



TO: GCSB Board of Directors

FROM: Peter Kampa, General Manager

DATE: November 15, 2021

**SUBJECT: Item 4F. Discussion and Update Regarding the Status of the
Emergency Warning Sirens System**

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

This item is intended for information only, and potential Board direction. Should the Board desire to take action on this project, it is recommended that the item be placed on the appropriate regular meeting agenda.

BACKGROUND:

The District has allowed a local nonprofit organization named Tuolumne Safe access to its Tank 2 site for the installation of an emergency warning siren, similar to that used by the Twain Harte Fire Department, and planned by several others. Local fundraising proceeds collected by Miner's Mart and others were used by Tuolumne Safe for the purchase and installation of the siren. District management was assured that the logistics of siren operation were supported and being worked out by the County Sheriff. It was determined shortly after the commitment to use Tank 2, that the County Sheriff was not as far along in his support of the sirens as it had been presented to management in the beginning.

The logistical details surrounding the implementation of a county wide emergency warning siren system continue to be discussed at the head level of county leadership. There is currently much expressed concern and many questions that still need to be answered before a system can be constructed and put in use. The Tuolumne County Fire Safety Advisory Committee recently voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors on November 2, 2021 a cease and desist order related to continued warning siren installations until such time as the operational and logistical details are worked out.

Other than the individual questions and concerns from leadership who represent certain factions within the county, Tuolumne County Sheriff Bill Pooley's are the ones that need to be addressed first as his office is the legally responsible agent for managing and running an emergency notification system. Sheriff Pooley has expressed concern with having the staff resources to implement and manage such a system, the proper training of his staff to operate the system, the specific needs of each part of the county, what residents and tourist are supposed to do once alarms are sounded, theft and vandalism of equipment, and if money could be better spent on enhancing existing and more modern emergency notification system.

The District continues to participate and cooperate with this process as an enhanced emergency warning system in some acceptable form will be very beneficial to the community. The district has also considered the use of the siren in its emergency action plan for wastewater reservoir 2, in the event the dam was ever to fail and notification of downstream properties was necessary. Of course, the details of that need to be worked into the operating protocol as well.