

EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

AGENDA OF DECEMBER 17, 2008

REGULAR MEETING

TO: Francesca Loftis, Chair, and
Members of the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation
Commission

FROM: José C. Henríquez, Executive Officer

AGENDA ITEM #4: PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AND AMEND THE
PROJECT PLAN FOR THE SCOPE OF THE MUNICIPAL
SERVICE REVIEWS SCHEDULED FOR 2008-09

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the submitted revision to the MSR project plan and to the 2008-09 Workplan.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION

At the September 24 meeting, it was apparent the Commission had several questions relating to the provision of fire suppression and emergency services and was looking to the fire district MSRs to address them. Dealing with these issues in the MSR would require amending the already-approved workplan and MSR project plan.

BACKGROUND

At the January 30, 2008 meeting, the Commission approved a five-year municipal service review project plan. The project plan, which was created after determining the Commission's preferences on four different components, stated that:

- MSRs would be created on a per-agency basis.
- While fire suppression is provided by 14 agencies and two County Service Areas, which provide funding for emergency medical services, only 10 of those agencies would be reviewed in 2008-09, with one agency (Cameron Park CSD) to be reviewed in 2010-11 and a second (City of South Lake Tahoe) to be reviewed in 2011-2012. Fallen Leaf Lake CSD, Mosquito FPD and CSAs 3 and 7 would not be reviewed at all in the next cycle of MSRs.

Based on this project plan, the Commission's FY 2008-09 Workplan, which accompanies the budget and was adopted in March, states:

- Complete at least 10 municipal services reviews/sphere of influence updates.

Commissioner Briggs requested an item to discuss “fire districts and augmentation funds,” to be set in an early 2009 meeting. Staff placed a discussion item at the September 24, 2008 meeting so that it can receive direction from the Commission on what specifically it wanted that workshop to cover. Based on the discussion and the testimony received from Rescue FPD Fire Chief Keating, El Dorado Hills CWD Fire Chief Veerkamp and Grand Jury member Steve Sedgwick, it appears that the Commission wanted to amend the scope of the fire district MSR to include the following:

- A review of all fire suppression agencies in El Dorado County.
- The impacts to service in El Dorado County if the County’s augmentation fund (“Aid to Fire”) monies are removed.
 - If negative service impacts are identified, a list of options available to the districts should also be explored, either involving initiatives the districts can implement unilaterally or those involving LAFCO.
- A more comprehensive study of consolidation than the report prepared by the Grand Jury.
 - Whether consolidation could serve as a long-term or short-term solution to the funding problems for service.
 - Whether a more comprehensive restructuring of fire suppression and emergency services should be undertaken.

The nature of these items means that the Commission must amend the already-approved Workplan and scope of the fire district MSRs to accommodate the new topics. For example, a review of all fire suppression agencies means changing the number of agencies to be studied in FY 2008-09 from 10 to 16 and moving Cameron Park CSD from FY 2010-11 to this budget year (the City of South Lake Tahoe’s Fire Department will also be studied as a 16th entity). The specific changes to the budget Workplan and the MSR project plan are highlighted in italics in Attachments A and B, respectively.

If this item is approved, staff further proposes that the Commission approve the following as part of the 2009 workshop:

- That staff attempt to schedule testimony from individuals with expertise on consolidation in counties where fire districts were provided funds by their county.
- Authorization to invite the El Dorado fire districts’ boards of directors, fire chiefs, firefighters and their representatives.
- The use of the MSR as part of the staff report for this workshop. The report would consist of the following parts:
 - 1) Executive Summary
 - 2) Legislative Background
 - 3) Agency descriptions
 - 4) MSR analysis on the provision of services determinations
 - 5) Options

There is an issue of how staff will incorporate the reports for Cameron Park and Fallen Leaf Lake CSDs, County Service Area #3 and the City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department into this workshop reports since these are multi-purpose agencies. All other fire suppression agencies are single purpose agencies and could be incorporated into a single document, similar to 2006's *Countywide Fire Suppression and Emergency Services Municipal Service Report*.

- That the aforementioned 2009 workshop be scheduled as two separate meetings, one for the Western Slope agencies and one for the Tahoe Basin agencies.

The impacts on staff time to implement the recommendations above would be larger than what was contemplated at the beginning of the year. Specifically, the Cameron Park and Fallen Leaf Lake CSDs and CSA #3 reports will cover all services, not just its fire suppression and emergency medical services capabilities. In addition, the City of South Lake Tahoe section will not be a true MSR because it will not look at the other city municipal services (staff envisions incorporating this section in the South Lake Tahoe citywide MSR scheduled for 2011-2012). In short, the creation of these larger MSRs for this year was not anticipated when the project plan and workplan were discussed and adopted. Nevertheless, the budget should be able to absorb the additional staff time associated with preparing these reports and the necessary additional sections to cover the Commission's questions. The only potential costs that could arise and were not contemplated in the budget would be any expenses related to scheduling and transporting individuals to provide testimony. There are, however, options to minimize those costs, such as requesting the Fire Chiefs' Association to split the tab with LAFCO and/or scheduling that workshop during the day to minimize lodging and travel costs.

Attachments

Attachment A: Revised Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Work Plan

Attachment B: Revised Agency Schedule/Timeline for the 2008-2012 MSR Cycle