

New fire truck for Aptos; some shift in fire rating

The Aptos fire department will spend \$73,576.72 next year to buy a new "attack tanker."

The district's directors voted last week to award a contract to Howe fire apparatus Co. of Oakland, with delivery next December.

The truck, which will be housed at the Rio del Mar station, will carry 2,000 gallons of water, be able to pump 1,000 gallons a minute, and carry hoses and ladders, Fire Chief Richard Chinn said this week.

At the present time, the department has one 3,000 gallon water tanker housed at the main station.

It automatically responds to most fire calls in the district, including calls in the Rio del Mar-Seascape area.

Chinn has wanted a second tanker — stationed in Rio Del Mar — to cover the water-short areas in the southern portion of the district.

The board delayed discussion of a report from Chinn on the possibility of reducing still further the fire insurance rating for the district.

In October, the Insurance Services Office announced that the rating would be dropped from a class 9 to a class 6 in many areas.

Chinn now believes the rating can be dropped to a class 5 in the next few years — a further savings in fire insurance premiums for the businessman and resident.

The ISO has also agreed to revise its maps showing the different fire zones for the district. Although much of the area was reduced to a class 6, some areas without adequate firefighting water supplies — were left at a class 9.

He said the area now served by the Central Santa Cruz County Water District would be changed to a class 6 as soon as the ISO receives a water system map showing the district's wells, tanks and pipeline sizes.

The new Deer Park shopping center, shown as a class 9, will be reduced to a class 6 when the insurance agency receives a plot

plan.

The residential area bounded by Sumner Ave., Via Lantana and the district's southern boundary was mistakenly shown as a class 9 by the ISO, Chinn said, and will be changed to a class six.

But the area, largely undeveloped in Seacliff, bounded by Mar Vista Avenue, the railroad tracks and the freeway will remain the high class 9, Chinn said. This, however, does not include the homes and apartments on Searidge Road and Mar Vista Drive, up to and including the Blue Pacific mobile home park, Lloyd Court and Searidge Court.

They will become a class 6.

The ISO believes that the Soquel Creek County Water District's plans to construct three new water storage tanks in the fire district will lop off 200 points from the ISO's deficiency point total.

Chinn also supported an ISO suggestion to spend more money installing fire hydrants in the district's commercial areas. "I feel this can be accomplished by jumping our present budget appropriation each year from \$10,000 to \$15,000," Chinn wrote the fire directors.