



Lou Ann Texeira  
 Executive Officer

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October 11, 2017 (Agenda)

October 11, 2017  
 Agenda Item 7

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

**Fire and Emergency Medical Services Update**

Dear Members of the Commission:

**BACKGROUND**

In August 2016, the Commission approved its 2<sup>nd</sup> round Fire & Emergency Services (EMS) Municipal Service Review (MSR) which covered three cities and eight special districts. In conjunction with the MSR, the Commission updated the spheres of influence (SOIs) for five of the districts, and deferred SOI updates for three of the fire districts pending updates from the local agencies. The Commission also deferred SOI updates for the three cities covered in the EMS/Fire MSR pending completion of the upcoming cities/community services districts MSR (see summary table below).

Agency	Status of SOI Update
City of El Cerrito	Pending City MSR (2017-18)
City of Pinole	Pending City MSR (2017-18)
City of Richmond	Pending City MSR (2017-18)
County Service Area (CSA) EM-1	Retained existing SOI
Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD)	SOI update pending
Crockett Carquinez Fire Protection District (CCFPD)	SOI update pending
East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (ECCFPD)	Adopted provisional SOI
Kensington Fire Protection District (KFPD)	SOI update pending
Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD)	Retained existing SOI
Rodeo Hercules Fire District (RHFD)	Adopted provisional SOI
San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District (SRVFPD)	Retained existing SOI

LAFCO adopted provisional SOIs for ECCFPD and RHFD pending various issues and concerns identified in the MSR, noting that both districts face ongoing fiscal and service challenges. LAFCO also deferred SOI updates for CCCFPD, CCFPD and KFPD pending an update from the West County fire service providers on collaborative fire/EMS efforts in West County. The MSR

noted that there were opportunities in West County to develop and implement a West County standards of cover study, apply for grants, refine operational practices, and develop cooperative agreements to improve services through collaborative efforts. The Commission requested that these updates be provided within six months of completion of the MSR.

**DISCUSSION:** In March 2017, the Commission received updates from ECCFPD, CCCFPD, City of El Cerrito, and KFPD. The Commission requested further updates in the fall, and asked that an elected member of each agency, along with the Fire Chief, participate in the next update.

Following the March LAFCO meeting, and again in early September, LAFCO staff communicated with the fire/EMS providers and their elected officials regarding the requested updates, and invited each Fire Chief and a member of their elected body to provide updates (e.g., written, verbal) and attend the LAFCO meeting on October 11, 2017.

To date, LAFCO has received written updates from CCCFPD, CSA EM-1 and ECCFPD. The CCCFPD report provides updates on coordination and collaborative efforts in West County and on various other activities within the District's service area (Attachment 1). The CSA EM-1 report provides an update on the success of the partnership to provide ambulance services in Contra Costa County (Attachment 2). The ECCFPD report provides updates on District governance and the upcoming shift to a directly elected Board of Directors, and the status of fire stations, staffing and finances (Attachment 3). Also, the Pinole City Manager has advised LAFCO that Scott Kouns will start as the new Fire Chief on October 9<sup>th</sup>; the City will provide additional information at the LAFCO meeting. We thank these agencies for their written updates and anticipate the other agencies will provide verbal updates at the LAFCO meeting on October 11, 2017.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** Receive updates and provide input and direction.

Sincerely,

LOU ANN TEXEIRA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Attachments

1. Update from CCCFPD
2. Update from CSA EM-1
3. Update from ECCFPD

c: Distribution

**Contra Costa County****Fire Protection District**

September 19, 2017

Lou Ann Texeira, Executive Officer  
Contra Costa County LAFCO  
651 Pine Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Martinez, CA 94553

**RE: Fire District Update**

Dear Ms. Texeira:

In West County, our proposal to provide fire management to the City of Pinole and the Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District (RHFD) failed in the eleventh hour. Unfortunately, after they were successful in obtaining a parcel tax, the RHFD board chose not to utilize our services. Providing services to only the City of Pinole was not financially feasible, and the proposal was abandoned.

We continue to explore opportunities with Pinole Fire and Rodeo-Hercules Fire related to joint training, purchasing, and fire prevention. However, at this time, nothing is in contract.

With regard to a Standards of Cover study, as addressed in the MSR, there has been no movement on that issue. Contracting for a study is costly, and no one has the extra funding required to enter into such an agreement.

We continue to make progress on the rebuild and relocate of Fire Station 70 in San Pablo. We have completed the CEQA process, and it was recently accepted by our Board. We hope to break ground in Q1 2018.

In East County, we renegotiated an automatic-aid agreement with the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District after they reduced their station number to three. We are approximately 45 days into this new agreement, and we are still analyzing the numbers to make sure the arrangement remains as equal as possible.

In Central County, we continue the process to rebuild Fire Station 16 in Lafayette. Station 16 was closed in 2012 and was red-tagged due to structural deficiencies caused by an earthquake. The salary costs for reopening the station have been added to our FY 18/19 budget. The District is close to going to bid and receiving a building permit, and we hope to break ground by January 1, 2018.

The ambulance program has been a great success. We have added additional ambulances and reduced response times in most areas by two to three minutes. Our fracture performance runs between 96-97% which is well above the 90% requirement.

Two stations and three companies will remain closed after Station 16 reopens next year – Station 4 in downtown Walnut Creek, Station 12 in Martinez, and Engine 1 in Walnut Creek. We have requested a FEMA grant to reopen Engine 1 (entails adding a second company in Fire Station 1). By the end of September, we will know whether or not we received the grant. If we do not, the reopening of this company will be our top priority, as the budget permits. Stations 4 and 12 are lower priorities for us as their closures did not significantly degrade performance. We will undertake a study this year to determine our next priorities after reopening Engine 1. This study will determine whether we open one of our closed stations or add a second company at one or more of our busier fire stations.

The District continues to make strides both financially and with regard to staffing. For the population we serve and the call volume we experience, we continue to be both busy and understaffed.

Sincerely,



Jeff Carman  
Fire Chief



**County of Contra Costa  
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES  
Memorandum**

**DATE:** September 28, 2017

**To:** Lou Ann Texeira, Executive Officer LAFCO

**FROM:** Patricia Frost, EMS Director 

**SUBJECT:** **LAFCO EMS/Fire Service Update**

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On January 2016 the Contra Costa Fire Protection District in partnership with legacy private ambulance provider American Medical Response, assumed emergency ambulance services for the Exclusive Operating Areas covering West, Central and East County under a first of its kind ambulance service delivery model known as the "Alliance".

The Alliance has been highly successful in improving ambulance response times in all communities including reducing the incidence of excessive delays in ambulance response.

- 2017 Compliance Summary: <http://cchealth.org/ems/pdf/websummary-ccfd-2017.pdf>
- 2016 Compliance Summary: <http://cchealth.org/ems/pdf/websummary-ccfd-2016.pdf>

Countywide EMS System performance is detailed in the recently published Contra Costa Emergency Medical Services 2016 EMS System Performance Report posted at: <http://cchealth.org/ems/pdf/annual-report-2016.pdf>.

Modifications to the new performance-based emergency ambulance contract were based on the findings of the publically vetted June 2014 EMS System Modernization Study posted at: <http://cchealth.org/ems/pdf/2014-EMS-System-Modernization-Study.pdf>. Under the terms of the current contract the Board of Supervisors is provided flexibility in adjusting response times and response areas to support efficiencies over the duration of the contract period.

Under the new ambulance service delivery model the Alliance and EMS Agency is actively engaged to enhance the Countywide EMS System through improved integration between the prehospital and health care community in the areas of bi-directional health

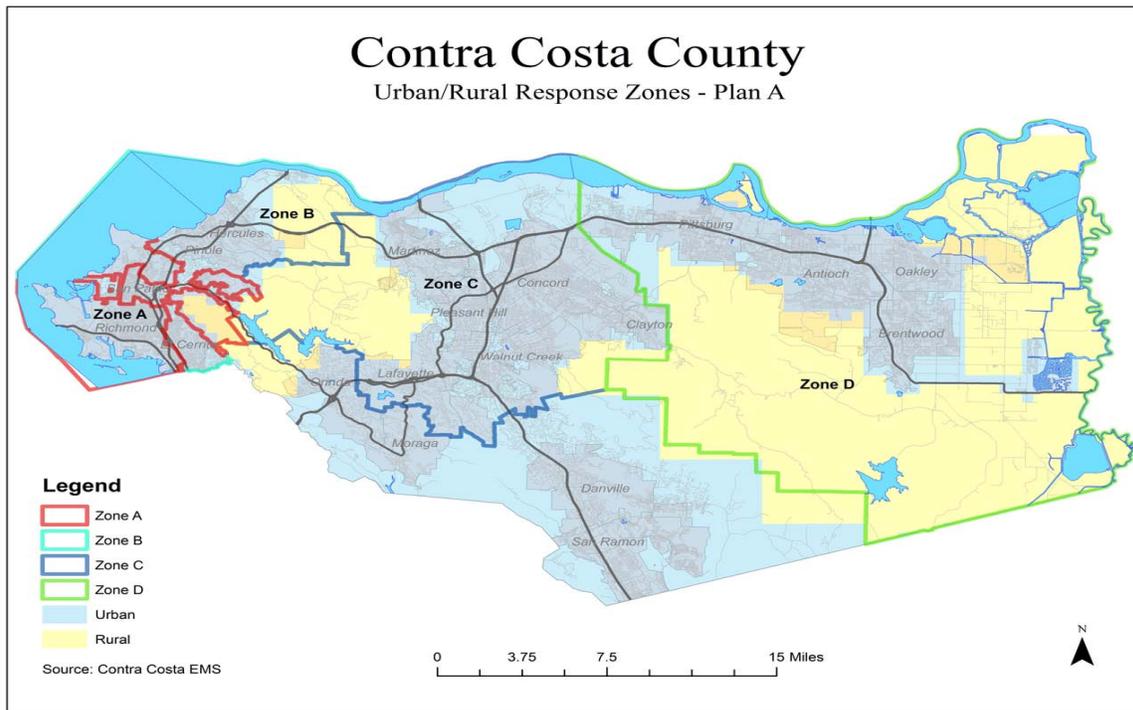
information exchange with hospitals such as the POLST (Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment) project <http://www.chcf.org/media/press-releases/2016/polst-registry>. New behavioral health and 5150 patient care initiatives that included EMS are also moving forward. See the report from February 22, 2017 5150 Summit at <http://cchealth.org/ems/pdf/AAR-5150-Summit.pdf>.

The response areas and times are illustrated below:

AMBULANCE EMERGENCY RESPONSE ZONE (ERZ)		RESPONSE TIME REQUIREMENTS BY MINUTES AND RESPONSE PERCENT <sup>1</sup>		
ERZ Provider	Geographic Area	High Density	Low Density	Response %
ERZ A (AMR)	City of Richmond	10:00	20:00	90%
ERZ B (AMR)	West County (non-Richmond)	11:45	20:00	90%
ERZ C (AMR)	Central County	11:45	20:00	90%
ERZ D (AMR)	East Contra Costa County	11:45 16:45 (in Bethel Island)	20:00	90%
ERZ Moraga Orinda	Moraga Orinda Fire Protection District <sup>2</sup>	11:59	20:00	90%
ERZ San Ramon	San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District <sup>2</sup>	10:00	20:00	95%

Source: Contra Costa EMS Agency Verified Provider Dispatch Data

<sup>1</sup> Current ambulance response performance requirements for the contracted ambulance provider  
<sup>2</sup> A fire protection district provides emergency ambulance service in this zone. A fire district board is the local authority for establishing response requirements in this service area.



Summary: The new service delivery model has provided a significant number of benefits to the community and EMS System at large. Over the duration of the contract there is the potential to dramatically improve care for patients, their families and their communities through improved coordination of services provided by EMS and health care providers.

***EAST CONTRA COSTA*** FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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**MEMO**

**TO:** Lou Ann Texeira, Executive Officer Contra Costa LAFCO

**FROM:** Brian Helmick, Interim Fire Chief

**DATE:** October 01, 2017

**SUBJECT:** East Contra Costa Fire Protection District's Update

This memo is to meet the LAFCO Executive Director request for an update on the District.

**Elected Board**

The District's Board of Directors placed Measure N on the November, 2016 ballot to allow the voters to determine whether the District should have an elected Board, rather than a Board appointed by the County Board of Supervisors and the City Councils of the cities of Brentwood and Oakley. That measure passed.

In February 2017, the Board of Directors adopted resolution 2017-03 calling for the first election of District directors to be consolidated with the Statewide General Election in each even year beginning on November 6, 2018. This move was proposed to save the District from having to hold its own election, at a cost of approximately \$300,000.00, each election cycle. The County subsequently approved the District's request.

At its October 02, 2017 meeting, the District's Board of Directors will discuss a plan to reduce the size of the Board from 9 directors to 5, and possibly to use electoral divisions rather than at-large elections, in preparation for the first Board election in November 2018.

**Stations & Staffing**

From May 2015 through June 30, 2017, the District operated a 4<sup>th</sup> station using one-time monies contributed by the cities of Brentwood and Oakley as well as Contra Costa County. This temporary funding ran out June 30, 2017.

On July 01, 2017, the District closed Station 94 (Knightsen) and converted to operating with three stations.

The District's current and projected revenues cannot fund a 4<sup>th</sup> station. The District's current three-station model does not adequately serve and protect the jurisdiction as defined in the District's Master Plan. With that said, as a three-station rural operation, the District is in sound financial condition for the next 10 years and is meeting all financial and organizational reserve obligations.

Next Steps: *Develop long-range strategic and funding plan*

The District has stabilized the District's operations at three stations with 10-year financial stability. Starting in January 2018, the District's next steps are to develop a strategic and funding plan to implement the recommendations contained in the Master Plan produced by City Gate, explore funding options, and engage and educate the community. The funding plan will consider all options including Development Impact Fees, Special Taxes (including Utility User Taxes and Parcel Taxes), CFD's, Benefit Assessments, etc.

### **Office of the Fire Chief**

The Board of Directors appointed an Interim Fire Chief on March 31, 2017 to serve the District from April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018. The Board of Directors will report at either the October or November meeting on its plans for filling the Fire Chief position on a permanent basis.