



## Fire Chiefs' Fire Service Working Group

September, 2019

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Fire Fighters L1401

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### 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  
Sonoma County Board of Supervisors Ad Hoc & CAO

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: Focus Groups were held on 8/21 out of which came valuable information that the consultants will use to revise the ballot measure question. Key takeaways include in no particular order: 1. Voters think the fire service is doing a great job and are not aware of the enhancements needed 2. As a result of the October 2017 fires, voters are focused on vegetation management and alerting systems improvement 3. Other items of discussion included the length and amount of the tax as well as the governance structure. The consultants will be polling a revised question based on these findings over the next couple of weeks. Members of the team met with the County tax office to kick off the governance and distribution mechanics workstream. It is clear that fire service stakeholders expect agreements to be put in place reflecting the allocation outlined in the implementation plan. The County is following up on this request.

Implementation (Silver) Plan: To be clear the implementation plan includes not only the station and staffing plan additions/changes (formerly referred to as the Silver Plan) but also includes all other funding line items and the associated governance structure and funding mechanism. There are 3 more Region Reviews (4, 8, & 9) scheduled over the coming weeks and non-staffing and station items that need to be addressed. The team will be conduct additional outreach to the Districts, Cities and Labor Groups once the Region Reviews are complete. Talking points will be distributed to all key stakeholders once we have a solid plan reviewed by all Regions.

Ongoing Financial Items: Funding requests have been received from Occidental, Cazadero, and Geyserville. Funding requests are parked until funding becomes available.

Additional actions the team is tracking with some brief updates:

- LAFCO reimbursements and future funding - projected fees provided to the County for budget planning.
- Lexipol future funding – Approved by BOS on 8/20. Working with the County to streamline payment.
- Closure of the enhanced services contracts
- Red Flag contract amendment to cover all risk, all hazard retroactive to cover flood expenses – Making changes to address County feedback.
- Working on Mayacamas, Camp Meeker, and Fort Ross contracts – Actively working with the County.
- Ensuring Knights Valley annexation completion

We appreciate your support and patience as we take the necessary steps to ensure we have a robust plan supporting the future state of Sonoma County Fire and Emergency Services to ensure efficient, effective, and sustainable service to all Sonoma County residents and visitors.

We will continue to provide regular updates to this distribution.

Sincerely,  
Fire Service Working Group