

Agency Profile

The El Dorado County Fire Protection District (ECF) is approximately 281 square miles and is the largest fire protection district in the county. It was created through the consolidation of four fire departments approved by LAFCO in 1991. It subsequently annexed two other fire districts later that year. Consequently, ECF extends to the Middle Fork of the American River to the north and to Camp Sacramento on the east. Mainly situated in the central and mid-western part of El Dorado County, ECF also reaches to the County's northwestern border. A small corridor of the district extends to the eastern portion of El Dorado County along highway 50 to the edge of Lake Valley Fire Protection District (refer to Map 4). ECF is not a single contiguous area. The southwesterly area of ECF is separated from the majority portion of the district by the Rescue, and Diamond Springs/El Dorado County Fire Protection Districts. The district serves the City of Placerville and the communities of Cool, Pilot Hill, Lotus, Coloma, Gold Hill, Shingle Springs, Sierra Springs, Camino, Pleasant Valley, Oak Hill, Pollock Pines, Pacific House, Kyburz, and Strawberry. All of the communities in ECF are major risk areas for wildland/urban interface.

Land Use Character

ECF estimates a total of 25,732 parcels in the district, including 21,159 improved (residential, commercial/industrial), 4,361 vacant residential parcels and 212 vacant commercial/industrial lots. Because of its size, land use within ECF ranges from rural, to moderately-populated rural centers (Coloma, Cool, Kyburz, Lotus, Pilot Hill, Pleasant Valley and Strawberry) to urban (City of Placerville).

Level of Service

ECF provides a moderate level of services to its residents district-wide. Its per capita cost of services is \$109.92 in Fiscal Year 2003-2004. Its main funding mechanisms for these services are property taxes, assessments and development impact fees. Its 17 fire stations provide extensive coverage for the district; however, some of those stations are staffed seasonally.

Commission's Policies and Guidelines

LAFCO Policy 4.4 requires the Commission to review the following topics before making sphere of influence determinations. The Commission's recent review of fire suppression and emergency services addressed these requirements as noted below. All citations are from the Countywide Fire Suppression and Emergency Services Municipal Services Review, adopted by the Commission in August, 2006.

1. Service capacity, level and types of services currently provided by the agency, and areas where these services are provided

Refer to pages 76-78, "Services and Programs; page 78-81, "Infrastructure and Facilities;" page 82-85, "Equipment and Vehicles;" pages 86-88, "Personnel and Staffing;" page 288, "Table 107 – Comparative Ratio of Firefighters to Population per Agency;" page 301-302, "El Dorado County FPD (ECF);" Map 7 – "West County Stations;" Map 8 – "North County Stations;" Map 9 – "South County Stations;" and Map 10 – "Tahoe Basin Stations."

2. *Financial capabilities and costs of service*

Refer to pages 92-94 “Funding and Budget;” pages 323-325, “Agency Funding;” page 346, “Table 113 – Comparative Ratio of Fire Protection Expenditures to Population per Agency;” and page 347, “Table 114 – Comparative Personnel Cost Percentage of Total Budget per Agency.”

3. *Topographic factors and areas of social and economic interdependencies*

Refer to pages 73-75, “El Dorado County Fire Protection District;” and page 313, “Table 111 – El Dorado County Land Use Forecasts.”

4. *Existing and planned land uses, land use plans and policies, consistency with county and city general plans, and projected growth in the affected area*

Refer to page 36, “History-Growth;” and pages 311-315, “Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area.”

5. *Potential effects on agricultural and open space lands*

The Marble Valley area was historically used for grazing. In addition, the area also contains 77 acres of choice soils. Consequently, the development of the Marble Valley project will result in the conversion of this land from agricultural use to urban uses. However, the impact to the overall agriculture production in the county is minimal because the lease to graze the land expired in 2000 and the area is surrounded by non-agricultural uses. Approximately 1,840 acres will be preserved as open space.

6. *A description of the services that will be provided to any areas which may be added to the sphere and the timing and method for funding expansion of facilities or services*

Refer to pages 76-78, “Services and Programs;” page 78-81, “Infrastructure and Facilities;” page 82-85, “Equipment and Vehicles;” pages 86-88, “Personnel and Staffing;” page 288, “Table 107 – Comparative Ratio of Firefighters to Population per Agency;” page 301-302, “El Dorado County FPD (ECF);” Map 7 – “West County Stations;” Map 8 – “North County Stations;” Map 9 – “South County Stations;” and Map 10 – “Tahoe Basin Stations.”

7. *An analysis of the effects of a proposed sphere of influence on other agencies and their service capabilities:*

Refer to pages 340-343, “Government Structure and Cost Effectiveness.”