



NEWS RELEASE

Orange County Fire Authority
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Subject: ORANGE COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY ADOPTS A BALANCED BUDGET

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Irvine, CA - At an adjourned regular meeting, the Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) Board of Directors unanimously passed a \$263.9 million budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The \$263.9 million includes general expenditures, as well as capital improvement projects. "Our folks worked extremely hard and we've had to make some tough decisions," said OCFA Board Chairman Don McCay, "but were able to adopt a balanced budget." In order to balance the budget and provide funding for capital projects, the OCFA took several cost containment measures including: a \$22 million reduction in planned operating expenses, a \$24 million reduction in capital improvement projects, deferring the staffing of a full-time hand crew, and freezing 80 positions. OCFA has also implemented a hiring freeze and has canceled upcoming recruit academies.

The OCFA adopted a one-year budget instead of its normal two-year budget because of the current economic uncertainty. A threat to OCFA's balanced budget is Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to borrow property tax revenues from local agencies; a potential \$14 million hit to OCFA. "We're very proud of the fact that we've been able to balance our budget," said Fire Chief Chip Prather. "If the governor gets his way, it will definitely affect our level of service."

For more information about OCFA, call (714) 573-6200 or go to www.ocfa.org.

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The Orange County Fire Authority is a joint powers authority that serves more than 1.3 million residents in 22 cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.