

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY EXECUTIVE
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: David Boesch, Placer County Executive Officer
By: Bekki Riggan, Principal Management Analyst

DATE: September 10, 2013

SUBJECT: 2012-13 Grand Jury Final Report – *Newcastle Fire Protection District, Fire Station and Finances*

Action Requested

Authorize the Chairman to sign a letter in response to the Placer County Grand Jury's 2012-13 Report on the Newcastle Fire Protection District.

Background

On June 20, 2013, the Placer County Grand Jury issued its 2012-2013 Final Report. The report included findings and recommendations based on the Grand Jury's investigations, as required by law. Included in the Final Report is a report titled *Newcastle Fire Protection District, Fire Station and Finances*. The report includes background information, facts, finding and recommendations, derived from the Grand Jury's review of the Newcastle Fire Protection District's (NFPD) Fire Station and Finances.

The Placer County Board of Supervisors and the NFPD Board of Directors were asked to provide responses to the Grand Jury report. In collaboration with County departments, County Executive Office staff prepared a response on the behalf of the Board of Supervisors, which is subject to your approval today. Upon approval by your Board, the Board's response will be provided to the Presiding Judge of the Placer County Superior Court and to the Placer County Grand Jury.

Of the report's 12 Findings, 11 pertain directly to the internal operation, finances and specific past actions taken by members of the NFPD Board of Directors. The response letter brought forward for your approval today indicates that while the Board of Supervisors has reviewed the Grand Jury Findings contained within the above titled report, the NFPD is an independent Special District, and as such operates outside of the governing control of the Placer County Board of Supervisors. As an independent Special District, the facts detailed in Findings 1 through 11 of the Grand Jury's report would be known only to the NFPD. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors is unable to respond to Findings 1 through 11.

Of the report's 8 Recommendations, 7 were specifically directed to the NFPD Board of Directors, with the Placer County Board of Supervisors requested to respond to a recommendation for the NFPD to work with your Board to update a review by LAFCO to potentially facilitate consolidation of fire districts within Placer County.

Board of Supervisors Response

Details of the Grand Jury's lone Finding and Recommendation relative to the Placer County Board of Supervisors are included within the attached response, which states the Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding indicating LAFCO's 2004 review of the NFPD has not been updated since the 2004 timeframe. In regards to the recommendation for the NFPD to work with the Board of Supervisors to update a review of the NFPD by LAFCO, which would include a review for potential consolidation of fire districts within Placer County, the response indicates this recommendation has been implemented, as LAFCO's Executive Officer, County staff and representatives from the Western Placer County Fire Chief's Association have developed a scope of work to accomplish a review of Western Placer County Fire Service Municipal Services.

Fiscal Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this response to the Grand Jury report.

Attachments: Board of Supervisors 2012-13 Grand Jury Response to: *Newcastle Fire Protection District, Fire Station and Finances*

County of Placer Board of Supervisors

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September 10, 2013

Alan V. Pineschi, Presiding Judge
Placer County Superior Court
P.O. Box 619072
Roseville, CA 95661

Re: 2012-13 Grand Jury Final Report – Newcastle Fire Protection District, Fire Station and Finances

Dear Honorable Judge Pineschi,

This letter is in response to the 2012-13 Grand Jury's Findings & Recommendations from the report titled *Newcastle Fire Protection District, Fire Station and Finances*. The Placer County Board of Supervisors would like to thank the members of the 2012-13 Grand Jury for their efforts associated with the Newcastle Fire Protection District (NFPD).

While the Board of Supervisors has reviewed all of the Grand Jury Findings contained within the above titled report, the NFPD is an independent Special District, and as such operates outside of the governing control of the Placer County Board of Supervisors. As an independent Special District, the facts detailed in Findings 1 through 11 of the Grand Jury's report would be known only to the NFPD. Therefore, the Board of Supervisors is unable to respond to Findings 1 through 11.

Findings of the Grand Jury

12. The 2004 LAFCo Report provided a very useful analysis in the review of facts and issues facing special fire districts in Placer County within the 2004 time frame. The LAFCo review has not been updated since that report.

Board of Supervisors Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this Finding.

Recommendations of the Grand Jury

8. NFPD work with the Board of Supervisors to update a review by LAFCo, which would include a review for potential beneficial consolidation of fire districts within Placer County.

Board of Supervisors Response: This Recommendation has been implemented. The Newcastle Fire Protection District (NFPD) is a member of the Western Placer County Fire Chiefs Association. LAFCO's Executive Officer, County staff and representatives from the Western Placer County Fire Chief's Association have developed a scope of work to accomplish a review of Western Placer County Fire Service Municipal Services. Specifically:

LAFCO is required to adopt written determinations with respect to government structure options that could improve service conditions. This includes an evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of consolidation, other LAFCO actions (i.e. annexation, detachment, formation, dissolution, incorporation) and Sphere of Influence (SOI) boundary changes. The MSR contains a brief history of the evolution of local agencies in the study area. Past and pending reorganization proposals are described as well as those currently being discussed by the public, LAFCO and providers. When developing and evaluating government structure options, LAFCO considers analyses prepared for other evaluation categories and the relationship between service levels, costs, local conditions, and circumstances. Potential government structure options are developed with consideration of financial feasibility, service delivery quality and cost, regulatory or government frameworks, operational practicality, public preference, and significance of service specific issues that may be resolved. Placer County's Board of Supervisors will be advised on the Fire Service Municipal Services Review as details from the study emerge.

The Board of Supervisors appreciates the work of the 2012-13 Placer County Grand Jury in their report regarding the Newcastle Fire Protection District.

Sincerely,

COUNTY OF PLACER

Jim Holmes, Chairman (District 3)
Placer County Board of Supervisors

cc: Albert Erkel, Placer County Grand Jury Foreman
David Boesch, Placer County Executive Officer
Placer County Board of Supervisors'
Newcastle Fire Protection District Board of Directors