



CONTRA COSTA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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Lou Ann Teixeira
Executive Officer

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November 8, 2017 (Agenda)

November 8, 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:

This item was continued from the October 11, 2017 LAFCO meeting due to fire activities in the North Bay.

BACKGROUND

In August 2016, the Commission approved its 2nd 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 (CCCYPD)	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 CCCYPD, 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, ECCFPD and RHFD. 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). The RHFD report provides updates on the District's successful 2016 ballot measure, completion of a fiscal analysis and stabilization report and on collaborative efforts with other local agencies (Attachment 4). The Pinole City Manager advised LAFCO that Scott Kouns started as the new Fire Chief on October 9th; 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 November 8, 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
4. Update from RHFD

c: Distribution

Contra Costa County**Fire Protection District**

September 19, 2017

Lou Ann Texeira, Executive Officer
Contra Costa County LAFCO
651 Pine Street, 6th 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.

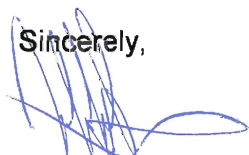
In Central County, we continue the process to rebuild Fire Station 16 in Lafayette. Station 16 was closed in 2012 and was red-tagged due to structural deficiencies caused by an earthquake. The salary costs for reopening the station have been added to our FY 18/19 budget. The District is close to going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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Carman', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.


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

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>.

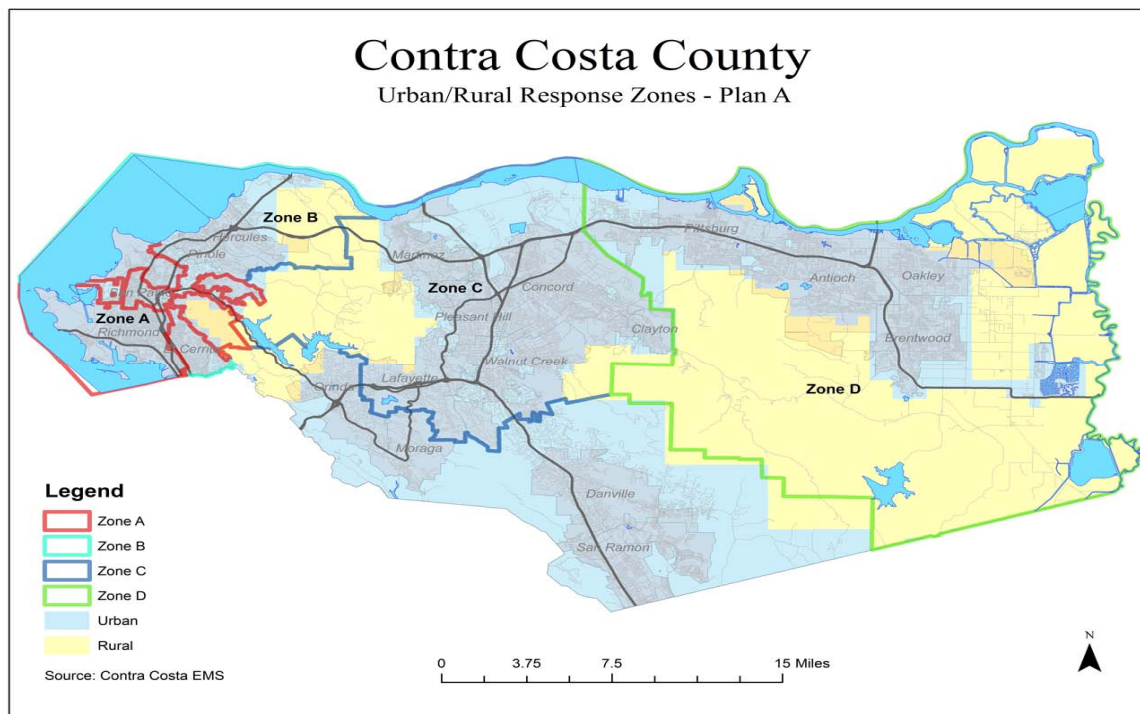
The response areas and times are illustrated below:

AMBULANCE EMERGENCY RESPONSE ZONE (ERZ)		RESPONSE TIME REQUIREMENTS BY MINUTES AND RESPONSE PERCENT ¹		
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 ²	11:59	20:00	90%
ERZ San Ramon	San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District ²	10:00	20:00	95%

Source: Contra Costa EMS Agency Verified Provider Dispatch Data

¹ Current ambulance response performance requirements for the contracted ambulance provider

² 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

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 4th 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.

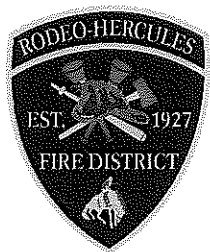
The District's current and projected revenues cannot fund a 4th station. The District's current three-station model does not adequately serve and protect the jurisdiction as defined in the District's Master Plan. With that said, as a three-station rural operation, the District is in sound financial condition 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.



RODEO - HERCULES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
1680 REFUGIO VALLEY ROAD, HERCULES, CALIFORNIA 94547
(510) 799-4561 • FAX: (510) 799-0395

October 8, 2017

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

RE: Rodeo – Hercules Fire Protection District Update

Dear Ms. Texeira:

In 2016, facing the loss of over \$2 Million in revenue, which would have resulted in the closure of one of the District's two Fire Stations and the possible layoff of firefighters, the Fire District Board of Directors placed Measure O on the November Ballot. This successful ballot measure resulted in replenishing the lost funding, thereby averting station closure and allowing the Fire District to return to full staffing. Even with this funding, the Fire District still continues to struggle, due to the loss of Redevelopment Funds to the City of Hercules.

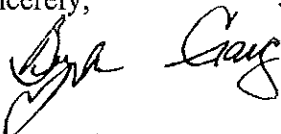
To reduce costs, staff recommend to the Rodeo - Hercules Board of Directors to explore an Administrative service agreement with Contra Costa County Fire Protection District and the City of Pinole. By entering into this agreement, the District would further align itself with CCCFPD allowing the Fire District to continue to provide superior emergency services to our community, and the utmost safety to its membership. This agreement would have allowed seamless auto and mutual aid, and the full depth of CCCFPD resources providing an umbrella of protection we alone struggle to provide. After months of negotiations, the Fire District Board of Directors voted not to allocate funding for the service agreement.

We have joined with Pinole Fire Department and East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District in applying and receiving a \$480,000 regional grant from FEMA for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. We are also members of a County Grant Committee for better communication on grant applications, and to reduce duplication of efforts.

The District has also entered into talks with the major Developer in the City of Hercules to establish a Community Facilities District for the construction of a new Fire Station. Over the next 5 years, multiple high density apartment projects have been approved for the City of Hercules that will stretch our resources, and provide little additional funding. We have completed an engineer's report that recommends raising our Developer Impact Fees that will be brought before the Board of Directors at the next Regular Board Meeting.

The District completed a Fiscal Analysis and Stabilization Report and has implemented several of the report's recommendations that have resulted in a complete overhaul of the District's accounting system and transmittal interface with the County Finance system. The District will continue to use the report as a guide to achieving more efficiency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Craig", written over a horizontal line.

Bryan Craig
Interim Fire Chief