



# FRESNO COUNTY FIRE

PROTECTION DISTRICT

*Honor, Integrity, Cooperation & Professionalism*

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** 7/19/2023

**To:** Board of Directors

**Attn:** Matt Furrer, Board President

**From:** William D. Ross, District Counsel

**Subject:** Proposed Resolution Establishing District Board Member Compensation in the Form of Group Health Insurance Benefits

### BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S BRIEFING PAPER

#### ISSUE:

This Staff Report addresses proposed Resolution No. 2023-06 of the Fresno County Fire Protection District ("District") Board of Directors ("Board") that would authorize compensation in the form of optional group health insurance benefits for Board Members.

#### BACKGROUND:

On April 19, 2023, the District Board approved District Ordinance No. 2023-02 an increase in monetary compensation for Board Members, consistent with Health & Safety Code Section 13857 further requesting that Staff return with information for Board consideration of group health insurance benefits for Board Members. At that time, the Board had not adjusted Board Member compensation since 2015. Group health insurance benefits can be included as part of the Board's compensation, consistent with Government Code section 53201 *et seq.*<sup>1</sup>

#### DISCUSSION:

Each District Board Member is entitled to certain compensation each calendar year. Compensation in the form of group health insurance benefits may be considered as an option for Board Members, their families, or retired Board Members under certain circumstances. The health insurance benefits provided may not be greater than that which is provided to District employees.

<sup>1</sup> All "section" references will be to the California Government Code, unless otherwise noted.

More specifically, Sections 53200-53210 establish that the legislative body of a local agency may provide for health benefits for its officers<sup>2</sup>, employees, retired employees, and retired members of the legislative body which must meet specific requirements.<sup>3</sup>

Section 53205.1 extends the availability of health insurance benefit coverage for spouses and dependent children of officers and employees.

Section 53205.16 sets forth the legislative intent that legislative bodies be able to pay for insurance or health benefits or health and welfare benefits including, but not limited to, medical, dental, life, legal expense, and income protection insurance or benefits, for their officers and employees and their dependents.

District employees are currently afforded group health insurance from the Fresno County's Special Districts Plan which includes: Special District dental plans: 1) Delta Dental DPPO; and 2) DeltaCare USA DHM. Special District medical plans (which include mental health, prescription, and vision benefits): 1) Anthem Blue Cross EPO; 2) Anthem Blue Cross EPO 500; 3) Anthem Blue Cross EPO 1000; 4) Anthem Blue Cross PPO 250; 5) Anthem Blue Cross HDPPO 3000; and 6) Kaiser Permanente HMO.

Should the Board adopt the proposed Resolution, any Board Member may waive any portion, or all, of the authorized group health insurance benefits or agree to reimburse the District for any portion or all of the costs of the authorized benefits.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

Not offer Board Members group health insurance benefits.

**IMPACTS:**

The costs of compensation in the form of group health insurance benefits are included in the District 2023-2024 Budget.

Increasing Board Member compensation in the form of group health insurance benefits is not a "project" under the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 21000 *et seq.*) and would have no environmental impact on the physical environment.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends the District Board consider adopting the Proposed Resolution.

Attachments: Resolution No. 2023-06  
Special District Health Insurance Rate Sheet

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<sup>2</sup> Section 53200(e) defines "employees" or "officers and employees" as all employees and officers, including members of the legislative body, who are eligible under the terms of any plan of health and welfare benefits adopted by a local agency.

<sup>3</sup> Section 53200(c) defines "legislative body" as the governing board, by whatever name called, of a district or other public agency of the state.

**APPROVED:**

*Josh A. Chrisman*  
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**FIRE DISTRICT EXECUTIVE STAFF MEMBER**

July 14, 2023

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-06**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE FRESNO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
INCLUDING GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS AS PART OF  
DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER COMPENSATION**

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Fresno County Fire Protection District ("District") Board of Directors ("Board") are currently authorized to receive compensation each calendar year for their work on behalf of the District; and,

**WHEREAS**, provisions of Government Code Sections 53201, 53205.1, and 53205.16 allow compensation in the form of group health insurance benefits for Board Members and/or their families, under certain circumstances; and,

**WHEREAS**, group health insurance benefits for Board Members and/or their families may not be greater than that which is provided to the District's employees; and,

**WHEREAS**, District employees are currently afforded group health insurance through the County of Fresno's Special District plan consisting of Special District dental plans: 1) Delta Dental DPPO; and 2) DeltaCare USA DHM; and Special District medical plans (which include mental health, prescription, and vision benefits): 1) Anthem Blue Cross EPO; 2) Anthem Blue Cross EPO 500; 3) Anthem Blue Cross EPO 1000; 4) Anthem Blue Cross PPO 250; 5) Anthem Blue Cross HDPPPO 3000; and 6) Kaiser Permanente.

**WHEREAS**, on April 19, 2023 the District adopted District Ordinance No. 2023-02 which increased Board Member monetary compensation and requested Staff return with information for group health insurance benefits for Board Members; and,

**WHEREAS**, providing group health insurance benefits for Board Members and their families in the compensation of District Board Members will assist in compensating District Board Members for the time and effort taken to consider and resolve District business, and is in the public interest.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the District Board declares and finds as follows:

1. As provided in Government Code Sections 53201, 53205.1, and 53205.16, compensation in the form of group health insurance benefits is authorized for Board Members; and,
2. District Board Member group health insurance benefits shall be equal to that provided to District employees which presently is accomplished with Fresno County's Special Districts Plan; and,

3. Pursuant to Government Code Section 53205.1, the District shall pay the costs of Board Member group health insurance benefits. Individual Board Members may waive any portion or all of the authorized group health insurance benefits or may reimburse the District for any or all of costs of the authorized group health insurance benefits; and,
4. Consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.*) ("CEQA") and the Administrative Regulations Implementing CEQA (Title 14, Cal. Code Regs., Section 15000 *et seq.*) ("CEQA Guidelines"), the Board has determined that the adoption of this Resolution is not a "project" within the meaning of CEQA because pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) it involves only a government fiscal activity that does not involve any commitment to any specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment. The Fire Chief or designee may file a Notice of Exemption with the Fresno County Clerk within three (3) days following adoption of this Resolution.

The foregoing ordinance was PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fresno County Fire Protection District, held on the 19th day of July, 2023 by the following vote:

**AYES:**  
**NOES:**  
**ABSENT:**  
**ABSTAIN:**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

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John Arabian, Board Vice President  
Board of Directors

ATTEST:

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Bailey Castaneda, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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Dustin Hail, District Fire Chief

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William D. Ross, District Counsel