

Chiefs Report, April 2010

As we have discussed in the past few months the revenue projections for the fiscal year 2010/2011 continues to be uncertain due to the actions of the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors cancelling of the Aid to Fire augmentation funding. Board member Dave Souza and I along with the chiefs and board members from all the El Dorado Fire Protection District's attended the EDC Board of Supervisors meeting on April 6 to support an agenda item put forth by Supervisors Briggs and Knight which "Recommending the Board make a recommendation to the County Chief Administrative Officer that a line item not to exceed \$1,000,000, be placed in the budget for fiscal years 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 for the restoration of the Supplemental Funding to Fire District's (Aid to Fire)" This agenda item was a result of a recommendation by Citygate associates, who were contracted by EDC at the cost of \$98,000 to do a comprehensive study of Fire and Emergency Services in El Dorado County. Meetings between the EDC Fire Advisory Board (Chief Veerkamp, Chief Keating, Knight and Briggs) and the EDC Fire Chiefs Association were held to discuss the City Gate study and all parties involved agreed that following their recommendations to study consolidations, both actual mergers and/or functional consolidation while continuing funding for the next 2 years would be in the best interest of the affected communities and the County as a whole.

However....It did not go that way! Despite the commitment made between the Chiefs and the BOS when the City Gate contract was signed, that both sides would follow Citygates recommendations, Supervisor Sweeny, the CAO, Joe Harn, the

first annual EDCJFA Burn Building Day Weenie Feed. Over 100 Ball Park Franks were BBQ'd, 10 lbs of potato salad and numerous bags of chips were consumed by the hungry students and instructors. A very big THANK YOU goes out to my co-cooks Directors Richard Smith and Dave Souza.

Due to a very serious failure in the rear brakes of Engine 51, we had to bring in a specialist to repair them at great cost to the District. I wish to remind the Board that this first out structure Engine is 24 years old and we can expect that maintenance cost will continue to be an issue. There are no current plans to replace it due to the funding issue.

The GVFD has assumed first due mutual aid responsibility for the El Dorado County Fire District's Hwy 193/Cool/Pilot Hill area. This area was formally covered for mutual aid by the Georgetown Fire District. It was felt by me and Chief Schwab with our Full Time Staff it would be a quicker response using the GVFD.

Last, I would like to congratulate and thank the Garden Valley Fire District Support Group on this week's anniversary of their 26 years of volunteer service putting on their monthly community breakfast. This event was first hosted by the Support Group at the old Black Oak Mine Fire Station and has become an institution and get together for generations of families and friends here on the Divide. The 1977 price for a breakfast was \$2.50 and is still the best deal in town

Respectfully submitted 4/13/10

Bill Dekker, Fire Chief