

YOLO
LOCAL
AGENCY
FORMATION
COMMISSION

Item 6-Supplemental 07.27.22



To: LAFCo

From: Christine Crawford

Re: Supplemental Correspondence Item 6 – Fire Protection Agencies MSR/SOI

Date: July 27, 2022

Attached is the correspondence received since the July 22 supplemental packet of correspondence.

<u>Author</u>	<u>Subject FPD</u>	<u>Dated</u>
Supervisor Jim Provenza	East Davis FPD	July 27, 2022

Staff would like to take the opportunity to clarify some of the points raised in the attached email:

- The Yolo County Board of Supervisors did not request this process. MSRs are undertaken by LAFCo per state law every 5 years. The BOS merely requested LAFCo (as an independent agency) prioritize this MSR above others. It would not be appropriate for LAFCo to exclude an agency from the MSR process.
- The East Davis FPD has not demonstrated specifically how the proposed reorganization would hurt the current district and its residents. As a dependent district to Yolo County, the Board of Supervisors will consider LAFCo's recommendations and determine how best to administer fire protection services to its constituents in the entire County.
- The MSR does not suggest past assessments raised by East Davis FPD will be used in other districts' territory. Staff agrees the assessments should be used in the area from which they were collected.
- The MSR does not suggest the City of Davis has expressed any dissatisfaction with the current FPD governance.
- The MSR does not imply City of Davis costs are too high. The only purpose of mentioning costs in the MSR is to point out each FPD is paying different costs for the same service (because each negotiate contracts in three different FPD silos).
- The MSR doesn't suggest the City of Davis should charge per response. In fact, it suggests contracts ideally should pass-through the FPD's revenues directly to the City to simplify the terms and administration.
- The email states the MSR suggests the District should pay the City to "calculate property values" and that the calculations are used to determine the costs East Davis FPD is charged for services. The MSR discussed having the District pay the City to work with the tax collector to ensure the placement of assessments on the property tax bill (the Assessor calculates property values). Further, the City of Davis's costs are allocated based on the assessed value of real property in the District, not additional property assessments.

COMMISSION
CHAIR
OLIN WOODS
Public Member

VICE CHAIR
NORMA ALCALA
Councilmember
City of West Sacramento

WADE COWAN
Mayor
City of Winters

GARY SANDY
Supervisor – 3rd District

DON SAYLOR
Supervisor – 2nd District

ALTERNATES
ANGEL BARAJAS
Supervisor – 5th District

RICHARD DELIBERTY
Public Member

GLORIA PARTIDA
Mayor
City of Davis

STAFF
CHRISTINE M. CRAWFORD, AICP
Executive Officer

TERRI TUCK
Administrative Specialist/Clerk

MARK KRUMMENACKER
Financial Analyst

COUNSEL
ERIC MAY

625 Court Street, Suite 107
Woodland CA 95695

(530) 666-8048
lafco@yolocounty.org

www.yololafco.org

- Staff disagrees the MSR fails to offer a credible argument that the East Davis FPD needs to be reorganized. Regardless, ultimately the Board of Supervisors will consider LAFCo's recommendations and decide whether it wants to request a reorganization.
- The MSR is an informational study that results in recommendations only. Consolidation of contract districts is not part of tomorrow's action before LAFCo and must follow a lengthy process. A comprehensive plan would be developed if and when a reorganization process is initiated. Therefore, any consolidation will not be considered until a future date.
- The Proposition 218 study currently being undertaken by Yolo County will not inform recommendations in the MSR on efficient forms of local government. On the contrary, the MSR may help inform the Proposition 218 study.

Christine Crawford

From: Jim Provenza
Sent: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 5:09 PM
To: Olin Woods; Olin Woods
Cc: Gerardo Pinedo; Christine Crawford
Subject: East Davis County Fire Protection District

Dear Olin,

I respectfully request that the MSR recommendation to consolidate EDCFPD with No Man's Land FPD and the southern portion of Springlake FPD either be rejected or set aside for future consideration.

The EDCFPD is a well-run district with an active and involved Board of Directors and no vacancies. There have been no complaints from East Davis district residents to the EDCFPD or to my office regarding service, cost or budget. For years, residents supported their 218 voting process to tax themselves to assure proper fire protection.

The Yolo County Board of Supervisors requested this process to help struggling fire districts that were coming to county for financial assistance. Consolidation makes sense for volunteer departments with overlapping jurisdictions and duplicative equipment in their fire stations. While I appreciate and supported evaluating and addressing issues related to districts with board vacancies and service and budget issues, I do not support consolidating this high functioning district with other contract districts at this time. I am willing, however, to offer the assistance of my office and staff to address any needs in the No Man's Land Fire District, as it is in my supervisorial district. To date, no assistance has been requested.

The proposed reorganization would hurt the **citizens, residents, and property owners** of the current district and would saddle a sustainably successful district and board with assuming the responsibility and duties of two other districts (not even in the same community) that are currently failing to meet revenue targets. This is wrong. I have the following additional concerns:

- The Davis Fire Department has not expressed any dissatisfaction with managing three contracts **and** the residents of the District have not expressed any dissatisfaction or confusion about their fire district, fire services provider, or their fire board. Normally changes are made in response to a problem or issues that need to be resolved. Here, we would risk unintended consequences without any tangible fire protection or economic benefit to the district.
- Because it is better run and more fiscally viable than the other fire districts, EDCFPD is able to better handle weed abatement, assist the Davis FD in fire prevention, proactively identify fire issues that are a threat to public safety, and assure that the district pays the appropriate amount to the City of Davis for fire protection services.
- The MSR implies that costs are too high compared to other Davis area fire districts by applying a faulty analysis unrelated to how fire departments work. It is true that the cost per response was higher last year than No Man's Land and Springlake. However, over the last three years, EDCFPD had the lowest cost per response one year, the second lowest another year and the highest in only one year. The cost

per response depends upon the number of fires and other calls for assistance. Fewer calls for assistance means a higher cost per response. It is entirely unrelated to the overall cost of fire services.

- No one knows when and where a fire might occur. It makes no sense to try to charge per response. This will vary from year to year and is not a fair measure of what it costs to maintain fire stations and other necessary infrastructure. Instead, the City of Davis charges based upon EDCFPD District's total assessed property valuation compared to the total assessed property valuation. In this way, EDCFPD residents are responsible for the same proportional costs as residents of the City of Davis. It is very fair.
- It was suggested that EDCFPD should pay the City of Davis to calculate property values to reduce the burden on the volunteer board members. However, since these calculations are used to determine the rates that EDCFPD is charged for fire services, this would eliminate a vital check and balance that could result in increased charges for services. The current approach is preferable.
- The MSR wrongly assumes that EDCFPD's fund balance is too high because it is not set at the "minimum recommended level". However, it is prudent for this well managed district to have a higher than minimum balance, particularly at a time when we are likely headed into a recession. The fund balance/reserve is set, by agreement with the City of Davis, at a level sufficient to operate the East Davis Fire station for one year should the city face an economic situation where they might be forced to close the station. My constituents pay about 70 cents a day in Prop 218 fees to the EDCFPD. They take fire protection seriously and are more than happy to pay this fee to guarantee the future viability of fire protection in their district.
- The MSR implies that the City of Davis has a problem because of multiple fire contracts for the three districts. It does not. Moreover, there is nothing to prevent the three Davis area districts from cooperating in negotiations with the city and other on matters of mutual concern. Consolidation is not necessary to achieve this result.
- EDCFPD funds were raised through a 218 assessment on their residents. The money cannot be used for residents of other districts. Consolidation will be of no advantage to them or EDCFPD. EDCFPD's volunteer board is in no position to run these other districts. Instead, No Man's Land, and possibly Springlake, should consider 218 actions of their own to contribute ongoing fiscal sustainability.
- My constituents like the EDCFPD and are proud of their 50 year successful effort to make it one of the best run and most fiscally sustainable fire districts in the county. They believe in the old adage that **if something isn't broke, you don't need to fix it.**
- The MSR/SOI Study fails to offer any conclusive evidence or credible argument that the East Davis Fire District needs to be reorganized and also fails to offer any sort of comprehensive plan for that reorganization. **In short, it is a solution in search of a problem.**

The East Davis County Fire Protection District board additionally stands ready to assist other districts with their 218 process and board governance as they move forward. Of course, my office and staff is happy to join county staff to assist in this effort.

While consolidation of districts with volunteer departments may be urgent, there is no pressing need to move ahead now on consolidations of districts with contract departments. At the very least, a recommendation on consolidations of contract districts should await the completion of the Prop 218 study currently being conducted by SEI Consultants.

I urge you to remove this proposal from the final adoption of the recommendations. Alternatively, consolidation of the contract districts should be deferred to a future date.

Supervisor Jim Provenza
Yolo County District 4

Jim Provenza

Yolo County Supervisor Jim Provenza
530 601 7843
jprovenza@yolocounty.org