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Executive Officer

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August 11, 2010 (Agenda)

August 11, 2010
 Agenda Item 7

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo)
 651 Pine Street, Sixth Floor
 Martinez, CA 94553

Fire Service Updates

Dear Commissioners:

On July 14, the Commission received a report relating to the second Fire Workshop, held on May 21, 2010. Following the report, the Commission expressed an interest in continuing the dialogue regarding fire and emergency medical services.

The Commission directed LAFCO staff to include on the August 11 LAFCO agenda a fire service update, and requested that fire service providers provide an update regarding their respective activities. An invitation to participate in today's discussion was extended to all interested parties. As of this writing, several agencies have provided written updates (attached).

RECOMMENDATION

1. Receive updates.
2. Discuss next steps, including LAFCO's continued involvement in serving as a catalyst, forming a "blue ribbon" task force to continue the dialogue on short- and long-term issues, and other ideas.
3. Provide direction as desired.

Please contact the LAFCO office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA
 EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachments

1. Kensington Fire Protection District Update
2. Contra Costa County Fire Protection Update
3. West County LAFCO Update



July 30, 2010

Ms. Lou Ann Texeira
 Executive Officer
 Contra Costa County LAFCO
 651 Pine Street, 6th Floor
 Martinez, CA 94553

Re: Kensington Fire Protection District Update

Dear Ms. Texeira,

Thank you for your email of July 22, 2010. The Kensington Fire Protection District is happy to provide the LAFCO Commission with an update on the District.

As noted in LAFCO's 2009 Fire and Emergency Medical Service Providers Municipal Service Review, the Kensington Fire Protection District continues to provide excellent fire and emergency medical service, is accountable to the Kensington community and creates many opportunities for public outreach, shares facilities and cooperates with other local Kensington agencies and like agencies within the County, all while remaining financially solvent.

Of the three governance alternatives identified in the MSR, it is feasible to have LAFCO amend KFPD's SOI to include the EBMUD reservoir; however, KFPD already serves the area in question through automatic mutual aid and service will not be affected with or without the SOI change. In addition, the LAFCO Commission should note that the reservoir property as identified is not solely in Contra Costa County but partially lays in Alameda County.

Regarding the option of consolidation with the Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District, and as clearly stated by KFPD in previous letters, no streamlining was identified by the LAFCO consultant in the MSR. It has been brought forward at several community meetings that consolidation would actually create far less representation for Kensington citizens within its local agencies, and nearly all public opinion received from our constituents did not favor this option. Also, as identified in the MSR, KPPCSD has resolved its financial challenges by passing a parcel tax measure on the June 8, 2010 ballot which is another indication of the Kensington voters' desire "in exercising greater control over the share of local property tax dollars..."*

Belinda Espinosa, City Manager, Pinole is the chair of the West County Technical Advisory Committee that is discussing regional issues within the fire service. We defer to Ms. Espinosa to report updates concerning this committee.

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Ms. Lou Ann Texeira
Contra Costa County LAFCO
July 30, 2010

Thank you very much for your attention. We look forward to seeing the Commission again in August.

Sincerely,

KENSINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Brenda J. Navellier
Administrator

- * Municipal Service Review: Fire and Emergency Medical Service Providers, Kensington Fire Protection District, Governance Alternatives

Contra Costa County



Fire Protection District

August 2, 2010

Ms. Lou Ann Texeira, Executive Officer
Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission
651 Pine Street
Martinez, CA 94553

Greetings Ms. Texeira:
Below is the current status of the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

- Currently developing FY-2010/2011 Budget. The budget will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on September 14th. There continues to be an imbalance between revenue and expenditures and the District is utilizing reserve funds to supplement revenue. The District continues to seek cost cutting efficiencies and manage limited resources.
- There continues to be the possibility of service reductions or “browning out” two and four (2 – 4) fire stations beginning during the FY-2010/2011 budget cycle depending on the outcome of the adopted budget.
- Conducting initial discussions with consultants to explore pursuing a parcel tax or benefit assessment tax in June of 2011 as well as other revenue enhancement initiatives.
- Working with the City of Pinole and the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District to explore the possibility of a JPA in the West County area.
- Reinitiating the strategic planning process in late-fall in order to conduct a SWOT analysis and determine priorities and a strategy for the future of the District.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Regards

Daryl L. Louder

Daryl L. Louder
Fire Chief

LAFCO
Update on Fire Service Study
August 11, 2010

The Technical Advisory Committee has met six (6) times now and has narrowed our focus of study to one primary topic: Pinole's long-term plan for delivery of fire service.

Status of Short-Term Issues

- Jim Parrott has returned as Pinole's Interim Chief while we finalize our analysis of long-term options.
- Chief Parrott is covering our Bat 7 command shifts, so the Battalion is not compromised.
- Fire Station 74 is browned-out ten (10) shifts each month, for the period of July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

Long-Term Options Under Analysis

- Contract for services with Con Fire. Pinole City Manager Belinda Espinosa sent a letter to Con Fire requesting to begin discussions on options for contracting for services, establishment of a JPA, or other service delivery models. Chief Parrott has had preliminary discussions with Assistant Chief Ross. We expect to engage in further discussions within the next few weeks.
- Contract for services with Cal Fire. Pinole City Manager Belinda Espinosa met with Cal Fire Chief Woodill to discuss possibly contracting with them for service. At this time that does not seem to be a viable alternative.
- RFP for Consultant Services. Pinole staff has prepared a draft RFP for consulting services. Other West County service providers have expressed some interest in participating in the analysis of options. We expect to have the RFP out by the August 11th LAFCO meeting.

Feasibility of Consolidation between Rodeo-Hercules Fire District, City of Pinole Fire and Contra Costa County Fire

- At this time, consideration of full consolidation between the three service providers does not appear to be of interest to all parties.

The West County Technical Advisory Committee had agreed to take a hiatus from the monthly meetings. We initiated the meetings again in June, but we will likely meet on an as-needed basis during the time the consultant is preparing his/her analysis.

We all recognize the importance of doing everything we can to maintain the Bat 7 relationship, and the coordination with other surrounding agencies. We continue to work together to retain the integrity of this system.