

EL DORADO LAFCO

APPROVED

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2008

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF EL DORADO

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Local Agency Formation Commission held September 24, 2008, was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Loftis in the meeting room, Building C of the Government Center, 2850 Fair Lane, Placerville, California. Regular Members present were: City Member Carl Hagen, District Members Ken Humphreys and Harry Norris, County Member Ron Briggs, and Public Member Francesca Loftis. Others present were: Alternate Public Member Norm Rowett, Executive Officer José C. Henríquez, and Policy Analyst Erica Sanchez.

ROLL CALL - VOTING MEMBERS:

Briggs, Hagen, Humphreys, Loftis, and Norris

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- B. MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 23, 2008
- C. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS
- D. RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR ROBERTA COLVIN

MOTION

Commissioner Hagen moved to adopt the consent calendar, second by Commissioner Norris.

ACTION

The motion was approved by the following vote:

- AYES: Hagen, Humphreys, Norris, Loftis
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: Briggs, Long, and Sweeney

3. PUBLIC FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Loftis opened the public forum. No member of the public addressed the Commission.

Commissioner Briggs joined the dais at 5:34 pm.

4. PROVIDE DIRECTION TO STAFF ON FUTURE DISCUSSION COVERING THE TOPIC OF FIRE DISTRICTS AND AUGMENTATION FUNDS

Mr. Henríquez acknowledged the following individuals in the audience: Fire Chiefs Keating, Lacher and Veerkamp from Rescue Fire, El Dorado County Fire and El Dorado Hills Fire, respectively, and Steve Sedgwick, from the El Dorado County Grand Jury.

Mr. Henríquez reviewed the staff report with the recommendation that the Commission provide direction on the scope of the discussion, the topics to be covered and/or level of involvement from other agencies so that sufficient information can be provided prior to a workshop on fire agencies in 2009.

Commissioner Briggs suggested perhaps the County should revisit the issue of LAFCO and consider either smaller consolidations or a county-wide consolidation.

Chair Loftis opened the public forum.

Rescue Fire Department Chief Thomas Keating, representing the Fire Chiefs Association, spoke. He stated that eight fire districts currently received \$1,300,000 from the County. He understands that the County is having financial issues and the districts agreed to forgo over \$100,000 in additional funding this fiscal year. Chief Keating stated that they are willing to work with the County to develop a plan, but asked what would happen if that money goes away and what will happen to all the districts. Some districts would no longer be able to provide fire protection. What roles would LAFCO and the County play? How would they continue to provide service? The entire system relies on closest engine dispatch, so the lack of financial support has service implications. If the districts were to continue to get the money, is the best use of the money to bring everyone up to the 13% of 1% of the property tax or are there other options, such as giving it to the JPA and including it as part of the ambulance money to provide advanced life support engines for some of the outlying districts? He stated one suggestion to the consolidation plan would be that maybe some of the money that the Grand Jury suggests would be saved could be used to bring in a consultant to look at the whole system (fire service, ambulances), evaluate it and recommend a long-term plan for the special districts.

Commissioner Norris stated he thinks the County should be the one to come up with some ideas on how to fix the problem. He suggested there may be a way the County could use a carrot and stick approach by keeping some of the augmentation money for those that are willing to combine and maybe over a period of time do away with the monies.

Commissioner Hagen stated that LAFCO's approach should be to let the fire districts should come to LAFCO.

Mr. Henriquez stated it sounds like the Commissioners are asking both the Fire Chiefs Association and the County to provide them with additional information.

Commissioner Norris responded that he thinks there would have to be a county-wide study done, paid for by the County.

Steve Sedgwick, representing the Grand Jury, stated that the real motivation behind the Grand Jury's report last year was to address some of the things that were being talked about at the meeting. There was no call to reduce services; there was no call to close any fire houses. He agrees that a study has to be done and there are savings to happen. The County can actually save money by approaching it from a bigger, global point of view and that is what he is encouraging the Board to consider in their evaluation.

Chief Brian Veerkamp, representing the El Dorado Hills Fire Department, stated that part of the problem with the current predicament is the discrepancy created when these districts were allotted their tax apportionment. The only way they can deal with that is through special legislation or through a merger. "That's the time the AB8 negotiations open back up. If the one of the County's primary responsibilities is public safety, what a perfect time to do that and maybe it would at least get to a level and then deal with other issues from there." There is also mutual aid, auto aid in the system: larger districts are killing themselves by the "closest resource" concept, but it is the right thing to do for the people who all subscribe to it. He suggested LAFCO take a little more aggressive look into some of the areas where districts are providing all those services and not getting any money for them.

Mr. Henriquez replied that if it is the Commission's direction, the questions that have been raised will be brought back to the Commission for the discussion in 2009. At the next meeting, the actual issue of changing the work plan for the MSRs will be brought back to the Commission for their consideration.

The Commission took no action on this item.

5. DISCUSSION ON THE 2009 CALAFCO CONFERENCE IN YOSEMITE

Mr. Henriquez reviewed the staff report with the recommendation that the Commission consider and discuss the unique circumstances regarding the 2009 CALAFCO Conference so that it can provide direction to staff and the ad hoc budget committee later in the year.

Commissioner Humphreys stated he had been to the last two conferences and had strong feelings about how many the Board should support. He thinks the Executive Officer (EO) should always be in attendance and one of his staff for networking, information sharing, and establishing contacts. He also stated that since El Dorado LAFCO has a member on the CALAFCO Board (Ted Long), that person should also attend. The Chair and Vice-chair should be in attendance also.

The Commissioners brainstormed other options, such as cost-sharing (hotel rooms could be shared), Commissioners paying their own way and alternative transportation arrangements. As a result of the discussions, the Commissioners focused on budgeting four people, two staff and two Commissioners, with the caveat that if more Commissioners wanted to attend the Conference, some cost-sharing arrangements will be made amongst themselves.

The Commission took no action on this item.

Commissioner Hagen left the dais at 6:18 pm.

6. PRESENTATION ON THE PROCESS FOR IMPLEMENTING SB 1458's PROVISION OF DESIGNATING THE LATENT POWERS OF COUNTY SERVICE AREAS

Mr. Henriquez reviewed the staff report with the recommendation that the Commission receive the information regarding Senate Bill 1458 and the process for the designation of a CSA's power as "latent."

The Commission took no action on this item.

7. CONSIDER CANCELLATION OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2008 MEETING

Mr. Henriquez recommended that the Commission authorize the Chair to cancel the October 22, 2008 regular meeting if staff determines that there are no projects or items of substance expected to go before the Commission for that month.

Chair Loftis opened the public forum. No member of the public addressed the Commission.

MOTION

Commissioner Norris moved to authorize the Chair to cancel the October 22, 2008 meeting, if necessary, second by Commissioner Humphreys.

ACTION

The motion was approved by the following vote:

AYES: Briggs, Humphreys, Norris, Loftis
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Hagen, Long, and Sweeney

8. OTHER BUSINESS**A. LEGISLATION**

Mr. Henriquez provided the Commission with the latest information on the LAFCO-related bills in the Legislature.

The Commission had several questions relating to LAFCO's authority to approve or deny projects in relation to SB375 and any new responsibilities placed on LAFCO as a result of that bill.

B. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Commissioner Long's Election to the CALAFCO Board of Directors

C. COUNSEL REPORT

D. EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT

Chair Loftis asked if there was anything regarding the dry well email from Mr. Jeff Miller.

Mrs. Sanchez explained that she spoke with Mr. Miller and his parcel is inside of EID, so no LAFCO action would be required. However, his neighbors, across five parcels, are outside of EID and she informed Mr. Miller that an Out-of-Service Agency agreement is needed in order for them to receive service.

9. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

Commissioner Humphreys moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Commissioner Briggs.

ACTION

The motion was approved by the following vote:

- AYES: Briggs, Humphreys, Norris, Loftis
- NOES: None
- ABSTAIN: None
- ABSENT: Hagen, Long, and Sweeney

Chair Loftis adjourned the meeting at 7:20 pm.

The next regularly scheduled LAFCO meeting will be October 22, or December 17, 2008.

**APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION
AUTHENTICATED AND CERTIFIED**


Interim Clerk to the Commission


Chairperson