

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-30

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE LOS OSOS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
RECOGNIZING PHILLIP VENERIS FOR HIS SERVICE WITH
THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION (CAL FIRE)
AND THE LOS OSOS COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

WHEREAS, Phillip Veneris has served with CAL FIRE from June 1985 through December 2015, conscientiously accomplishing his duties with distinction; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Veneris has served the community of Los Osos as Battalion Chief of Station 15 - South Bay Fire from October 2004 through December 2015 with prudent oversight and commitment to quality service; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Veneris has played significant roles in Incident Command Teams as an Incident Commander, Deputy Incident Commander, Operations Section Chief, and Division Group Supervisor; and

WHEREAS, since his appointment with CAL FIRE, Phillip Veneris has achieved ICS Qualifications as an Incident Commander Type 1, CAL FIRE Agency Representative, Operations Section Chief Type 1, Safety Officer Type 1, 1520 Advanced Incident Management, Advanced All-Hazards Incident Management, Complex Incident Management Course, and CAL FIRE Area Command (All-Hazards); and

WHEREAS, Phillip Veneris has achieved outstanding accomplishments as Valedictorian of the State Fire Marshal Fire Fighter I Academy in 1984, Valedictorian of CAL FIRE Basic Fire Control #106 in 1988, received the San Luis Obispo County Fire Medal of Valor in 1997 for an ocean rescue, received the CAL FIRE Director's *Superior Accomplishment Award-Innovation Award* in 2011, and the CAL FIRE Director's *Superior Accomplishment Group* in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Veneris has been a member of the wildland firefighting community and is known for his leadership. He has advanced through the incident command system to become one of the most respected Type 1 Incident Commanders in California. His operational skills are second to none. He leads from the front and by example, always exemplifying the term "a dirty faced firefighter". He has been known to respond as a strike team leader and immediately upon being released from duty, take an assignment as a Type 1 Incident Commander. In all cases he does this with commitment to the mission of aggressive fire attack while always providing for safety of the public and his people. Through his continuous efforts at providing intensive leadership training and his commitment to sound leadership principles, he excels at fire ground leadership; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Veneris supported training and educational opportunities and was instrumental in furnishing an on-site training facility at Station 15 – South Bay Fire for trench rescue, as well as supporting the increased success of the Estero Bay Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) within the community; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Veneris provided dutiful oversight of the Station 15 - South Bay Fire budget and the implementation of the Vehicle Sinking Fund allowing the Department to purchase state of the art equipment, including Boat-15, a Trench Rescue Trailer, the replacement of Medic Engine 15, and the Chief's Vehicle; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Veneris oversaw a remodel of the Station 15 - South Bay Fire Station to include updated restroom accommodations, extension of the back parking area, as well as the installation of a Rooftop PV Solar System; and

WHEREAS, Phillip Veneris has expanded and created programs that have greatly enhanced the safety of the citizens of Los Osos. This includes many fuel reduction projects which have decreased the threat from wildfire; and

WHEREAS, Chief Veneris was successful at attaining Automated External Defibrillator's (AED's) at the South Bay Community Center and the Los Osos Library, and thereby improving the chances of survival for patients experiencing sudden cardiac arrest; and

WHEREAS, while serving as a Branch Director during the destructive 2009 Jesusita Fire in Santa Barbara, Chief Veneris is credited with recognizing the potential threat from a changing fire environment and ordering the evacuation of all personnel out of the area. This action kept many firefighters out of harm's way. Then while placing his own safety in jeopardy, Chief Veneris made his way back into the fire area to initiate a rescue of several firefighters who were injured during structure protection operations. Never did he receive recognition for this act or expect recognition; and

WHEREAS, CAL FIRE/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department and the Los Osos Board of Directors wish to recognize Phillip Veneris' dedication as a Battalion Chief and Incident Commander with the CAL FIRE/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Los Osos Community Services District Board of Directors does hereby commend Phillip Veneris for his meritorious and conscientious dedication of service to the people of Los Osos, San Luis Obispo County, and the State of California; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Los Osos Community Services District Board of Directors and CAL FIRE/San Luis Obispo County Fire Department hereby wish Phillip Veneris continued health and prosperity in his future endeavors.

Upon motion of Director _____, seconded by Director _____ and on the following roll call vote, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

The foregoing resolution is hereby passed, approved and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Los Osos Community Services District this 3rd day of December, 2015.

R. Michael Wright
President, Board of Directors
Los Osos Community Services District

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kathy A. Kivley
General Manager and Secretary to the Board

Michael W. Seitz
District Legal Counsel

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Los Osos Community Services District, Los Osos, California, this 3rd day of December, 2015.

Ann Kudart
LOCSD Administrative/Accounting Assistant III