

## OLYMPIC VALLEY PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICT



## FIRE DEPARTMENT LONG-TERM MODELING

DATE: May 28, 2024

- TO: District Board Members
- FROM: Brad Chisholm, Fire Chief
- **SUBJECT**: Fire Department Long-Term Analysis
- **BACKGROUND**: Staff have been analyzing the Fire Department financials to identify viable revenue streams and minimize expenses, aiming to fund current and future demands and opportunities. This initiative is closely tied to the upcoming strategic plan project where determining how to support the Fire Department will be critical. Key areas of focus within the fiscal analysis include meeting anticipated demands resulting from MOU negotiations (competitive wages and benefits), appropriate staffing for the Fire Department (including the addition of a dedicated Fire Prevention Officer) and ensuring we can sustain our fuels management program. Staff are considering a range of funding sources to achieve these objectives, including but not limited to traditional fundraising, cost recovery, cost sharing, in-kind donations, fee for service, expanding services, tax assessment, and consolidation/annexation. This comprehensive approach ensures a thorough exploration of various funding possibilities, and we remain open to considering other innovative solutions that may arise during our analysis.
- **DISCUSSION:** Chief Chisholm, Dave Hunt, and Gary Bell (remote) met with Michelle McIntyre, Executive Officer, and Josh Alpine, Commissioner, from Placer County LAFCO to provide information to staff regarding LAFCO, and what is involved in a merger process. Staff was provided with an explanation of the various options, including a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), consolidation, contract, and annexation. Like Gary Bell, LAFCO members described annexation as the most appropriate avenue. They added that there are many opportunities for each agency to provide input, requests, or parameters, and each agency can opt out if the parameters are unacceptable. There was also a discussion around a LAFCO Municipal Service Review (MSR). The most recent MSR was completed in May 2016, making it three years overdue for an update. Staff was advised that LAFCO has an MSR for Easter Placer County fire protection agencies scheduled for FY

2026, but suggested they could move that schedule up to FY 2025 if desired by the JPA Chiefs. A letter from the Easter Placer County JPA Fire Chiefs was sent to LAFCO on May 14, 2024, requesting an Eastern Placer County MSR be conducted for fire protection agencies in FY 2025.

Chief Chisholm and Danielle Mueller continue to consider the option of a fee-forservice model. Chief Chisholm is working with Wittman Enterprises, which provides billing and collection services, to better understand what a likely return would be for such a model in our service area.

**ALTERNATIVES**: This report is for information only; no action is requested from the Board.

- **FISCAL/RESOURCE IMPACTS**: Staff continues to spend considerable time understanding options and processes. The impact of this work will have a fiscal impact however, it cannot be easily quantified at this time.
- **RECOMMENDATION**: This report is for information only; no action is requested from the Board.
- **ATTACHMENTS**: May 14, 2024 letter from Easter Placer County JPA Fire Chiefs requesting an Eastern Placer County MSR be conducted for fire protection agencies in FY 2025.

DATE PREPARED: May 22, 2024



## **EASTERN PLACER COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS**

Michelle McIntyre Executive Officer Placer County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)

May 14, 2024

Dear Mrs. McIntyre,

The Eastern Placer County Fire Chiefs held our quarterly meeting on Thursday, May 9th. Among other things, we discussed the topic of a LAFCo Municipal Service Review update. There are many changes and updates, both past and projected, for which an updated MSR would prove very beneficial. We recognize you and your staff are exceptionally busy, but we respectfully request an Eastern Placer County Fire Protection MSR be scheduled/budgeted for 2025.

We understand that a meaningful review will require local agencies to be engaged in the process. We commit to providing necessary information in a timely manner to help ensure a successful report.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin McKechnie Easter Placer County Fire Chiefs