

EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

AGENDA OF AUGUST 23, 2006

REGULAR MEETING

TO: Ted Long, Chairman, and
Members of the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation
Commission

FROM: José C. Henríquez, Executive Officer

AGENDA ITEM #4: CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CONSIDERATION
OF THE DRAFT MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW OF THE
COUNTYWIDE FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY
SERVICES AND ADOPTION OF SAME

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission:

1. Open the Public Hearing to receive comments on the Draft Countywide Fire Suppression and Emergency Services Municipal Service Review;
2. Incorporate any additional comments received not already included in the report;
and
3. Adopt the Municipal Service Review and its enclosed determinations addressing the nine factors of a municipal service review in accordance with Government Code §56425.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Municipal Service Review (MSR) is required by State law to serve as a guidance document for any boundary changes to the agencies that provide fire suppression and emergency services in El Dorado County. A draft of this document has been distributed to the fire chiefs, administrators of related programs, their governing boards and the public for their review and comment. Any comments or questions received by LAFCO staff have been incorporated into the document before the Commission meeting.

BACKGROUND

This MSR was prepared for all of the agencies that provide fire suppression and emergency services in El Dorado County. This study analyzes the agencies' ability to provide existing and future residents with fire protection, fire suppression and emergency medical services within their respective service areas. The MSR was

prepared to meet the requirements and standards of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH). The Service Review was prepared using the Service Review Guidelines prepared by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research.

The fundamental role of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is to implement the CKH Act (found in Government Code §56000, et seq.), consistent with local conditions and circumstances. LAFCO's decisions are guided by the CKH Act. This MSR will assist the Commission and its staff when considering actions that will affect the following agencies:

- Cameron Park Community Services District
- City of South Lake Tahoe
- Diamond Springs/El Dorado Fire Protection District
- El Dorado County Fire Protection District
- El Dorado Hills County Water District
- Fallen Leaf Lake Community Services District
- Garden Valley Fire Protection District
- Georgetown Fire Protection District
- Lake Valley Fire Protection District
- Latrobe Fire Protection District
- Meeks Bay Fire Protection District
- Mosquito Fire Protection District
- Pioneer Fire Protection District
- Rescue Fire Protection District

As noted in the June staff report, financial resources affect an agency's ability to provide quality, reliable service. Overall, the MSR found that these agencies are currently providing adequate services to most, if not all, of their respective service areas. Several agencies are positioning themselves to meet future equipment needs by tapping into other sources of revenues. On the other hand, the value of some revenue streams may be insufficient for some agencies to keep pace with increases in service demand in the long term. Attached to this report is a copy of the June presentation for your convenience and review.

Also discussed in the June staff report was that the MSR explored the possibility that some agencies may need to realign their service areas and/or explore reorganization options. This reorganization would remove issues of fiscal inequity posed by service area islands, areas that are outside of a fire agency and, in some cases, mutual aid calls. In all of these cases, agencies are called to provide service without their costs being offset by the payment of taxes, assessments and/or fees.

CHANGES BETWEEN THE DRAFT MSR AND FINAL MSR

Most of the changes in this report were clarifications and/or corrections submitted by El Dorado Hills CWD, Meeks Bay FPD and Rescue FPD. These are in addition to last month's changes submitted by Garden Valley FPD and Lake Valley FPD. A clarification was also added to the MSR regarding the frequency in which State Responsibility Areas are reviewed and updated. None of these changes fundamentally alter the findings or analysis section of the MSR.

This report and the staff presentation at the meeting will focus on the largest change to the MSR: the agency call data (Exhibits B-D) and mutual aid data (Exhibit E). As noted in the July staff report, the methodologies for tracking data differed from agency-to-agency, most likely because the data was gathered and categorized by each agency for internal reporting purposes. Further, there is also a variance in how agencies track their response rates: Some agencies may log a single call into multiple categories depending on the resources deployed to that call. Because of these variances, LAFCO staff encountered difficulties in analyzing or making determinations based on the call data being supplied by the agencies. To standardize data, LAFCO requested data from the dispatch centers in Camino and South Lake Tahoe based upon LAFCO-specified criteria for categorizing calls. Mutual aid information was also obtained from the dispatch centers. With these data, the Dispatch and Response section has a more robust discussion regarding incident information and mutual aid response.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

A complete list of references is included in the back of the MSR. LAFCO staff would like to thank the fire chiefs and their staff for their assistance, as well as the Call Dispatch Centers in Camino and South Lake Tahoe, the County Administrator's Office, the County Auditor's Office, the County Assessor's Office, staff from the California Department of Forestry and staff from the Fire Safe Council.

Attachments

Attachment A: LAFCO Staff's June MSR Presentation

Attachment B: Countywide Fire Suppression and Emergency Services MSR (On CD – please contact LAFCO staff, if you would like a paper copy of the report.)