

Dear County of Sonoma - New Enterprise Financial System Team,

We, are a group of Special Fire Districts that currently utilize the existing platform i.e., FAMIS/EZfamis system through the County. Some of us have taken the recent survey you sent out.

We all have some questions and concerns as to how this will impact our district's financial business, workload flow, along with the associated costs of the new system. What procedural changes and functionality will the new EF System offer? Our fire districts represent a small fraction the County's overall business and we want to be educated and informed. As the County embarks on this new EFS system, we need to understand and strategically determine the impact of how this "new system" will effect our district operation and resources. Understanding the EFS vision and conversion process is very important for us and will help to determine what the best direction is for our district based on this information.

From a special district stand point, the county acts as a secondary (duplicate) data entry point (AR,AP, JV's, budget)and issues checks for us and maintains the financial data information of the districts. So, unless we get to key our data (AP, Budget, JV's) directly into the system, process our own checks, key our own JV's and have access to run various types of reports we want, there will not be a lot that will change for us. It will be same process (no improved efficiency or time savings) just a different system with what will most likely be a significant system cost increase for us. Will the cost outweigh the benefits reasonably associated with financial data entry and reporting?

This is the information our Fire Chief(s) and Board of Directors want to know.

- 1) How will the workload be handled in the future vs. now?
- 2) What will the process be in the future for special districts? What will be the turn around time for data entry? Accounts payables, Vendors, Journal vouchers, vendors, deposits, reports, budget, etc.
- 3) What reporting capabilities, tools and functionality will the replacement system provide for special districts? Will districts have direct access to data, similar to the data in Simple EZfamis reports?
- 4) If Famis and EZ famis are no longer being supported, how will we get historical data?

- 5) Will each district be able to run financial reports, based on own needs and/or make changes, move / correct amounts, etc.?
- 6) What is the estimated cost each district will incur based on our current accounting charges? 10%, 20%, 30%? Current costs attached.
- 7) What improved cost savings/efficiencies will the districts see, comparatively to what we get for our accounting services now?

We look forward to the County EFS business team addressing our questions and come up with a plan to meet and discuss the new processes, format and system changes coming down the road in 2014-2015. W appreciate your time and prompt response in this matter.