

From: [Connell Persico](#)
To: [El Dorado LAFCO Clerk](#)
Subject: Letter re 10/23 Meeting Agenda Item 10. Consolidation
Date: Saturday, October 19, 2019 10:31:14 AM

October 19, 2019

Dear LAFCO Commissioners,

Approximately four months ago, the Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD) Board of Directors charged its Long Range Planning Committee with the creation of a 3-5 year strategic plan that could lead to a viable, sustainable, and autonomous district providing 24/7/365 services to the community. I have been pleased to serve on that committee and proud of the work done. At its October 17, 2019 meeting the Board unanimously approved the draft plan and approved the initial steps toward implementation.

This plan, following upon the rejection of an assessment increase by the voters and the impending threat of a forced consolidation with other districts, is but one piece of a shift occurring in the community toward enhanced cooperation among disparate groups to insure we, who live in Mosquito, retain our ability to self-govern and determine our future.

We are on the move. Our local Fire Safe Council is using grant funds to create shaded fuel breaks in high risk areas and to help residents enhance defensible space on their properties. The Fire District has recently received two grants to help offset some needed training costs and to provide the foundation to rebuild a strong and dedicated volunteer staff that will enable the full service goal to be met. We understand grant funds are temporary but we also understand they provide needed kick start resources.

We believe we can generate additional resources that allow us to not only meet operational costs but begin to rebuild our reserves. We have a realistic plan and are ready to prove its assumptions and objectives are achievable. To do so, we need time.

I am requesting that the LAFCO Commissioners postpone any effort to encourage or force consolidation involving the MFPD for one year so we can pursue implementation of our strategic plan and have the opportunity to show we are viable and sustainable as a result of autonomy and self-determination.

Thank you for your consideration,

Connell F. Persico

Past President, Swansboro Country Property Owners Association (SCPOA)