

SACRAMENTO LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
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December 10, 2014

TO: Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission

FROM: Peter Brundage, Executive Officer

RE: RIVER DELTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FINAL MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE (09-14)

CONTACT: Donald J. Lockhart AICP, Assistant Executive Officer
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Attached is the Final Municipal Service Review (MSR) for the River Delta Fire Protection District. It is being circulated for public review and comment for 30 days. The Final Municipal Service Review will be brought before your Commission for consideration after this period.

The Final MSR is the result of collaboration with the River Delta FPD Administration. Your staff would like to recognize the RDFPD for their ongoing assistance.

The Final Municipal Service Review (MSR) makes the following determinations:

- Regarding growth and population projections for the affected area, the Commission determines that the River Delta Fire Protection District is capable of providing service that includes the growth and population projections for the affected territory for the next five years.
- Regarding infrastructure needs or deficiencies, the Commission determines that the River Delta Fire Protection District currently has no immediate unmet infrastructure needs or existing deficiencies at the current levels of coverage and service response.
- The River Delta Fire Protection District is an effective fire district as it relates to emergency responses related to fire, and other critical services. The River Delta Fire Protection District serves a rural population effectively and efficiently.
- Regarding financing constraints and opportunities, the Commission determines that the River Delta Fire Protection District has no serious financing constraints at this time. Regarding cost avoidance opportunities, the Commission determines that the District uses its best efforts to take advantage of all reasonable cost avoidance and grant funding opportunities.

- Regarding opportunities for rate restructuring, the Commission determines that the District's Tax Rate Area method of financing is reasonable for providing emergency services. The District is a non-enterprise entity which does not charge fees for services, e.g., plan check and inspection fees for new development, due to the limited level of activity.
- Regarding opportunities for shared facilities, the Commission determines that the District shares facilities with other agencies and continually reviews new opportunities to do so. The District participates with the Sacramento Fire/ EMS Communication Center regarding facility planning.
- Regarding government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages of consolidation or reorganization of service providers, the Commission determines that the District should continue to seek cooperation with the neighboring Delta FPD to consider consolidation to enhance the level of service currently provided to a clearly defined geographic area which is primarily rural-residential and agricultural in nature.
- Regarding evaluation of management efficiencies, the Commission determines the District operates with a high degree of efficiency and professional cooperation with the community and other private/ public agencies. This cooperation is exemplified by the active participation in the quarterly South County Chiefs meetings.
- Regarding local accountability and governance, the Commission determines that the District's Board of Directors represents an adequate level of Special District accountability and governance. The District is an independent District governed by a three member Board of Directors elected at-large from the service territory.

FINAL

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

And

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE

River Delta Fire Protection District

DECEMBER 10, 2014

LAFC #12-14

Prepared By:

Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission

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**CORTESE -KNOX -HERTZBERG
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2000**

Introduction

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization (CKH) Act of 2000 requires that each Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) prepare a Municipal Service Review and Spheres of Influence Updates for all cities and independent special districts within its jurisdiction.

A *Sphere of Influence* is defined by Government Code 56425 as:

A plan for the probable physical boundary and service area of a local agency or municipality.

A *Municipal Service Review* is defined by Government Code Section 56430 as: A means of identifying and evaluating public services.

A Municipal Service Review may be conducted prior to, or in conjunction with, the update of a Sphere of Influence, as necessary.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

Purpose

The Municipal Service Review is intended to provide adequate information for the Commission to make decisions related to both current Spheres of Influence (SOI) and SOI Amendments to determine logical service providers and boundaries, to initiate additional studies in the event that the Commission determines that adequate services are not being provided.

In addition to MSR's, annexations, reorganizations, consolidations, and incorporations require detailed master service plans, fiscal analysis and environmental analysis and other special studies as may be required for these types of action.

Requirements

The Commission shall include a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

- Growth and population projections for the affected area.
- Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies.

- Financial ability of agencies to provide services.
- Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities.
- Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.
- Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by Commission policy.

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

Purpose

In order to carry out its purposes and responsibilities for planning and shaping logical and orderly development as well as the coordination of local governmental agencies so as to most advantageously provide for the present and future needs of the County and its communities, the Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission must develop and determine the Sphere of Influence of each local governmental agency within the County.

Requirements

When adopting, amending or updating a Sphere of Influence, the Commission shall, according to Government Code, do all of the following:

- Require districts to file written statements specifying the functions or classes of services provided.
- Establish the nature, location and extent of any functions or classes of services provided by the districts.

In determining the Sphere of Influence of each local agency, the Commission shall consider and prepare determinations with respect to each of the following:

- The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open space lands.
- The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.
- The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides, or is authorized to provide.
- The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the Commission determines they are relevant.

OVERVIEW

Introduction

Sacramento County has an estimated population of approximately 1.4 million people. Public and municipal services are provided by the County, cities, and special districts. The local government structure in Sacramento County is somewhat unique because a significant amount of development has occurred in the unincorporated area from 1950 to the present. Consequently, municipal services to the unincorporated areas are primarily provided by the County, and/or dependent and independent Special Districts. During the past 15 years there have been three incorporations of urbanized areas: City of Citrus Heights, City of Elk Grove, and the City of Rancho Cordova. For the most part, the new cities continue to use the county and special districts for some municipal service providers. Only the Cities of Sacramento, Folsom and Galt (except fire and emergency services) provide the full array of municipal services.

Most of the fire districts in Sacramento County were formed during the 1940's. However, Galt, Elk Grove, Natomas, Rancho Cordova, and Rio Linda can trace establishment back to the 1920's. With the exception of the town of Freeport, fire and emergency services are provided either by cities or special districts for the entire county. Note: The Town of Freeport receives fire service primarily from the City of Sacramento, however, it does not lie within either a city or fire protection district boundary.

FIRE DISTRICTS

Fire protection is an indispensable municipal service with which all areas in the County, regardless of their rural or urban nature, should be provided. Fire service is provided in the County of Sacramento by the Cities of Folsom and Sacramento, and eleven fire protection districts. The Board of Supervisors governs one district: Natomas Fire Protection District, ex officio. The other districts (which include the Cosumnes Community Services District) are independent special districts and are governed by elected Boards of Directors. There is one remaining area in the County that is not within any organized fire protection agency (see map). It contains the unincorporated community of Freeport. In addition to the eleven districts and two municipalities, Folsom State Prison provides fire protection services within Folsom State Prison and does not provide public protection. Finally, Sacramento International Airport provides rescue and fire support but does not provide emergency medical services.

Fire districts are formed and regulated pursuant to the Health and Safety Code, Section 13801 et seq. The enabling legislation authorizes fire districts to provide fire protection and ambulance and rescue services.

Seventy years ago, when the incorporated area was significantly less urbanized than it is today, fire protection was provided strictly on a volunteer basis. By 1940, increases in population and its attendant growth in fire and fire-related problems, created a need for more organized and widespread fire protection. Thus, the fire district system began to develop in the unincorporated area and professional fire fighting forces became full-time necessity. Districts developed from 1921 (Galt) through 1951 (North Highlands). However, in the more rural south County and Delta, the fire service remains largely staffed by volunteers. This is the case with Courtland FPD.

At the time of formation, fire districts normally encompassed the general area associated with each suburban or rural community. With the post-World War II rise in population and attendant development, the old central establishments in these communities frequently gave way to large shopping centers. The old, large, rural parcels in the unincorporated areas became new housing tracts, while county roads became freeways or other major thoroughfares. New developments did not follow district boundaries.

Numerous attempts toward reorganizing the historical fire district formation have been made in the past. Such endeavors include studies conducted by the Spink Corporation (1968-69), Fire Service Area Study Committee (1970-72), Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission (1977), and the Local Government Reorganization Commission (1979-81).

As a result of these studies, several political consolidations occurred: Alta Mesa-Wilton (1980); Arden-Carmichael (1983); Arden and Carmichael as American River (1983); North Highlands- Citrus Heights (1984); American River-Arcade (1986); Rio Linda and Elverta (1987); Citrus Heights and Rancho Cordova as Sacramento County (1989); Rio Linda-Elverta with American River (1990); Sloughhouse with American River (1990); Fair Oaks with Sacramento County (1993); Florin with American River (1997); American River with Sacramento County to form Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (2000); Fruitridge with Pacific to form Fruitridge Pacific Fire Protection District (2006); Elk Grove Community Services District with Galt Fire Protection District to form Cosumnes Community Services District (2006).

General Background

Fire Districts are formed and regulated pursuant to the California State Health and Safety Code, Section 13801, et. seq. The enabling legislation authorizes fire districts to provide fire protection, ambulance and rescue services. Fire districts in Sacramento County can be described as belonging to two broad categories: rural and urban. The definitions of rural and urban used here are developed in light of planning and zoning parameters, and in recognition of the development forces that have and are occurring in Sacramento County. The rural fire districts are generally found in the southern portion of the County and within the area known as the "Northwest Territories" located north of the City of Sacramento. Except for the unincorporated town of Freeport, fire districts serve the entire County.

Uniform Fire Code

In July of 1972 the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors adopted a Uniform Fire Code. This ordinance provides that one fire code will be used for all fire agencies within the County. This code replaced and improved the various individual district codes that govern conditions hazardous to life and property from fire and explosion. The Uniform Fire Code does not standardize the operations of fire districts countywide, but it does speak to what the public can do with regard to inflammable/explosive material. State law requires that public buildings be inspected yearly for fire safety. Each district is responsible for inspection procedures, and these vary from district to district. Fire prevention in all districts is handled as an educational basis.

Communication

The Sacramento Regional Fire/EMS Communications Center (SRFECC) provides fire and emergency medical dispatch services to the Sacramento region. The SRFECC is a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) that is managed by the following fire agencies: Cosumnes Community Services District, Folsom Fire Department, Sacramento Fire Department, and Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District. For more information, please visit the following website: <http://www.srfecc.ca.gov/>

Agency Cooperation-Mutual Aid and Automatic Response

All fire protection districts and city fire departments within Sacramento County have mutual aid and response agreements. When a call for service is received, the nearest available response unit is dispatched regardless of jurisdictional boundary.

ISO Rating

The Insurance Service Office (ISO) is used to rate a fire district's ability to defend against major fires that might occur in the area it serves. The ISO rating procedure evaluates three principal features of fire protection as well as their weight of importance: water supply (40%), fire department staffing (50%), and communications (10%). The ISO devised a system that insurance companies use to compute fire insurance coverage and rates. The rating classes are numbered 1 through 10; the highest number represents the least protection with the highest fire insurance premium rates.

Some of the factors which are considered in the establishment of fire rating zones are: water supply, building codes and structural conditions of buildings, the distance of structures from the nearest fire station, the type of equipment and number of firefighters available at the station, and factors and distances between residences and local street access circulation.

When two numbers are included in an ISO rating, the first number refers to the rating for "watered" areas (areas with a water distribution system and hydrant system,) while the second number refers to "unwatered" areas. In rural areas of Sacramento County, ISO ratings are found to be higher e.g. 9, while urban districts are rated in a range running from 2 to 6 for watered areas.

Finances

Independent special districts that provide fire protection and emergency medical services are funded primarily from property taxes and they are considered a non-enterprise district. City fire departments are typically funded by the city's General Fund that includes both property taxes, sales taxes, and a variety of other revenue sources.

The passage of Proposition 13 put a lid on the amount of revenues that non-enterprise districts could raise to finance needed services. Proposition 13 limited property taxes to one (1) percent of the assessed value. This one (1) percent is allocated to the county, cities, special districts, and school districts based on the districts share of revenue it received just prior to the adoption of

Proposition 13. This change removed the discretionary authority of special districts to raise tax rates to generate additional revenues for both on-going and new programs to increase service levels, or for that matter to keep up with inflation.

District Summary Profile

Agency: River Delta Fire Protection District

Address: 16969 Jackson Slough Rd.
PO Box 541
Isleton, CA 95641

Facility Locations: Station 87 - 154 16969 Jackson Slough Rd.

Website: www.riverdeltafire.com

Telephone: (916) 777-8701 (916) 777-8700 FAX

Administrator Name: Chief Stan Simi

Name of Contact: Chief Stan Simi

Contacts email address: ridchiefsimi@gmail.com

Services Provided: Fire Suppression and emergency medical response

Number of Employees: 28 Volunteers

Agency Size: 27 Square Miles

Agency Population: Estimated at 1500 full-time residents
10,000 recreational - weekends/ holidays (marinas and campgrounds)

Introduction

Background Info

The River Delta Fire Protection District was founded in 1945, as the Isleton Fire Protection District. The River Delta Fire District was established in May of 2004 when it was renamed and relocated. The RDFPD provides fire protection to the unincorporated community surrounding the City of Isleton. It eventually began to provide emergency medical services in the district as well. The RDFPD is an Independent Special District.

Setting

The River Delta Fire Protection District is located in the heart of the Delta, in the southwestern edge of Sacramento County, situated along and around the Sacramento River. It consists almost entirely of rural-residential and farmland uses.

The District covers territory bounded to the west by Solano County across the Sacramento River, and San Joaquin County to the east. On the north is the Walnut Grove FPD. The Delta FPD marks the southern border in Sacramento County, and a portion of Contra Costa County also abuts to the south.

Management and Staffing Structure

The District employs 28 Volunteer Firefighters and a paid Fire Chief, 2 Assistant Chiefs - paid per call, 1 paid Captain, a paid District Secretary and a three member Board of Directors, who receive a meeting stipend.

LAFCo Determination

- The River Delta Fire Protection District is an effective fire district as it relates to emergency responses related to rural fire, medical aid and other critical services. The River Delta Fire Protection District serves a rural population effectively and efficiently.

Growth and Population Projections

The RDFPD service area is somewhat unique in that the full time population is relatively stable, with limited growth projected. However, the recreational population is highly variable, sometime peaking at 10,000 or more on holiday weekends. The district is also very diverse in an emergency demand. The emergency calls in the district consist of structure fires, vehicle fires, grass/vegetation fires, boat fires, medical aids, vehicle accidents, floods, levee breaks, etc. The district has a population of 1,500 persons in the winter and approximately 10,000+ in the summer. There is an average of 325 emergency calls per year. The level of demand on the District for services is acceptable with current equipment and manpower

The RDFPD has also responded on many occasions to mutual aid requests from other districts with more than adequate manpower and equipment and while maintaining an adequate resource reserve to cover the district.

The District population is expected to remain statistically stable for the foreseeable future. The only future growth anticipated is based in industry, through the possible implementation of the BDCP Water Conveyance.

LAFCo Determination

- Regarding growth and population projections for the affected area, the Commission determines that the River Delta Fire Protection District is capable of providing service that includes the growth and population projections for the affected territory for the next five years.

Facilities and Programs

Facilities

Station 87 - 154 16969 Jackson Slough Rd.

Programs

The RDFPD holds public education events on a quarterly basis. The ongoing theme is “Get to know River Delta FPD.”

Capacity of Present and Planned Public Facilities

The District’s present service capacity is adequate for the region it covers, as response times fit within National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1720 compliance. This widely recognized industry standard specifies requirements for effective and efficient organization and deployment of fire suppression operations, emergency medical operations and special operations to the public by both volunteer and combination fire departments to protect citizens, property and the occupational safety and health of the fire service personnel. Provisions cover functions and objectives of fire department emergency service delivery, response capabilities and resources, including staffing levels, response times, and levels of service. General criteria for managing resources and systems, such as health and safety, incident management, training, communications and pre-incident planning are also included.]

The District is capable of responding to up one to two calls a day without any difficulty. The majority of the District is rural farmland and is expected to remain so in the foreseeable future. Minor commercial growth is expected within the next five years which should not stress the District’s current capabilities.

Based on the projected population growth in the District, our facilities and services should remain adequate for the future.

Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies

The District conducts daily inspections of all equipment and facilities in its jurisdiction to maintain quality and identify equipment in need of replacement or repair. The District currently has no areas of deferred maintenance as equipment is either repaired immediately or as soon as necessary. Most of these repairs are handled in house by qualified staff, or provided by local mechanics.

Infrastructure and equipment is maintained to extend useful service-life for as long as possible. Any replacement equipment or infrastructure is financed through Grant funding or donations, or supplemented by District tax revenue when necessary.

Currently there are no deficiencies that have resulted in any violations.

LAFCo Determination

- Regarding infrastructure needs or deficiencies, the Commission determines that the River Delta Fire Protection District currently has no immediate unmet infrastructure needs or existing deficiencies at the current levels of coverage and service response.

Financial Information

The RDFPD maintains a balanced budget (Attached.) Service levels as compared to other local fire departments are similar relative to call volumes. The RDFPD last conducted an audit in 2013.

LAFCo Determination

- Regarding financing constraints and opportunities, the Commission determines that the River Delta Fire Protection District has no serious financing constraints at this time. Regarding cost avoidance opportunities, the Commission determines that the District uses its best efforts to take advantage of all reasonable cost avoidance and grant funding opportunities.

Status and Opportunities for Innovation and Shared Facilities

The District is currently has Mutual Aid agreements with all of surroundings departments and districts. The District is not aware of any overlapping territory on our borders.

The RDFPD views the opportunity for reorganization with Delta FPD as a potential means to enhance service response times. However, Delta FPD has expressed no interest in changing the current contractual relationship with the City of Rio Vista for fire and emergency response services.

LAFCo Determination

- Regarding government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages of consolidation or reorganization of service providers, the Commission determines that the District should continue to seek cooperation with the neighboring Delta FPD to consider consolidation to enhance the level of service currently provided to a clearly defined geographic area which is primarily rural-residential and agricultural in nature.

Accountability for Community Service Needs

Public participation is welcome at the monthly Board meeting, but few community members attend.

The District is governed by a three member Board of Directors, elected to office for two or four year terms, by Registered Voters living in district. The Board meets publically at Station 87 on the second Tuesday of every month. The meeting times are posted. The Board members are compensated for their service. Board members oversee all personnel matters. No Board member may serve as Chief, Ass. Chief or Captain.

Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities

The district is a non-discriminatory entity and does not discriminate in its hiring processes based on race, age, or sex.

We follow State and Federal Employment Laws. We are a part of the Northern California Special District Insurance Authority (NCSDIA) which covers all Equipment, Land, Buildings and Workers Compensation.

LAFCo Determination

- Regarding government structure options, including advantages and disadvantages of consolidation or reorganization of service providers, the Commission determines that the District currently provides services primarily to a clearly defined geographic area which is primarily rural and agricultural in nature.
- Regarding evaluation of management efficiencies, the Commission determines the District operates with a high degree of efficiency and professional cooperation with the community and other private/ public agencies. This cooperation is exemplified by the active participation in the quarterly South County Chiefs meetings.
- Regarding local accountability and governance, the Commission determines that the District's Board of Directors represents an adequate level of Special District accountability and governance. The District is an independent District governed by a five member Board of Directors elected at-large from the service territory.

Attachments