

EL DORADO LAFCO

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

AGENDA OF JUNE 25, 2014

REGULAR MEETING

TO: Ken Humphreys, Chair, and
Members of the El Dorado County Local Agency Formation
Commission

FROM: José C. Henríquez, Executive Officer

AGENDA ITEM #4D: OPEN THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE DRAFT MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE STUDY FOR THE EL DORADO HILLS COUNTY WATER DISTRICT AND THE LATROBE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission:

1. Receive the Draft Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study for the El Dorado Hills County Water District and the Latrobe Fire Protection District and open the Public Hearing to receive comments; and
2. Continue the Public Hearing until the August 27, 2014 meeting to allow sufficient time and opportunity for the El Dorado Hills County Water District and the Latrobe Fire Protection District governing boards and the public to review and comment on the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study. Staff will return this item in August for final action and adoption.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION

The Municipal Service Review (MSR) is required by State Law to serve as a guidance document for any future boundary changes to the El Dorado Hills County Water District and the Latrobe Fire Protection District (EDH and LTB, respectively). State Law also requires that an MSR be performed before the Commission can update an agency's sphere of influence. An administrative draft of this document was distributed to EDH and LTB staff for review; however not in sufficient time for EDH and LTB staff to comment on the report.

BACKGROUND

This study analyzes the agencies' abilities to provide fire suppression and emergency services within its service area. 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 (OPR).

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 EDH and LTB. Specifically, the MSR provided agency analysis based upon the seven factors of analysis contained in OPR's Service Review Guidelines referenced above:

1. Growth and population projections for the affected area.
2. The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence.
3. Present and planned capacity of public facilities, adequacy of public services and infrastructure needs or deficiencies related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, and structural fire protection in any disadvantaged, unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence.
4. Financial ability of agencies to provide services.
5. Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities.
6. Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.
7. The potential effect of agency services on agricultural and open space lands.

District Profiles and Report Summary

Latrobe Fire Protection District (LTB) was formed pursuant to the Health and Safety Code on April 1, 1982 by LAFCO Resolution L-82-10. LTB's boundary encompasses approximately 36 square miles, or 23,000 acres, of primarily rural lands. The entire territory is designated as SRA with no LRA lands. The entire district is a risk area for wildland or wildland urban interface fires. Because most of the district is rural and its share of property taxes is minimal (average of 5%), LTB's revenues are very low. LTB relies heavily on volunteers: The fire chief, a captain and all line firefighters are not paid. None of the paid staff are full time. LTB staffs only one of its two fire stations during business hours Monday through Friday. It also has a contract for services contract with EDH to have additional coverage. Since the end of the Aid to Fire Program, LTB has relied on its reserves to be able to fund operations.

El Dorado Hills County Water District (EDH) was formed pursuant to the Water Code on July 11, 1960 by Resolution 65-60 of the Board of Supervisors. The EDH boundary encompasses approximately 40 square miles (25,600 acres) in the most populous area of the county. Approximately 2,500 acres are designated as LRA and the remainder as SRA. Except for the densely developed core area, the entire district is a risk area for wildland urban interface. EDH has a command staff of six officers, 48 career firefighters and 30 volunteer firefighters. It operates out of four stations. Its revenues are healthy.

This MSR/SOI was generated in preparation of LAFCO Project Number 2014-03 (Dissolution of Latrobe FPD) and LAFCO Project Number 2014-04 (Annexation of the Latrobe Area into El Dorado Hills CWD). LAFCO actions must be consistent with

spheres of influence (SOIs). The municipal service review report contains the factual data that the Commission needs to consider, and if warranted set, the applicable SOIs for these two districts in anticipation of these two projects.

Throughout the analysis portions of the MSR/SOI report, LAFCO staff identified the financial difficulties that make it difficult for LTB to continue as a standalone district. While its staff appears to be properly trained and equipped, the district simply does not have the revenue streams to continue beyond 2017. In June 2014, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors adopted a new property tax reallocation formula that would correct most financial shortcomings and set the stage for EDH not only to maintain service levels but also to improve them in the Latrobe area. This new formula and plans for service in Latrobe will not affect EDH's current revenues and service levels.

Attachment:

Attachment A: Draft El Dorado Hills County Water District and the Latrobe Fire Protection District Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update (LAFCO Project #2014-05) – Appendix A not included