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625 Court Street, Suite 107
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www.yololafco.org

To: LAFCo

From: Christine Crawford

Re: Supplemental Correspondence Received Since June 29th Supplemental Packet

Date: June 30, 2022

Attached is the correspondence received since the supplemental packet was distributed yesterday, June 29, 2022 listed roughly in the order it was received.

Most of the items are form letters opposing the MSR recommendation to dissolve the Elkhorn FPD. One letter from Thomas Kane, Elkhorn FPD Board President, requested itemized changes to the MSR/SOI. Staff did not have a chance to respond to each comment or make edits to the MSR/SOI.

List of Attached Correspondence:

Author	Subject FPD	Dated
Ross Peabody	Elkhorn FPD	June 29, 2022
Thomas Kane, Board President	Elkhorn FPD	June 29, 2022
Rob Peterson	Elkhorn FPD	June 29, 2022
William Mattos	Elkhorn FPD	June 29, 2022
Dawn Throne	Elkhorn FPD	June 29, 2022
Eric Bailey	Elkhorn FPD	June 29, 2022
Hector Hernandez	Elkhorn FPD	June 29, 2022
Kim Mattos	Elkhorn FPD	June 29, 2022
Illegible -Bailey	Elkhorn FPD	June 29, 2022
Kathy Scott	Elkhorn FPD	June 29, 2022
Eve Throne Mayor	Elkhorn FPD	June 29, 2022
Lee Scott	Elkhorn FPD	June 29, 2022

Elkhorn Fire Protection District
19396 County Road 124
West Sacramento, CA 95691

June 21, 2022

RECEIVED
By ttuck at 7:17 am, Jun 30, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Yolo County LAFCo
Board of Commissioners
E-Mail: lafco@yolocounty.org

Re: Comments and Recommendations – June 2022 Draft Municipal Services Report.

Honorable Commissioners:

Elkhorn Fire Protection District ("Elkhorn FPD" or "District") appreciates this opportunity to comment on Draft Municipal Services Report ("MSR") and Sphere of Influence Update for the Fire Protection Agencies in Yolo County. The Draft MSR's recommendation that the Commission dissolve the District and annex its lands into the Cities of West Sacramento's and Woodland's ("City," or collectively together, "Cities") service areas fails to address the needs of the District's rural landscape and community, and does not improve the overall efficiency or quality of services for the Cities. Accordingly, the District's Board of Directors respectively submits the following comments and recommendations to ensure that the full range of issues concerning the dissolution of Elkhorn FPD is considered and that the Commission adequately follows the letter and spirit of its statutory directive, the Cortez-Knox-Herzberg Act, Government Code section 56000, et seq.

COMMENTS

The Elkhorn Fire Protection District is staffed by volunteer firefighters, many of whom are second generation volunteer firefighters and farmers who are intimately acquainted with the unique challenges of responding to emergencies in the rural Elkhorn community. With the exception of the major commuter routes of Interstate 5 ("I-5") and Old River Road, this area is predominantly agricultural, with less than 90 full-time residents. Although the District's population has remained stable, Old River Road and I-5 have seen a significant increase in traffic over the years. This traffic, by the nature of these roadways, is overwhelmingly non-residents of the District, travelling to and from their destinations in West Sacramento and Woodland.

The Draft MSR observes that growth patterns will challenge the District's ability to provide services, particularly to the high-traffic corridors, and so concludes that the District should be absolved, and its lands annexed into service areas connected to the neighboring cities, in order to more efficiently provide those services. That recommendation overlooks the fundamental challenge facing the Elkhorn FPD: the District's equipment, training, and resources are uniquely qualified to respond effectively and efficiently to the kind of emergencies typical of its rural

community, but the increased demand for services is driven by commuters passing through the District from neighboring urban and suburban areas. Indeed, our records indicate that out of the 48 calls this year—all of which the District responded to or were cancelled—only five came from Elkhorn residents.[1] However, the proposal included in the Draft MSR penalizes the District and its residents for a failure to meet service demands that do not originate in the District, and to provide an enhanced level of service to a transitory commuter group that does not pay for District services.

The District Board of Commissioners recognizes that LAFCo's charge is to provide for "the efficient provision of government services" and "the orderly formation and development of local agencies *based upon local conditions and circumstances*." (Gov. Code § 56301 [emphasis added].) The recommendation to dissolve the Elkhorn FPD fails to consider those local circumstances and does not serve the needs of the Elkhorn Community or its neighboring Cities. In reviewing how population growth will affect the District, the MSR relies solely on the other Cities' growth to determine that the District is incapable of meeting future needs. Indeed, the MSR says that the *District's* growth will not affect its future service needs. But, the District's land uses and voter makeup are distinct from those of the Cities' residents. And in adjusting services and spheres of influences, the Commission should tailor boundaries to services and local areas considering local conditions including the presence of isolated rural communities and agricultural based economies.[2] Dissolving the District hurts a community of farmers who recognize that each farm affects the next and who appreciate the importance of the Elkhorn FPD. When the bypass floods (as it has many times in the past), the Cities' access to District residents will be cut off, and the Cities' departments will be unable to respond to any emergencies that arise within the District. The Commission should not consider a boundary change that would cut off the District's residents from these emergency services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

We understand that the County has engaged a consultant to study the financial data surrounding department revenues and costs of calls, and we believe that this information will be essential in understanding whether the proposed dissolution will in fact provide an appropriate or cost-effective level of service to Elkhorn. Given these facts, the Elkhorn Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners respectfully requests that the LAFCo commissioners consider two alternatives to the proposal offered in the Draft MSR:

1. First, that staff specifically evaluate the differences in cost, equipment needs, and level of service demanded between calls within the service areas proposed to be annexed and the District's existing rural areas, in order to ensure that proposed alterations to service truly "advantageously provide for the present and future needs of" of the County and the residents of the District. (Gov. Code § 56301.).
2. Second, that the high-traffic commuter corridors of I-5 and Old River Road be annexed to the service areas identified in the Draft MSR, and the rural areas remain with the District.

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[1] The District has compiled the data and attached its records of the 2022 calls in the attached spreadsheet, Attachment A.

[2] California LAFCo, MSR Guidelines (Aug. 2003) at p. 19 (available at: https://calafco.org/sites/default/files/resources/MSRGuidelines-FINAL.pdf).

Under the existing mutual aid agreement, the District would continue to provide service on calls in these areas, but the burden of those calls would be more properly shifted to the two urban areas from which the commuters are coming and going, and not to the Elkhorn residents, who are currently subsidizing these services.

While we appreciate staff's efforts to offer a tidy solution to the ongoing challenge of providing adequate emergency services in this impacted commuter thoroughfare, the Draft MSR's recommendations surrounding Elkhorn FPD fail to take into account the unique contours of this community and the impact that this change would have on the region. The current proposal does not increase the efficiency of services and may in fact impair the level of service offered to the District's residents, at an increased expense for all parties.

The LAFCo municipal services review process is intended to facilitate the efficient provision of services where a deficiency has been identified: it is not intended to eliminate existing small suppliers, and it should not be used to hasten the dissolution of the District in favor of replacing one service provider with another. Here, the services are already available to landowners at an appropriate cost and high degree of efficiency, and the dissolution and annexation to the City service areas would result in the disenfranchisement of the same landowners with nominal actual benefit. The Board of Commissioners of the Elkhorn Fire Protection District respectfully requests that the Commission reconsider the recommendations of the Draft MSR and identify a path forward that better serves the residents of the rural Elkhorn community.

Respectfully,

Thomas M. Kane President

Elkhorn Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners

Dear Commissioners:

My name is William Mattos, and I am a resident of Yolo County. I submit this letter to voice my opposition to the Commission Staff's recommendation regarding the Elkhorn Fire Protection District ("District"). As a resident of the District, the recommendation to dissolve the District concerns me for many reasons.

Along with many of my neighbors, my property in the District is rural. As such, it is difficult to access. The District's volunteers are my neighbors or my neighbors' sons; they have intimate knowledge of the area, how to access my property in case of emergencies, and the particularities of my residence. When neighbors in the community have an emergency, often times we do not call 911—rather, we call the District volunteers. If the Commission approves the Staff's recommendation, it will eliminate the individuals with the requisite knowledge and resources to access and assist my property. Particularly concerning to me, if the District is dissolved, I know that my community will be de-prioritized. The District's residents are removed from the cities and will very likely take a back seat to the emergencies arising in the cities.

Moreover, notwithstanding the cities of West Sacramento's and Woodland's priorities, they will be unable to access or respond to emergencies when the bypass inevitably floods. I-5 will become grid-locked, and the firefighters will be unable to save my family or my property if an emergency should arise. Similarly, I do not want to subsidize the emergency response costs for commuters traveling on I-5. I believe it is unfair to my community to expect as much. In short, without the expertise of the District's volunteers, the District's residents and landowners will suffer significantly increased response times at a much higher cost. For these reasons, I greatly oppose dissolving the District.

Thank you for your consideration and your engagement in the community.

Sincerely,

William Mattos

District Landowner and Resident

RECEIVED
By ttuck at 7:15 am, Jun 30, 2022

June 29, 2022

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Ross Peabody. I am a resident of Yolo County and live at 20040 Old River Road within the Elkhorn Fire District. I submit this letter to voice my opposition to the Commission's Staff recommendation regarding the Elkhorn Fire Protection District ("District").

We have run the District for over 50 years in our community and have always been able to provide the services needed for our area with the help of Woodland and West Sacramento Fire Department's support. I see no reason for changing this moving forward. We are able to react as a fire district to any true fires in the area much faster than either Woodland or West Sacramento due to the proximity of our fire equipment and local chief and volunteers. From an emergency response standpoint especially regarding flooding concerns and monitoring, having the local presence of our fire district allows us to react quickly to any immediate actions needed during a flood monitoring and flood fight situation. When flood events are in action or fire events break out in our area, the ability to react quickly can be the difference between success and failure. This is my main drive to keep our current District in place, and I feel this is our most critical support service for our community that will be better served by our current District.

Beyond the fire response and flood monitoring and fight response, the District has supported both the Woodland and West Sacramento Fire Department's response in our area for crash scenes along the County Road and State Highway. These response requests are most likely better served by the West Sacramento Fire Department along our County Road (Old River Road) and by Woodland Fire Department along I-5. Our current District does not have the manpower to help in these situations as much, so I suggest that we formally contract with Woodland and West Sacramento for these areas for response to crashes and other medical emergencies. This can happen within our current District if we are allowed to work with both departments and come up with reasonable contracts to provide the support we need in these area while still maintaining our District and providing the main critical support tasks of fire protection and flood fight support that the District was originally conceived to handle.

With that please accept this letter and it's comments as a formal opposition to the dissolution of Elkhorn Fire District. I believe there are other ways of handling any perceived problems found with our District while keeping the District in tact and under direction of the community.

Sincerely,

Ross Peabody – Resident within Elkhorn Fire District

River Fox
TRAIN

June 30, 2022

RECEIVED
By ttuck at 7:19 am, Jun 30, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the General Manager for Mendocino Railway in Hart's Landing Park at Elkhorn Station located at 18095 County Road 117, West Sacramento, CA. I am writing in support of the Elkhorn Fire District.

The Elkhorn Fire District is a dependable partner for the safety of the passengers who ride the rails on the River Fox Train, which run through their jurisdiction. We take roughly 26,000 guests out into the Yolo County farmlands on our excursions throughout the year. When there is an emergency out on the tracks, we trust the local volunteers at Elkhorn Fire District to know the names of the crossings along the line. They know the quickest ways to access our train through the orchards and fields when it is out on the track. The Woodland Fire Department does not know the local area well enough to navigate it competently in the case of a time-sensitive emergency - not the way the Elkhorn Fire District volunteers do.

The Elkhorn Fire District enables us to continue to highlight the beauty of the Yolo countryside to a growing audience. We hope you elect to keep the Elkhorn Fire District so we may continue to provide a safe and pleasurable experience to Sacramento residents.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Robert Petersen

Dear Commissioners:

My name is LEE Scott, and I am a resident of Yolo County. I submit this letter to voice my opposition to the Commission Staff's recommendation regarding the Elkhorn Fire Protection District ("District"). As a resident of the District, the recommendation to dissolve the District concerns me for many reasons.

Along with many of my neighbors, my property in the District is rural. As such, it is difficult to access. The District's volunteers are my neighbors or my neighbors' sons; they have intimate knowledge of the area, how to access my property in case of emergencies, and the particularities of my residence. When neighbors in the community have an emergency, often times we do not call 911—rather, we call the District volunteers. If the Commission approves the Staff's recommendation, it will eliminate the individuals with the requisite knowledge and resources to access and assist my property. Particularly concerning to me, if the District is dissolved, I know that my community will be de-prioritized. The District's residents are removed from the cities and will very likely take a back seat to the emergencies arising in the cities.

Moreover, notwithstanding the cities of West Sacramento's and Woodland's priorities, they will be unable to access or respond to emergencies when the bypass inevitably floods. I-5 will become grid-locked, and the firefighters will be unable to save my family or my property if an emergency should arise. Similarly, I do not want to subsidize the emergency response costs for commuters traveling on I-5. I believe it is unfair to my community to expect as much. In short, without the expertise of the District's volunteers, the District's residents and landowners will suffer significantly increased response times at a much higher cost. For these reasons, I greatly oppose dissolving the District.

Thank you for your consideration and your engagement in the community.

Sincerely,

Lee Scott

District Landowner and Resident

1814985v1

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Kim Mathas and I am a resident of Yolo County. I submit this letter to voice my opposition to the Commission Staff's recommendation regarding the Elkhorn Fire Protection District ("District"). As a resident of the District, the recommendation to dissolve the District concerns me for many reasons.

Along with many of my neighbors, my property in the District is rural. As such, it is difficult to access. The District's volunteers are my neighbors or my neighbors' sons; they have intimate knowledge of the area, how to access my property in case of emergencies, and the particularities of my residence. When neighbors in the community have an emergency, often times we do not call 911—rather, we call the District volunteers. If the Commission approves the Staff's recommendation, it will eliminate the individuals with the requisite knowledge and resources to access and assist my property. Particularly concerning to me, if the District is dissolved, I know that my community will be de-prioritized. The District's residents are removed from the cities and will very likely take a back seat to the emergencies arising in the cities.

Moreover, notwithstanding the cities of West Sacramento's and Woodland's priorities, they will be unable to access or respond to emergencies when the bypass inevitably floods. I-5 will become grid-locked, and the firefighters will be unable to save my family or my property if an emergency should arise. Similarly, I do not want to subsidize the emergency response costs for commuters traveling on I-5. I believe it is unfair to my community to expect as much. In short, without the expertise of the District's volunteers, the District's residents and landowners will suffer significantly increased response times at a much higher cost. For these reasons, I greatly oppose dissolving the District.

Thank you for your consideration and your engagement in the community.

Sincerely,

District Landowner and Resident

Dear Commissioners:

My name is KATHY SCOTT, and I am a resident of Yolo County. I submit this letter to voice my opposition to the Commission Staff's recommendation regarding the Elkhorn Fire Protection District ("District"). As a resident of the District, the recommendation to dissolve the District concerns me for many reasons.

Along with many of my neighbors, my property in the District is rural. As such, it is difficult to access. The District's volunteers are my neighbors or my neighbors' sons; they have intimate knowledge of the area, how to access my property in case of emergencies, and the particularities of my residence. When neighbors in the community have an emergency, often times we do not call 911—rather, we call the District volunteers. If the Commission approves the Staff's recommendation, it will eliminate the individuals with the requisite knowledge and resources to access and assist my property. Particularly concerning to me, if the District is dissolved, I know that my community will be de-prioritized. The District's residents are removed from the cities and will very likely take a back seat to the emergencies arising in the cities.

Moreover, notwithstanding the cities of West Sacramento's and Woodland's priorities, they will be unable to access or respond to emergencies when the bypass inevitably floods. I-5 will become grid-locked, and the firefighters will be unable to save my family or my property if an emergency should arise. Similarly, I do not want to subsidize the emergency response costs for commuters traveling on I-5. I believe it is unfair to my community to expect as much. In short, without the expertise of the District's volunteers, the District's residents and landowners will suffer significantly increased response times at a much higher cost. For these reasons, I greatly oppose dissolving the District.

Thank you for your consideration and your engagement in the community.

Sincerely,

District Landowner and Resident

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Hector Hernandez, and I am a resident of Yolo County. I submit this letter to voice my opposition to the Commission Staff's recommendation regarding the Elkhorn Fire Protection District ("District"). As a resident of the District, the recommendation to dissolve the District concerns me for many reasons.

Along with many of my neighbors, my property in the District is rural. As such, it is difficult to access. The District's volunteers are my neighbors or my neighbors' sons; they have intimate knowledge of the area, how to access my property in case of emergencies, and the particularities of my residence. When neighbors in the community have an emergency, often times we do not call 911—rather, we call the District volunteers. If the Commission approves the Staff's recommendation, it will eliminate the individuals with the requisite knowledge and resources to access and assist my property. Particularly concerning to me, if the District is dissolved, I know that my community will be de-prioritized. The District's residents are removed from the cities and will very likely take a back seat to the emergencies arising in the cities.

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Thank you for your consideration and your engagement in the community.

Sincerely,

_____
District Landowner and Resident

Dear Commissioners:

My name is EVE THRONE MAYER, and I am a resident of Yolo County. I submit this letter to voice my opposition to the Commission Staff's recommendation regarding the Elkhorn Fire Protection District ("District"). As a resident of the District, the recommendation to dissolve the District concerns me for many reasons.

Along with many of my neighbors, my property in the District is rural. As such, it is difficult to access. The District's volunteers are my neighbors or my neighbors' sons; they have intimate knowledge of the area, how to access my property in case of emergencies, and the particularities of my residence. When neighbors in the community have an emergency, often times we do not call 911—rather, we call the District volunteers. If the Commission approves the Staff's recommendation, it will eliminate the individuals with the requisite knowledge and resources to access and assist my property. Particularly concerning to me, if the District is dissolved, I know that my community will be de-prioritized. The District's residents are removed from the cities and will very likely take a back seat to the emergencies arising in the cities.

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Thank you for your consideration and your engagement in the community.

Sincerely,

District Landowner and Resident

20800 Old River Rd.

Dear Commissioners:

My name is ERIC BAILEY, and I am a resident of Yolo County. I submit this letter to voice my opposition to the Commission Staff's recommendation regarding the Elkhorn Fire Protection District ("District"). As a resident of the District, the recommendation to dissolve the District concerns me for many reasons.

Along with many of my neighbors, my property in the District is rural. As such, it is difficult to access. The District's volunteers are my neighbors or my neighbors' sons; they have intimate knowledge of the area, how to access my property in case of emergencies, and the particularities of my residence. When neighbors in the community have an emergency, often times we do not call 911—rather, we call the District volunteers. If the Commission approves the Staff's recommendation, it will eliminate the individuals with the requisite knowledge and resources to access and assist my property. Particularly concerning to me, if the District is dissolved, I know that my community will be de-prioritized. The District's residents are removed from the cities and will very likely take a back seat to the emergencies arising in the cities.

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Thank you for your consideration and your engagement in the community.

Sincerely,

E. Bailey

District Landowner and Resident

Dear Commissioners:

My name is Dawn Throne, and I am a resident of Yolo County. I submit this letter to voice my opposition to the Commission Staff's recommendation regarding the Elkhorn Fire Protection District ("District"). As a resident of the District, the recommendation to dissolve the District concerns me for many reasons.

Along with many of my neighbors, my property in the District is rural. As such, it is difficult to access. The District's volunteers are my neighbors or my neighbors' sons; they have intimate knowledge of the area, how to access my property in case of emergencies, and the particularities of my residence. When neighbors in the community have an emergency, often times we do not call 911—rather, we call the District volunteers. If the Commission approves the Staff's recommendation, it will eliminate the individuals with the requisite knowledge and resources to access and assist my property. Particularly concerning to me, if the District is dissolved, I know that my community will be de-prioritized. The District's residents are removed from the cities and will very likely take a back seat to the emergencies arising in the cities.

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Thank you for your consideration and your engagement in the community.

Sincerely, Dawn Throne

20800 Old River Rd 95691

District Landowner and Resident

1814985v1

Dear Commissioners:

Rick Bailey and Teresa Bailey

My name is _____, and I am a resident of Yolo County. I submit this letter to voice my opposition to the Commission Staff's recommendation regarding the Elkhorn Fire Protection District ("District"). As a resident of the District, the recommendation to dissolve the District concerns me for many reasons.

Along with many of my neighbors, my property in the District is rural. As such, it is difficult to access. The District's volunteers are my neighbors or my neighbors' sons; they have intimate knowledge of the area, how to access my property in case of emergencies, and the particularities of my residence. When neighbors in the community have an emergency, often times we do not call 911 – rather, we call the District volunteers. If the Commission approves the Staff's recommendation, it will eliminate the individuals with the requisite knowledge and resources to access and assist my property. Particularly concerning to me, if the District is dissolved, I know that my community will be de-prioritized. The District's residents are removed from the cities and will very likely take a back seat to the emergencies arising in the cities.

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Thank you for your consideration and your engagement in the community.

Sincerely,

District Landowner and Resident