

Local Emergency Services Study Group - Update

This brief is being provided to inform the board, staff, and public of the details of an agenda item that requires no action from the board. The President of the Board will provide board members, staff, and the public the opportunity to ask questions about this topic when this agenda item is announced.

Date: May 11, 2022

Originator: Cary Curtis

Agenda Topic Title: Local Emergency Services Group (LESSG)

Purpose of Brief: Update of activities and progress made by LESSG in their work to create a new fire district serving portions of Eastern Plumas County, including, the Nakoma Community.

Supporting Documents Included: No

1. **Agenda Topic Brief or Update:**

The Fire Study Group last met on April 26, 2022.

Updates since the last GMCSO board brief on March 18, 2022:

- a) **On April 26, 2022**, the Study Group met with consultants from Plan West to review the first draft of financials that the four agencies combined would bring in support of the new fire district. The initial review looks promising that with the passing of a parcel tax on all parcels within the boundaries of the new district that the effort to create better and sustainable fire and emergency services is very viable. At this meeting, it was discussed that next steps are to evaluate the most equitable plan for how a new parcel tax would be assessed. Criteria includes, type and use of parcels, size of dwellings(s), and risk associated with parcel use and purpose. Rich McLaughlin has been providing detail to the consultants of the type and use of certain parcels in the Nakoma Community and how our existing fire tax is charged and collected on non-residential parcels. Additional discussion with supporting data related to the new parcel tax will be had.

2. **Anticipated Impacts to the District - (Consider financial impact, change in procedures, customer, and staff communication):**

It is anticipated that this first phase of the consultant's work will be completed Spring of 2022. Next steps are to then partner in the development of a communication plan that will begin to inform constituents and provide specifics of financial impacts. A new parcel tax will require a ballot measure and it is possible that could occur Spring of 2023.

The formation of a new fire district that encompasses the Nakoma Community means that GMCSO will relinquish their responsibilities to provide fire protection and emergency services. This will impact the CSD's current Special Fire Tax as one of the purposes of the Special Fire Tax is to provide the financial means to pay for fire and emergency

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services. Gordon Bennie is leading an effort to study these impacts and will be providing more detail to the board.

3. **Anticipated Impacts to the Customer – Standby, Residential, Commercial:**

Once a communications plan is developed, customers and owners will be invited to hear more about the formation of the new fire district. Forums and town hall meetings are being discussed.

4. **Next Steps for this Topic:**

- a) Determine how a new parcel tax will be applied to all parcels in the new fire district
- b) Study Group to support development of a communications plan
- c) Feasibility Study results early spring 2022
- d) Ballot measure, possibly Spring of 2023