

EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

AGENDA OF APRIL 27, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

TO: John Hidahl, Chair, and
Members of the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation
Commission

FROM: Erica Sanchez, Interim Executive Officer

AGENDA ITEM #6: PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE
COUNTYWIDE FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE, INCLUDING
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (LAFCO PROJECT NO. 2020-02)

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission:

1. Receive and discuss the information related to the Countywide Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update;
2. Open the public hearing on this matter;
3. Accept categorical exemption §15320 from environmental review as the appropriate environmental review;
4. Adopt Resolution L-2022-02, adopting the municipal service review and updates to the spheres of influence for these fifteen agencies; and
5. Direct staff to complete the necessary filings and transmittals as required by law.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION

State Law requires that the Commission update the spheres of influence for all agencies within El Dorado County, it also requires that a municipal service review for an agency be performed before the Commission can update an agency's sphere of influence. This municipal service review and sphere of influence study is part of the Commission's Fiscal Year 2020-21 Work Plan and its adoption satisfies all of the requirements under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act of 2000.

BACKGROUND

The Countywide Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update (MSR/SOI Update) examines how fire protection

and emergency medical services are delivered throughout El Dorado County. The MSR/SOI Update was prepared for all of the agencies that provide fire suppression and emergency medical services in El Dorado County. The 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. Ultimately, the MSR/SOI Update will serve as a guidance document for any future boundary changes to the agencies that provide fire suppression and emergency services in El Dorado County.

The MSR/SOI Update was prepared to meet the requirements and standards of the CKH Act, and will assist the Commission and its staff when considering actions that will affect the following agencies:

- Cameron Park Community Services District (CAM)
- Diamond Springs/El Dorado Fire Protection District (DSP)
- El Dorado County Fire Protection District (ECF)
- El Dorado Hills County Water District (El Dorado Hills Fire, EDH)
- Fallen Leaf Lake Community Services District (FLL)
- Garden Valley Fire Protection District (GRV)
- Georgetown Fire Protection District (GEO)
- Lake Valley Fire Protection District (LAV)
- Meeks Bay Fire Protection District (MEK)
- Mosquito Fire Protection District (MQT)
- Pioneer Fire Protection District (PIO)
- Rescue Fire Protection District (RES)
- City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department (SLT)
- County Service Areas 3 & 7 (CSAs 3 & 7)

The report is divided into two volumes, Volume I – Main Report and Volume II – Agency MSRs. A summary of each volume is as follows:

Volume I – Main Report, includes: the executive summary; introduction; a summary analysis of countywide fire protection and emergency medical services; a summary of countywide financial ability to provide services; and the SOI analysis for each agency. Comments received and responses have also been added to Volume I, Chapter 7.

Volume II – Agency MSRs, includes the MSR Chapters and determinations for each agency analyzed in this report. The first chapter of Volume II contains summary information pertinent to specific sections within each MSR chapter in order to reduce duplicative information.

Municipal Service Review Determinations

The MSRs for each agency are detailed in Volume II of the report. Each MSR discusses service delivery and efficiency for each agency, including an analysis and written determinations for each of the factors found in Government Code §56430 and LAFCO Policy 4.4.

Specific MSR determinations for each fire protection and emergency medical services provider, and the key facts that support each determination, are discussed within each District's MSR chapter in Volume II.

Sphere of Influence Determinations

In determining the SOI for an agency, LAFCO must consider and prepare written determinations with respect to the factors outlined in Government Code §56425(e).

Specific sphere of influence determinations involving each of the five factors which the Commission must consider as part of a Sphere of Influence Update can be found for each agency within Volume I – Chapter 6, Section 6.5, Determinations.

The SOI analysis for this report can be found in Volume I – Chapter 6, Sphere of Influence Study and Determinations, and provides three options for the Commission to consider. These three options are:

Option 1 – Maintain Existing SOIs and Friendly SOI Changes

Option 2 – Establish a West Slope Fire Authority

Option 3 – Boundary Adjustments

After consideration of all of the information within the MSR/SOI Update and comments received, the consultants, LAFCO staff, and the Ad Hoc Committee recommend the Commission approve Option 1. Option 1 recommends zero spheres for MEK and RES, an expansion of EDH's sphere to include the RES district and SOI area, and that the existing spheres for CAM, DSP, ECF, FLL, GRV, GEO, LAV, MQT, PIO and SLT and CSAs 3 and 7 remain unchanged.

It is also recommended that LAFCO, the County of El Dorado, and the fire protection agencies in the County work together to host two concurrent Fire Summits within the next two years, one on the West Slope and one in the Tahoe Basin, and that the municipal service reviews for the following agencies be revisited within three years: FLL, GRV, MQT, and RES.

Comments Received

Volume I – Chapter 7 addresses comments and responses. Comments include those made at the January 26 LAFCO hearing, those provided by the LAFCO Ad Hoc Committee in subsequent meetings, and comment letters received.

Section 7.1.1 summarizes the LAFCO Commission Hearing and Ad Hoc Committee comments. Table 7-1 (beginning on page 7-3) outlines the comments made during the January 26, 2022, LAFCO Hearing and the three meetings with the Ad Hoc Committee as well as details regarding any changes to the text of the MSR/SOI Update as appropriate. The table includes a summary of the comment; whether text was added, edited, or no change occurred; consultants' response to the comment; a summary of the change that was made; and the location within the report where the change occurred.

Section 7.1.2 addresses written comment letters and responses. Table 7-2 (page 7-9) summarizes the comment letters received. To date, a total of ten comment letters have been received from the following agencies:

- County of El Dorado CAO's Office

- Meeks Bay FPD
- Diamond Springs/El Dorado FPD
- Georgetown FPD
- El Dorado County FPD
- Mosquito FPD
- City of South Lake Tahoe
- Garden Valley FPD
- Pioneer FPD
- El Dorado Hills Fire Department

Section 7.1.2 contains a copy of all the comment letters received and LAFCO's response to each comment. Many of the comments were specific to various textual edits within a particular agency's MSR Chapter, two solicited additional information to be included in the report. Responses to some comments included changes to the report, all markup pages for both volumes of the report are included in Attachments D and E.

New Information from RES/EDH

Only one comment letter provided information that may substantially change the direction of the LAFCO Commission's decision, which may be different than the recommendations outlined in the report. EDH's comment letter (Comment Letter J) details actions taken by the EDH Board at a special meeting on April 4, 2022 to do the following:

1. Rescind the Letter of Intent to Annex;
2. Notify RES of EDH's intent to terminate the Shared Services Agreement; and
3. Meet with the RES Board of Directors to discuss the terms of a Transitional Services Agreement.

The review of RES within the MSR/SOI Study, was based on the proposed annexation with EDH and the prior shared services agreement between the two agencies. As a result of this new information, consultants recommend that LAFCO conduct a municipal service review of RES within three years of this report. In addition, based on the Feasibility Study and Proposal for Annexation completed in 2019, consultants continue to recommend that the Commission approve the proposed SOI changes for both EDH and RES to codify a future annexation between these two agencies. LAFCO staff and the Ad Hoc Committee are in agreement with these recommendations.

Attachments:

Due to the large size of these documents, please see the links provided at:

<https://www.edlafco.us/2022-04-27-commission-meeting>

Attachment A: Final Countywide Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update, Volume I – Main Report

Attachment B: Final Countywide Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update, Volume II – Agency Municipal Service Reviews

Attachment C: Draft Resolution L-2022-02 and Exhibit A SOI Maps

Attachment D: Volume I – Main Report Markup Pages

Attachment E: Volume II – Agency MSRs Markup Pages