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:** March 18, 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**

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

The Fire Study Group last met on March 8, 2022.

Updates since the last GMCSD board brief on Jan. 21, 2022:

1. At the Group’s March 8th meeting, the consulting firm, PlanWest, shared a “work in progress” spreadsheet of current revenue received for the four agencies broken down by special tax, property tax sharing, strike team income, and current budget that will carry forward to the newly formed fire district. This effort is driving toward determining how best to apply a parcel tax for all parcels in the new district that are categorized by parcel use and designation. The proposed parcel tax captures all parcels within the boundaries of the new fire district, including those that currently are outside a fire protection district but receive services at no charge.
2. A draft organizational chart for the new fire district has been developed to assist with determining placement of divisions and dedicated staffing. In the proposed org chart draft, a “Gold Mountain Division” has been identified. This is not a concrete determination but a start to what might be implemented.
3. The cost to complete the first phase of delivering the results of the study is $30,000. This is in line with initial estimates by the Group.
4. Based on a positive outcome of the study, additional expenses are expected covering outreach, communications and LAFCo process fees. Additional fees will be assessed by the County. The four agencies have committed to $56,000 for the needed work by the consultant. It is likely that the four agencies involved will have additional expenses for Phase II that will need to be funded.
5. Completion of the feasibility study is anticipated to be spring 2022. This is when the Study Group, participating agency boards and city council will know if the effort to create one new fire services district in Eastern Plumas County serving the geographical boundaries of all four agencies is a positive path forward.
6. On March 18th, members of the group, including Cary Curtis and Rich McLaughlin met with Dan West, Trey West, and Chief Ward to review proposed boundaries where Graeagle Land and Water parcels abut to the southwest side of the Nakoma Community. An agreement was made that preserves GL&W parcels under the protection of Graeagle Fire. This meeting also resulted in a referral to a former Graeagle Fire board member who has done extensive work on tax sharing agreements while on the Plumas board of supervisors. This meeting attended by Rich McLaughlin resulted in a partnership with the former supervisor to engage Jeff Engel, District 5 supervisor in the work underway by the Group. The Nakoma community is in District 5.
7. **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 GMCSD 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 services. Gordon Bennie is leading an effort to study these impacts and will be providing more detail to the board.

1. **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 a new fire district. Forums and town hall meetings are being discussed.

1. **Next Steps for this Topic**:
2. Study Group to support development of a communications plan
3. Feasibility Study results early spring 2022
4. Ballot measure, possibly Spring of 2023