



TO: GCS D Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: October 12, 2021

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 6B: Discussion Regarding the Process for Update of the District's Municipal Service Review and Potential LAFCO Meeting to be Held in Groveland

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

The purpose of this discussion is to receive board input and direction regarding a request submitted to the Tuolumne County LAFCO for it's November 2021 meeting to be held in Groveland to receive local community input on the GCS D municipal service review.

BACKGROUND:

As we have discussed with the board on a number of occasions, LAFCO is required to conduct a review of the services provided by every district in the county, every five years in a report titled municipal service review (MSR). The MSR serves as a background and action document for the county LAFCO to make decisions about special district reorganization, boundaries, sphere of influence, and other matters related to the technical, managerial, and financial aspects of providing services as a special district.

The MSR is used also to determine if service demands are increasing outside of the district's sphere of influence boundary, so that potential adjustments in this future development boundary can be made for the purposes of planning service expansion and county land use planning. LAFCO is charged with not only evaluating the need for growth of special districts to provide services in larger areas, but also to ensure that additional special districts are not formed inside or adjacent to an existing district boundary, simply to provide the same services in the new area. For example, LAFCO law discourages the creation of an additional water and fire district in areas adjacent to GCS D, so long as GCS D is competent and efficient at providing those services.

As we all have learned over the past two years, the demand for district fire and emergency response services have extended far outside the district boundaries to developed resort and recreational areas requiring over 20 minute response times one way. This is certainly an issue and concern central and aligned with the purposes of the preparation of a municipal service review. The demand for other services provided by the district and potentially needed by properties located outside of the district and its sphere of influence, may not be as apparent as the fire and emergency response services. The reason being we may not have a direct linkage established to be able to hear the service needs of our surrounding communities. It is for this reason that GCS D management has recommended that county LAFCO conduct a hearing or meeting in Groveland to receive broad public input on the development of the GCS D MSR, from persons located within and outside the district and its sphere of influence.

The MSR is also an excellent document that contains a thorough description of the district, it's governance, services provided, strengths, weaknesses, financial condition, and ability to competently and efficiently deliver services in the district boundaries. The MSR evaluates the possibility, feasibility and impacts of consolidation of other districts located in or adjacent to the district boundaries, including determination of whether there are other, more efficient government service options available. The MSR is intended to identify the most efficient and effective means of providing local services in a region and/or GCSD.

The purpose of the discussion at this meeting is to seek board input on the interest of conducting a LAFCO meeting in Groveland for the purpose of engaging the public and receiving input on our MSR. At this point it is anticipated that LAFCO's November meeting could take place somewhere in Groveland. District staff has offered to assist the county LAFCO in arranging and conducting this meeting.

ATTACHMENTS:

None.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.