

# Aptos fire board names JPA representatives

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The three senior members of the Aptos Fire District board of directors were appointed last night to represent the district on the new Aptos-La Selva joint powers authority board of directors.

The new joint powers board is expected to hold its first meeting May 7.

Named to the JPA board by Aptos district board chairman Richard Duchscher were Stewart Davis, Walter Jordan and Duchscher.

La Selva representatives, who were appointed last month, are Burly Burleson and Joanne Dlott.

Duchscher said he felt the board's senior members, in terms of service, were better able to represent the Aptos community's viewpoints on the JPA board.

Board members Mel Fields and Duane Vance agreed to the selection without protest.

While the JPA becomes effective May 1, consolidation of the Aptos and La Selva fire departments won't take place until July 1.

It will be up to the JPA board to finally approve operating plans for the new fire departments, but the JPA was formed after Aptos Fire Chief Al Forbes and La Selva Chief Al Kinslow proposed manning the La Selva Beach fire station on a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week basis, with two and possibly three firefighters.

Forbes initially wanted to hire five paramedic-trained firefighters and two firefighters to man the La Selva station. Three of the new paramedics would have supplemented the existing paramedic force serving the Aptos area.

The other two were sought to allow two of the present paramedics to return to firefighter-only assignments.

Forbes told the Aptos directors last night that one of the paramedics — Floyd Redmond — has now agreed to stay as a paramedic.

But Forbes told the board that

it will be almost impossible to man the La Selva station on a full-time basis unless the new employees are given some training before the official July 1 hiring date.

Forbes proposed hiring the seven new firefighters on June 15 as "temporary, hourly employees."

The Aptos board agreed to authorize Forbes to spend up to \$4,000 for the two weeks of training.

Aptos directors also hinted that they might be willing, as members of the new JPA board, to consider protection of the northern Larkin Valley and south San Andreas Road areas after July 1.

La Selva directors last month, following the recommendation of Kinslow and Forbes, voted to cancel its \$6,000 a year contract with the county Board of Supervisors to provide fire protection in those areas.

However, Forbes told Aptos directors, that district representatives have since met with county officials who are concerned about what will happen to fire protection in the contract area if the La Selva contract is cancelled, the Freedom fire district annexes the southern Larkin Valley area — leaving an "island" of rural homes and agricultural land to be serviced by the California Department of Forestry from Corralitos.

Forbes remained opposed to annexing the Larkin Valley-San Andreas area, saying that the mix of land uses there more closely matched the Pajaro Valley than the more urbanized Aptos-La Selva areas. He suggested that the Larkin Valley area and San Andreas Road areas south of the present La Selva fire district boundary should be included in the South County fire district proposed last year by Local Agency Formation Commission executive officer Pat McCormick.

Davis suggested that the JPA could continue to provide interim fire protection in the present contract area after July 1 by taking over the contract that La Selva has voted to cancel.