

# EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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## *AGENDA OF JUNE 27, 2007*

### *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: PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER AND ADOPT THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND UPDATES TO THE  
SPHERES OF INFLUENCE FOR TWELVE FIRE  
SUPPRESSION AND EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCIES**

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Commission:

1. Receive and discuss the information related to the update of the spheres of influence for twelve fire suppression and emergency services agencies;
2. Open the public hearing on this matter;
3. Accept the statutory exemption from environmental review as the appropriate environmental review;
4. Adopt the updates to the spheres of influence for these twelve 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 by January 1, 2008. State Law also requires that a municipal service review for an agency be performed before the Commission can update a sphere of influence. In August 2006, the Commission adopted the "Countywide Fire Suppression and Emergency Services Municipal Services Review." That report will serve as the foundation for these sphere updates.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The 2006 "Countywide Fire Suppression and Emergency Services Municipal Services Review" found that, as a whole, fire suppression agencies provided adequate services

to the residents of the county; however, fiscal issues bring to question the long-term viability of some districts. Population growth, State guidelines for equipment and training and rising costs of liability and workers compensation insurance have introduced financial challenges to some, if not most, agencies.

In addition to these, the MSR identified that the key service boundary-related issue facing these agencies was the provision of service without receiving revenues to offset this cost. Specifically, this issue comes in two varieties:

- 1) Areas outside of any fire agency, and
- 2) service boundaries not matching current resources.

In December 2006, LAFCO staff held a workshop in conjunction with the El Dorado County Fire Chiefs' Association to discuss this issue and brainstorm possible solutions, all centering around three potential proposals. In ascending order of complexity, the proposals were:

1. The annexation of service islands;
2. The annexation of service areas outside of, but between, fire agencies to the most logical service provider irrespective of current sphere designations; and
3. The realignment of boundaries based upon current and future resources on the ground.

The consensus was that the chiefs would pursue all three options and have further discussions with their neighbors and their respective boards of directors. In the meantime, they requested that LAFCO re-adopt their current spheres of influence in order to comply with the January 1, 2008 State Law.

In determining the sphere of influence for each local agency, Government Code §56425(e) requires the Commission to consider and prepare a written statement of determinations with respect to four factors. In addition, LAFCO Policy 4.4 requires the Commission to review certain topics before making sphere of influence determinations. The agency profiles of these twelve agencies, review of the Policy 4.4 topics and the §56425(e) determinations, maps and draft resolution are included in Attachments A through L. Each attachment has three parts. For example, the agency profile and determinations for County Service Area 7 is found in Attachment A1, the CSA 7 map with recommended SOI is Attachment A2 and the draft resolution is Attachment A3.

Please note that these sphere updates are for single-service providers. The SOI updates for other agencies studied in the Fire MSR, such as the Cameron Park and Fallen Leaf Lake CSDs and the City of South Lake Tahoe, will be presented when the studies for all of their remaining services are complete.