Los Osos Community Services District
Minutes of the Emergency Services Advisory Committee
Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	FOLLOW-UP
	Vote	
1. Call to Order Flag Salute Roll Call	Chairperson Womack called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Roll Call: Craig Baltimore, Committee Member – Absent Tony Fiorello, Committee Member - Present Bob Neumann, Committee Member – Absent Gary Orback, Committee Member – Present Thomas Tengdin, Committee Member – Absent Vice Chairperson Tom Cross – Present Chairperson Christine Womack – Present Staff: Greg Kwolek, General Manager Ron Munds, Interim General Manager Laura Durban, Administrative Services Manager	
2. Approve ESAC Minutes of May 21, 2026	The approval of the minutes will be continued until the next ESAC meeting. Public Comment – None	**Action – None**
3. Fire Department Update	Division Chief Roger Rinehart provided updates on emergency activities, fire department updates, and special programs and projects for Station 15 from June 1 to August 11. The Committee Discussed. Public Comment – Deborah Howe thanked CalFire and commented on their efforts in clearing Montana de Oro.	**Action – None**
4. Firewise USA® Program	General Manager Kwolek introduced the Firewise USA® program for Committee discussion, noting that the topic had been raised by Director Tom Cross at a Board meeting. The Committee received presentations from: • Baxter Boyington, Fire Safe Council, who discussed the Firewise USA® program, the process for establishing neighborhood Firewise communities, and the role of the County Fire Safe Council. • Dustin Heck, Community Risk Reduction Captain, who discussed defensible space, home hardening, and the Fire Department's support for community wildfire prevention. • Greg Alex, retired Cal Fire Battalion Chief and Fire Safe Counsel community consultant, who discussed grant funding, community wildfire protection planning, evacuation modeling, and opportunities for Los Osos to reestablish its Fire Safe Council focus group. Presenters explained that Firewise communities are resident-led organizations and that two or three interested residents can begin the process. The Fire Safe Council can assist with organizing, planning, and identifying funding opportunities. Also discussed possible Firewise community boundaries in Los Osos, evacuation challenges, the importance of knowing evacuation zones, and the upcoming chipping event. Committee members asked questions and provided comments regarding defensible space, the area behind Vista de Oro, evacuation routes, and the need to engage neighborhoods with limited access and evacuation options. Public Comment – Vice Chairperson Tom Cross inquired how Los Osos could reestablish its Fire Safe Counsil focus group.	**Action – None**

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	Richard Margetson commented on the importance of evacuation planning for neighborhoods with limited access, especially those with only one entrance and exit. Many of the neighborhoods of concern are 55-and-older communities that may need additional assistance during an evacuation. General Manager Kwolek suggested that the District could assist with outreach through its website, social media, and public announcements. Committee member Orback recommended contacting the Bay News to encourage residents to participate.	
5. Fund 301 FY 2025-26 Budget Report	Administrative Services Manager Durban presented an unofficial year-end summary of Fund 301 revenues and expenditures. Commenting on budget variances, the final fourth-quarter statement from Cal Fire was still pending but estimated statement amount to be approximately $520,000, and that Fund 301 was in a healthy financial position, with a little over $2 million in unassigned cash. Public Comment – Vice Chairperson Cross noted that the budget had adjusted from a negative operating budget to positive. Richard Margetson inquired about the Ambulance Agreement payment and the status of negotiations for a new ambulance agreement. Administrative Services Manager Durban responded that the District receives approximately $22,000 per quarter and the budget only showed 75% of the amount received. A mid-year adjustment will be made to fix for the future fiscal years. General Manager Kwolek commented on the RFP for ambulance services was in progress.	**Action – None**
6. Public Comments on Items NOT on this Agenda	Public Comment – Deborah Howe spoke about emergency preparedness for the coming winter season. She expressed concern that the community center, which serves as an evacuation center, did not yet have permanent backup power. She also encouraged continued preparation for potential flooding. The General Manager Kwolek reported that a meeting was scheduled for the following day to discuss backup power.	
7. Schedule Next ESAC Meeting	The next Emergency Services Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.	
8. Closing Comments by ESAC Committee Members	Chairperson Womack welcomed Committee Member Fiorello and thanked presenters, ESAC members and the public for participation. Committee Member Fiorello commented on the presentations and resources.	
9. Adjournment	The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.	