



GEORGETOWN FIRE DISTRICT

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LAFCO

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October 18, 2019

Commissioners and Executives,

The Georgetown Fire Protection District is proud of the fact that we have lived within our financial means while providing quality services to our community. In addition, we have assisted our neighboring agencies without fail.

Georgetown Fire has met with the Garden Valley and Mosquito Fire Districts and believe that we can work together to create a system that will serve all agencies involved and our citizens. However, we do not believe consolidation is the only possibility and we do not believe information exists to make that decision at this point.

Georgetown Fire fully supports LAFCO completing their required municipal services review (MSR) for all fire service agencies in El Dorado County before moving forward with any discussions or decisions regarding a forced consolidation and/or a study concerning consolidation of any fire districts. It seems irresponsible to make a decision without the necessary data that will come only from a complete MSR. The lack of current MSRs is one of many concerns that Georgetown Fire has regarding consolidation.

Other concerns that need to be addressed are:

- 1) Workers Comp Rates
- 2) Assessment Rates
- 3) Property Taxes
- 4) Indebtedness
- 5) Union/Non Union
- 6) Grants
- 7) Increased Liability
- 8) Rebranding

The answers to these concerns will affect the consolidation efforts of any fire districts in El Dorado County. With these unknowns, it is not prudent to move forward blindly, hoping for the best. Georgetown asks for time to work together with Garden Valley and Mosquito to develop a plan that we could support.

"Neighbors helping Neighbors - Since 1854"

The final concern that the Georgetown Fire District would like you to consider is the issue of local control. Is it better for Georgetown to make decisions on how best to provide fire services for Georgetown or is it better for an agency based miles away to make those decisions? Under the same thought pattern, would it be better for El Dorado County to make decisions on how best to provide services to El Dorado County residents or should the county merge with Sacramento County or let the State of California make those decisions?

The consolidation discussion must include Finances, Operations (as agreed to by LAFCO) and Community concerns. The Georgetown Fire Department is heavily involved in the Georgetown Community and any discussions regarding possibly changing the management system of the fire department must include a discussion about how any proposed change would affect that relationship.

Georgetown Fire is supportive of the overall MSR process for all the fire districts in El Dorado County but is very concerned that all pros and cons must be looked at prior to any decisions being made about how to best move forward. In the interim, we believe that the departments continuing to work closely together operationally is the appropriate tactic. It has worked for more than twenty-three years.

In addition, Georgetown Fire and Mosquito Fire have recently received the attached email from Chief Savacool regarding his "withdrawing my request for support on the matter." This leads to even more concerns about the process of a LAFCO initiated study on consolidation of Georgetown, Garden Valley and Mosquito Fire Departments.

Georgetown Fire believes that a discussion regarding a potential Fire Authority makes tremendous sense. However, we are adamant that the conversation should include conversations with El Dorado County Fire and the Pilot Hill, Cool, and lower Coloma-Lotus areas. Georgetown also has deep concerns that inclusion of the Mosquito Fire Department may make little to no sense in this conversation, especially with the imminent construction of the bridge between Mosquito and Placerville.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rod Williams

President Georgetown Fire District Board of Directors

CC: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Don Ashton
Mountain Democrat
Georgetown Gazette

Glenn Brown

From: Clive Savacool <csavacool@gardenvalley.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2019 10:21 AM
To: Glenn Brown; Chief Dwyer
Cc: Dion Nugent
Subject: Consolidation Status Update

Good morning Chiefs,

Based on the lack of response and statements of objection regarding a consolidation of our agencies, I am respectfully withdrawing my request for support on the matter.

Despite the Mosquito FPD firefighters' and administration's desire to consolidate, it seems clear that the Fire Board is indecisive and to date has not made a collective stance of support; the only official position by the Board has been to the contrary.

At this point, given the financial state of the Garden Valley Fire Protection District, I am pursuing other options for sustainability. Thank you and best of luck with your agencies; as always my District and staff will continue to be a good neighbor and we would like to maintain our collaborative training and operational efforts.

As for the Shared Service Agreement with Mosquito, that is still in play and we wish to continue with the Agreement.

Respectfully,

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***CLIVE SAVACOO, FIRE CHIEF
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