



## Fire Chiefs' Strategy Leadership Group

September 24, 2018

To: Sonoma County Fire Chiefs

From: Fire Chiefs' Strategy Leadership Group (SLG)

**Tony Gossner**

*Chief, Santa Rosa  
Cities' Representative*

**Mike Mickelson**

*Chief, Wilmar FD  
VFC Association*

**Steve Akre**

*Chief, Sonoma Valley  
EMS Representative*

**Dan George**

*Chief, Gold Ridge FD  
Fire Districts' Association*

**Mark Heine**

*Chief, Windsor/Rincon  
State Chiefs' Association*

**Todd Derum**

*CALFIRE Sonoma County  
Fire Chiefs' Association*

**Dave Franceschi**

*Chief, Forestville FD  
West County*

*firechiefssl@gmail.com*

We are writing to begin the process of sharing information and updating all departments about the Strategy Leadership Group's (SLG) work. First of all, thank you for the support from the Association, we take seriously the confidence and trust you have placed in us for the important tasks that lie ahead. We are honored to play a part in creating a better future for the fire service and the communities we serve.

Since the approval of the SLG, we have attempted to move quickly to ensure strong momentum as we move on from the work we have been undertaking over the past year, and to fulfill the County mandate to disburse the existing funds according to the three priority areas approved with the fire service delivery plan:

1. Ensure the viability of the VFCs
2. Provide funding to mitigate any potential service reductions during the transition
3. Launch an apparatus replacement program

We are developing a near term program of work aimed at moving the above agenda forward, and beginning to lay the groundwork for the sales tax campaign that will ensue over the next year. Our intention is to be transparent about what we're working on, our progress, and the status of the various initiatives we'll be stewarding. We know we have big and complex issues to attend to, and we're putting our best strategic thinking to the organizing and prioritizing of what needs to be done.

Supporting the deliberations currently under way in West County is of utmost importance to this process. We are going to do everything we can to help solve the thorny issues, build agreement, and explore options to arrive at a collective solution that meets as many of our respective interests and needs as possible. One example of our effort to ensure strong alignment across all stakeholders is we will be meeting with LAFCO to look at how to optimize

their efforts and lay a strong foundation for the future of consolidations across the County. This meeting is not an attempt to define specific boundaries for future consolidations, but to instead develop a range of alternatives that could be analyzed and considered by LAFCO in the future, ensuring that a broad range of potential configurations are identified and considered. Alignment with LAFCO in pursuing the plan's implementation will accelerate the progress we can make.

Our aim is to ensure consistency in communication, and to provide routine updates via the Chiefs' Association meetings. During this process, we encourage you to address any questions, concerns or ideas to your representative on this working group, so that we can receive your input and provide timely and meaningful feedback.

Thank you again, and we will provide a further update at the Chiefs' meeting on October 10.

Sincerely,

Strategy Leadership Group