V. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. Ratification of Checks Issued

Motion moved by Mr. Proteau to approve the consent calendar and seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Motion Carried: Aye __7__ No __0__ Abstain__0__ Absent __0__

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE COMMUNICATIONS

A. Firefighter's Union Report

Captain Daniel Ikalani mentioned the Union is thankful for the ongoing support from SCFD personnel who continue to fill open spots at Rancho Adobe.

B. Firefighters' Association Report

Engineer Matt Achen said they are voting for members for the upcoming year and what direction the Association will go after July 1.

C. Chief's Report

Chief Veliquette reported the following information:

- 1.) District Activities: Acting captain training, engineer academy, development meetings with the City of Cotati, shared services program with fire prevention, individual consolidation projects and committees, shaded fuel break project on Sonoma Mountain Road.
- 2.) Operational Update: BC Caldwell said they and SCFD are working to put on BC, Captain's and Engineer's tests.

D. Director Reports

No reports filed.

E. Committee Reports

a. Finance/Budget

No report filed.

b. Ad Hoc Consolidation

Chief Veliquette said work continues on the IAP, employee benefits presentations upcoming, joint agency budgeting, facilities and fleet working on projects, cross training and shared personnel and labor management meetings. The protest period is currently ongoing through May 6 to be followed by the LAFCO public hearing.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Resolution R-7 Revisions to the Salary Schedule for the Fire Chief

Chief Veliquette commented this resolution came from legal counsel and attaches our salary schedule for it to be valid with CalPERS. The Fire Chief's employment agreement was approved on January 21st at the regular board meeting.

Motion moved by Mr. Gadoua to approve Resolution R-7 and seconded by Mr. Peterson.

Motion Carried: Aye __7__ No __0__ Abstain__0__ Absent __0__

New Business Continued:

Roll Call:

Mr. Proteau – aye

Mr. Albini – aye

Mr. Peterson – aye

Mr. Gadoua – aye

Mr. Moretti – aye

Mr. Hemmendinger – aye

Mr. Herman – aye

VIII. DIRECTION ON FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- **There are no future agenda items at this time**

IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Regular Board meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Motion moved by Mr. Herman and seconded by Mr. Proteau.

Motion Carried: Aye 7 No 0 Abstain 0 Absent 0

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Bechtold, Board Clerk