November 12, 2013

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Hearing: Ordinance adopting 2012 International Fire Code,
Portions of the 2012 International Wildland-Urban Interface Code and the
2013 California Fire Code with amendments.

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION: Conduct public hearing and consider adopting
resolution of Finding of Facts and ordinance

SUMMARY: On October 29, 2013, the Marin County Board of Supervisors
held the first hearing for the proposed ordinance amending various chapters of
the Marin County Code. In accordance with Government Code noticing
requirements.

The proposed Resolution and corresponding exhibit adopts the findings of fact
and the Ordinance adopts portions of the 2012 International Fire Code,
portions of the 2012 International Wildland-Urban Interface, and 2013
California Fire Code, with amendments regarding fire prevention and fire
safety regulations in structures and on property located within the jurisdiction
of the Marin County Fire Department. The ordinance also updates the fire
department’s Paramedic and Fire Prevention Bureau fee schedule to more
closely reflect the actual costs of providing these services.

This adoption process is required of the Marin County Fire Department once
every three years to stay current with the minimum requirements of the State
of California Building and Fire standards as determined by the California
Building Standards Commission. As such, over the last several months, all
Fire Marshals in the county, as well as several Building Officials met several
times and cooperatively reviewed the proposed amendments so as to make
as consistent as possible our respective amendments to each jurisdiction’s
adoptive local ordinances.

The following is a summary of the specific provisions of each section of the
ordinance:

16.10. Adopts the Fire Prevention Fee Schedule to reflect the actual
cost of staff from the Marin County Fire Department to conduct reviews. Also,
this section adopts fees for basic life support and advanced life support
ambulance and paramedic services furnished by the Fire Department in CSA
28 reflecting the actual cost of providing these services. Additionally, this section allows for the collection of specific fees for Fire Prevention review upon the submittal of plans to the Community Development Agency by an applicant where a discretionary review is necessary.


16.16.020. Establishes a Fire Prevention Bureau and establishes duties and enforcement authority under the supervision of the Fire Chief.


16.16.031-037. Establishes limits of Districts in which storage of flammable or combustible liquids in outside above ground tanks is prohibited; establishment of limits in which storage of liquefied petroleum gases is to be restricted; establishment of limits of Districts in which storage of explosives and blasting agents is to be prohibited; establishment of limits of Districts in which the storage of compressed natural gas is to be prohibited; establishment of limits of Districts in which the storage of stationary tanks of flammable cryogenic fluids is to be prohibited; and establishment of the limits of Districts in which the storage of hazardous materials is to be prohibited or limited.

16.16.040. Amends several specific sections of the 2013 California Fire Code and the 2012 edition of the International Fire Code: Permits; liability for incidents; enforcement authority; emergency access for Fire Department personnel to buildings and properties; fire alarm and protection systems; fire hydrant upgrades; fire sprinkler systems; public storage facilities; fire apparatus access roads; smoke detector and fire extinguisher documentation; parking of tank trucks transporting hazardous and flammable materials; and, corrective action requirements and public nuisance relative to clearance of brush and vegetative growth.

16.16.050. Designates Chief Officers of the Fire Department, as well as law enforcement personnel specific authority to arrest and issue citations pursuant to violations of the International Fire Code and California Fire Code.

16.16.060-070. Describes the penalties and procedures for issuing citations; imposition of penalties; provisions which constitute public nuisance
and entitlements and collections of abatement and administrative costs by means of nuisance abatement lien.

Included in this Ordinance adoption is a Resolution (attached) to adopt findings of fact (also attached). The governing body is required to adopt findings of fact pursuant to provisions of the California Health and Safety Code when building standards contained within the California Fire Code are more restrictive than minimum state standards. These adopted findings of fact are required to be filed with the California Building Standards Commission.

Finally, the Marin County Fire Department amends building standards for our fire sprinkler provisions and fire alarm monitoring requirements, making the Fire Department’s ordinance consistent with that of the Building Department.

This Ordinance must be adopted and placed in effect prior to December 1, 2013. Failure to do so will result in losing the Fire Department’s ability to enforce automatic fire sprinklers in new construction and of abatement procedures used to enforce vegetation management in the wild land-urban interface areas of our jurisdiction.

I would be pleased to meet with you to discuss any provisions of the proposed Ordinance.

FISCAL/STAFFING IMPACT: None

REVIEWED BY: [ ] Auditor-Controller [ ] N/A
[X] County Counsel [ ] N/A
[ ] Human Resources [ ] N/A

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott D. Alber, P.E., CFO, FM, MIFireE
Fire Marshal

CC : Chief Weber

Attachment