

II. Background

A. Response to County Fire Department Application

The City of Fontana is submitting a Plan for Providing Services in response to the San Bernardino County Consolidated Fire District (County Fire Department) reorganization application (LAFCO 3000 and 3001).

The reorganized fire district would contain four regional improvement districts. Each of the four improvement districts would have its own separate budget. The proposed Valley Improvement District would include (Appendix: C – Map Proposed County Fire Reorganization – Valley Improvement District):

- Central Valley Fire which currently provides service to Fontana, Bloomington and Muscoy;
- CSA 38 Consolidated Fire Services
- CSA 38 H Colton
- Monte Vista Fire Protection District

Prior to application to LAFCO, meetings occurred involving representatives of LAFCO, the County, and the City. Concerns were expressed by City representatives as follows:

- The City would have no direct role in the governing process of the proposed reorganized fire region serving the City and its Sphere of Influence
- The revenues generated locally for fire services would be absorbed and be a part of the newly formed and much larger fire services region and could be used anywhere throughout the larger fire services region.

Once the application was submitted, LAFCO requested response from affected agencies. The City Council heard the matter and adopted two resolutions (January 17, 2006). Resolution No. 2006-05 directed City staff to file a response to the County Reorganization proposal (see I. Introduction, D. City Request to LAFCO). Resolution No. 2006-06 opposed the appointment of the Board of Supervisors as governing body of the proposed Yucca Valley Fire Protection District (pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 13837 (b)). These resolutions and the staff report are included in Appendix: D – City Council Resolutions and Staff Report (January 17, 2006).

B. Emergency Services Consulting inc. (ESCI)

The firm of ESCi conducted the County Fire Department Financing Study in April 2003. The purpose of the study was to conduct a thorough review and analysis of the financial condition of the San Bernardino County Fire Department, its various districts and county service areas. In 2004, a working group was formed comprised of staff from the offices of the County Administrator, County Fire, and County Counsel to develop a new organizational concept for consideration by the County Board. The County Fire Reorganization application to LAFCO was designed to pursue the organizational option adopted by the County Board.

In 2005, the City of Fontana contracted for professional services from ESCi to provide a financial review of the Reorganization proposal comparing it to the 2003 ESCi study, and actual budgets for 2003 and 2004. This review is specific to Fontana and its Sphere of Influence with the intention of accomplishing the City's goals regarding the provision of fire and emergency response services.

C. Local Agency Formation Commission Authority

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, Section 56000 of the California Government Code, requires submission of a Plan for Providing Services when local agencies make application for reorganization (Section 56653).

This Plan for Providing Services has been specifically developed as part of the City's response to the County Fire District's Reorganization application. The main purposes of a Plan for Providing Services are to provide:

- A description of the level and range of each service to be provided to the affected territory;
- An indication of when the service can be feasibly extended to the affected territory;
- An identification of any improvement or upgrading of structures, road, water or sewer facilities, other infrastructure, or other conditions the affected agency would impose upon the affected territory;
- The estimated costs of extending the service and a description of how the service or required improvements will be financed. A discussion of the sufficiency of revenues for anticipated service extensions and operations is also required;
- An indication of whether the annexing territory is, or will be, proposed for inclusion within an existing or proposed improvement zone/district, redevelopment area, assessment district or community facilities district;

- If retail water service is to be provided through the change, provide a description of the timely availability of water for projected needs within the area based upon factors identified in Government Code 65352.5 (as required by Government Code Section 56668(k)); and
- Any additional information required by LAFCO or the executive officer.