

## RESOLUTION 20-2025

### **JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE TUOLUMNE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AND THE GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AFFIRMING COMMITMENT TO COORDINATED, SUSTAINABLE FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY SERVICES IN THE GREATER GROVELAND AREA THROUGH CONTINUED CO-LOCATION, MUTUAL AID, AND LONG-TERM PARTNERSHIP**

**WHEREAS**, the Groveland Community Services District (GCSD) was formed in 1953 for the purposes of providing, among other services, fire and life safety protection to Tuolumne County residents within its 15 square-mile district boundary;

**WHEREAS**, except for incidents under state or federal jurisdiction, the Tuolumne County Fire Department (TCFD) has jurisdictional responsibility for fire and life safety protection for all incidents outside the GCSD boundary in the greater Groveland area;

**WHEREAS**, the only TCFD fire station in the greater Groveland area is unstaffed and would require substantial County funding, as well as time for design and renovation, to support a full-time engine crew that can meet the County's 12-minute response time standard for calls outside the GCSD boundary;

**WHEREAS**, through a voluntary automatic and mutual aid agreement signed by both GCSD and TCFD in 2016, the two agencies committed to the cooperative, coordinated and seamless delivery of fire and life safety services inside and outside of each other's boundaries;

**WHEREAS**, the GCSD Fire Department and TCFD recognize the importance of maintaining the County's 12-minute adopted response time standards, ensuring GCSD's ability to meet its adopted response time and staffing standards and not placing a disproportionate share of mutual aid responsibility on GCSD;

**WHEREAS**, TCFD continues to provide critical operational and fiscal benefits to regional fire agencies, including:

- Coordinated "move-up and cover" plans to ensure quick response times when GCSD and TCFD engines are committed to incidents;
- County-funded fire dispatch services;
- Free state-mandated fire inspections for partner agencies;
- On-call fleet maintenance services to GCSD during staffing shortages;

**WHEREAS**, historically, approximately 10% of the number of GCSD fire department responses and 35% of the total time spent by GCSD fire personnel have been to County responsibility areas outside the GCSD boundary, resulting in additional costs and strain on limited GCSD resources;

**WHEREAS**, to support the growing needs of the greater Groveland area and reduce the extraterritorial service burden on GCSD, the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors has made investments in fire protection over the last four years;

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, Tuolumne County began funding the Amador engine at the Groveland CAL FIRE station to cover the off-season when the state was not staffing the facility—an expense previously carried by GCSD. In 2022, the County replaced the Amador contract with a “pilot” County-staffed, full-time, year-round TCFD engine co-located at the GCSD Fire Station on Highway 120, funded through federal grant sources;

**WHEREAS**, since the co-location of the County’s full-time engine, GCSD’s responses to County jurisdiction incidents have declined from approximately 10% of total incidents to 4%, and the time committed to such incidents has dropped from 35% to 12%, allowing the GCSD engine to remain available for in-district emergencies more consistently and enhancing both agencies’ ability to meet adopted service level standards;

**WHEREAS**, the co-location model has proven to be cost-effective for the County by leveraging shared housing, utilities, and operational amenities to support the County engine and establishing a two-engine, 24/7/365 regional response capacity that enhances response times, incident outcomes, and firefighter safety;

**WHEREAS**, the Groveland area is experiencing increased development and tourism activity—driven by rising Yosemite visitation—which has resulted in expanding emergency service obligations, heightened risks, and growing call volumes both inside and outside the GCSD boundary;

**WHEREAS**, the County and GCSD desire to work collaboratively on new development to ensure there will be adequate emergency response to all residents and visitors and to minimize the impact on both entities for providing services to the new development;

**WHEREAS**, it is in the shared interest of the residents of Tuolumne County and those residents who live within the GCSD boundary to have a permanently located and fully funded staffed TCFD engine in the greater Groveland area to enhance emergency response for existing and future residents and visitors and to lessen the cost burdens on GCSD and TCFD of responding to incidents outside their respective boundaries;

**WHEREAS**, both agencies acknowledge the need to develop a long-term fire service agreement before the March 2026 expiration of the current License and Cost Reimbursement Agreement to avoid disruptions in service and to support safe and sustainable growth;

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**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**

That the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors and the Groveland Community Services District Board of Directors jointly recognize the essential role of the co-located, career-staffed County engine in supporting equitable, effective fire and life safety response for residents and visitors within and outside the GCSD boundary;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

That both agencies agree that increases in residents and visitors to the Groveland area, whether to new development, Yosemite National Park, or other destinations in the area, increases fire service demand and risks degrading existing emergency response therefore permanent fire protection resources should be an operational and financial priority for both agencies;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

That the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors and the GCSD Board of Directors commit to collaboratively develop and adopt a multi-year fire services agreement prior to March 2026 ensuring:

- The continued presence of both a GCSD and a County-staffed engine in the Groveland area;
- A clearly defined scope of coverage for County responsibility areas;
- Continued adherence to the 2016 Mutual and Automatic Aid Agreement;
- Ongoing sharing of facilities, resources, and responsibilities, with an equitable distribution of co-location costs and a focus on preserving each agency's response capabilities and service levels;
- Annual review of service data, response performance, and fiscal impacts to ensure continued alignment with the agreement's goals;

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,**

That Tuolumne County and the Groveland Community Services District reaffirm their

shared commitment to providing timely, professional, and equitable emergency response services to all residents and visitors in the greater Groveland area, and doing so through a fiscally responsible, sustainable partnership that protects public safety now and into the future.

WHEREFORE, this Resolution is passed and adopted by the Board of Directors of the Groveland Community Services District on June 10, 2025, by the following vote:

AYES: Directors Swan, Armstrong, and Kwiatkowski

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSENT: Directors Mora and Edwards

APPROVE:



Nancy Mora, Board President

ATTEST:



Rachel Pearlman (Jun 11, 2025 14:09 PDT)

Rachel Pearlman, Board Secretary

**CERTIFICATE OF SECRETARY**

I, Rachel Pearlman, the duly appointed and acting Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Groveland Community Services District, do hereby declare that the foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Groveland Community Services District, duly called and held on June 10, 2025.

DATED: 06/10/25 \_\_\_\_\_