



**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Steve Leighton, Fire Chief  
**Date:** January 12, 2021  
**Subject:** Fire District Long-term Planning with North Tahoe Fire

**Background**

At the October and December meetings, the following items were discussed:

- LAFCO is receiving incentive from El Dorado County for smaller agencies to consolidate with larger agencies;
- El Dorado County LAFCO might be able to take the lead with the county's portion of any type of merger/consolidation/unification;
- Expense increases have been outpaced by revenue increases;
- Both districts are having difficulty filling board vacancies, and board compensation issues may become a large factor in filling those vacancies;
- The two districts are better together;
- All safety staff are trained to the same level;
- Following Office Manager Crawford's retirement in late 2021, there will no longer be any Meeks Bay Fire employees;
- Concern of LAFCO process being led by Placer County;
- How would El Dorado County work with North Tahoe Fire being predominantly in a separate county?
- Counties have no responsibility to support fire districts;
- Consolidation/unification is inevitable and should be board-driven as opposed to staff-driven, although the board would rely heavily on staff input;
- The county is encouraging consolidations, but Meeks Bay Fire is not in similar condition as those agencies on the west slope.

Per board direction, staff invited El Dorado County Supervisor Sue Novasel and LAFCo Executive Director Jose Henriquez to attend an upcoming meeting. Both of them are available to attend the February 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Executive Director Henriquez has also invited Amanda Ross of South Fork Consulting, who has been working with LAFCo on our Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence studies, to attend.

**Recommendation**

Receive an update from the Fire Chief regarding the fire district's long-term planning with North Tahoe Fire.