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January 2, 2024

Scotts Valley Fire Protection District
7 Erba Lane
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

Santa Cruz LAFCO

SENT CERTIFIED MAIL

ATTN: Board of Directors

Dear Board of Directors for Scotts Valley Fire Protection District,
On Wednesday, December 13, 2023, I hand-delivered a letter of intent to each of your Board members and to Ms. Walton, declaring my intention to take legal action against SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, the BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF SCOTTS VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, and naming SANTA CRUZ COUNTY LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION (LAFCO) as Real Party in Interest, seeking assurance that the DISTRICT will take action to transition to district-based elections of BOARD members. I stated that unless I were provided written proof of the DISTRICT'S intention to do so, I would file legal action under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) within 10 days.

Subsequently, I met in person with Scotts Valley Fire Chief Mark Correira on December 19, 2023, and informed him that upon further legal research, I had determined that, in compliance with 2016 amendments to the California legislature passed by Assembly Bill 350, Section 10010 of the elections code was amended to provide a 45-day "safe harbor" limit after the receipt of a letter from potential plaintiffs in California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) cases.


The amendment took effect on January 1, 2017, and prevents lawsuits during the 45-day period. If the Scotts Valley Fire Protection District makes legal moves towards district elections during that 45-day period, it cannot be sued for an additional 90 days after it makes a legal declaration.

The Scotts Valley Fire Protection District must then hold at least two public hearings on the matter within 30 days. The amendments to section 10010 also put a limit of \$30,000 on the amount the District must pay to potential litigants if the District moves to district elections within the 90 day period.

Therefore, I hereby acknowledge the 45-day safe harbor now in effect as of December 19, 2023, terminating on February 6, 2024, out of courtesy that Chief Corriera was out of the area and unable to meet with me until December 19, 2023, and accommodating three legal holidays (December 24/25, 2023, January 1, 2024 and January 15, 2024).

Please place this matter on your January 10, 2024 Board agenda and acknowledge receipt of this Courtesy message.

Thank you.
Sincerely,


Becky Steinbruner
3441 Redwood Drive
Aptos, CA 95003

✓C: Joe Serrano, Santa Cruz County LAFCO