

Planning for Sustainable Fire Services

RLCSD and STVFD

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 -- 1:00 p.m.

Mad River Community Hall, 591 Van Duzen Rd

Goal of the Overall Process/Long-term Goal: Sustain an adequate level of year-round community fire and rescue services for the focus area, funded through an ongoing revenue source that is supported by all recipients

Meeting Purpose:

- Continue to discuss current fire and rescue services and the current support structure for those services

Meeting Objectives/Desired Outcomes:

- “Get on the same page”, so to speak, about what the roles, responsibilities, and 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>Colette:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and quick introductions• Review meeting purpose, desired outcomes, and agenda• Check for agenda modification suggestions and agreement <p><u>Attendees:</u> Colette Santsche, Trinity LAFCo Executive Officer John Miller, Planwest Partners</p> <table><tr><td><u>STVFD:</u> Darroll Meyer Doug Dinsmore Gene Lombardo Kim Richardson Mike Frasier Nick Erikson</td><td><u>RLCSD:</u> Susan Gordon Brian Nicolson Jordan Emery, Chair Caitlin Canale, District Manager Cindy Lofthouse, Board Secretary</td></tr></table>	<u>STVFD:</u> Darroll Meyer Doug Dinsmore Gene Lombardo Kim Richardson Mike Frasier Nick Erikson	<u>RLCSD:</u> Susan Gordon Brian Nicolson Jordan Emery, Chair Caitlin Canale, District Manager Cindy Lofthouse, Board Secretary
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General Updates & Announcements	<p>All:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RLCSD MSR/SOI Update - adopted by LAFCo on April 19th • Other announcements? - none
New Funding Measure	<p>Colette/John:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review parcel summary handout • Review special tax process • Discuss feasibility and next steps <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colette and John reviewed parcel summary handout (attached), which provides two common scenarios including 1) a flat charge applied to all parcels, and 2) a charge differentiating improved vs. unimproved parcels. • Discussed process to levy a Special Tax, including 2/3rds voter approval at a general or special election. If passed, the Special Tax would be annually collected on the property tax bill. Discussed possible contiguous parcel exemption to treat multiple undeveloped parcels under same ownership as one parcel. • Discussed importance of developing an operational budget for the department that addresses service needs, administrative capacity, and facilities over the long term and understanding what revenue is needed to sustain these improvements. • Discussed other funding sources, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Impact Fees – charged to new development; can only be used to fund new facilities and equipment costs. ○ Sales Tax – would require the County to levy a countywide public safety sales tax and agree to pass funds to fire departments on an annual basis. Discussed role of Trinity County Fire Chiefs Association as appropriate entity to receive funds and distribute to departments (similar to Humboldt County). ○ Insurance/fire recovery – currently implemented by STVFD; has its challenges relative to billing and payment. ○ HBMWD – currently has funds set aside for public safety/law enforcement; could be reallocated to fire protection/EMS? ○ Special Assessment – requires majority landowner approval; could be levied on HBMWD owned lands if they are supportive.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prop 172 – half cent state sales tax allocated to cities and counties to mitigate impacts of ERAF property tax shifts on public safety services. Discussed Trinity County Fire Chiefs Association being appropriate entity to advocate for an increase fire district’ share of Prop 172 revenue.
RLCSD/STVFD Structure moving forward	<p>Colette/All:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider past, present, and future roles • Identify expectations, challenges, and opportunities for working together • Discuss structure for both entities moving forward <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed relationship between RLCSD and STVFD, including determining the responsibility/obligation for providing fire services by the district. • Colette and John reviewed common roles/relationships between fire related districts (FPDs or CSDs) and departments (501c3 or c4). While the relationship varies by district, commonly fire related districts are responsible for adopting an annual budget for fire services and pays such costs as workers comp, fuel, training, equipment, and maintenance. Departments on the other hand are more focused on supporting its membership, including fundraising, dinners, and events for volunteers, with any large equipment purchases being donated to the district. • Discussed existing contract between RLCSD and STVFD and whether Public Contracting Code is limited to agency to agency contracting.
Next Steps	<p>All:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify next steps: • Schedule follow-up working sessions • Identify objectives for next working sessions <p>Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Boards agreed to submit a written request to County Counsel to review the existing Contract between STVFD and RLCSD to determine both entity’s responsibility and obligation to provide and fund fire services. • Next joint meeting will be scheduled once a response is received.

Closing	<p>Colette:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recap meeting• Review follow-up tasks• Did we achieve our desired outcomes? <p>All:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss and agree on next steps• Commit to follow-up tasks
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Thanks!!