

# EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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## *AGENDA OF JANUARY 26, 2022*

### *REGULAR MEETING*

**TO:** John Hidahl, Chair, and  
Members of the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation  
Commission

**FROM:** Erica Sanchez, Interim Executive Officer

**AGENDA ITEM #9:** OPEN THE PUBLIC HEARING AND COMMENT PERIOD FOR  
THE DRAFT COUNTYWIDE FIRE PROTECTION AND  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MUNICIPAL SERVICE  
REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE (LAFCO  
PROJECT NO. 2020-02)

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Commission:

1. Open the public hearing and comment period to receive comments on the Draft Countywide Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update; and
2. Continue the public hearing and comment period until April 27, 2022 to allow sufficient time and opportunity for the governing boards of the fire suppression agencies and the public to review and comment on the study. Staff will return this item at the April 27, 2022 meeting for final action and adoption.

#### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The fundamental role of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is to implement the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH Act, found in Government Code §56000, et seq.), consistent with local conditions and circumstances. The CKH Act requires that El Dorado LAFCO update the spheres of influence (SOIs) for all agencies within El Dorado County, it also requires that a municipal service review (MSR) for an agency be performed before the Commission can update an agency's SOI. This MSR/SOI Update is part of the Commission's Fiscal Year 2020-21 Work Plan and its adoption satisfies all of the requirements under the CKH Act.

#### **BACKGROUND**

The Countywide Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update (MSR/SOI Update) examines how fire protection and emergency medical services are delivered throughout El Dorado County. The

MSR/SOI Update was prepared for all of the agencies that provide fire suppression and emergency medical services in El Dorado County. The 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. Ultimately, the MSR/SOI Update will serve as a guidance document for any future boundary changes to the agencies that provide fire suppression and emergency services in El Dorado County.

The MSR/SOI Update was prepared to meet the requirements and standards of the CKH Act, and will assist the Commission and its staff when considering actions that will affect the following agencies:

- Cameron Park Community Services District (CAM)
- City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department (SLT)
- County Service Areas 3 & 7 (CSAs 3 & 7)
- Diamond Springs/El Dorado Fire Protection District (DSP)
- El Dorado County Fire Protection District (ECF)
- El Dorado Hills County Water District (El Dorado Hills Fire, EDH)
- Fallen Leaf Lake Community Services District (FLL)
- Garden Valley Fire Protection District (GRV)
- Georgetown Fire Protection District (GEO)
- Lake Valley Fire Protection District (LAV)
- Meeks Bay Fire Protection District (MEK)
- Mosquito Fire Protection District (MQT)
- Pioneer Fire Protection District (PIO)
- Rescue Fire Protection District (RES)

The report is divided into two volumes, Volume I – Main Report and Volume II – Agency MSRs. A summary of each volume is as follows:

Volume I – Main Report, includes: the executive summary; introduction; a summary analysis of countywide fire protection and emergency medical services; a summary of countywide financial ability to provide services; and the SOI analysis for each agency.

Volume II – Agency MSRs, includes the MSR Chapters and determinations for each agency analyzed in this report. The first chapter of Volume II contains summary information pertinent to specific sections within each MSR chapter in order to reduce duplicative information.

### **Municipal Service Review Determinations**

The MSRs for each agency are detailed in Volume II of the report. Each MSR discusses service delivery and efficiency for each agency, including an analysis and a written statement of conclusions, known as determinations, for each of the following factors:

- Growth and population projections for the fire agency service areas;

- Disadvantaged unincorporated communities;
- Present and planned capacity of public facilities;
- Financial ability of each agency to provide services;
- Opportunities for shared facilities;
- Accountability for government service needs; and
- The potential effect of each agency services on agricultural and open space lands.

The specific determinations for each fire protection and emergency medical services provider, and the key facts that support each determination, are discussed within each MSR chapter in Volume II.

### **Sphere of Influence Determinations**

In determining the SOI for an agency, LAFCO must consider and prepare written determinations with respect to five factors as outlined in Government Code §56425(e). These factors are as follows:

1. The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open space lands;
2. The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area;
3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide;
4. The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the Commission determines that they are relevant to the agency; and
5. The present and probable need for public facilities and services (including sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection) of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing Sphere of Influence.

The SOI analysis for this report can be found in Volume I – Chapter 6, Sphere of Influence Study and Determinations, and provides three options for the Commission to consider. These three options are:

Option 1 – Maintain Existing SOIs and Friendly SOI Changes

Option 2 – Establish a West Slope Fire Authority

Option 3 – Boundary Adjustments

Consultants and LAFCO staff recommend the Commission approve Option 1 – Maintain Existing SOIs and Friendly SOI Changes, and consultants have provided determinations for this option. The two additional options are presented to the Commission for discussion purposes only. These options offer possible avenues of study in future MSR/SOI Updates and future reports that could be commissioned by the County or LAFCO.

Option No. 1 recommends that the existing SOIs for CAM, DSP, ECF, FLL, GRV, GEO, LAV, MQT, PIO, and SLT remain unchanged. Discussions have progressed with EDH and RES to the point that both agencies are supportive of SOI changes towards reorganization efforts. MEK is currently in negotiations with the North Tahoe Fire Protection District (Placer County) for a future consolidation and is supportive of the

proposed SOI changes. For the agencies with unchanged SOIs, this option provides a basis for future consolidation discussions, if warranted.

### **Public Comments**

LAFCO formed an ad hoc review committee, consisting of Commissioners Neau, Powell, and Veerkamp, to assist in the review of the Draft MSR/SOI Update. The committee will do an independent review of the report and comments submitted during the public comment period, and provide direction to the consultants on how LAFCO would like to see comments incorporated or addressed in the Final MSR/SOI Update. The Final MSR/SOI Update will be brought back to the Commission at the April 27, 2022 meeting for consideration and approval.

Public comments can be submitted and heard up to the conclusion of the April 27, 2022 hearing; however, written comments are requested by March 28, 2022 in order to allow the ad hoc review committee and the consultants sufficient time to review the comments and address and/or incorporate them into the Final MSR/SOI Update, as appropriate. The 60-day requested deadline should allow sufficient time and opportunity for the agencies and the public to review the report and submit comments. Please submit comments to: [lafco@edlafco.us](mailto:lafco@edlafco.us) or El Dorado LAFCO, 550 Main Street, Suite E, Placerville, CA 95667.

### **Attachments:**

- Attachment A: Draft Countywide Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update, Volume I – Main Report *(due to the large size of this document, please see the link provided at <https://www.edlafco.us/2022-01-26-commission-meeting>)*
- Attachment B: Draft Countywide Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update, Volume II – Agency Municipal Service Reviews *(due to the large size of this document, please see the link provided at <https://www.edlafco.us/2022-01-26-commission-meeting>)*
- Attachment C: Mosquito Fire Protection District comment letter, dated November 10, 2021