Fire Chiefs’ Fire Service Working Group

February, 2020

Board of Supervisors Mandate:
Efficient, Effective, and Sustainable county-wide fire delivery system

To: Sonoma County Fire Chiefs’ Association
Sonoma County Fire Districts’ Association
Sonoma County Fire Fighters Labor Groups and Associations

Following is a summary of the items the Fire Service Working Group is focusing on. The team continues to meet weekly and hold monthly meetings with the Ad Hoc and CAO.

Proposed Sales Tax Measure G: The primary focus continues to be education and outreach. Members of the FSWG and Board of Supervisors have provided Measure G briefings to the following groups and organizations since the last update:

- Cotati City Council (1/14)
- Press Democrat Editorial Board (1/15)
- Town of Windsor (1/15)
- Cloverdale City Council (1/22)
- Sonoma City Council (2/3)
- Sebastopol City Council (2/4)

And are scheduled to provide the following briefing:
- Rohnert Park City Council (2/11)

Since the last update, the following organizations voted to support Measure G:

- Board of the League of Women’s Voters
- North Bay Leadership Council
- The Press Democrat
- Healdsburg City Council
- Town of Windsor Council
- Sonoma County Fire Districts’ Association
- Sonoma Index-Tribune
- Sebastopol City Council
- Gold Ridge FPD Board of Directors
In addition to community outreach and education efforts, the team is continuing to work on Sphere of Influence analysis and recommendations per the request made by the LAFCO Commission and identifying operational next steps should Measure G be approved.

The team is also working with the County to align on the long term funding needs of CSA 40 areas along with other previously funded Fire Service needs.

Ongoing Financial Items: Funding requests have been received from Occidental, Geyserville, Kenwood and Timber Cove. Funding requests with accompanying justifications are with the County for review.

Additional actions the team is tracking with some brief updates:

- LAFCO reimbursements and future funding - estimates to date and projected costs provided to the County for budget planning and approval.
- Lexipol future funding – Approved by BOS on 8/20. Working with the County to streamline payment.
- Red Flag contract amendment to cover all risk, all hazard retroactive to cover flood expenses – updated language provided to the County for review.

We would like to welcome our new Districts’ Association representative, Cloverdale FPD Director Robert Taylor. Additionally, we would like to thank Gold Ridge FPD Director Joe Petersen for his extraordinary efforts supporting this team over the last year.

We will continue to provide regular updates to this distribution.

Sincerely,
Fire Service Working Group