

**ROSS VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT  
STAFF REPORT**

For the meeting of: May 11, 2016

To: Board of Directors  
From: Mark Mills, Fire Chief  
Subject: Pension Obligation

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Board receives and files the report.

**BACKGROUND:**

Recent newspaper articles and reports have attempted to correctly portray the pension obligations and the rankings of individual agencies as related to their pensions versus their overall expenditures. Additional rankings are offered according to per capita information from each jurisdiction. For most agencies the data is accurate and reflects the actual standings of the departments being rated.

The Ross Valley Fire Department data is somewhat misleading due to it being compared with other normal municipal data sets. The RVFD data shows that we are currently ranked 7<sup>th</sup> highest in the state at 17%, when comparing the employer contribution amounts versus the total amount of expenditures for the year. The data is misleading due to the fact that the RVFD does not have capital expenditures and holdings that would enlarge the total budget thereby reducing the percentage of retirement contributions versus total expenditures. Our department simply funds the salaries and general operating items rather than supporting multiple fire stations by direct ownership. Thus, 84% of our entire operating budget is allocated to salaries and benefits. Additionally, according to the website information there are over 350 agencies (RVFD being one of them), that the correct population counts could not be gleaned, which resulted in inaccurate per capita calculations.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

No additional fiscal impact to the Department.

AGENDA ITEM # 6F  
Date 6/8/16