

CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AD-HOC COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF SPECIAL LAFCO MEETING

October 7, 2009

County Administration Building, Room 101
Martinez, CA

1. Chair Helen Allen called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
2. Present were Fire Committee members Helen Allen, Chair, David Piepho, Vice Chair, and Martin McNair. Alternate Committee members Don Tatzin and Gayle Uilkema were present.

Present were Executive Officer Lou Ann Texeira, Legal Counsel Sharon Anderson, and Commission Clerk Kate Sibley.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Upon motion of Piepho, second by Uilkema, the agenda was adopted.

The chair welcomed visitors and asked the Executive Officer to make some opening comments, which focused on the summary of governance structure and SOI options for all fire service providers in Contra Costa County. The Executive Officer provided background on Fire Committee and Commission recommendations to date.

Belinda Espinosa City Manager of Pinole, reported that, at the request of the West County Mayors' Association, the West County city managers are developing recommendations for a working committee composed of city managers, fire chiefs, and representatives from union locals 1230 and 188. Once the Mayors' Association has approved this plan, the working committee will begin work and will report back to LAFCO.

Committee members expressed their hope that the West County plan would move forward quickly. The Committee discussed the pros, cons and complexities of a countywide approach, sub-regional approach, and the importance of consensus building. Further, on the importance of approving SOI updates and a prescribed timeline for this, the Executive Officer commented that while there was a statutory responsibility to complete the MSRs by January 1, 2008, there is no set deadline for updating SOIs.

In response to a question from Vincent Wells about the effects of LAFCO assigning a zero SOI to East Contra Costa FPD, Commissioner Piepho requested a flow chart laying out what would happen with a dissolution. The Executive Officer commented that such a flow chart would be difficult to develop given the numerous variables in such a process. She noted that there is a white paper, prepared by CALAFCO's law firm, that covers metamorphoses of special districts (i.e., consolidations, dissolutions, mergers, etc.); and that a flow chart could perhaps be done for a very specific example. Commissioner Piepho then requested that Staff prepare a document that describes in laymen's terms what power and options LAFCO has to make dissolutions happen.

A number of fire chiefs spoke encouraging the Committee to take care of the SOI clean-up options listed in the LAFCO Table of Governance Structure and SOI options.

The Committee agreed that their recommendations from this meeting would include SOI clean-ups.

Upon motion of Piepho, second by McNair, the Committee unanimously approved recommending items #1, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 22, and 58 for approval by the full Commission.

Further discussion took place regarding sub-regional meetings among parties in East County and West County, as well as a countywide workshop.

Upon motion of Piepho, second by Allen, the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the full Commission that LAFCO acknowledge the West County Mayors' Association plan for a working committee and request that this committee provide an update to the full Commission at the January 13, 2010 meeting.

Discussion followed regarding a similar motion for East County. Hugh Henderson, Acting Chief of ECCFPD, noted that he had attended a meeting among representatives of the two cities (Oakley and Brentwood) and the County to discuss changes in the board structure for ECCFPD.

Pinole Fire Captain offered comments relating to the historical, protracted discussions on the subject of fire consolidations.

Upon motion of Piepho, second by Allen, the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the full Commission that LAFCO acknowledge the East County ad-hoc committee and request that this committee provide an update to the full Commission at the January 13, 2010 meeting.

Discussion followed Commissioner Piepho's suggestion of a countywide workshop to explore consolidation. Ciara Wood, resident of Kensington, suggested that it would perhaps be more effective to wait until the sub-regional committees have had a chance to meet so that they will have something to report.

Upon motion of Piepho, second by Allen, the Committee approved a recommendation to the full Commission that LAFCO schedule a special workshop within 30-45 days to discuss possibilities of consolidation and funding of fire services throughout the County. Commissioner McNair voted against this recommendation.

Commissioner Uilkema requested committee action on an alternate proposal, that the workshop be held after the beginning of the year. That request failed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Final Minutes Approved by the Commission on November 18, 2009.

AYES: Allen, McNair, Meadows, M. Piepho, Schmidt, Schroder, Uilkema

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Glover (M)

By /s/ Lou Ann Teixeira
Executive Officer