



*"We are dedicated to provide professional and courteous service to our citizens and communities with Pride, Trust & Integrity."*

February 12, 2020

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

Given the recent discussion and public forums regarding fire protection services in the northern areas of El Dorado County, I feel compelled to speak on behalf of our Fire District and provide our perspective on the issue.

During the calendar year of 2019, once again there were on-going consolidation discussions amongst the departments on the divide, Georgetown, Garden Valley & Mosquito. During these discussions, there were conversations involving El Dorado County Fire and the potential of a true Divide or Northside consolidation. As the discussions went on, history again began to repeat itself as Georgetown Fire Department and Mosquito Fire Department walked away from the table. El Dorado County Fire remained in discussions with Garden Valley Fire to seek a possible solution or partnership to assist with the financial shortfalls Garden Valley Fire is facing. During these discussions, El Dorado County Fire maintained a position in order to meet our objectives, as well as, the objectives repeatedly set forth by the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors and LAFCO:

- Reducing the number of Fire Districts within the County
- Reducing the number of Fire Administrations within the County
- Providing for sustainable fire district models

Internally, our objectives are clear and based upon sound financial decisions:

- No interruption of service to our constituents
- Fully represented budgets, as it pertains to personnel costs
- Providing sufficient reserves to navigate economic downturns and unforeseen expenditures

During our review of the proposed American River Fire Department plan, there were numerous concerns regarding the proposed budget meeting the benchmarks we have established, along with concerns as to the negative impact on El Dorado County Fire, as we would lose the funding sources from the Northside areas, yet retain the on-going pension liabilities. These concerns led to conversations regarding a potential annexation of Garden Valley Fire into El Dorado County Fire or a possible "shared service agreement" to allow time for Garden Valley Fire and their constituents to develop a pathway forward.



The Garden Valley Fire Department elected Board of Directors, at their February 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting, voted not to pursue either an annexation with El Dorado County Fire or a “shared service agreement” with El Dorado County Fire.

While we respect their position to represent the will of their communities, we remain open to meaningful discussions regarding providing fire protection services to the residents of El Dorado County as a whole, as long as, we are meeting the direction provided by the Board of Supervisors and meeting our financial benchmarks.

Respectfully,



Tim Cordero  
Fire Chief, El Dorado County Fire District

Cc: LAFCO  
El Dorado County Fire District Board of Directors  
El Dorado County Fire District Professional Firefighters Local 3556  
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