



Solano Local Agency Formation Commission

675 Texas St. Ste. 6700 • Fairfield, California 94533
(707) 439-3897 • FAX: (707) 438-1788

Staff Report

DATE: February 9, 2015
TO: Local Agency Formation Commission
FROM: Elliot Mulberg, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: December 16, 2014 **Fire Committee Minutes**

RECOMMENDATION: That the commission accept the meeting minutes and concur with the Committee's recommendation that the Commission approve the request for LAFCO to facilitate setting goals and objectives and use of a consultant to act as the facilitator.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm on December 16, 2014 in Conference Room 6003 in the County Administration Building.

Members present: Commissioners Saunderson, Vasquez, Thomson, Batchelor, LAFCO Staff

Members of the public: Alan Hartford- Rio Vista Fire Chief, Jay Huyssoon - Cordelia Fire, Jim Lydon - Benicia Fire, Steve Trepagnier-Fairfield Fire, John Zazrivy- Suisun Fire, Dexter Mayhood-Montezuma FPD, Aaron McAlister - Dixon FD, Howard W Griggs-Grand Jury, Walter Scherff- Grand Jury, Howard Wood-Vacaville FPD, Don Ryan-Solano OES, Russ Sherman-Rio Vista FD and two others.

The Committee reviewed LAFCO's authority and the MSR determinations, reviewed options for consolidating districts, and discussed options for common dispatch. Some of the comments received are as follows:

- Issues surrounding funding including: high concentration of volunteers for the Districts, going to a staffing option is a high cost, ways to get money to fund communications such as grants from homeland security
- Evaluating the number of fire stations and looking at stations that are next to each other.
- Dispatch and funding issues surrounding getting a facility built.
- Consolidation may not save money, but adds depth to a fire district.
- Standard 11 to be reviewed at the Policy Committee at a later date.
- Formation of JPAs and examples of service agreements such as Winters and Dixon. LAFCO could facilitate JPA.

- Determine what constituents want and determine a budget.
- Using a facilitator to help set goals and objectives, creating a financial model, and a service model. The facilitator must be an independent expert.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.

LAFCO was asked if it could contract with a facilitator to assist in setting the goals and objectives and also look at creating a financial model and a service model. LAFCO staff contacted Bill Chiat of Alta Mesa Group to serve as the facilitator. He comes with LAFCO experience and worked on consolidating the Contra Costa fire districts. His bid was under \$5,000 and was available on several March dates.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Commission approve the request for LAFCO to facilitate setting goals and objectives and use of a consultant to act as the facilitator.