

TAHOE DOUGLAS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

RESOLUTION #14-2021

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL FUND TO BUILD AND SUSTAIN AN AVIATION PROGRAM TO FUND AERIAL EQUIPMENT, INFRASTRUCTURE, PERSONNEL SALARIES AND BENEFITS, TRAINING AND OTHER RELATED EXPENSES TO ADDRESS THE GROWING RISK OF WILDFIRE IN THE LAKE TAHOE BASIN.

WHEREAS, the Fire District's Mission Statement to respond to, prepare for and prevent emergency situations with care, professionalism, and respect; and its Vision Statement to be measured as an industry leader by continued refinement and planning to improve our services and provide for unforeseen risks.

WHEREAS, climate change resulting in extended drought conditions, low humidity and high winds have become increasingly frequent, combining with high fuel levels continues to elevate the risk of a devastating wildland fire threat to our Fire District and the Lake Tahoe Basin.

WHEREAS, the 2021 Fire Season – Dixie Fire, Tamarack Fire and Caldor Fire - surrounded our beautiful Lake Tahoe with fires burning for months on end blanketing our residents with smoke and ultimately sending spot fires into our neighborhoods, prompting bi-state evacuations and loss of property and fire suppression efforts in the 100's of millions of dollars.

WHEREAS, the District supports the belief that these fire starts could have been put out with an aggressive initial attack that could have placed firefighter crews on the ground promptly and blanketed the fire with massive amounts of water to prevent its growth and spread.

WHEREAS, the District intends to develop an aviation program to provide this much needed aggressive initial attack. A program that will have equipment and resources available 24/7 - 365 days a year dedicated to the Lake Tahoe Basin to put out fires immediately before they can threaten lives, property, our pristine natural forest environment and wildlife, and the clarity of Lake Tahoe.

WHEREAS, an aviation program would serve to enhance existing District services with expanded capacity to have an on board paramedic with life support equipment, night flying capabilities for fire detection, and search and rescue operations on land and on the water, hoisting capabilities from high rise buildings and remote locations and support for fuels reduction efforts around our neighborhoods and business communities.

WHEREAS, the District fully intends to raise additional funds, outside the current budget sources, to finance and sustain the aviation program.

BASED UPON THE FOREGOING, THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS ARE HEREBY ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF THE DISTRICT:

RESOLVED, that the Board agrees to establish a special fund for the purpose of collecting grants and other funding sources to support an aviation program.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that Board expects a regular report item on the monthly agenda until further notice, detailing the program as budget details are confirmed and finalized with regards to site locations, capital expenditure needs, partner agencies, funding sources, personnel and other related expenses.

Upon motion of KIRKUMNER, seconded by MURPHY, the foregoing Resolutions were passed and adopted this 29 day of DECEMBER, 2021, by the following vote of the Board:

Those Voting Aye:

Those Voting Nay:

TRUSTEE SCHUSSEL
TRUSTEE KIRKUMNER
TRUSTEE MURPHY
TRUSTEE KJER

TRUSTEE FEULTON

Approved this 29 day of DECEMBER, 2021.

Larry Schussel
Larry Schussel, Chairman

Scott Lindgren
Scott Lindgren, Fire Chief