

# EL DORADO LAFCO

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LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

*AGENDA OF JULY 26, 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

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### **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.
4. Direct staff to delay publishing the MSR until all call data in Exhibits B-D are updated.

### **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.

In addition, the MSR explored the possibility that some agencies may need to realign their service areas and/or explore reorganization options. The MSR explores whether the current boundaries are drawn in a way to provide services in an efficient manner. In addition, the MSR discusses the issues of service area islands and areas that are outside of agency boundaries. Because these areas are not within a fire district, they do not pay their share of taxes, assessments and fees as their neighbors do, yet they may demand the same level of service. Consequently, these areas impact the agency and raise issues of fiscal inequity.

## CHANGES BETWEEN THE DRAFT MSR AND FINAL MSR

Most of the changes in this report were clarifications and/or corrections. Consequently, this report and the staff presentation at the meeting will focus on the changes to the MSR. Attached to this report is a copy of the June staff report for your convenience.

The biggest changes to the report were:

- Only two districts (Garden Valley and Lake Valley FPDs) submitted changes to the agency descriptions and those changes would not fundamentally alter the findings in the analysis section of the MSR.
- The agency descriptions for Latrobe FPD and Fallen Leaf Lake CSD were enhanced with budgetary information. This new information was later utilized in the analysis section for "Financing Constraints and Opportunities," "Opportunities for Rate Restructuring" and "Evaluation of Management Efficiencies."
- The ISO ratings and their effective dates were confirmed by ISO. Corrections to the ISO rating effective dates were needed for the majority of the agencies and those corrections were incorporated into the agency descriptions. In the cases of El Dorado Hills CWD and El Dorado County, Georgetown and Latrobe FPDs, changes to the ISO rating itself were needed. Those corrections were made in both the descriptions and in the analyses sections.
- Most of the call data was updated with information provided by each agency.
- The fire hydrant data was verified by both the agencies and the water purveyor that supplies water to those hydrants. The data was updated where applicable.

## OPTIONS FOR ADOPTING THE MSR

As noted in the MSR, the methodologies for tracking data differed from agency-to-agency. The most likely reason is that the data was gathered and categorized by each agency for internal reporting purposes. In addition, there is 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. Consequently, it became difficult to analyze or make 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. However, for various technical reasons data from the West Slope were not available in time for inclusion into the report. The MSR could still rely upon the information provided by each agency; however data is missing for two agencies on Exhibits B-D. Consequently, the MSR should not be considered complete.

The publishing of an incomplete MSR will cause confusion to the public. The options available to the Commission include:

- Delaying adoption of the report until the call data from the last two agencies is provided; or,
- Direct staff to delay publishing of the report until the missing data included.

Staff recommends that the Commission choose the second option, provided that no other changes are made to the MSR. Once the call data is received from the Dispatch Center in Camino, Exhibits B-D will be updated accordingly.

#### 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.)