



Lou Ann Teixeira
Executive Officer

February 12, 2025

Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission
40 Muir Road, First Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

February 12, 2025
Agenda Item 5

Results of Protest Hearing

LAFCO 24-04 - Annexation of Rodeo Hercules Fire Protection District (RHFPD) to Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD) and Dissolution of RHFPD

Dear Commissioners:

The Rodeo Fire Protection District (RFD) was formed in 1937 (pre-LAFCO) as an independent fire district to serve the Rodeo community. In 1978, the City of Hercules was annexed to RFD, and the district became the Rodeo Hercules Fire Protection District (RHFPD). The RHFPD covers 32± square miles and includes the City of Hercules, the unincorporated Town of Rodeo community, and surrounding unincorporated areas. RHFPD is governed by a five-member elected board. The RHFPD serves a population of approximately 35,865 [*Data Analysis: Contra Costa County Department of Conservation & Development*].

RHFPD personnel includes 22 full-time and one part-time staff (presently unstaffed). RHFPD deploys its apparatus and personnel from two fire stations. RHFPD also provides code enforcement, fire inspections, plan reviews, fire cause investigations, and public education and prevention programs.

Regarding funding, RHFPD is a smaller district that has seen growth in property value with moderate increases in property tax revenue which are being outpaced by expenses, leaving a forecasted ongoing structural deficit in the near future. Property tax revenues are negatively impacted by the dissolution of redevelopment agencies and the continued property development within the City of Hercules Redevelopment Area. Measure O and the 1998 Benefit Assessment District funds will continue to be committed to funding services within the RHFPD service area following the recent annexation and dissolution.

Over the years, there were several studies and LAFCO Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) covering fire services. These studies concluded that RHFPD is not sustainable in the long term, and that annexation to CCCFPD is the preferred governance option as approved by the LAFCO Commissioners on December 11, 2024.

Following two LAFCO public hearings in November 2024 and December 2024, the LAFCO Commissioners unanimously approved the sphere of influence amendment and boundary reorganization, respectively. Subsequently, pursuant to the *Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000*, the LAFCO Executive Officer conducted a protest hearing, the purpose of which was to receive written protests from affected landowners/registered voters regarding the proposal and determine whether a majority protest exists. Following the protest hearing, written protests were to be counted.

The LAFCO Executive Officer reports that there were no verbal or written protests at the January 22, 2025 LAFCO protest hearing.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission receive the results of the protest hearing, find that there are insufficient protests to order an election or terminate the LAFCO proceedings, and order the annexation of RHFPD to CCCFPD and dissolution of RHFPD per the Executive Officer's Determination (attached).

Sincerely,

Lou Ann Texeira
Executive Officer

Attachment – Executive Officer's Determination

c: Distribution List

CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

DETERMINATION OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION FINDING THERE ARE INSUFFICIENT WRITTEN PROTESTS TO ORDER AN ELECTION OR TERMINATE THE PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO ANNEXATION OF RODEO HERCULES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (RHFPD) TO CONTRA COSTA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (CCCFPD) AND DISSOLUTION OF RHFPD (LAFCO 24-04)

1. This action is taken pursuant to the Cortese Knox Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act (Government Code §56000 et seq.) and policies of the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (hereafter Commission).

Proceedings for *annexation of RHFPD to CCCFPD and dissolution of RHFPD* were initiated by the *CCCFPD* and *RHFPD* Boards of Directors and filed with the Executive Officer of Contra Costa LAFCO on August 8, 2024. The reasons for the boundary reorganization and dissolution of RHFPD include the following:

- a) Enhance and expand fire and emergency medical services to the Rodeo Hercules area;
- b) Improve efficiency, effectiveness, and economy of fire protection services within the subject area; and
- c) Better meet the fire, rescue, and emergency medical service needs of the residents.

2. On December 11, 2024, the Commission adopted Resolution No. 24-04, making determinations and approving the annexation and dissolution subject to certain conditions.

3. Acting on delegated authority from State law and the Commission, the Executive Officer, on January 22, 2025, conducted a properly noticed public hearing to receive protests filed against the dissolution. Following the conclusion of the hearing, the Executive Officer found that no written protests were filed.

4. Finding there are insufficient protests to order an election or terminate the LAFCO proceedings, Contra Costa LAFCO hereby orders *annexation of RHFPD to CCCFPD and dissolution of RHFPD* subject to the terms and conditions contained in the Commission's resolution of approval, Resolution No. 24-04.

This order is made on and is effective as of February 12, 2025.

Lou Ann Texeira, Executive Officer
Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission