

EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

AGENDA OF FEBRUARY 24, 2021

REGULAR MEETING

TO: Tim Palmer, Chair, and
Members of the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation
Commission

FROM: José C. Henríquez, Executive Officer

AGENDA ITEM #12: **CONSIDER SUBMITTING A REQUEST FOR THE TRANSFER
OF JURISDICTION FROM PLACER LAFCO OVER THE
DISSOLUTION OF THE MEEKS BAY FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT**

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission consider and approve the attached letter to the Placer Local Agency Formation Commission, requesting the transfer of jurisdiction to process the potential Meeks Bay Fire Protection District annexation to North Tahoe FPD to this LAFCO.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION

In 2019, both LAFCOs came to an agreement on how to process the potential annexation of Meeks Bay FPD into North Tahoe FPD. El Dorado LAFCO would process the sphere of influence and the dissolution of Meeks Bay FPD. Placer LAFCO would process the expansion of the North Tahoe FPD SOI and the annexation of the Meeks Bay service area. Placer LAFCO has recently indicated its willingness to allow El Dorado LAFCO to process everything but the North Tahoe FPD SOI expansion. The attached letter would start the process of transferring jurisdiction.

BACKGROUND

In April 2014, Meeks Bay Fire Protection District (MEK) and North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) entered into a contract for services. Per the terms of the agreement, the North Tahoe FPD Fire Chief serves both agencies and a full-time NTFPD Chief Officer is assigned to Meeks Bay FPD to oversee its daily operation and to act as a liaison to the Meeks Bay FPD Board. North Tahoe FPD provides management of Meeks Bay FPD firefighters and staff for fire protection, training and administrative duties.

Meeks Bay FPD is entirely within El Dorado County, and North Tahoe FPD is entirely within Placer County. As the two existing districts are separate, and lie wholly within their respective counties, El Dorado is the principal county for Meeks Bay FPD and Placer is the principal county for North Tahoe FPD.

Future Next Steps

In 2017, North Tahoe FPD and Meeks Bay FPD engaged the services of Emergency Services Consulting International (ESCI) to complete a comprehensive Standards of Coverage and Deployment Plan. ESCI concluded that both districts would be served if Meeks Bay FPD was annexed by North Tahoe FPD. The North Tahoe and Meeks Bay FPD Boards of Directors held a joint meeting in August 2018 to consider this report and discuss alternative governance models, including reorganization.

Since that time, the two FPDs are still considering a joint reorganization proposal in which Meeks Bay FPD would be dissolved and the territory would be annexed into North Tahoe FPD. A similar reorganization occurred between El Dorado Hills County Water District (Fire Department) and the former Latrobe FPD.

This reorganization is a more desirable path for the districts. The other option would be a "consolidation," where both districts dissolve and a new one is formed out of the combined service area.

A Matter of Jurisdiction

To make this reorganization happen, the proposal would require four separate actions: 1) a "zero sphere" amendment to the Meeks Bay FPD, 2) a dissolution of the Meeks Bay FPD, 3) a sphere of influence amendment adding the territory to the North Tahoe FPD, and 4) an annexation of the territory to the North Tahoe FPD.

In LAFCO Law, "principal county" is defined as the county having the greater portion of the entire assessed value of all taxable property within a district or districts for which a change of organization or reorganization is proposed. The total assessed value within North Tahoe FPD is approximately \$6.9 billion, and the total assessed value within Meeks Bay FPD is approximately \$1.1 billion. Based on the assessed valuations, Placer would be the principal county for the reorganization, with exception of the proposed Meeks Bay FPD sphere of influence amendment.

Prior Tentative Agreements

MEK has expressed a strong desire for El Dorado LAFCO to process the entire reorganization, save for the designation of the NTFPD SOI. On March 19, 2019, Placer LAFCO considered several options for the transfer of jurisdiction. Placer LAFCO did not vote on the item but provided direction that its preference was for El Dorado LAFCO to be the principal LAFCO for the Meeks Bay FPD zero sphere designation and dissolution, and Placer LAFCO to be the principal LAFCO for the North Tahoe FPD sphere of influence amendment and annexation of territory.

While this Commission has verbally expressed its preference to process the annexation portion of the reorganization in the past, El Dorado LAFCO has been content with Placer LAFCO's preference.

Recently it became known that Placer LAFCO's EO and Chair are open to revisiting the issue of who processes the annexation and have indicated they would be willing to support the transfer of jurisdiction. There are many advantages to this, but they mainly focus around two key pieces:

- 1) It is MEK's preference to be working with a single LAFCO
- 2) There are economies of scale to process both petitions simultaneously by one LAFCO.

Staff recommends that the Chair sign the attached letter and have it sent to Placer LAFCO so that entire Commission can consider the request and vote on it.

Attachments

Attachment A: Letter to Placer LAFCO