

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: December 1, 2020

Originator: Cary Curtis

Agenda Topic Title: Local Emergency Services Study Group

Purpose of Brief: To provide the latest status of Study Group work underway

Supporting Documents Included: NO

1. **Agenda Topic Brief or Update:** Background: Last Study Group update was the November 6, 2020 GMCS D Special Meeting where the board voted unanimously to accept the Study Group's recommendation to:
 - (a) collapse fire and emergency services for participating agencies and pursue the creation of one new fire district serving Eastern Plumas County and
 - (b) to allocate staff time to update the District's Municipal Service Report (MSR).

Of the six agencies participating, five agency boards agreed to move forward with the Study Group's recommendations. At the Group's Nov. 10th meeting, Sierra Valley Fire expressed their desire to possibly step away from the Group, however, a formal notice to the Study Group has not yet been received expressing this desire. The leadership of the Study Group has reached out to the Sierra Valley Fire board to answer questions they may have before making their decision formal. At their last meeting, the Study Group agreed to do as much of the legwork as possible before engaging a consultant to help the Group develop a feasibility study for a one new fire agency approach. Engaging a consultant is expected to be in the \$30,000 – 50,000 range. Although it has been discussed, the Group has not yet determined how the cost for a consultant will be split amongst the agencies. It is known that there is a vast difference in revenue between the agencies and that could be a driver for how the cost is shared.

On Nov. 16th, the Group's leadership team met with County Counsel Craig Settlemire and County Administrator Gabriel Hydrick to discuss if and how the county might support the formation of a new Fire District. Discussion revolved around an increase in county sales tax that would be earmarked for all fire agencies in the county, a special tax imposed on constituents within the new district and county property tax sharing options. Both County Counsel and Administrator were supportive of the Group's effort and believe for sustainability for fire and emergency services that it is the right approach.

2. **Anticipated Impacts to the District - (Consider financial impact, change in procedures, customer, and staff communication):** There is no impact to the District currently, except for staff time in updating the MSR. However, once the Group recommends how the cost for a consultant will be shared, it will be brought back to GMCS D board for their review and decision.

3. **Anticipated Impacts to the Customer – Standby, Residential, Commercial:**
None currently.

4. **Next Steps for this Topic:**
Updates will be provided at GMCS D board meetings.