

# Planning for Sustainable Fire Services

## RLCSD and STVFD

**Tuesday, March 29, 2022 -- 1:00 p.m.**

*Mad River Community Hall, 591 Van Duzen Rd*

**Goal of the Overall Process/Long-term Goal:** Sustain an adequate and affordable level of year-round community fire and rescue services for the focus area that is supported by all recipients

**Meeting Purpose:**

- Provide an overview of current fire and rescue services and the current support structure for those services
- Discuss role of LAFCo and the Municipal Services Review and Sphere of Influence Update (MSR/SOI Update) being prepared for RLCSD

**Meeting Objectives/Desired Outcomes:**

- “Get on the same page”, so to speak, about what the challenges are
- Increase awareness of one another’s perspectives
- Begin to consider opportunities for long-term solutions to identified problems

**Agenda:**

What	How
Welcome and Review Agenda	<p><b>Colette:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome and Introductions</li> <li>• Review meeting purpose, desired outcomes, and agenda</li> <li>• Check for agenda modification suggestions and agreement</li> </ul> <p>Attendees: STVFD            Darroll Meyer            Doug Dinsmore (707-499-8485)            Gene Lombardo            Rus Brown            Ken Richardson            Dan Frasier            Mike Frasier            Nick Erikson</p> <p>Attendees: RLCSD            Debbie Sellman            Susan Gordon</p>

	<p>Brian Nicolson  Ed Johnson  Jordan Emery, Chairman  Caitlin Canale, District Manager  Cindy Lofthouse, Board Secretary</p>
<p>Building Collective Understanding</p>	<p><b>All (facilitated by Colette):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Round robin discussion</li> <li>• Sharing topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What are you experiencing related to fire services for the area?</li> <li>○ What do you think is working well?</li> <li>○ Where do you see room for improvement/or what is needed?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Notes:</p> <p><u>Working well</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good communication between both Boards. Currently Ad Hoc meets as needed.</li> <li>• STVFD has no long term debt. New station built in 1997 (need to confirm year).</li> <li>• RLCSD Board is receptive to supporting the fire department, providing annual donations when capable to do so, and acknowledging mutual benefits.</li> </ul> <p><u>Challenges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disconnect between boards regarding “obligation” or “responsibility” for providing and funding fire protection.</li> <li>• STVFD doesn’t have sufficient funding to purchase new/used equipment. Only has available funds to cover base operational expenses.</li> <li>• RLCSD can’t always fund full amount STVFD budget needs from the District’s enterprise revenue sources.</li> <li>• Missing history of reasons behind “separation” of STVFD and RLCSD. STVFD formed 501c(3) in order to retain ownership of station property and during that same time likely wanted full control of finances and administration.</li> <li>• Recreational users don’t pay fair share for emergency services. Discussed countywide sales tax as a way to generate revenue from non-residents, with recognition this would have to be levied by the County.</li> <li>• Tax exempt federal lands in RLCSD boundary makes levying a special tax difficult.</li> <li>• Response area of Kettenpom VFD overlap with RLCSD boundaries.</li> <li>• Response area of STVFD extends to Larabee Valley as midpoint between Bridgeville.</li> </ul>

<p>Overview of LAFCo and MSR/SOI update</p>	<p><b>Colette:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide overview of the Draft RLCSO MSR/SOI Update</li> <li>• Review Sphere of Influence options</li> <li>• Discuss timeline and next steps</li> </ul> <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussed SOI for RLCSO; discussed making SOI coterminous apart from excluding the response area of Kettenpom VFD.</li> <li>• Next LAFCo meeting April 19; will be taking final draft MSR/SOI Update for commission approval.</li> </ul>
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p><b>All:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify next steps: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Schedule follow-up working sessions</li> <li>○ Identify objectives for next working sessions</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Notes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Send revised MSR/SOI Update to both Boards for review prior to April 19<sup>th</sup> LAFCo meeting. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Include additional information regarding history of separation</li> <li>b. Include relevant information from STVFD annual report (obtained copy at meeting)</li> <li>c. Make SOI revisions to be coterminous apart from Kettenpom response area; document response area extending to Larabee Valley for STVFD.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Obtain secured and unsecured tax roll from Assessor and analyze taxable parcels.</li> <li>3. Determine whether Special Tax is feasible and report on next steps <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Research whether establishing a RLCSO "service zone" for purposes of establishing a special tax to exclude the Kettenpom VFD response area is feasible.</li> <li>b. Determine form of future agreement between RLCSO and STVFD for administrative and operational functions. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Special Tax levied by RLCSO; budgeted expenditures to STVFD by contract or agreement?</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<p>Closing</p>	<p><b>Colette:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recap meeting</li> <li>• Review follow-up tasks</li> <li>• Did we achieve our desired outcomes?</li> </ul> <p><b>All:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss and agree on next steps</li> <li>• Commit to follow-up tasks</li> </ul> <p>Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May 24 at 1:00 pm.</li> </ul>