



LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
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February 24, 2021

Kristina Berry, Executive Officer
Placer Local Agency Formation Commission
110 Maple Street
Auburn, CA 95603

SUBJECT: Potential Annexation of Meeks Bay Fire Protection District by North Tahoe Fire Protection District

Dear Ms. Berry,

On behalf of the El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission, I respectfully request that your Commission consider and approve the transfer of jurisdiction to El Dorado LAFCO for processing the potential annexation of Meeks Bay Fire Protection District by North Tahoe FPD.

As you know, in April 2014, Meeks Bay FPD and North Tahoe FPD 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.

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. This 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.

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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.

In CKH, "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.

Placer LAFCO considered several options for the transfer of jurisdiction at its March 13, 2019 meeting. 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 El Dorado LAFCO is content with this preference, this Commission has, in the past, verbally expressed its preference to process the annexation portion of the reorganization as well. In our assessment, there are many benefits for this LAFCO to process both dissolution and the annexation, one of which is the reduction of duplicative efforts. Of course, Placer LAFCO would retain setting the SOI for North Tahoe FPD. In addition, El Dorado LAFCO would closely coordinate with your office and ensure expenses incurred by Placer LAFCO are recouped, as necessary.

Please let me know of your Commission's decision. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Regards,

Tim Palmer, Chair
El Dorado Local Agency Formation Commission