



Date: February 24, 2009 for March 4th Agenda
To: Commissioners
From: Patrick M. McCormick, Executive Officer
Subject: Appointment of a LAFCO Committee on Fire Agency Consolidation

Summary: The Commission has agendized a discussion concerning appointing a committee on fire agency consolidation.

Recommendation: That the Commission consider whether to appoint a committee on fire agency consolidation, and whether to make appointments if it decides to set up such a committee.

On February 4th, the Local Agency Formation Commission discussed past fire district reorganizations and consolidations, and how best to approach fire agency reorganization and consolidation studies. Some Commissioners were interested in setting up a committee to investigate this matter further. Since appointing a committee had not been stated on the February 4th agenda, LAFCO Counsel advised the Commission to continue the matter so that the committee appointment could be agendized on the March 4th agenda.

If the Commission decides to set up such a committee, I would like to point out that:

- The first draft of the FY 2009-10 LAFCO budget does not have sufficient funding to utilize a consultant for a fire agency reorganization or consolidation study.
- LAFCO staff is occupied with a variety of major projects (litigation, water policies, sphere of influence reviews, UC application) and would have little time to support a new committee.

cc: All Fire Chiefs in Santa Cruz County of Santa Cruz
County of Santa Cruz
--County Administrative Officer
--Acting Director of General Services
Greg Tedesco