



VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 17, 2018

9:00 A.M.

Hall of Administration, Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura CA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Election of Officers for 2018
 - A. Elect a Chair for 2018.
 - B. Elect a Vice-Chair for 2018.
5. Agenda Review

Consider and approve, by majority vote, minor revisions to Commission items and/or attachments and any item added to, or removed/continued from, the LAFCo agenda and changes to the order of business to accommodate a special circumstance.
6. Commission Presentations and Announcements
7. Public Comments

This is an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on any subject matter within the Commission's jurisdiction. Persons desiring to address the Commission must complete and deliver to the Commission Clerk a speaker card prior to the commencement of this comment period. Each speaker's presentation may not exceed 5 minutes.

Please note that for an item on today's agenda, speakers should fill out a speaker card and address the commission when the agenda item is discussed and their name is called.

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

COUNTY: Linda Parks, Vice Chair John Zaragoza <i>Alternate:</i> Steve Bennett	CITY: Janice Parvin Carmen Ramirez <i>Alternate:</i> Claudia Bill-de la Peña	DISTRICT: Elaine Freeman, Chair Mary Anne Rooney <i>Alternate:</i> Andy Waters	PUBLIC: David J. Ross <i>Alternate:</i> Pat Richards
Executive Officer Kai Luoma, AICP	Analyst Andrea Ozdy	Office Manager/Clerk Richelle Beltran	Legal Counsel Michael Walker

CONSENT ITEMS

8. Minutes of the Ventura LAFCo November 15, 2017, Meeting
9. Professional Services Agreement for Audit Services – Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP
Adopt a resolution approving a professional services agreement for audit services for fiscal year ended June 30, 2017 with Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP for an amount not to exceed \$8,500 and authorizing the Chair to execute the agreement.
10. Budget to Actual Reports: November and December 2017
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval of Items 8 and 9 and Receive and File Item 10

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM

11. LAFCo 17-08 Ventura County Fire Protection District Annexation – Santa Paula
A proposal to annex the entirety of the City of Santa Paula (City) to the Ventura County Fire Protection District in order for the District to provide fire protection services to the territory within the City.
CONTINUED FROM NOVEMBER 15, 2017, ITEM 10
RECOMMENDED ACTION: Continue to the February 21, 2018 LAFCo meeting

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The next LAFCo meeting will be held on February 21, 2018.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

WEB ACCESS:

LAFCo Agendas, Staff Reports and Adopted Minutes can be found at: www.ventura.lafco.ca.gov

Written Materials – Written materials relating to items on this Agenda that are distributed to the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission within 72 hours before they are scheduled to be considered will be made available for public inspection at the LAFCo office, 800 S. Victoria Avenue, Administration Building, 4th Floor, Ventura, CA 93009-1850, during normal business hours. Such written materials will also be made available on the Ventura LAFCo website at www.ventura.lafco.ca.gov, subject to staff's ability to post the documents before the meeting.

Public Presentations – Except for applicants, public presentations may not exceed five (5) minutes unless otherwise increased or decreased by the Chair, with the concurrence of the Commission. Any comments in excess of this limit should be submitted in writing at least 10 days in advance of the meeting date to allow for distribution to, and full consideration by, the Commission. Members of the public who wish to make audio-visual presentations must provide and set up their own hardware and software. Set up of equipment must be complete before the meeting is called to order. All audio-visual presentations must comply with the applicable time limit for oral presentations and thus should be planned with flexibility to adjust to any changes to the time limit established by the Chair. For more information about these policies, please contact the LAFCo office.

Quorum and Voting – The By-Laws for the Ventura LAFCo Commissioner's Handbook provide as follows:

1.1.6.1 Quorum: Four (4) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, but a lesser number may adjourn from time to time.

1.1.6.2 Voting: Unless otherwise provided by law or these By-Laws, four affirmative votes are required to approve any proposal or other action. A tie vote, or any failure to act by at least four (4) affirmative votes, shall constitute a denial.

Americans with Disabilities Act – In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the LAFCo office (805) 654-2576. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable LAFCo to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Disclosure of Campaign Contributions – LAFCo Commissioners are disqualified and are not able to participate in any proceeding involving an "entitlement for use" if, within the 12 months preceding the LAFCo decision, the Commissioner received more than \$250 in campaign contributions from the applicant, an agent of the applicant, or any financially interested person who actively supports or opposes the LAFCo decision on the matter. Applicants or agents of applicants who have made campaign contributions totaling more than \$250 to any LAFCo Commissioner in the past 12 months are required to disclose that fact for the official record of the proceeding.

Disclosures must include the amount of the contribution and the recipient Commissioner and may be made either in writing to the Clerk of the Commission prior to the hearing or by an oral declaration at the time of the hearing.

The foregoing requirements are set forth in the Political Reform Act of 1974, specifically Government Code Section 84308.



VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 17, 2018

TO: LAFCo Commissioners

FROM: Kai Luoma, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Election of Officers for 2018

RECOMMENDATION:

- A. Elect a Chair for 2018
- B. Elect a Vice-Chair for 2018

DISCUSSION:

The Commission's By-laws (Attachment 1) provide that both the Chair and Vice-Chair are to be elected by the members of the Commission at the first meeting of each calendar year and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected the following year. The By-laws provide for the officers to be rotated, "so that a member of each of the four represented groups of LAFCo serves one full year in every four-year period." For 2018 a County Member should serve as Chair and a Public Member should serve as Vice-Chair.

Attachment:

- 1: Commissioner's Handbook, Chapter 1, Section 1.1.4

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

COUNTY:
Linda Parks, Vice Chair
John Zaragoza
Alternate:
Steve Bennett

CITY:
Janice Parvin
Carmen Ramirez
Alternate:
Claudia Bill-de la Peña

DISTRICT:
Elaine Freeman, Chair
Mary Anne Rooney
Alternate:
Andy Waters

PUBLIC:
David J. Ross
Alternate:
Pat Richards

Executive Officer:
Kai Luoma, AICP

Analyst
Andrea Ozdy

Office Manager/Clerk
Richelle Beltran

Legal Counsel
Michael Walker

**VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK
DIVISION 1 – OPERATIONAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**



SECTION 1.1.4 OFFICERS

1.1.4.1 Chair: The Chair shall be selected by the members. The Chair shall serve for one year or until his/her successor is selected at the first meeting of each calendar year or at the next regular meeting following the appointment and qualification of the requisite member to fill any expired and/or vacant terms.

The office of Chair shall be rotated so that a member of each of the four represented groups of LAFCo serves one full year in every four-year period. Commencing January of 2002, the rotation of the chair shall be in the following sequence: County, Public, City, and Special District member.

1.1.4.2 Vice-Chair: The Vice-Chair shall be selected by the members. The Vice Chair shall serve for one year or until his/her successor is selected at the first meeting of each calendar year or at the next regular meeting following the appointment and qualification of the requisite member to fill any expired and/or vacant terms. In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair shall serve in place of the Chair.

The office of Vice-Chair shall be rotated so that a member of each of the four represented groups of LAFCo serves one full year in every four-year period. In January 2002, the rotation of the vice-chair shall be in the following sequence: Public, City, Special District, and County member.



VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 15, 2017

Hall of Administration, Board of Supervisors Hearing Room
800 S. Victoria Avenue, Ventura CA

1. Call to Order

Chair Freeman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner Ross led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call

The following Commissioners were present:

Commissioner Parks

Commissioner Parvin

Commissioner Rooney

Commissioner Ross

Commissioner Zaragoza

Chair Freeman

Alternate Commissioner Bill-de la Peña

Alternate Commissioner Richards

Alternate Commissioner Waters

Alternate Commissioner Bill-de la Peña sat as a voting member in the absence of city member Ramirez.

4. Agenda Review

Motion: Hear Item No. 12 immediately following Item No. 9

Moved by Mary Anne Rooney, seconded by Janice Parvin

Vote: Motion carried 7-0

Yes: Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Linda Parks, Janice Parvin, Mary Anne Rooney, David J. Ross, John Zaragoza, and Elaine Freeman.

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

COUNTY: Linda Parks, Vice Chair John Zaragoza <i>Alternate:</i> Steve Bennett	CITY: Janice Parvin Carmen Ramirez <i>Alternate:</i> Claudia Bill-de la Peña	DISTRICT: Elaine Freeman, Chair Mary Anne Rooney <i>Alternate:</i> Andy Waters	PUBLIC: David J. Ross <i>Alternate:</i> Pat Richards
Executive Officer Kai Luoma, AICP	Analyst Andrea Ozdy	Office Manager/Clerk Richelle Beltran	Legal Counsel Michael Walker

5. Commission Presentations and Announcements
There were no presentations or announcements.

6. Public Comments
There were no public comments.

CONSENT ITEMS

7. Minutes of the Ventura LAFCo September 20, 2017, Meeting
8. Ventura LAFCo 2018 Meeting Calendar
9. Budget to Actual Reports: September and October 2017

Motion: Approve Items 7 and 8 and Receive and File Item 9

Moved by Janice Parvin, seconded by David J. Ross

Vote: Motion carried 7-0

Yes: Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Linda Parks, Janice Parvin, Mary Anne Rooney, David J. Ross, John Zaragoza, and Elaine Freeman.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

10. LAFCo 17-08 Ventura County Fire Protection District Annexation - Santa Paula
A proposal to annex the entirety of the City of Santa Paula (City) to the Ventura County Fire Protection District in order for the District to provide fire protection services to the territory within the City.
- A. Determine that the action to approve the request is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines § 15061(b)(3).
 - B. Adopt resolution LAFCo 17-08 making determinations and approving LAFCo 17-08 Ventura County Fire Protection District Annexation – Santa Paula.

Kai Luoma presented the staff report.

The Commission held a public hearing.

The following persons gave public comment: Martin Hernandez, Ginger Gherardi, Mark Watkins, David Endaya, Sheryl Hamlin, Mark Lorenzen, Mary Anne Krause, Mike Tracy, Gabriel Zamora, Richard Rudman, Jenny Crosswhite, Chris Mahon, Laura Espinosa, and Michael Rock.

Motion: Approve

Moved by Mary Anne Rooney, seconded by John Zaragoza

Vote: Motion failed 3-4

Yes: Linda Parks, Mary Anne Rooney, and John Zaragoza.

No: Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Janice Parvin, David J. Ross, and Elaine Freeman.

Motion: Continue to January 17, 2018

Moved by Claudia Bill-de la Peña, seconded by Mary Anne Rooney

Vote: Motion carried 4-1

Yes: Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Janice Parvin, David J. Ross, and Elaine Freeman.

No: Mary Anne Rooney.

Abstain: Linda Parks and John Zaragoza.

Ventura LAFCo Minutes

November 15, 2017

Page 2 of 5

PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS, CONTINUED

Motion: Extend the meeting to continue beyond 12:00 p.m. pursuant to Commission policy (Commissioner's Handbook Section 1.3.3.6)

Moved by David J. Ross, seconded by Janice Parvin

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

Yes: Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Linda Parks, Janice Parvin, Mary Anne Rooney, David J. Ross, and Elaine Freeman.

Absent: John Zaragoza.

11. Sphere of Influence Reviews for the Bardsdale Cemetery District and the El Rancho Simi Cemetery District

- A. Review the sphere of influence for the Bardsdale Cemetery District and determine that no update or municipal service review is necessary.
- B. Review the sphere of influence for the El Rancho Simi Cemetery District and determine that no update or municipal service review is necessary.

Kai Luoma presented the staff report.

The Commission held a public hearing.

The following persons gave public comment: Christine Kitchenmaster and Teresa Jordan.

Motion: Approve

Moved by John Zaragoza, seconded by Janice Parvin

Vote: Motion carried 7-0

Yes: Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Linda Parks, Janice Parvin, Mary Anne Rooney, David J. Ross, John Zaragoza, and Elaine Freeman.

12. Sphere of Influence Reviews for the Ventura Port District and the Oxnard Harbor District

- A. Review the sphere of influence for the Ventura Port District and determine that no update or municipal service review is necessary.
- B. Review the sphere of influence for the Oxnard Harbor District and determine that no update or municipal service review is necessary.

Kai Luoma presented the staff report.

The Commission held a public hearing.

There were no public comments.

Motion: Approve

Moved by Mary Anne Rooney, seconded by Janice Parvin

Vote: Motion carried 7-0

Yes: Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Linda Parks, Janice Parvin, Mary Anne Rooney, David J. Ross, John Zaragoza, and Elaine Freeman.

ACTION ITEMS

13. Compensation of the Executive Officer

Approve the correction to the salary increase granted to the Executive Officer at the September 20, 2017 meeting.

Motion: Approve

Moved by John Zaragoza, seconded by Claudia Bill-de la Peña

Vote: Motion carried 7-0

Yes: Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Linda Parks, Janice Parvin, Mary Anne Rooney, David J. Ross, John Zaragoza, and Elaine Freeman.

14. Update on LAFCo Legislation

No action was taken.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Kai Luoma commented on the annual CALAFCO conference in San Diego and thanked the Commission for being supportive of the Commission's and Staff's attendance at the Conference.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

The next LAFCo meeting will be held on January 17, 2018.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chair Freeman commented on the annual CALAFCO conference in San Diego.

Commissioner Zaragoza commented on the annual CALAFCO conference in San Diego.

Commission Rooney wished Chair Freeman a happy birthday.

Alt. Commissioner Bill-de la Peña asked when the Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) will be brought to the Commission. Kai Luoma replied that the MSRs will be heard at the January 17 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Adjourn at 12:20 p.m.

Moved by John Zaragoza, seconded by Elaine Freeman

Vote: Motion carried 6-0

Yes: Claudia Bill-de la Peña, Janice Parvin, Mary Anne Rooney, David J. Ross, John Zaragoza, and Elaine Freeman.

Absent: Linda Parks.

Approved on this 17th day of January 2018.

Motion: _____

Second: _____

Yes: _____

No: _____

Abstain: _____

Date Chair, Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission

DRAFT




VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 17, 2018

(Consent)

TO: LAFCo Commissioners

FROM: Kai Luoma, Executive Officer 

SUBJECT: Professional Services Agreement for Audit Services – Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt the attached resolution approving a professional services agreement for audit services for fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, with Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP for an amount not to exceed \$8,500 and authorizing the Chair to execute the agreement.

BACKGROUND:

Commissioner's Handbook Policy Section 2.3.6.1 (Attachment 1) provides for annual audits of the LAFCo financial statements by an independent accounting firm. Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP (VTD) has completed audits of the financial statements for Fiscal Years 2010 - 2015.

In June 2016, staff issued a request for proposals for an outside audit of the LAFCo financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2016 with an option for extension for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2017 and June 30, 2018. VTD was the firm that provided the most advantageous proposal with regard to qualifications, related experience and cost. VTD completed the 2016 audit under this proposal and staff decided to exercise the option to extend the proposal to cover the audit for 2017.

In an engagement letter (Agreement) dated January 4, 2018, VTD proposes to audit the LAFCo 2016-17 financial statements at a cost not to exceed \$8,500 (Exhibit A of Attachment 2). Work is scheduled to begin in January and final reports would be issued no later than March 2018. Commissioner's Handbook Section 2.5.4 provides that any contract or agreement greater than \$5,000 shall be presented to the Commission for approval and execution (Attachment 1).

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

COUNTY:
Linda Parks, Vice Chair
John Zaragoza
Alternate:
Steve Bennett

CITY:
Janice Parvin
Carmen Ramirez
Alternate:
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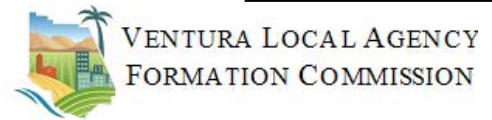
DISCUSSION:

The Agreement has been reviewed by the Ventura County Auditor-Controller's staff, which has agreed to prepare the LAFCo financial statements, and by LAFCo legal counsel. In accordance with the Handbook policies, staff is recommending that the Commission adopt the attached resolution (Attachment 2) approving the Agreement and authorizing the Chair to execute it.

Attachments:

1. Commissioner's Handbook Sections 2.3.6.1 – Independent Auditor Role and 2.5.4 – Contract Approval and Execution
2. Resolution to authorize and execute a professional services agreement with Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Company, LLP

**COMMISSIONER'S HANDBOOK
DIVISION 2**



SECTION 2.3.6 AUDITS

2.3.6.1 Independent Auditor Role: For the two-year period between July 1, 2007 and June 30, 2009, LAFCo shall arrange for a single audit of its financial statements to be conducted by an independent accounting firm. All subsequent year financial statements shall be audited annually thereafter. LAFCo staff, the Commission, and any Commission committee appointed for the purpose of audit oversight are authorized to communicate directly with the independent accounting firm.

SECTION 2.5.4 CONTRACT APPROVAL AND EXECUTION

LAFCo hereby delegates to the Executive Officer or designee the authority to approve and execute contracts and agreements for \$5,000.00 or less, provided sufficient funds are contained in the appropriate line item of the LAFCo budget. In order to expedite work, the Executive Officer is authorized to make minor modifications as may be necessary and to approve increases in contracts in an amount not to exceed \$500, provided sufficient funds are contained in the appropriate line item of the LAFCo budget. Any contract or agreement greater than \$5,000.00, any amendment to a contract or agreement which would cause the total amount of the contract or agreement to exceed \$5,500.00, or any contract or agreement for any amount where there are not sufficient funds contained in the appropriate line item of the LAFCo budget, shall be presented to the Commission for approval and execution.

**RESOLUTION OF THE VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION
COMMISSION TO AUTHORIZE AND EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES AGREEMENT FOR AUDIT SERVICES WITH VAVRINEK,
TRINE, DAY & CO., LLP**

WHEREAS, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Section 56000 et seq. of the California Government Code) requires each Local Agency Formation Commission to adopt an annual budget; and

WHEREAS, the policies of the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission provide for independent audits of its annual financial statements; and

WHEREAS, the policies of the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission provide that any contract or agreement authorizing expenditures greater than \$5,000 shall be presented to the Commission for approval and execution; and

WHEREAS, an engagement letter containing the terms of a professional services agreement to audit the LAFCo financial statements for fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, between Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP and the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission dated January 4, 2018, was duly considered.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission as follows:

- (1) The engagement letter containing the terms of a professional services agreement for audit services between Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP and the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission ("Agreement"), dated January 4, 2018, as set forth in the attached Exhibit A is approved.
- (2) The Chair is directed to execute the Agreement.

This resolution was adopted on January 17, 2018.

	AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Commissioner Freeman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Parvin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Ramirez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Rooney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Ross	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Zaragoza	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alt. Commissioner Bennett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alt. Commissioner Bill-de la Peña	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alt. Commissioner Richards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alt. Commissioner Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Dated: _____
Chair, Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission

Attachment:

Exhibit A – Professional Services Agreement for Audit Services – Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP



VAVRINEK, TRINE, DAY & CO., LLP
Certified Public Accountants

VALUE THE *difference*

January 4, 2018

Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009-1850

We are pleased to confirm our understanding of the services we are to provide Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. We will audit the financial statements of the governmental activities and the general fund, including the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements of LAFCo as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2017. Accounting standards generally accepted in the United States of America provide for certain required supplementary information (RSI), such as management's discussion and analysis (MD&A), to supplement LAFCo's basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. As part of our engagement, we will apply certain limited procedures to LAFCo's RSI in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. These limited procedures will consist of inquiries of management regarding the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We will not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance. The following RSI is required by U.S. generally accepted accounting principles and will be subjected to certain limited procedures, but will not be audited:

- 1) Management's Discussion and Analysis.
- 2) General Fund Budgetary Comparison Schedules

Audit Objectives

The objective of our audit is the expression of opinions as to whether your financial statements are fairly presented, in all material respects, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles. Our audit will be conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and will include tests of the accounting records of LAFCo and other procedures we consider necessary to enable us to express such opinions. We will issue a written report upon completion of our audit of LAFCo's financial statements. Our report will be addressed to the Commissioners of Ventura LAFCo. We cannot provide assurance that unmodified opinions will be expressed. Circumstances may arise in which it is necessary for us to modify our opinions or add emphasis-of-matter or other-matter paragraphs. If our opinions are other than unmodified, we will discuss the reasons with you in advance. If, for any reason, we are unable to complete the audit or are unable to form or have not formed opinions, we may decline to express opinions or issue reports, or may withdraw from this engagement.

We will also provide a report (that does not include an opinion) on internal control related to the financial statements and compliance with the provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a material effect on the financial statements as required by *Government Auditing Standards*. The report on internal control and on compliance and other matters will include a paragraph that states (1) that the purpose of the report is solely to describe the scope of testing of internal control and compliance, and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control on compliance, and (2) that the report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the entity's internal control and compliance. The paragraph will also state that the report is not suitable for any other purpose. If during our audit we become aware that LAFCo is subject to an audit requirement that is not encompassed in the terms of this engagement, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance that an audit in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and the standards for financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* may not satisfy the relevant legal, regulatory, or contractual requirements.

Audit Procedures—General

An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements; therefore, our audit will involve judgment about the number of transactions to be examined and the areas to be tested. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We will plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether from (1) errors, (2) fraudulent financial reporting, (3) misappropriation of assets, or (4) violations of laws or governmental regulations that are attributable to the government or to acts by management or employees acting on behalf of the government. Because the determination of abuse is subjective, *Government Auditing Standards* do not expect auditors to provide reasonable assurance of detecting abuse.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, combined with the inherent limitations of internal control, and because we will not perform a detailed examination of all transactions, there is a risk that material misstatements may exist and not be detected by us, even though the audit is properly planned and performed in accordance with U.S. generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*. In addition, an audit is not designed to detect immaterial misstatements or violations of laws or governmental regulations that do not have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, we will inform the appropriate level of management of any material errors, fraudulent financial reporting, or misappropriation of assets that comes to our attention. Our responsibility as auditors is limited to the period covered by our audit and does not extend to later periods for which we are not engaged as auditors.

Our procedures will include tests of documentary evidence supporting the transactions recorded in the accounts, and may include tests of the physical existence of inventories, and direct confirmation of receivables and certain other assets and liabilities by correspondence with selected individuals, funding sources, creditors, and financial institutions. We will request written representations from your attorneys as part of the engagement, and they may bill you for responding to this inquiry. At the conclusion of our audit, we will require certain written representations from you about your responsibilities for the financial statements; compliance with laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements; and other responsibilities required by generally accepted auditing standards.

Audit Procedures—Internal Control

Our audit will include obtaining an understanding of the government and its environment, including internal control, sufficient to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and to design the nature, timing, and extent of further audit procedures. Tests of controls may be performed to test the effectiveness of certain controls that we consider relevant to preventing and detecting errors and fraud that are material to the financial statements and to preventing and detecting misstatements resulting from illegal acts and other noncompliance matters that have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. Our tests, if performed, will be less in scope than would be necessary to render an opinion on internal control and, accordingly, no opinion will be expressed in our report on internal control issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

An audit is not designed to provide assurance on internal control or to identify significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. However, during the audit, we will communicate to management and those charged with governance internal control related matters that are required to be communicated under American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) professional standards and *Government Auditing Standards*.

Audit Procedures—Compliance

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, we will perform tests of LAFCo's compliance with the provisions of applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants. However, the objective of our audit will not be to provide an opinion on overall compliance and we will not express such an opinion in our report on compliance issued pursuant to *Government Auditing Standards*.

Management Responsibilities

Management is responsible for designing, implementing, and maintaining effective internal controls, including evaluating and monitoring ongoing activities to help ensure that appropriate goals and objectives are met; following laws and regulations; and ensuring that management and financial information is reliable and properly reported. Management is also responsible for implementing systems designed to achieve compliance with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements. You are also responsible for the selection and application of accounting principles, for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and all accompanying information in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, and for compliance with applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of contracts and grant agreements.

Management is also responsible for making all financial records and related information available to us and for the accuracy and completeness of that information. You are also responsible for providing us with (1) access to all information of which you are aware that is relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements, (2) additional information that we may request for the purpose of the audit, and (3) unrestricted access to persons within the government from whom we determine it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

Your responsibilities include adjusting the financial statements to correct material misstatements and for confirming to us in the written representation letter that the effects of any uncorrected misstatements aggregated by us during the current engagement and pertaining to the latest period presented are immaterial, both individually and in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.

You are responsible for the design and implementation of programs and controls to prevent and detect fraud, and for informing us about all known or suspected fraud affecting the government involving (1) management, (2) employees who have significant roles in internal control, and (3) others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements. Your responsibilities include informing us of your knowledge of any allegations of fraud or suspected fraud affecting the government received in communications from employees, former employees, grantors, regulators, or others. In addition, you are responsible for identifying and ensuring that the government complies with applicable laws, regulations, contracts, agreements, and grants and for taking timely and appropriate steps to remedy fraud and noncompliance with provisions of laws, regulations, contracts or grant agreements, or abuse that we report.

Management is responsible for establishing and maintaining a process for tracking the status of audit findings and recommendations. Management is also responsible for identifying and providing report copies of previous financial audits, attestation engagements, performance audits or other studies related to the objectives discussed in the Audit Objectives section of this letter. This responsibility includes relaying to us corrective actions taken to address significant findings and recommendations resulting from those audits, attestation engagements, performance audits, or other studies. You are also responsible for providing management's views on our current findings, conclusions, and recommendations, as well as your planned corrective actions, for the report, and for the timing and format for providing that information.

Engagement Administration, Fees, and Other

We may from time to time and depending on the circumstances, use third-party service providers in serving your account. We may share confidential information about you with these service providers, but remain committed to maintaining the confidentiality and security of your information. Accordingly, we maintain internal policies, procedures, and safeguards to protect the confidentiality of your personal information. In addition, we will secure confidentiality agreements with all service providers to maintain the confidentiality of your information and we will take reasonable precautions to determine that they have appropriate procedures in place to prevent the unauthorized release of your confidential information to others. In the event that we are unable to secure an appropriate confidentiality agreement, you will be asked to provide your consent prior to the sharing of your confidential information with the third-party service provider. Furthermore, we will remain responsible for the work provided by any such third-party service providers.

We understand that LAFCo will prepare all cash, accounts receivable, or other confirmations we request and will locate any documents selected by us for testing.

We will provide copies of our reports to LAFCo; however, management is responsible for distribution of the reports and the financial statements. Unless restricted by law or regulation, or containing privileged and confidential information, copies of our reports are to be made available for public inspection.

The audit documentation for this engagement is the property of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP (VTD) and constitutes confidential information. However, subject to applicable laws and regulations, audit documentation and appropriate individuals will be made available upon request and in a timely manner to the oversight agency or its designee, a federal agency providing direct or indirect funding, or the U.S. Government Accountability Office for purposes of a quality review of the audit, to resolve audit findings, or to carry out oversight responsibilities. We will notify you of any such request. If requested, access to such audit documentation will be provided under the supervision of VTD personnel. Furthermore, upon request, we may provide copies of selected audit documentation to the aforementioned parties. These parties may intend, or decide, to distribute the copies or information contained therein to others, including other governmental agencies.

The audit documentation for this engagement will be retained for a minimum of seven years after the report release date or for any additional period requested by the oversight agency. If we are aware that a federal awarding agency or auditee is contesting an audit finding, we will contact the parties contesting the audit finding for guidance prior to destroying the audit documentation.

We expect to begin our audit on approximately January 2018 and to issue our reports no later than March 2018. Kinnaly Soukhaseum is the engagement partner and is responsible for supervising the engagement and signing the reports or authorizing another individual to sign them.

Our fee for these services will be at our standard hourly rates plus out-of-pocket costs (such as report reproduction, word processing, postage, travel, copies, telephone, etc.) except that we agree that our gross fee, including expenses, will not exceed \$8,500. Our standard hourly rates vary according to the degree of responsibility involved and the experience level of the personnel assigned to your audit. Our invoices for these fees will be rendered each month as work progresses and are payable on presentation. In accordance with our firm policies, work may be suspended if your account becomes 30 days or more overdue and may not be resumed until your account is paid in full. If we elect to terminate our services for nonpayment, our engagement will be deemed to have been completed upon written notification of termination, even if we have not completed our report. You will be obligated to compensate us for all time expended and to reimburse us for all out-of-pocket costs through the date of termination, subject to the aforementioned not-to-exceed amount. The above fee is based on anticipated cooperation from your personnel and the assumption that unexpected circumstances will not be encountered during the audit. If significant additional time is necessary, we will discuss it with you and arrive at a new fee estimate before we incur the additional costs.

Government Auditing Standards require that we provide you with a copy of our most recent external peer review report and any letter of comment, and any subsequent peer review reports and letters of comments received during the period of contract. Our most recent peer review accompanies this letter.

Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP has owners that are not licensed as certified public accountants as permitted under Section 5079 of the California Business and Professions Code. It is not anticipated that any of the non-licensee owners will be performing audit services for LAFCo.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service to LAFCo and believe this letter accurately summarizes the significant terms of our engagement. If you have any questions, please let us know. If you agree with the terms of our engagement as described in this letter, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to us.

Very truly yours,



Kinnaly Soukhaseum
Of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP

170931

RESPONSE:

This letter correctly sets forth the understanding of Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission.

By: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

YANARI WATSON MCGAUGHEY P.C.

DALE M. YANARI (1947-2004) ♦ RANDY S. WATSON ♦ G. LANCE MCGAUGHEY ♦ DON W. GRUENLER
FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS/CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

System Review Report

May 22, 2015

To the Partners of
Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP
and the National Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP (the firm) applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended December 31, 2014. Our peer review was conducted in accordance with the Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews established by the Peer Review Board of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. As a part of our peer review, we considered reviews by regulatory entities, if applicable, in determining the nature and extent of our procedures. The firm is responsible for designing a system of quality control and complying with it to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and the firm's compliance therewith based on our review. The nature, objectives, scope, limitations of, and the procedures performed in a System Review are described in the standards at www.aicpa.org/prsummary.

As required by the standards, engagements selected for review included engagements performed under *Government Auditing Standards*; audits of employee benefit plans and audits performed under FDICIA.

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the accounting and auditing practice of Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP applicable to engagements not subject to PCAOB permanent inspection in effect for the year ended December 31, 2014, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide the firm with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with applicable professional standards in all material respects. Firms can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiency(ies)* or *fail*. Vavrinek, Trine, Day & Co., LLP has received a peer review rating of *pass*.



Yanari Watson McGaughey P.C.



VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 17, 2018
(Consent)

TO: LAFCo Commissioners

FROM: Kai Luoma, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Budget to Actual Reports – November and December 2017

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the Budget to Actual Reports for November and December of the 2017-18 fiscal year.

DISCUSSION:

Pursuant to the Commissioner's Handbook policies, the Executive Officer is to provide monthly budget reports to the Commission as soon as they are available. The attached reports have been prepared with the assistance of the County Auditor-Controller staff. No adjustments to the budget are being recommended at this time.

Attachments:

1. Budget to Actual Report, November 2017
2. Budget to Actual Report, December 2017
3. Expenditures Descriptions

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

COUNTY:
Linda Parks, Vice Chair
John Zaragoza
Alternate:
Steve Bennett

CITY:
Janice Parvin
Carmen Ramirez
Alternate:
Claudia Bill-de la Peña

DISTRICT:
Elaine Freeman, Chair
Mary Anne Rooney
Alternate:
Andy Waters

PUBLIC:
David J. Ross
Alternate:
Pat Richards

Executive Officer:
Kai Luoma, AICP

Analyst
Andrea Ozdy

Office Manager/Clerk
Richelle Beltran

Legal Counsel
Michael Walker



BUDGET TO ACTUAL FY 2017-18
YEAR TO DATE ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2017 (41.67% of year)
Fund 0720, Division/Unit 6170

Summary	Budget	Adj. Budget	To Date
Estimated Sources:	743,491	743,491	730,697
Appropriations	743,491	743,491	224,025

		BUDGET			ACTUAL YTD			
Account Number	Title	Budget	Proposed Adjustments	Adjusted Budget	Actual	Encumbered	Total Revenue/ Obligation	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
FUND BALANCE								
	Beginning Balance	549,858		549,858	549,857.70		549,857.70	0.00
5700	Committed	100,000		100,000	100,000.00		100,000.00	0.00
5995	Unassigned	354,858		354,858	354,857.70		354,857.70	0.00
5995	Unassigned - Appropriated	95,000		95,000	95,000.00		95,000.00	0.00
REVENUE								
8911	Investment Income	1,500		1,500	0.00		0.00	(1,500.00)
9371	Other Governmental Agencies	626,991		626,991	626,953.00		626,953.00	(38.00)
9790	Miscellaneous Revenue	20,000		20,000	8,744.00		8,744.00	(11,256.00)
	Total Revenue	648,491	0	648,491	635,697.00		635,697.00	(12,794.00)
	TOTAL SOURCES	743,491	0	743,491	730,697.00		730,697.00	(12,794.00)
EXPENDITURES								
1101	Regular Salaries	350,500		350,500	123,834.28		123,834.28	226,665.72
1106	Supplemental Payments	14,000		14,000	4,838.10		4,838.10	9,161.90
1107	Terminations (Buydowns)	8,500		8,500	0.00		0.00	8,500.00
1121	Retirement Contribution	76,000		76,000	23,495.94		23,495.94	52,504.06
1122	OASDI Contribution	21,000		21,000	5,582.38		5,582.38	15,417.62
1123	FICA Medicare	5,500		5,500	1,842.49		1,842.49	3,657.51
1128	Retiree Health Payment 1099	7,100		7,100	4,435.70		4,435.70	2,664.30
1141	Group Insurance	26,500		26,500	10,483.92		10,483.92	16,016.08
1142	Life Insurance for Department Heads and Management	150		150	46.83		46.83	103.17
1143	State Unemployment Insurance	350		350	97.11		97.11	252.89
1144	Management Disability Insurance	2,750		2,750	838.53		838.53	1,911.47
1165	Worker Compensation Insurance	2,500		2,500	919.83		919.83	1,580.17
1171	401K Plan	11,000		11,000	1,766.98		1,766.98	9,233.02
	Salaries and Benefits	525,850	0	525,850	178,182.09	0.00	178,182.09	347,667.91
2032	Voice Data ISF	2,500		2,500	793.93		793.93	1,706.07
2071	General Insurance Allocation ISF	1,500		1,500	0.00		0.00	1,500.00
2114	Facillities and Materials Sq. Ft. Allocation ISF	16,100		16,100	6,690.00		6,690.00	9,410.00
2115	Facilities Projects ISF	0		0	0.00		0.00	0.00
2116	Other Maintenance ISF	500		500	0.00		0.00	500.00
2131	Memberships and Dues	7,800		7,800	7,811.00		7,811.00	(11.00)
2158	Cost Allocation Plan Charges	4,500		4,500	2,189.00		2,189.00	2,311.00
2163	Books and Publications	500		500	275.21		275.21	224.79
2164	Mail Center ISF	2,500		2,500	591.42		591.42	1,908.58
2165	Purchasing Charges ISF	100		100	28.10		28.10	71.90
2166	Graphics Charges ISF	500		500	0.00		0.00	500.00
2167	Copy Machine Charges ISF	500		500	(0.45)		(0.45)	500.45
2168	Stores ISF	50		50	5.65		5.65	44.35
2179	Miscellaneous Office Expenses	5,500		5,500	1,079.13		1,079.13	4,420.87
2181	Board and Commission Member Compensation 1099	5,000		5,000	1,100.00		1,100.00	3,900.00
2185	Attorney Services (County Counsel)	22,500		22,500	6,635.75		6,635.75	15,864.25
2199	Other Professional and Specialized Non ISF	15,000		15,000	0.00		0.00	15,000.00
2202	Information Tech ISF	2,500		2,500	821.82		821.82	1,678.18
2203	County Geographical Information Systems Expense ISF	18,000		18,000	4,990.77		4,990.77	13,009.23
2205	Public Works ISF Charges	3,000		3,000	0.00		0.00	3,000.00
2206	Special Services ISF	100		100	0.00		0.00	100.00
2221	Publications and Legal Notices	5,000		5,000	890.72		890.72	4,109.28
2244	Storage Charges ISF	500		500	63.96		63.96	436.04
2261	Computer Equipment < \$5,000	2,500		2,500	0.00		0.00	2,500.00
2262	Furniture and Fixtures < \$5,000	500		500	0.00		0.00	500.00
2272	Conferences / Seminars ISF (Training ISF)	500		500	0.00		0.00	500.00
2273	Education Training Conferences and Seminars	1,000		1,000	0.00		0.00	1,000.00
2291	Private Vehicle Mileage	9,300		9,300	4,337.78		4,337.78	4,962.22
2292	Travel Expenses (Conferences / Seminars)	21,500		21,500	7,351.44		7,351.44	14,148.56
2303	Motorpool ISF	600		600	187.23		187.23	412.77
	Services and Supplies	150,050	0	150,050	45,842.46	0.00	45,842.46	104,207.54
6101	Contingency	67,591		67,591	0.00		0.00	67,591.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	743,491	0	743,491	224,024.55	0.00	224,024.55	519,466.45
							0.00	

Note: Amounts with "()" in the ACTUAL column reflect FY17 accruals in excess of actual expenditures to date



BUDGET TO ACTUAL FY 2017-18
YEAR TO DATE DATE ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017 (50% of year)
Fund 0720, Division/Unit 6170

Summary	Budget	Adj. Budget	To Date
Estimated Sources:	743,491	743,491	731,308
Appropriations	743,491	743,491	263,677

		BUDGET			ACTUAL YTD			
Account Number	Title	Budget	Proposed Adjustments	Adjusted Budget	Actual	Encumbered	Total Revenue/ Obligation	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
FUND BALANCE								
	Beginning Balance	549,858		549,858	549,857.70		549,857.70	0.00
5700	Committed	100,000		100,000	100,000.00		100,000.00	0.00
5995	Unassigned	354,858		354,858	354,857.70		354,857.70	0.00
5995	Unassigned - Appropriated	95,000		95,000	95,000.00		95,000.00	0.00
REVENUE								
8911	Investment Income	1,500		1,500	1,061.29		1,061.29	(438.71)
9371	Other Governmental Agencies	626,991		626,991	626,953.00		626,953.00	(38.00)
9790	Miscellaneous Revenue	20,000		20,000	8,294.00		8,294.00	(11,706.00)
	Total Revenue	648,491	0	648,491	636,308.29		636,308.29	(12,182.71)
	TOTAL SOURCES	743,491	0	743,491	731,308.29		731,308.29	(12,182.71)
EXPENDITURES								
1101	Regular Salaries	350,500		350,500	148,530.08		148,530.08	201,969.92
1106	Supplemental Payments	14,000		14,000	5,801.42		5,801.42	8,198.58
1107	Terminations (Buydowns)	8,500		8,500	0.00		0.00	8,500.00
1121	Retirement Contribution	76,000		76,000	28,179.42		28,179.42	47,820.58
1122	OASDI Contribution	21,000		21,000	6,283.06		6,283.06	14,716.94
1123	FICA Medicare	5,500		5,500	2,210.59		2,210.59	3,289.41
1128	Retiree Health Payment 1099	7,100		7,100	5,322.84		5,322.84	1,777.16
1141	Group Insurance	26,500		26,500	12,565.92		12,565.92	13,934.08
1142	Life Insurance for Department Heads and Management	150		150	56.13		56.13	93.87
1143	State Unemployment Insurance	350		350	116.96		116.96	233.04
1144	Management Disability Insurance	2,750		2,750	1,005.45		1,005.45	1,744.55
1165	Worker Compensation Insurance	2,500		2,500	1,103.22		1,103.22	1,396.78
1171	401K Plan	11,000		11,000	2,119.48		2,119.48	8,880.52
	Salaries and Benefits	525,850	0	525,850	213,294.57	0.00	213,294.57	312,555.43
2032	Voice Data ISF	2,500		2,500	982.05		982.05	1,517.95
2071	General Insurance Allocation ISF	1,500		1,500	683.50		683.50	816.50
2114	Facilities and Materials Sq. Ft. Allocation ISF	16,100		16,100	8,028.00		8,028.00	8,072.00
2115	Facilities Projects ISF	0		0	0.00		0.00	0.00
2116	Other Maintenance ISF	500		500	0.00		0.00	500.00
2131	Memberships and Dues	7,800		7,800	7,811.00		7,811.00	(11.00)
2158	Cost Allocation Plan Charges	4,500		4,500	2,189.00		2,189.00	2,311.00
2163	Books and Publications	500		500	275.21		275.21	224.79
2164	Mail Center ISF	2,500		2,500	701.07		701.07	1,798.93
2165	Purchasing Charges ISF	100		100	33.72		33.72	66.28
2166	Graphics Charges ISF	500		500	0.00		0.00	500.00
2167	Copy Machine Charges ISF	500		500	13.92		13.92	486.08
2168	Stores ISF	50		50	16.28		16.28	33.72
2179	Miscellaneous Office Expenses	5,500		5,500	1,488.53		1,488.53	4,011.47
2181	Board and Commission Member Compensation 1099	5,000		5,000	1,100.00		1,100.00	3,900.00
2185	Attorney Services (County Counsel)	22,500		22,500	6,688.00		6,688.00	15,812.00
2199	Other Professional and Specialized Non ISF	15,000		15,000	0.00		0.00	15,000.00
2202	Information Tech ISF	2,500		2,500	942.00		942.00	1,558.00
2203	County Geographical Information Systems Expense ISF	18,000		18,000	5,924.44		5,924.44	12,075.56
2205	Public Works ISF Charges	3,000		3,000	0.00		0.00	3,000.00
2206	Special Services ISF	100		100	0.00		0.00	100.00
2221	Publications and Legal Notices	5,000		5,000	894.72		894.72	4,105.28
2244	Storage Charges ISF	500		500	159.90		159.90	340.10
2261	Computer Equipment < \$5,000	2,500		2,500	0.00		0.00	2,500.00
2262	Furniture and Fixtures < \$5,000	500		500	0.00		0.00	500.00
2272	Conferences / Seminars ISF (Training ISF)	500		500	0.00		0.00	500.00
2273	Education Training Conferences and Seminars	1,000		1,000	0.00		0.00	1,000.00
2291	Private Vehicle Mileage	9,300		9,300	4,912.78		4,912.78	4,387.22
2292	Travel Expenses (Conferences / Seminars)	21,500		21,500	7,351.44		7,351.44	14,148.56
2303	Motorpool ISF	600		600	187.23		187.23	412.77
	Services and Supplies	150,050	0	150,050	50,382.79	0.00	50,382.79	99,667.21
6101	Contingency	67,591		67,591	0.00		0.00	67,591.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	743,491	0	743,491	263,677.36	0.00	263,677.36	479,813.64
							0.00	

0.00

Note: Amounts with "()" in the ACTUAL column reflect FY17 accruals in excess of actual expenditures to date

EXPENDITURES

Account Code	Services and Supplies	Explanation of Services
2032	Voice/Data ISF	Telephone / FAX services, voice and data network access.
2071	General Insurance Allocation ISF	Liability and general insurance.
2114	Facilities and Materials SQ FT Allocation ISF	Custodial services, facility maintenance, utilities, and special services, including security (based on square footage).
2115/ 2116	Facilities Projects ISF / Other Maintenance	Management of facility projects & repairs: heating/air conditioning, lighting, plumbing, roofing, flooring, painting, etc.
2131	Memberships and Dues	CALAFCO and American Planning Association.
2158	Cost Allocation Plan Charges	Building use, equipment/software use, general County services: payroll, financial, business technology, County Counsel, and human resources.
2163	Books and Publications	Newspaper subscription, miscellaneous publications (CEQA, planning/land use, etc.)
2164	Mail Center ISF	Incoming and outgoing U.S. mail and internal brown mail.
2165	Purchasing Charges ISF	Procurement services for processing purchase orders, verifying licenses and insurance coverage, and procurement credit card.
2166	Graphics Charges ISF	Printing services for large volume print jobs.
2167	Copy Machine Chgs ISF	Metered copies for printing large volume print jobs.
2168	Stores ISF	Warehousing and distribution services of surplus inventory.
2179	Miscellaneous Office Expenses	Miscellaneous office supplies.
2181	Board and Commission Member Compensation	Commission stipend payments.
2185	Attorney Services (County Counsel)	County Counsel charges.
2199	Other Professional and Specialized Non ISF (VTD Auditors and County Accounting Services)	Independent auditor and County auditing services.
2202	Information Tech ISF	MS Office licensing, email, network storage, and IT support.
2203	County Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Expense ISF	GIS Allocation, GIS services: map preparation & printing, and website hosting.
2205	Public Works ISF Charges	Surveyor updates to LAFCo maps, public inquiries charged to LAFCo.
2206	Special Services ISF	Security guard, permit parking, conference room reservations, audio-visual equipment requests, I.D. badges, etc.
2221	Publications and Legal Notices	Public hearing notices published in newspaper.
2244	Storage Charges ISF	Off-site record storage and retrieval (hard copies).
2261	Computer Equipment < \$5,000	Computer equipment under \$5,000.
2262	Furniture and Fixtures < \$5,000	Furniture and fixtures under \$5,000.
2272	Conferences/Seminars ISF (Training ISF)	County-offered training classes.
2273	Education Conference and Seminars	Tuition and textbook reimbursement.
2291	Private Vehicle Mileage	Mileage reimbursement and auto allowance.
2292	Travel Expense (Conferences / Seminars)	Expenses for CALAFCO conferences and workshops.
2303	Motorpool ISF	Use of County vehicle for official business.



VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: January 17, 2018
(continued from November 15, 2017)

LAFCo Case: LAFCo 17-08 Ventura County Fire Protection District Annexation – Santa Paula

Project: The proposal is to annex the entirety of the City of Santa Paula (City) to the Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD) in order for the VCFPD to provide fire protection services to the territory within the City.

Recommendation: Continue the matter to the February 21, 2018 LAFCo meeting.

BACKGROUND

The proposal was considered by the Commission at the November 2017 LAFCo meeting. The Commission continued the matter to the January 2018 LAFCo meeting to provide the VCFPD and City additional time to execute a memorandum of agreement (MOA), as discussed in the November Staff Report (Attachment 1). The additional time would also allow for further discussion between the VCFPD and the City of Ventura regarding potential impacts related to the potential closure of the VCFPD fire station located east of Ventura.

DISCUSSION

As explained in the November Staff Report and discussed at the November LAFCo meeting, the VCFPD and the City have been in negotiations to finalize various aspects of the plan for service and intend to enter into a MOA. The Commission expressed concerns that because the MOA had not yet been finalized, the specific provisions of it were either unknown or vague. As such, it was not clear if any of the MOA's provisions would be service related and an issue for Commission consideration. Though the VCFPD and City are moving forward with the MOA, the negotiations were delayed due to the Thomas Fire and the MOA has not yet been executed. However, LAFCo staff was provided a draft of the MOA. The draft MOA essentially memorializes the plan for services and provides some specificity to the services already outlined in the VCFPD's plan for service (the plan for service can be found as Attachment 2 of the November Staff Report). The draft MOA also outlines the purchase and/or lease terms of the City's two fire stations, the transfer of equipment from the City to the VCFPD, the transfer

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

COUNTY: Linda Parks, Vice Chair John Zaragoza <i>Alternate:</i> Steve Bennett	CITY: Janice Parvin Carmen Ramirez <i>Alternate:</i> Claudia Bill-de la Peña	DISTRICT: Elaine Freeman, Chair Mary Anne Rooney <i>Alternate:</i> Andy Waters	PUBLIC: David J. Ross <i>Alternate:</i> Pat Richards
Executive Officer: Kai Luoma, AICP	Analyst Andrea Ozdy	Office Manager/Clerk Richelle Beltran	Legal Counsel Michael Walker

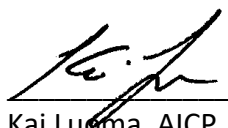
of funds that were to be used for the construction of a new fire station in the East Area 1 Specific Plan, and the terms under which City fire personnel would be offered employment with the VCFPD. The draft MOA does not contain any provisions that would change the plan for services in any significant way.

The Thomas Fire also delayed additional discussion between the VCFPD and the City of Ventura. However, the VCFPD believes that the proposal would not result in a significant impact to the level of fire protection services in the City of Ventura.

Alternative Actions Available:

- A. If the Commission, following public testimony and review of the materials submitted, determines that it wishes to approve the proposal, the Commission can take the following actions:
 - 1. Determine that the action to approve the request is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines § 15061(b)(3).
 - 2. Adopt resolution LAFCo 17-08 making determinations and approving LAFCo 17-08 Ventura County Fire Protection District Annexation – Santa Paula (Attachment 2).
- B. If the Commission, following public testimony and review of materials submitted, wishes to deny or modify the proposal, the action should include direction that the matter be continued to the next meeting and that staff prepare a new report consistent with the evidence submitted and the anticipated decision.

BY:


Kai Luoma, AICP
Executive Officer

Attachments:

- 1. November 15, 2017 LAFCo Staff Report (excluding Attachment 1)
- 2. LAFCo Resolution 17-08

LAFCo makes every effort to offer legible map files with the online and printed versions of our reports; however, occasionally the need to reduce oversize original maps and/or other technological/software factors can compromise readability. Original maps are available for viewing at the LAFCo office by request.

LAFCo 17-08

Ventura County Fire Protection District Annexation – Santa Paula

January 17, 2018

Page 2 of 2



VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION
STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: November 15, 2017

LAFCo 17-08
January 17, 2018
Item 11, Attachment 1

LAFCo Case: LAFCo 17-08 Ventura County Fire Protection District Annexation – Santa Paula

Project: The proposal is to annex the entirety of the City of Santa Paula (City) to the Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD) in order for the VCFPD to provide fire protection services to the territory within the City.

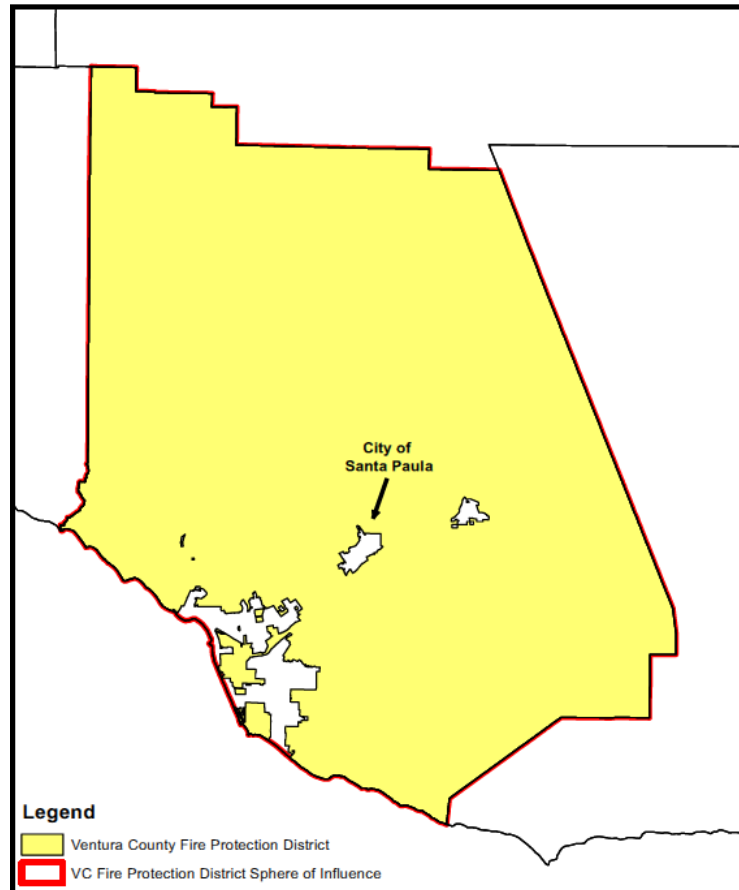
Size: Approximately 3,550 acres.

Location: The proposal area consists of the entirety of the City.

Proponent: VCFPD and the City by resolutions.

Notice: This matter has been noticed as prescribed by law.

Recommendations:



- A. Determine that the action to approve the request is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines § 15061(b)(3).
- B. Adopt resolution LAFCo 17-08 making determinations and approving LAFCo 17-08 Ventura County Fire Protection District Annexation – Santa Paula (Attachment 1).

COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

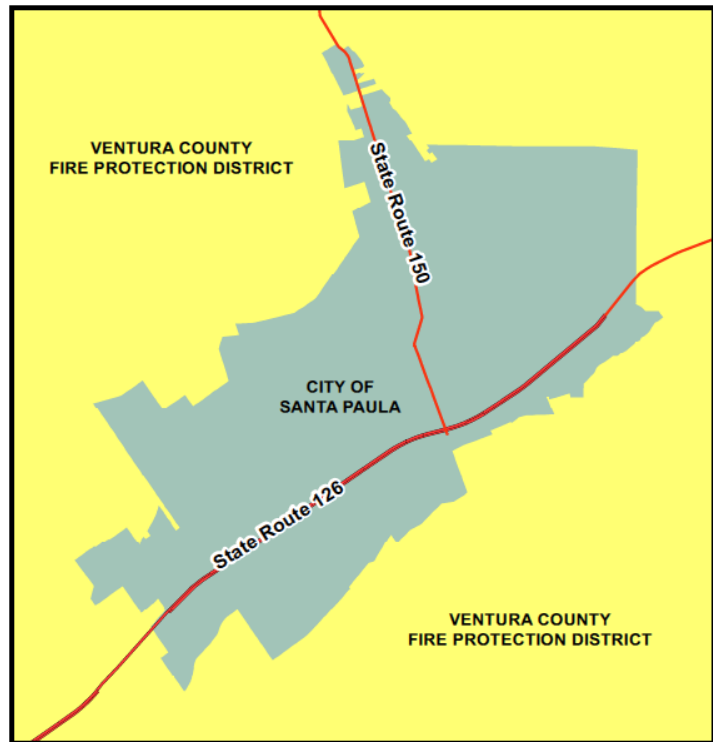
COUNTY: Linda Parks, Vice Chair John Zaragoza <i>Alternate:</i> Steve Bennett	CITY: Janice Parvin Carmen Ramirez <i>Alternate:</i> Claudia Bill-de la Peña	DISTRICT: Elaine Freeman, Chair Mary Anne Rooney <i>Alternate:</i> Andy Waters	PUBLIC: David J. Ross <i>Alternate:</i> Pat Richards
Executive Officer: Kai Luoma, AICP	Analyst Andrea Ozdy	Office Manager/Clerk Richelle Beltran	Legal Counsel Michael Walker

Request:

The request is to annex the territory within the City to the VCFPD in order for the VCFPD to provide fire protection and emergency services within the City. If annexed, the City's Fire Department will no longer provide such services.

Both the Board of Directors of the VCFPD and the Santa Paula City Council adopted resolutions requesting that LAFCo initiate the annexation. The parties have also entered into a property tax sharing agreement in order to fund the services to be provided by the VCFPD (discussed later in this report).

The City is entirely surrounded by the VCFPD and is within the VCFPD sphere of influence.



General Analysis:

Government Code § 56668 identifies several factors that the Commission must consider as part of its review of a change of organization proposal. These factors are discussed as follows.

1. Land Use and Population [Government Code §§ 56668(a), 56668(o), and 56668(g)]

Land Area, Land Use, and Consistency with Plans

The proposal area includes the entirety of the City. The City's General Plan regulates land uses throughout the City, and includes such land use designations as industrial, commercial, and residential. The proposal will allow for the VCFPD to assume fire protection services from the City's Fire Department. No land use or zoning designations will be affected. Additionally, the proposal will have no impact on the current City population of 30,654¹.

¹ California Department of Finance estimate as of January 1, 2017

Likelihood of Growth in the Area

The proposal will allow the VCFPD to assume fire protection services from the City. It will not change City land use or zoning designations and, thus, will not encourage growth in the City.

Topography, Natural Features and Drainage

The proposal will not affect land use designations nor is it associated with a development project. Therefore, the proposal will not impact, or be impacted by, topography, natural features, or drainage.

Population

Twelve or more registered voters reside within the proposal area. Therefore, the annexation proposal area is considered to be inhabited, pursuant to Government Code § 56046.

Regional Transportation Plan

LAFCo staff did not identify any conflicts of the proposal with the Regional Transportation Plan / Sustainable Communities Strategy.

2. Services and Controls – Need, Cost, Adequacy and Availability [Government Code §§ 56668(b), 56668(k), and 56668(l)]

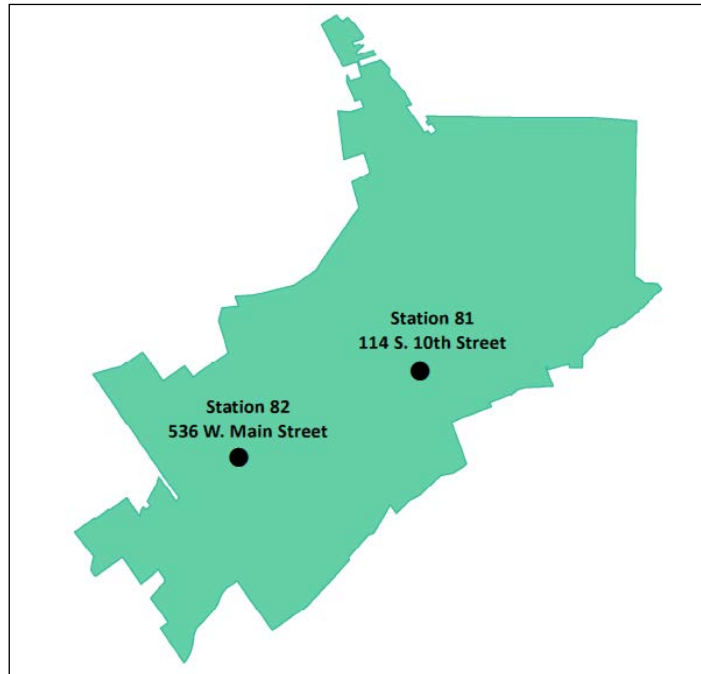
Need for fire protection services

The City's Fire Department currently provides fire protection services within the City. The Fire Department operates two stations. Therefore, the City has determined that there is a need for fire protection services.

Present cost and adequacy of fire protection services

The Fire Department currently provides first responder emergency and fire suppression services. It also provides such services as fire suppression programs, code enforcement, and inspection services.

The City operates two fire stations: Station 81 (114 S. 10th Street) and Station 82 (536 W. Main Street) (see map inset). According to City staff, the City currently employs 20 full-time personnel within the Fire Department, consisting of one Fire Chief, one Assistant Chief, six Fire Captains, six Engineers and six Firefighters, all of whom are also Emergency Medical Technicians. The Assistant Chief position is currently being filled by three part-time Assistant Chiefs on a rotating basis. In addition, four unpaid reserve firefighters supplement these positions through a volunteer program. Normal staffing at each



station is: one full-time captain, one full-time engineer, and one full-time firefighter. All are on 24-hour rotating shifts. Reserve firefighters are occasionally used, based on the individual's availability, as supplemental staffing to result in 4-person staffing on one or both engines. The actual occurrence of this supplemental staffing has waned over the past five years.

According to the VCFPD, which provides dispatch services for all fire departments in the County, the City's average response times to calls within the City over the previous three years were:

	Average Response Time
911 call pick up to unit arrival	5:46 minutes
Unit dispatch to unit arrival	4:42 minutes

In the event of a call for a structure fire, the City Fire Department responds with initial units/personnel. If, upon arrival of the initial units, an actual fire is discovered, additional units/personnel will respond, as shown in the following table:

City Initial Response to Structure Fire		
	Equipment	Personnel
Chief Officer	-	2*
Fire engines	3**	9
Initial Total	3	11
City Additional Response if Actual Fire Discovered		
Truck/support company	1***	4
Light and air unit	1***	3
Additional Total	2	7
Total Response	5	18

* One Chief Officer is from VCFPD

** One engine from a mutual aid partner (VCFPD, City of Ventura, or City of Fillmore)

*** From a mutual aid partner

The Department does not provide other emergency services, such as:

- Hazardous materials (beyond the “first responder” operational level)
- Paramedics
- Helicopter aerial firefighting
- Type 1 heavy urban search and rescue
- Ladder trucks
- Swift water rescue
- Type 3 Wildland fire engines
- Enhanced wildland fire response (hand crews, bull dozers, water tenders, and other specialized equipment)
- Heavy rescue vehicles with specialized equipment for vehicles accidents, entrapments, etc.
- Fire investigations
- Enhanced incident management

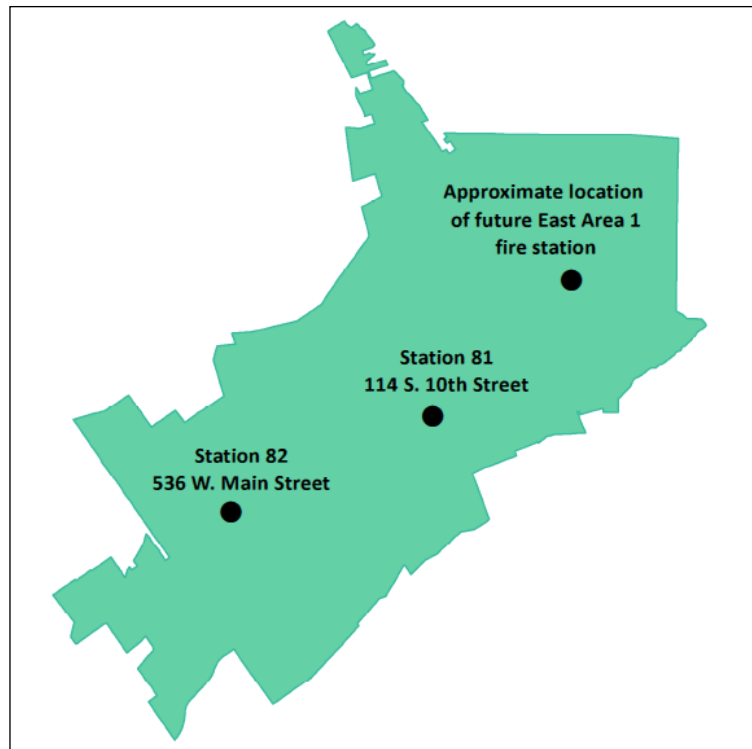
Though these services can be made available to the City by the VCFPD, these services are considered “assistance by hire” and the City is charged a fee for them.

The City’s preliminary budget for the current fiscal year proposes an expenditure of \$3.04 million for the Fire Department. The Fire Department budget has averaged approximately \$2.9 million over the previous five years.

Probable future needs of fire protection services

According to City staff, the City's two fire stations are in immediate need of upgrades at a cost of nearly \$200,000. The stations do not meet industry standards and the eventual rebuilding of the two fire stations will cost approximately \$16 million.

In addition, in 2008 the City approved the East Area 1 Specific Plan and related entitlements, a development that includes 1,500 residential units and several hundred thousand square feet of other uses. LAFCo approved a sphere of influence amendment and a reorganization proposal in 2011 to allow for the Specific Plan area to be annexed to the City. During the City's review of the Specific Plan, it was determined that the staffing levels and resources of the City's Fire Department were not able to provide adequate service to the development area and approval of the project included the requirement that the developer fund the construction of a new public safety facility,



including a fire station (see inset map) and a pumper apparatus to serve the development and surrounding area (not to exceed a total of \$4 million from the developer). The City would be responsible for staffing and operating the station. At the time, the East Area 1 Specific Plan estimated that the City's cost to staff and operate the new fire station would be approximately \$825,000 per year.

According to City staff, the cost of staffing a third fire station from the City's General Fund has proven to be beyond the City's capability. Therefore, the staffing of any new fire station could only be accomplished by closing one of the two existing stations and relocating the crew to the new station. This would result in essentially the same level of service as is currently being provided (i.e. two fire stations). The cost to build the new station is now estimated at approximately \$7 million, substantially higher than the \$4 million the developer agreed to fund, and would require additional funding from the City. According to City staff, this expense would overburden the City's General Fund and, therefore, it is

unlikely that the City could absorb the additional funding necessary to complete a new functional fire station.

It can also be assumed that in the future the City will require the assistance of the VCFPD to provide one or more of the “assistance for hire” fire protection/emergency services discussed above, the cost of which would be billed to the City.

The probable effect of the proposed annexation on the cost and adequacy of fire protection services

Plan for Service

According to the plan for service submitted to LAFCo as part of the annexation application (Attachment 2), the VCFPD has the capability to provide an increased level of fire protection services to the territory within the City and will receive adequate revenue to cover the cost of those services.

According to the plan for service, the VCFPD would take over control and operation of both of the City’s fire stations. The two fire stations will be evaluated and upgraded, including enhancements such as advanced computer networks and other technologies, cardiac monitors, and self-contained breathing apparatuses. New personnel protective equipment will also be provided.

The VCFPD response time goal from call pick up to on-scene arrival is under 8.5 minutes for suburban areas and 12 minutes for rural areas 90% of the time (the VCFPD currently meets its goals 91% of the time). The upgrades and enhancements will allow the VCFPD to provide adequate fire protection coverage using the existing stations temporarily, as the VCFPD plans to replace both stations with newly-constructed stations (see Section 5A of the attached plan for service for a more comprehensive explanation of future facilities). The VCFPD plans to rebuild City Station 81 on the current site. City Station 82 will be manned with crew members repositioned from the existing VCFPD station (Station 26) located west of the City (which will be closed). The VCFPD also plans to rebuild Station 82 either inside or outside City limits strategically positioned to provide coverage to the City. The estimated cost to rebuild the two stations is \$16 million. The VCFPD would cover all of these costs. According to the plan for service, with the upgrades to the current stations, VCFPD will be able to respond to any developed area in the City within its 8.5 minute response time goal (see Attachments 3 and 4).

The VCFPD will fit each station with a fire engine and one fire captain, one fire engineer, and one firefighter to provide emergency first responder and fire suppression services. In addition, the VCFPD plans to reorganize staffing and units within the region to better meet the needs of the City and VCFPD overall and will make available to the City all of the

resources and services offered by the VCFPD (as listed previously), including but not limited to:

- Hazardous materials
- Helicopter aerial firefighting
- Search and rescue
- Swift water rescue
- Enhanced wildland fire response
- Hand crews
- Fire investigations
- Enhanced incident management

As part of the VCFPD, the City would no longer be billed for these services. The attached plan for service contains a comprehensive list of the services that would be provided by the VCFPD. The VCFPD would also continually evaluate service delivery models for the City and make any necessary operational adjustments to meet the needs of the VCFPD and the City.

According to VCFPD staff, in the event of a call for a structure fire, the VCFPD would initially respond with more units/personnel than does the City currently. If upon arrival of the initial units an actual fire is discovered, a greater number of additional units/personnel would respond, as shown in the following table:

VCFPD Initial Response to Structure Fire		
	Equipment	Personnel
Chief Officer	-	1
Fire engines	3	9
Truck/support company	1	4
Paramedic squad*	-	2
Initial Total	4	16
VCFPD Additional Response if Actual Fire Discovered		
Chief Officer	-	1
Fire Engines	2	6
Truck/support company	1	4
Light and air unit	1	3
Ambulance	1	1
Ambulance Supervisor	-	1
Safety Officer	-	1
Public Information Officer	-	1
Investigator	-	1
Additional Total	5	19
Total Response	9	35

* A paramedic squad will respond to the initial call if one is located within 11 minutes of the incident. If a squad does not respond to the initial call, it will respond in the event of an actual fire discovered.

According to the plan for service, with the aforementioned enhancements and upgrades to the existing fire stations, and their subsequent replacement with two new fire stations, the VCFPD can provide adequate fire protection services to the entire City without the need to construct a new facility in the East Area 1 Specific Plan². Construction within the specific plan area has not yet commenced, and it will take several years for the area to be built out.

Cost of fire protection services

According the VCFPD, the initial annual operating cost to provide fire protection services to the territory within the City would be approximately \$2.7 million, increasing to \$3.5 million over 10 years (an average annual operating cost of \$3.0 million). Costs to improve, enhance, and equip the existing fire stations would also be incurred. The cost to construct the two new fire stations would be approximately \$16 million. The total cost to the VCFPD over 10 years would be approximately \$46 million.

To fund these services, the VCFPD (through the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, pursuant to Revenue and Taxation Code section 99) and the City entered into a property tax exchange agreement under which the VCFPD would receive 16.5% of the total amount of property tax revenue generated within the boundaries of the City. This equates to 79% of the property tax revenue allocated to the City. The VCFPD projects property tax revenue will grow at 3% annually and that additional revenue will be generated as approved development occurs (such East Area 1) and Redevelopment Agency obligations are paid off. Based on these projections, the VCFPD estimates that it will receive approximately \$3.0 million in property tax revenue for the initial year, increasing to \$5.4 million in 10 years (an average of \$4.1 million). In addition, the \$4 million that the developer of the East Area 1 Specific Plan agreed to fund the construction of a new fire station will be transferred to the VCFPD. The total estimated revenue in 10 years would be approximately \$44.6 million.

Based on the projections provided by the VCFPD, under the agreement, total overall cost to the VCFPD to provide services to the territory within the City would exceed total revenue until approximately the 13th year, after which time annual revenue would exceed annual

² As part of its approval of the annexation of the East Area 1 Specific Plan (LAFCo 10-12), the Commission approved a condition that required the Specific Plan be revised so that the fire station is completed prior to occupancy of the 250th residential unit. Should the subject proposal be approved and should the City subsequently modify the East Area 1 Specific Plan to remove the requirement to construct a new fire station, the Commission's condition of approval would become moot.

costs. Therefore, it appears that the VCFPD will receive adequate revenue to fund long-term fire protection service to the territory.

Other matters/considerations

The VCFPD and the City are currently in negotiations to finalize the details of various aspects of the plan for service and intend to enter into a memorandum of agreement (MOA). The pending issues for which agreement is sought pertain to:

- Employment of current City fire personnel by the VCFPD and their future retirement compensation
- Purchase and/or lease terms of the City's two existing fire stations
- Transfer of City funds following the annexation but prior to the property tax redistribution
- Amendments to the East Area 1 Specific Plan and the transfer of funds that were set aside for the construction of the fire station within the specific plan.

Though the VCFPD and City have not yet reached agreement on all of these issues, neither party wished to delay the LAFCo process, and the application includes a request that, should the Commission approve the proposal, it include a condition that the annexation is not to be finalized unless and until both the City and VCFPD execute the MOA. Absent an executed MOA, the Commission's approval would expire within one year unless either party requests, and the Commission approves, an extension of time. Should the Commission approve the annexation, staff recommends that the following condition of approval be included:

This annexation shall not be recorded unless and until the Ventura County Fire Protection District and the City of Santa Paula have executed a memorandum of agreement addressing to their satisfaction matters related to and necessary for the annexation and plan for service to be implemented.

This recommended condition is included in the resolution of approval (Attachment 1).

3. Effect of Proposed Action and Alternative Actions [Government Code § 56668(c)]

As mentioned, as part of its plan for service, the VCFPD plans to close an existing fire station located west of the City between it and the City of Ventura. Under cooperative agreements, all fire departments within the County have agreed to respond to all emergencies with the closest available unit. As a result, City of Ventura Fire Department units are available to respond to emergencies in the unincorporated area with the closest unit and VCFPD resources respond to emergencies in the City of Ventura. The City of Ventura operates a fire station in the eastern part of the city and has expressed concern

that the closing of the VCFPD fire station may result in an increased number of calls in the unincorporated County to which City of Ventura Fire Department resources would be dispatched (Attachment 5).

According to the VCFPD, the closure of this fire station will likely result in an increase in the number of calls in the unincorporated County to which City of Ventura Fire Department units would be dispatched. The territory east of the City of Ventura in which the city would likely have the closest unit, and thus be expected to respond, experienced 35 incidents in 2014, 38 in 2015, and 45 in 2016, or an average of 39 incidents per year (see Attachment 6). Therefore, the estimated increase in number of calls to which the City of Ventura Fire Department units are dispatched would average approximately 1 every 9 days, or less than 0.11 calls per day. Though the VCFPD does not believe this increase to be significant, the City of Ventura has expressed concerns and discussions between the VCFPD and the City of Ventura regarding this issue continue.

4. Conformity with Adopted Commission Policies [Government Code § 56668(d)]

The proposal is consistent with all the Commission policies for changes of organization that are contained in the Ventura LAFCo Commissioner's Handbook.

5. Impact on Prime Agricultural Land and Agriculture and Open Space [Government Code §§ 56668(d), 56668(e), and 56377]

The proposal includes no development and will not alter existing land uses within the City. Therefore, it will not impact prime agricultural land or open space.

6. Boundaries and Lines of Assessment [Government Code § 56668(f)]

The proposal area includes the entirety of the City of Santa Paula. Therefore, the boundaries of the proposal area are definite and certain.

7. Applicable Spheres of Influence [Government Code § 56668(i)]

The entire proposal area is located within the VCFPD sphere of influence. No amendments to the VCFPD sphere of influence are necessary to accommodate the proposal.

8. Regional Housing Needs [Government Code § 56668(m)]

The proposal will not affect current land use designations nor is it associated with a development project. As such, the proposal will not affect the City's regional housing needs.

9. Environmental Justice [Government Code § 56668(p)]

Approval of the proposal would not result in the unfair treatment of any person based on race, culture or income with respect to the provision of fire protection services in the City. Staff did not identify any issues regarding environmental justice.

10. Comments and Additional Information [Government Code §§ 56668(j) and 56668(n)]

A letter opposing the annexation was submitted to LAFCo on September 27, 2017 (Attachment 7). LAFCo also received a letter in support of the proposal from the Ventura County Professional Firefighters Association and the Santa Paula Police Officers Association. Letters [to the Editor] in support of the proposal were also submitted. The letters in support are combined as Attachment 8.

The letter in opposition to the proposal is “electronically signed” by multiple individuals. Attached to the letter is a petition that was/is available online and electronically signed by over 300 people³. The letter expresses three primary concerns with the proposal: lack of affordability, excessive cost, and potential conflicts of interest by decision makers and others involved in the City’s process. In short, the letter claims that the information upon which the City Council relied in making its decision to pursue annexation to the VCFPD was flawed, inaccurate, and/or misleading. The letter further disagrees with the City Council’s decision regarding the tax exchange agreement and maintains that the City Council’s reliance on future sales tax to balance its budget is misguided and unreliable (City voters recently approved a one cent general sales tax increase, known as Measure T). The letter further maintains that the costs to provide the services by the VCFPD are excessive and unfair to the City, diverting future funds away from other needed City services. Finally, the letter claims that the involvement of the City’s fire union in the City’s process raises conflict of interest concerns.

Presumably, the City Council understood the level of service that was proposed to be provided by the VCFPD and the costs associated with those services when it took action to pursue the annexation. As mentioned previously, the City Council adopted a resolution in May 2017 requesting that LAFCo initiate annexation proceedings. Among the terms and conditions adopted by the City Council is:

³ Footnote 6 in the letter indicates that the petition is in opposition to the “currently proposed annexation”. However, the petition itself is directed at the Santa Paula City Council, not LAFCo, and urges the City Council “not to move forward” with the annexation. The City Council adopted a resolution requesting that LAFCo initiate annexation proceedings to the VCFPD on May 1, 2017.

“The District shall comply with the Plan for Service, to be submitted by the District and subject to LAFCo approval and conditions therein, in order to provide for the delivery of fire protection and emergency medical services to the City...”

Also, as mentioned, the City Council entered into a property tax exchange agreement with the VCFPD under which a portion of the City’s property tax would be redistributed to the VCFPD to cover the costs of the services to be provided.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):

Staff recommends that the Commission find that the requested annexation is exempt from CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3)⁴, as the proposal would allow for the VCFPD to assume fire protection and emergency services from the City. The proposal involves no changes to existing land use or zoning designations and is not associated with any development. The draft resolution contains a finding that the proposed action is exempt from CEQA, as described above.

Commission Proceedings – Process Considerations:

Should the Commission approve the proposed annexation it will be subject to conducting authority proceedings, more commonly known as protest proceedings. The Commission has delegated conducting authority functions and responsibilities to the Executive Officer (Commissioner’s Handbook Section 2.5.1).

Within 35 days of the Commission’s approval, the Executive Officer must schedule a protest hearing and provide public notice. The notice shall be provided a minimum of 21 days, but no more than 60 days, prior to the date of the protest hearing. During the time period between the notice and the protest hearing, registered voters and/or property owners within the territory subject to the annexation (i.e., the City) may file written protests against the annexation. At the close of the public hearing, the value of the valid written protests will be determined (this may occur at a subsequent hearing if a large number of written protests are filed) and the Executive Officer must take one of the following actions:

1. Terminate proceedings if 50 percent or more of the registered voters within the City file valid written protests.


⁴ CEQA Guidelines § 15061(b)(3) provides that a project is exempt from CEQA if “The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.”

2. Order the annexation subject to confirmation of the registered voters within the City, if valid written protest have been filed by:
 - a. At least 25 percent, but less than 50 percent, of the registered voters residing within the City, or
 - b. At least 25 percent of the number of landowners who also own at least 25 percent of the assessed value land within the City.
3. Order the annexation without an election if neither 1 or 2 above apply.

Alternative Actions Available:

- A. If the Commission, following public testimony and review of the materials submitted, determines that further information is necessary, an action to continue the hearing should include the specific information desired and specify a date certain for further consideration.
- B. If the Commission, following public testimony and review of the materials submitted, determines that the proposal should be approved subject to any changes or additions to the terms and conditions recommended, an action to approve should clearly specify any changes or additions to the terms and conditions of approval.
- C. If the Commission, following public testimony and review of materials submitted, wishes to deny or modify the proposal, the action should include direction that the matter be continued to the next meeting and that staff prepare a new report consistent with the evidence submitted and the anticipated decision.

BY:



Kai Luoma, AICP
Executive Officer

Attachments:

1. ~~LAFCo Resolution 17-08~~
2. VCFPD Plan for Service
3. Map showing VCFPD response time from current location of Station 81
4. Map showing VCFPD response time from current location of Station 82
5. Letter from City of Ventura, not dated (received by LAFCo office November 1, 2017)
6. Map showing number of incidents east of the City of Ventura
7. Letter of opposition, dated September 27, 2017
8. Letters of support

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LAFCo 17-08

Ventura County Fire Protection District Annexation – Santa Paula

November 15, 2017

Page 14 of 14

City of Santa Paula
Annexation into the
Ventura County Fire Protection District
Plan for Service

1. Proposed Annexation

The City of Santa Paula (City), a municipal corporation established in 1902, and the Ventura County Fire Protection District (Fire District), a special district established pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, jointly propose annexation of the City into the Fire District for provision of fire suppression services, rescue services, emergency medical services (EMS) and other related services by the Fire District. Annexation into the Fire District will allow the City to take advantage of the substantial economies of scale available from having the Fire District provide such services throughout the areas in and surrounding the City, including from existing Fire District stations and personnel located both nearby and throughout the County. In addition, the Fire District has mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire protection entities that are contractually obligated to assist the Fire District in fighting fires within its boundaries, which will include the City if the annexation is completed.

Annexation of the City into the Fire District will result in the assumption of all fire, rescue, and EMS services by the Fire District for the City. To cover the costs of providing such services, the City and the Fire District have executed a joint “tax exchange agreement” resolution that, should the proposed annexation be completed, will result in a transfer to the Fire District of a sufficient percentage of the City’s property tax revenue to support the short and long term costs of the Fire District’s providing such services to the City. Following execution of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the Fire District and County, regarding personnel (employees), property (fire stations and vehicles, etc.), insurance and retirement costs (e.g., workers’ compensation claims coverage and pension costs), and any other related issues, the City will have no further funding obligations for the provision of fire prevention and suppression, rescues, EMS, and other public services to be delivered by the Fire District within the City once the annexation has been completed. The proposed starting date for delivery of services by the Fire District to the City, should the annexation be timely completed, is December 1, 2017.

The following table details the staffing and resources that will be provided by the Fire District to the City after annexation.

Table 1. Proposed Ventura County Fire Protection District Staffing and Resources

Personnel		Resources	
Fire Chief	1	Type I Engines	46
Deputy Chief	1	Type III Engines	11
Assistant Chiefs	3	Type VI Engines	4
Division Chiefs	3	Ladder Trucks	5
Battalion Chiefs	20	Type I Hazmat Unit	4
Fire Captains	110	Quints	1
Fire Engineers	96	Heavy Rescue	1
Fire Engineer Paramedics	2	Fast Response Unit	1
Firefighters	154	Squads	3
Firefighter Paramedics	47	Water Tenders	2
Fire Control Workers	27	Utilities	10
Heavy Equipment Operators	3	Command Vehicles	15
Administrative Staff	156	Mobile Command Post	1
Fire Cause Investigators	3	Water Rescue Units	2
Hazardous Material Officer	1	Helicopters Firefighting/Wildland*	5
Public Safety Dispatchers	43	Type I Heavy Urban Search and Rescue	2
		Fire Boat**	1
		Water Rescue Jet Skis	4
		Light & Air Units	2
		Paramedic Support Vehicles	1

* The aviation program is run by the Ventura County Sheriff's Department with funding and staffing provided by the Fire District.

** Fire boat services are provided in conjunction with the County of Ventura's Channel Islands Harbor Patrol personnel.

2. Proposed Services

A. Fire Suppression

The Fire District is a full-service, all-risk organization operating thirty-two fire stations serving over 480,000 residents, covering a response area of 848 square miles of unincorporated territory and six incorporated cities within the County of Ventura, viz., Camarillo, Moorpark, Ojai, Port Hueneme, Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks. The Fire District provides a full range of emergency services personnel and resources, including fire engines, ladder trucks (with elevated stream capabilities), a fire boat (for fires located in the Channel Islands Harbor area), heavy equipment bulldozers, front end-loaders and excavators and earth moving vehicles for wildland firefighting flood prevention, mitigation and fire road construction hand crews, paramedics on select engines, rescue squads, helicopters, a large incident command center, and other fire control capabilities. Fire District staff are trained to function in various Incident Command System (ICS) capacities, including participation on Interagency Management Teams (IMT).

Staffing in Fire District stations varies depending on the level of service required at each station's location. The minimum staffing is three career firefighters for each fire engine, and four career firefighters on each ladder truck, quint and rescue engine. Quint apparatus provide operational capabilities of both fire engines and ladder trucks. Rescue engines provide the operational capabilities of a fire engine and the rescue capabilities of a ladder truck without aerial ladder and elevated stream capabilities. Squads and fast response units are staffed by two career firefighters in each with at least one being a paramedic. The Fire District's "Wildland Division" is staffed year round with increased staffing during fire season.

To provide oversight to the daily operations within the City, the Fire District will assign a Battalion Chief to provide leadership and direction for the Fire District personnel assigned to fire stations serving the City. Additionally, a Division Chief will be assigned to the City and will act as the City's Fire Chief.

B. Emergency Medical Response

The Fire District is the largest provider of pre-hospital care in the County. This high level of service is delivered using emergency medical technician (EMT) and paramedic staffed engines, trucks, squads and fast response units strategically positioned within the County of Ventura to support the public/private partnership that exists with the private ambulance transport service providers in the County. The Fire District also provides medical oversight, training and quality assurance for an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) program, operating defibrillators within the cities of Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, and Port Hueneme as well as for the Ronald Reagan Library, Oak Park Unified School District, and Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District. The Fire District will provide the same medical oversight, training and quality assurance program to the City.

C. Hazardous Materials Response

A Hazardous Materials Regional Response Team (RRT) responds to hazardous materials incidents within the County. Responses are jurisdictional and will include partner agencies when the complexity of the incident requires a reinforced response. The RRT consists of HazMat (HM) units from the following four agencies:

- Fire District (HM50 unit from Fire District Station 50),
- Oxnard City Fire Department (HM67 unit from Oxnard City Fire Station 7),
- Federal Fire Ventura County (HM72 unit from Point Mugu Fire Station 72), and
- Ventura City Fire Department (HM6 unit from Ventura City Station 6).

In addition to these four HM teams, the Fire District provides one Hazardous Materials Officer (HMO) for all HazMat incidents. The HMO provides technical specialist services for the RRT, and serves as the liaison between the incident and regulatory agencies.

The RRT responds to all hazardous or suspected hazardous materials incidents beyond the control or mitigation of any first responders. Depending on the incident and resources available, members of the RRT may fill any position in the ICS ranging from entry and de-contamination team leaders, HazMat group supervisor, safety officer and unified incident commanders.

The Fire District's HM50 unit is a stand-alone California Office of Emergency Services certified Type 1 hazardous materials team. HM50 meets FEMA Type 1 HazMat team typing requirements. As a Type 1 HazMat team, HM50 is equipped and trained to handle incidents involving all known industrial chemical hazards (in liquid, aerosol, powder and solid forms), all unknown industrial chemical hazards (in liquid, aerosol, powder, solid, vapor and gas forms), and all known and unknown nerve agents, chemical and biological substances (WMD).

The Fire District also maintains one Decontamination Trailer. This unit provides for the rapid decontamination for up to 200 victims who have been exposed to hazardous substances.

D. Rescue Operations - All Risk

The Fire District provides Urban Search & Rescue (USAR) services with two Type 1 Heavy USAR companies advantageously located within the County. The Fire District, along with its regional partners from the fire departments of the cities of Ventura and Oxnard, have been certified by the California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) as a Regional Task Force for USAR. This Task Force, RTF-7, is comprised of a 30-member

team and available for response Statewide within 45 minutes of being dispatched. The USAR teams are highly trained and capable of performing complex technical rescues mitigating virtually every potential hazard. Situations where USAR teams are generally called upon to provide service are earthquakes, floods, storms, tornadoes, dam failures, trench rescues, terrorist activities, cliff rescues, structure collapses, hazardous materials incidents and confined space rescues. The Fire District also provides ocean and swift water rescue services by purposefully deploying highly trained and equipped personnel and resources in areas where impacts are anticipated. Additionally, all Fire District suppression employees are trained to operate on rope rescues, swift water rescues and various other aspects of technical rescues.

The Fire District provides training to all suppression personnel to the Confined Space Awareness Level with support personnel being trained to the Operational Level and USAR crews trained to the Technician Level. This degree of training allows for basic confined space rescue operations and the establishment of the Incident Command System while awaiting the arrival of technical rescue team members. The Fire District has the capability of performing complex rescue operations using state-of-the-art rescue equipment. The Fire District maintains and operates supplied-air breathing apparatus (SABA), intrinsically safe communications, lighting equipment, tripods for vertical entry and rescue operations, rope rescue systems, and other specialized equipment for complex confined space rescue operations.

E. Mass-Casualty Incident Response

In a joint and cooperative EMS system, the Fire District, along with the contracted ambulance providers, deploys trained and experienced personnel and resources to effectively manage mass-casualty incidents (MCI). Fixed resources include 10 self-contained MCI trailers stocked with basic medical equipment and triage supplies including backboards, blankets, trauma dressings, oxygen, triage tarps, etc. Each trailer is designed to be towed to the scene of a major medical incident. The MCI trailers are strategically located within each incorporated city in the County. There are also two state disaster medical supply trucks within the County that are housed and responded to incidents by our ambulance company partners. The Ventura County EMS System recognizes and prepares for mass-casualty incidents in the event of an act of terrorism, natural disaster, or transportation incident. Fire District resources also have additional treatment supplies in cases of an MCI involving WMD. All Paramedic Support Vehicles also have additional MCI triage/command equipment available.

F. Arson Investigation Services

The Fire District's Arson Investigation Bureau has three investigators providing fire investigative services to all County responsibility areas. Arson Investigation services are provided by one investigator who is on duty 24 hours a day on a rotating shift schedule. Should an increase in workload be encountered, the other two investigators are available

for recall to provide assistance. All Arson Investigators who perform these duties are armed Peace Officers. Their responsibility is to conduct fire investigations for cause and origin, conduct criminal investigations, and assist the local law enforcement agency and County District Attorney with the prosecution of cases. The Arson Investigation Bureau conducts over 200 investigations annually.

G. Major Disaster Response

The Fire District has a proven history of managing major incidents and disasters. Major disaster responses usually include the activation of an IMT to effectively manage the incident, and to free-up local resources and personnel. Several Fire District personnel serve on Interagency Management Teams functioning as Incident Commanders, Operation Section Chiefs, Logistics Chiefs, Safety Officers, Division/Group Supervisors, Public Information Officers, GIS Technical Specialists (mapping technicians), Helicopter Coordinators and Air Attack Group Supervisors. Fire District employees assigned to Incident Command Teams or filling positions on incidents are all certified by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG).

3. Fire Prevention

A. Pre-development Planning

The Fire District will assign members of the Fire Prevention Engineering and Development Section to coordinate and participate in the City's development review process. This will allow Fire District personnel to provide Fire Code requirements to contractors and developers with ongoing development projects within the City. The Fire District's Fire Prevention Engineering and Development personnel will also review proposed developments, inspect proposed development sites, and meet with City and County building officials, planners and related staff to make appropriate recommendations to developers.

B. Plan Submittal Review

The Fire District's Fire Prevention Engineering and Development Section will review all residential, commercial, industrial, and manufacturing plans along with tract maps for compliance with the appropriate fire and building codes as well as local ordinances and fire prevention standards. Prevention personnel will provide written comments to developers and contractors regarding conditions and requirements for their ongoing projects and any proposed developments. Prevention staff will be available for questions pertaining to these projects and developments.

C. Development Inspection

The Fire District will provide site inspections of all developments within the City requiring such inspections. Fire Prevention personnel will coordinate and schedule inspection dates and times with the contractors and developers.

D. Post Occupancy Inspections

Pre-Fire Planning – The Fire District will perform pre-fire inspection service assessments. An engine company will perform these inspections through a coordinated effort with the Fire District's Prevention Division. Each engine company will be given a geographical area within the City and required to perform these inspections and generate pre-fire planning diagrams.

Permit Inspection and Permit Issuance – The Fire District will provide annual inspections and issue permits for occupancies as outlined in the California Fire Code and applicable County and City ordinances.

New Business Review – The Fire District will perform new business occupancy inspections upon request from the City's Planning and Building and Safety departments. The City's Building and Safety personnel would notify the Fire District when a person or company is being considered for a business license.

Code Enforcement - The most effective method of keeping the community safe from fires is through education and active code enforcement. The Fire District's Fire Safety Compliance Unit will take any necessary action to ensure residents and businesses comply with all codes, ordinances, laws, and other regulations.

E. California Fire and Building Code Administration

The Fire District administers the Ventura County Fire Code as amended from the California Fire Code as well as State Fire Marshal regulated sections of the California Building Code. As a part of the Fire District, the City will need to adopt the Fire Code as an ordinance of the City.

F. Fire Hazard Reduction Program (FHRP)

The Fire District actively promotes and enforces the requirements of its Fire Hazard Reduction Program within the Fire District and will perform inspections of parcels in the Wildland-Urban Interface areas in or adjacent to the City to ensure required clearance of combustible growth. The FHRP increases the ability of buildings to resist the intrusion of flame or burning embers projected from vegetation fires. The Fire District will identify Hazardous Fire Areas requiring application of the Defensible Space provisions included in the Fire Code, which is enforced by the Fire Code Official, along with applicable state and local fire-resistive building standards, required and enforced by the City's building official.

As Fire District residents have come to recognize, with the prolonged drought, beetle infestations and other adverse environmental events, wildland fire threats to their property occur on a year-round basis. The FHRP program has helped save lives and property within the County and has become a model for other agencies throughout California. Property owners must abate their property of weeds and other combustible vegetation that could create a fire hazard and pose a potential threat to their property, their neighbors and the community. The Fire District will diligently identify those parcels within the City that need to be added to the FHRP program list of perennial nuisances while providing notice and guidance to the property owners to gain voluntary compliance with its weed abatement program. If voluntary compliance is not obtained, the Fire District will hire others to remove the fire hazard from the property and pursue reimbursement from the property owner for all costs incurred while removing the hazard, as required by the Health and Safety Code. Generally, the Fire District has a very high rate of voluntary compliance and this translates into a high success rate in reducing neighborhood fire risk associated with vegetation mismanagement.

4. Dispatch/Communications

Santa Paula Fire is presently dispatched by the Fire Districts' Fire Communications Center (FCC) located in Camarillo, California. FCC's current communication system includes three simulcast command channels and five simplex tactical channels operating on VHF frequencies. This platform provides a robust system that can support multiple large scale incidents within the County. The FCC system also provides Mobile Computers with an integrated Automatic Vehicle Locator system (MC/AVL) and Wi-Fi hotspots on all units to support the latest generation of TriTech Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) software. The TriTech system dispatches the closest available unit by using the call location and real time vehicle location information to determine the closest unit to the emergency. The MC/AVL's provide extensive call details, mapping and comprehensive pre-plan information, unit status, messaging and many other useful tools for responders. Patient Care Reports are generated on Motion M5 tablet computers and iPads that are linked through an integrated wireless broadband modem. Redundant broadband connectivity is provided via Wi-Fi hotspots that are incorporated in all fire apparatus.

The FCC is also a certified provider of Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS). MPDS is a medically approved, unified system used to dispatch appropriate aid to medical emergencies including systematized caller interrogation and pre-arrival instructions. MPDS starts with the dispatcher asking the caller key questions. These questions allow the dispatchers to categorize the call by chief complaint and set a "determinant level" ranging from A (minor) to E (immediately life threatening), relating to the severity of the patient's condition. The response then may be altered based on the determinant level. All medical aid calls receive one Engine and one Ambulance, either "code" or "no-code," dependent on the MPDS determined dispatch level. This

approach ensures a proper response to all EMS calls, and reduces the number of units responding code (lights and sirens) to incidents that are not truly life-threatening emergencies. Lower priority incidents still get one engine or ambulance response, but warrant a no-code (no lights and sirens—flow of traffic only) response.

5. Facilities and Equipment

A. Buildings

The facilities to be transferred (“Transferred Facilities”) are listed in Exhibit A hereto, which is incorporated into this Plan for Service by this reference.

Upon the certification of completion of the annexation, and as and to the extent required by the terms of the parties’ MOA, the Fire District will staff current City Fire Stations 81 and 82 with Fire District personnel and commence internal discussions regarding whether there is any need to construct other facilities to provide additional coverage for the City. City Station 81, which is located at 114 South Tenth Street, will become Fire District Station 29. The City will subdivide the parcel of land on which City Station 81 is currently located and transfer ownership of that parcel to the Fire District. The Fire District will then either rebuild Fire District Station 29 on this site or build a new Fire District Station 29 on a site strategically positioned within the City, in order to provide adequate coverage for the entire area.

Additionally, City Station 82, located at 536 West Main Street in the City, will become Fire District Station 26; current Fire District Station 26’s crew members and equipment, now located in an unincorporated area of the County (west of the City) at 12391 West Telegraph Road, will be repositioned to the site of Fire District Station 26. The Fire District will lease this station and the property on which it is located according to the terms of the MOA. When new Station 26 is constructed, the site will reside either inside or outside City limits and be strategically positioned to provide coverage to the City.

B. Vehicles and Equipment

Upon the certification of completion of the annexation, and as specified in the MOA, the vehicles identified in Exhibit B hereto, which is incorporated by this reference, i.e., the “Transferred Vehicles” (together with all firefighting equipment and apparatus used in connection with the Transferred Facilities and Transferred Vehicles), and all property, furniture, fixtures, materials, and equipment necessary or convenient to service, maintain, repair, provision or replace the facilities and vehicles, and any and all property, furnishings and equipment, real or personal, previously furnished by the City for fire prevention services, fire protection and EMS services, for the purpose of having the Fire District perform the activities and fulfilling the responsibilities of the City Fire Department, shall remain or become the exclusive property of the Fire District.

The Fire District shall be responsible for all future maintenance, repairs and replacement of said Fire District vehicles, equipment, and facilities in accordance with the terms of the MOA. The City Manager will assist the Fire District with the production of all documents necessary for the lease or purchase and transfer of ownership of all such facilities, vehicles, and property currently owned by the City.

C. East Area 1 (Harvest Limoneira Development in City)

The City and the Limoneira Company entered into a development agreement that currently requires construction of a public safety facility to house a fire station in the East Area 1 section of the City. As a condition to the approval of the annexation of East Area 1 to the City, the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) required that the City and Limoneira execute an operating memorandum amending the development agreement to provide that the public safety facility be completed prior to occupancy of the 250th residential unit in East Area 1. This requirement was based on analysis from the environmental impact report (EIR) for the East Area 1 project that stated that the City's Police and Fire Departments lacked adequate staffing and resources to serve the planned East Area 1 development and that additional staffing and resources were required to meet the increased service demands from that development. Accordingly, the operative development agreement between the City and Limoneira provides that before the City issues the certificate of occupancy for the 250th residential unit in the project, Limoneira must construct a public safety facility to house a fire station.

While the City agreed at the time that the City's Fire Department staffing, equipment, and technology were inadequate to provide effective fire and emergency medical services to the City and the proposed East Area 1 development, with annexation of the City into the Fire District, regionalization of services and advancements in technology and equipment, along with all resources and services the Fire District will provide, change this prior conclusion. The annexation will result in there being acceptable fire and emergency medical services for the City, including its proposed East Area 1 development. Documentation supporting the Fire District's conclusion that after annexation Fire District services from the City's current fire station locations will provide adequate fire and emergency medical services coverage for the City, including East Area 1, and the adjacent region, are provided in Exhibits C, D, E, F, G, H, I, hereto. Due to these changed circumstances, the City and the Fire District will request that LAFCo, in approving the annexation of the City into the Fire District, acknowledge that the construction of a public safety facility to house a fire station is no longer necessary to serve the City, including the East Area 1 development.

6. Miscellaneous

A. Liaison to the City

The Fire Chief of the Fire District will assign a Division Chief as the Fire Chief for the City. This Division Chief shall act as liaison to the City regarding fire protection and administrative matters.

B. Meeting Attendance

The assigned Division Chief will attend internal staff meetings as requested by the City, attend City Council meetings as the City Fire Chief, and make appropriate reports on the activities of the Fire District within the City.

C. Reports and Records

The Fire District maintains a variety of records that are typically maintained by fire departments. These records include reports on emergency responses, company inspections, facility and equipment safety inspections, equipment repairs, employee time records, etc.

D. Fire Complaints and Public Information

The Fire District understands the need for positive, engaged community relationships, and this is a major component of the Fire District's programs. The values cited in the Fire District's Mission Statement would be applied equally in the City. Information requested under the Public Records Act is readily available through the Fire District's administrative headquarters in Camarillo, California. The Fire District has an established fee schedule and members of the public desiring copies of documents can access all public records by submitting the required information and fees. The Fire District's customer service philosophy is focused on meeting the needs of customers in a reasonable timeframe, without numerous referrals to other agencies, while being courteous, polite, and helpful.

E. City of Santa Paula Identity

The Fire District will work with the City Manager (or designee) to maintain the history and identity of the Santa Paula City Fire Department as much as possible. The method utilized would be similar to that used for all other cities served by the Fire District.

F. Public Education and Special Events

Being involved, building relations and communicating with the public, local government agencies, and the media are three of the Fire District's most valued tools for protecting lives and property in Ventura County. The Fire District's Public Information Office is responsible for and committed to providing timely and accurate information throughout the year to the media, communities, businesses and non-profits during fire emergencies.

The Fire District also offers a wide variety of outreach programs through its Community Education office. These programs are designed to prevent injury and property loss through increased education and public safety awareness. The Community Education team also coordinates Fire District participation at several events throughout the year. Fire District education and outreach programs include: Junior Fire Setter counseling, sidewalk CPR, car seat installations, earthquake preparedness, fire resistive landscaping recommendations, fire extinguisher training, fire prevention theme pancake breakfasts, school visits and talks.

G. Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT)

The Fire District will support and manage the CERT program for the residents of the City. Training will be provided by Fire District employees' following the FEMA CERT format. Instruction and materials will be delivered at no cost to the City and its residents. Participants will receive a CERT disaster bag containing a helmet, flashlight, vest, gloves and eye protection. On an annual basis, the County will invite all CERT members to attend a regional refresher class to further enhance and sharpen their skills. CERT members will have the opportunity to join local CERT response teams that may be called upon to assist the Fire District with various civic activities and mitigation of natural disasters. CERT will be involved with parades, sporting events, earthquakes, wildland fires and flooding calls.

H. Emergency Management

The Fire District will provide emergency management assistance to the City by assisting with the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC), if activated by the City. In the event of an emergency and upon activation of the City EOC, Fire District representatives will respond to assist the City with deliverance of services to City residents.

7. Staffing Plan

A. Service Level

The Fire District's proposed staffing will not reduce the number of firefighters on duty or reduce the number of staffed units within the City. The Fire District will reorganize staffing and units within the region to better meet the needs of all concerned. The Fire District will take full advantage of all fire stations within and near the City and will make available to the City and its residents all resources and services offered by the Fire District elsewhere in the district. As mentioned earlier, Fire District Station 29 will take over City Fire Station 81, located at 114 South Tenth Street, and will be fitted with a Type 1 fire engine, 1 Fire Captain, 1 Fire Engineer, and 1 Firefighter. Additionally, Fire Station 26, previously City Fire Station 82, located at 536 West Main Street, will be staffed with a Type 1 fire engine, 1 Fire Captain, 1 Fire Engineer, and 1 Firefighter. The Fire District will continually evaluate service delivery models for the City and make any

necessary operational adjustments to meet the needs of the Fire District and City. All existing facilities will be evaluated prior to completion of the annexation to determine required enhancements needed to provide adequate fire, rescue, and EMS services to the City's residents. Improvements to existing facilities and equipment will include such enhancements as advanced computer networks, updates to MC/AVL's, ePCR's, iPads or other technology, cardiac monitors, and SCBA's. New personal protective equipment (PPE), SCBA masks and fit testing will be provided for all fire suppression personnel. The costs to retrofit both existing fire stations, provide two Type 1 fire engines and all necessary PPE and ancillary equipment will be funded by the Fire District.

B. Potential Employment of Existing City Fire Department Personnel

1. As will be detailed in the MOA, after certification of completion of the proposed annexation by LAFCo, the Fire District will offer employment to the City's 17 fire suppression and one fire prevention employees. Terms to be covered by the MOA include transfer application requirements, pre-employment eligibility requirements, positions available for transferees, and transferees' seniority, work assignments, pay scale, applicable probationary periods, benefits, retirement plans, as well as details on how unfunded liability will be handled. Each transferee will need to provide a driver's license with appropriate endorsements.
2. Part Time Employees. The Fire District does not have part-time positions and will not offer positions to any part-time employees of the City. If any current City part-time employees are interested in a full-time position with the Fire District, they may apply for available positions through the regular recruitment process.

The following table details the service and staffing annual operating costs of City Fire Department Personnel positions after annexation.

Table 2. Service and Staffing Plan Costs

Position	#	Annual Operating Cost
Assistant Chief	3	\$10,770
Division Chief		9,952
Battalion Chief	1	25,891
Captain	6	911,471
Engineer	6	791,399
Firefighter/PM	6	770,367
Fire Prevention Specialist	1	105,916
Fire Prevention Officer	-	-
Office Assistant	-	-
Total Personnel Costs		2,625,766
Station Expenses		76,502
Service/Supplies/Dispatch/MIS		188,145
Overhead/Support		-
Total Operating Expenses		264,647
Capital Improvement Fund		-
Total Personnel and Operating		\$2,947,938

Daily Staffing configuration:

VCFPD Station 29 (Formerly SPFD Station 81) – Captain, Engineer, Firefighter

VCFPD Station 26 (Formerly SPFD Station 82) – Captain, Engineer, Firefight

8. Financial

A. Property Tax

A portion of the funding needed for fire, rescue, and EMS services to be delivered by the Fire District to the City and its residents will be provided by the permanent property tax transfer set forth in the tax exchange agreement (TEA) executed as a Joint Resolution of the City Council of the City and the Board of Supervisors of the County of Ventura acting on behalf of the Fire District. The tax transfer has been set as a percentage of property tax revenue and that percentage shall remain fixed for areas currently within the boundaries of the City. Any areas annexed to the City in the future will retain the same percentage of tax revenue as currently distributed to the Fire District.

This agreement will provide the Fire District with a funding mechanism that responds to changes in property tax revenue, giving the Fire District a stake in the long term success of the City. Any remaining funding needed for fire and EMS services within the City will be provided through the Fire Districts' excess financial capacity, fees for services, or reimbursements for services (e.g., cost recovery under provisions of the Health and Safety Code). This includes fire prevention fees for plan checking and inspections. The approved tax exchange agreement has been submitted in conjunction with this Plan for Service, along with annexation application resolutions executed by the governing bodies of both the City and the Fire District.

Respectfully submitted:

Ventura County Fire Protection District



Mark Lorenzen
Fire Chief

Date: 8/7/17

Exhibit A

Transferred Facilities

- Station 81 - 114 South Tenth Street (APN 103-0-113-115)
 - County Real Estate Services conducting survey and providing terms for the MOA

- Station 82 – 536 West Main Street (APN 102-0-160-085)
 - County Real Estate Services conducting survey and providing terms for the MOA

Exhibit B

Transferred Vehicles

ID	YR	MAKE/MODEL	LICENSE	TITLE/CALL SIGN
	1927	SEAGRAVE	Unknown	Unknown
321	2004	PACE AMERICAN MCI TRAILER 7		4FPWB20205G089000
322	2006	PACE AMERICAN CERT TRAILER	1257459	4P2FB10117U080899
NO NUMBER LISTED	2013	CERT TRAILER	1462942	53BPTEA21EF008598

Exhibit C

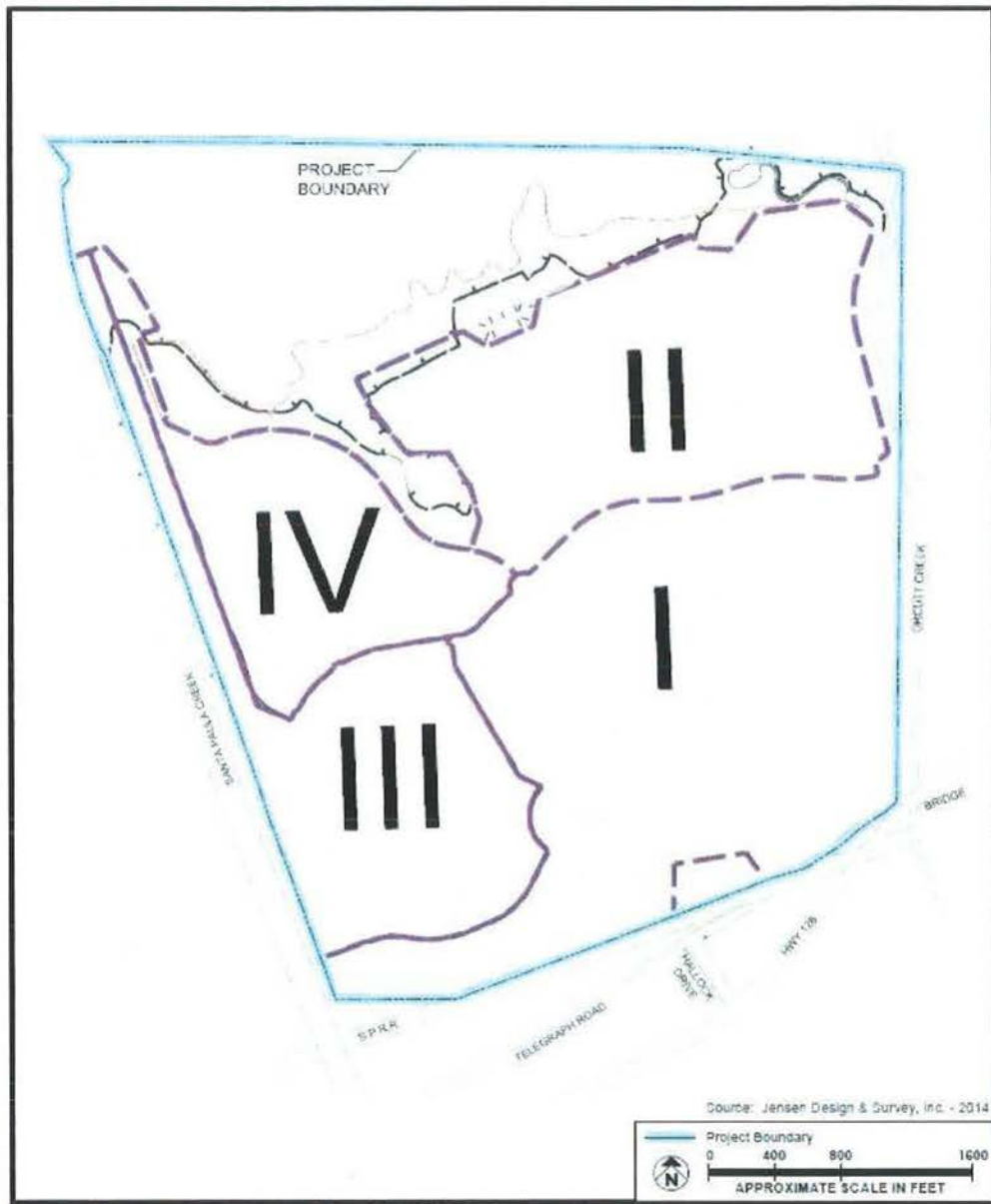


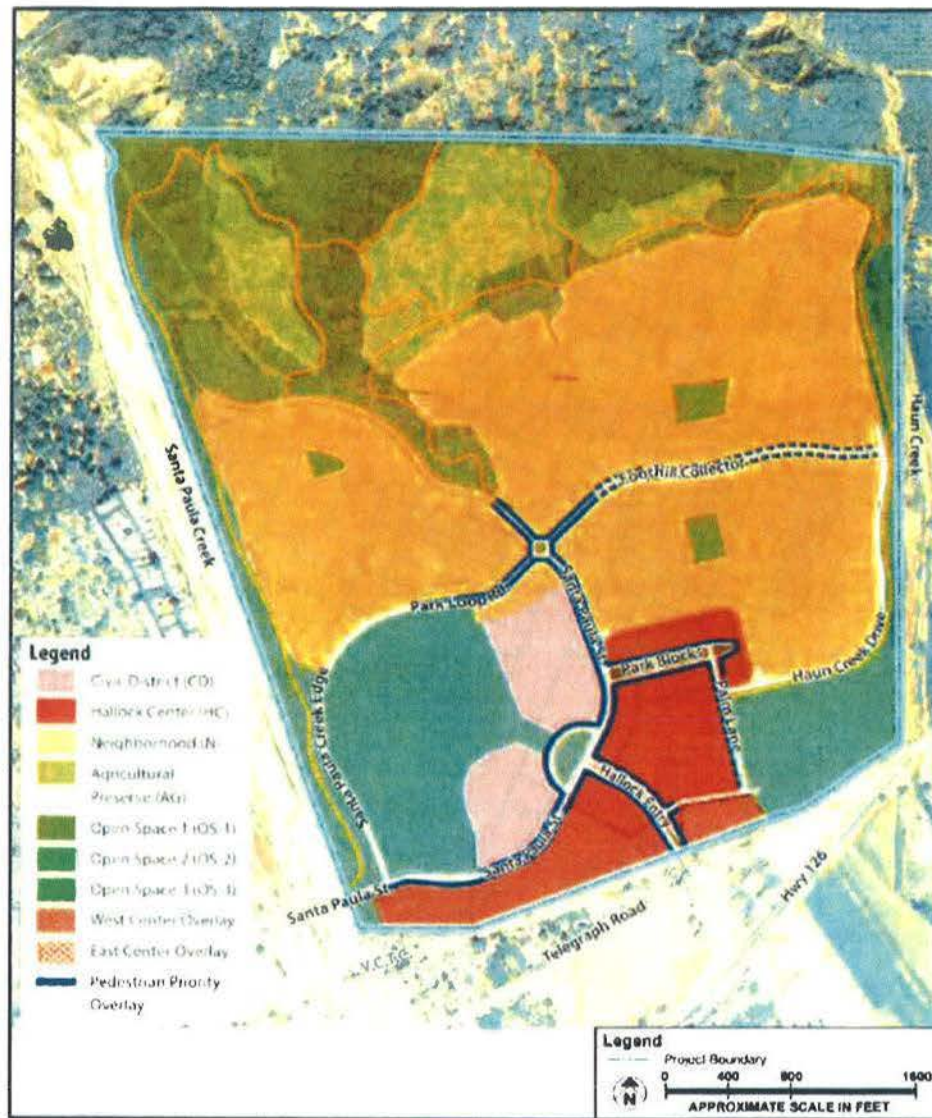
FIGURE 2.0-16



007-001-13

Preliminary Phasing Plan

Exhibit D



SOURCE: East Area 1 Specific Plan SP-3, AMENDED ADMINISTRATIVE DRAFT, September 12, 2014

FIGURE 2.0-6

Meridian
CORPORATION

Regulating Plan

307-051-13

Exhibit E

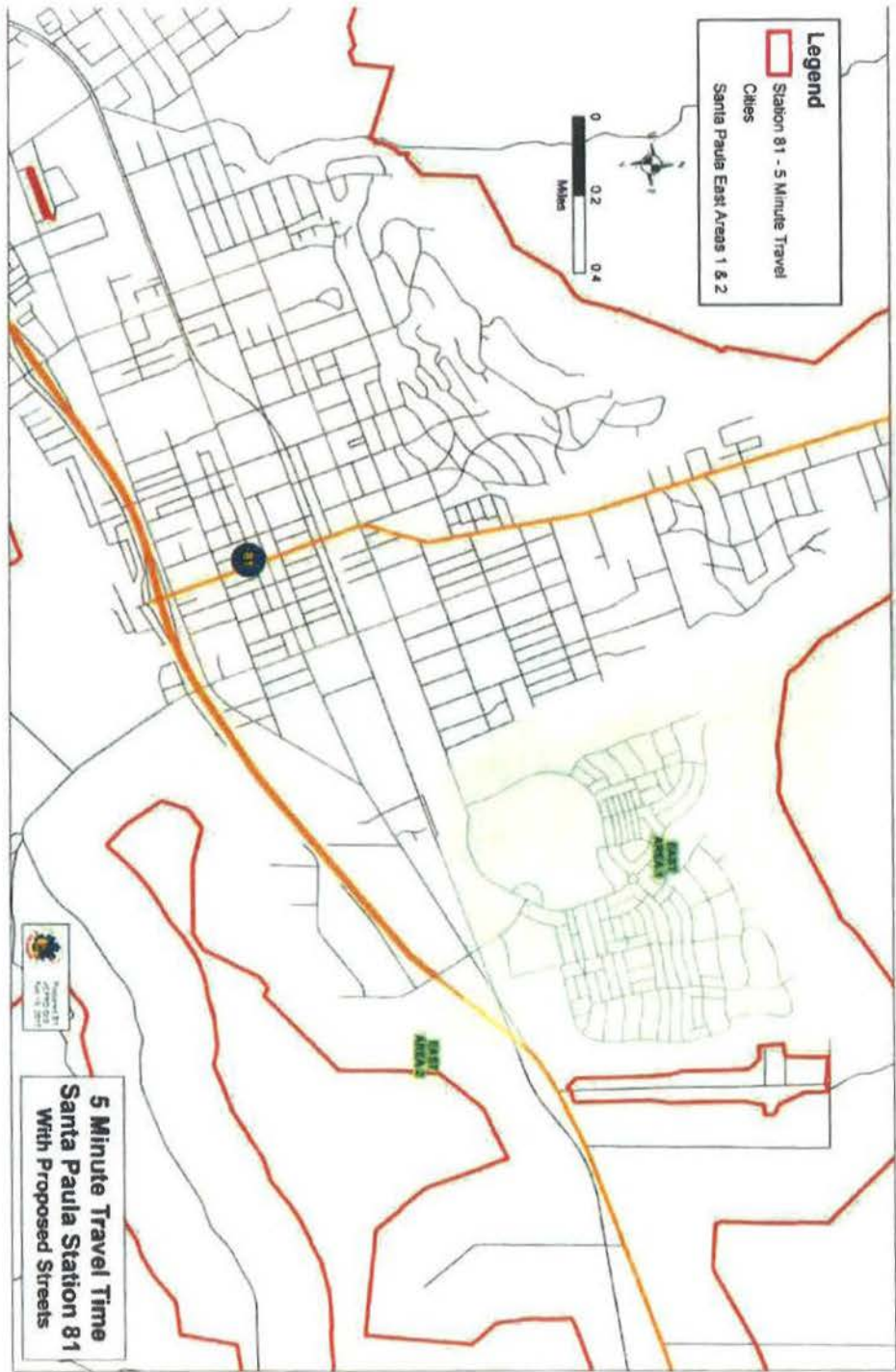


Exhibit F



Exhibit G

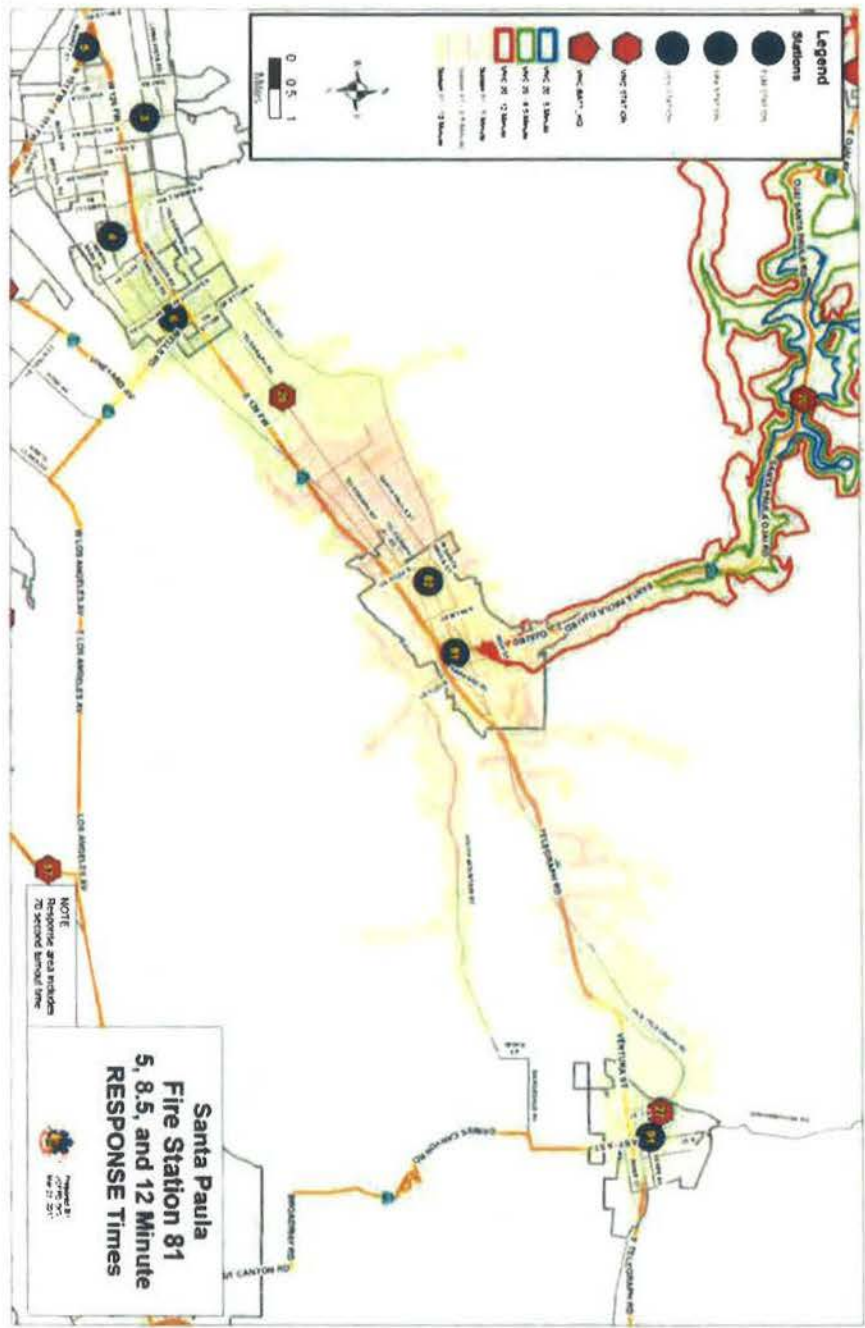
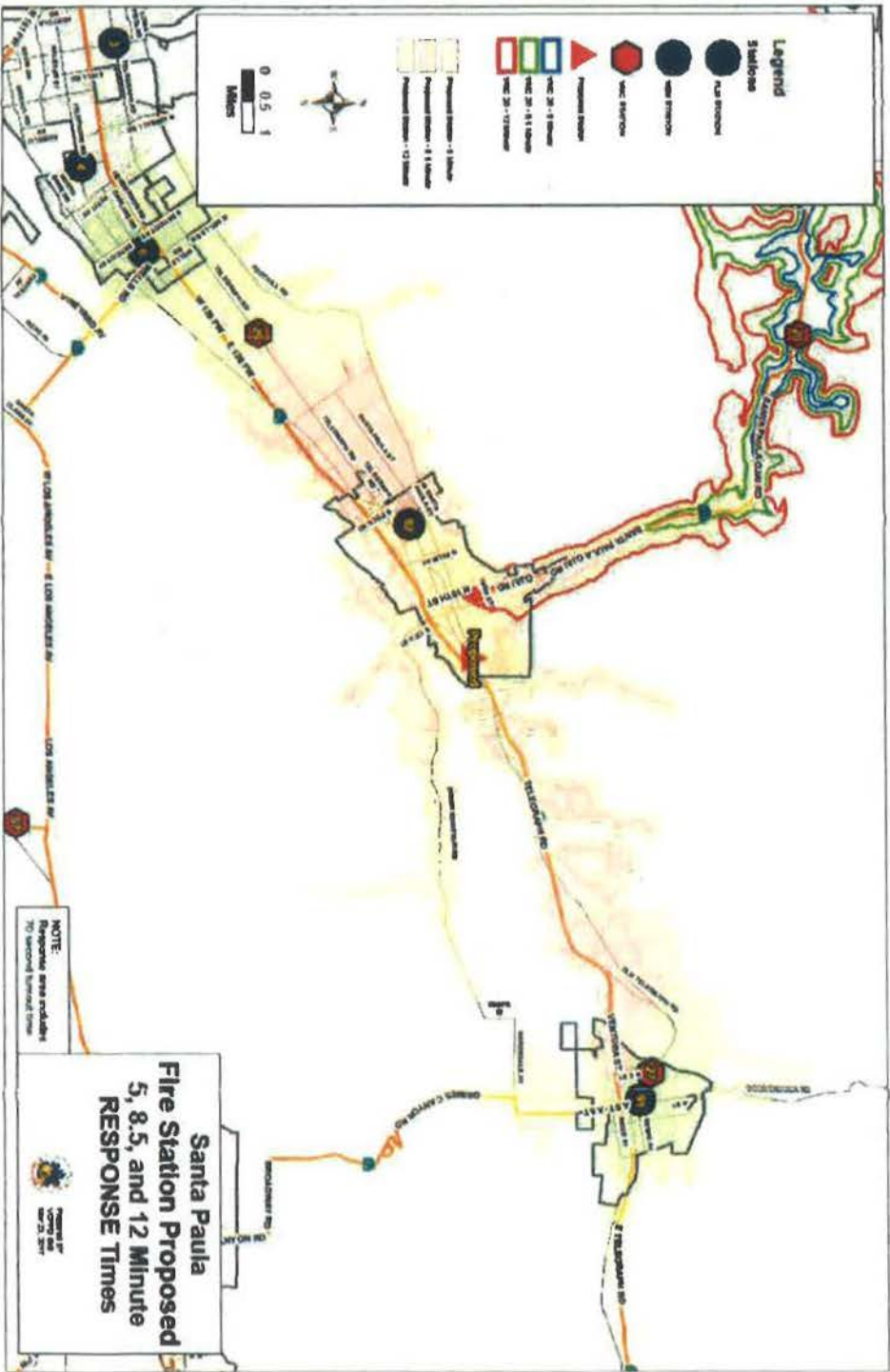


Exhibit I



Legend

Stations

- FLM STATION
- SPA STATION
- VEN STATION
- VNC STATION
- VNC BATT_HQ

VNC 20 - 5 Minute

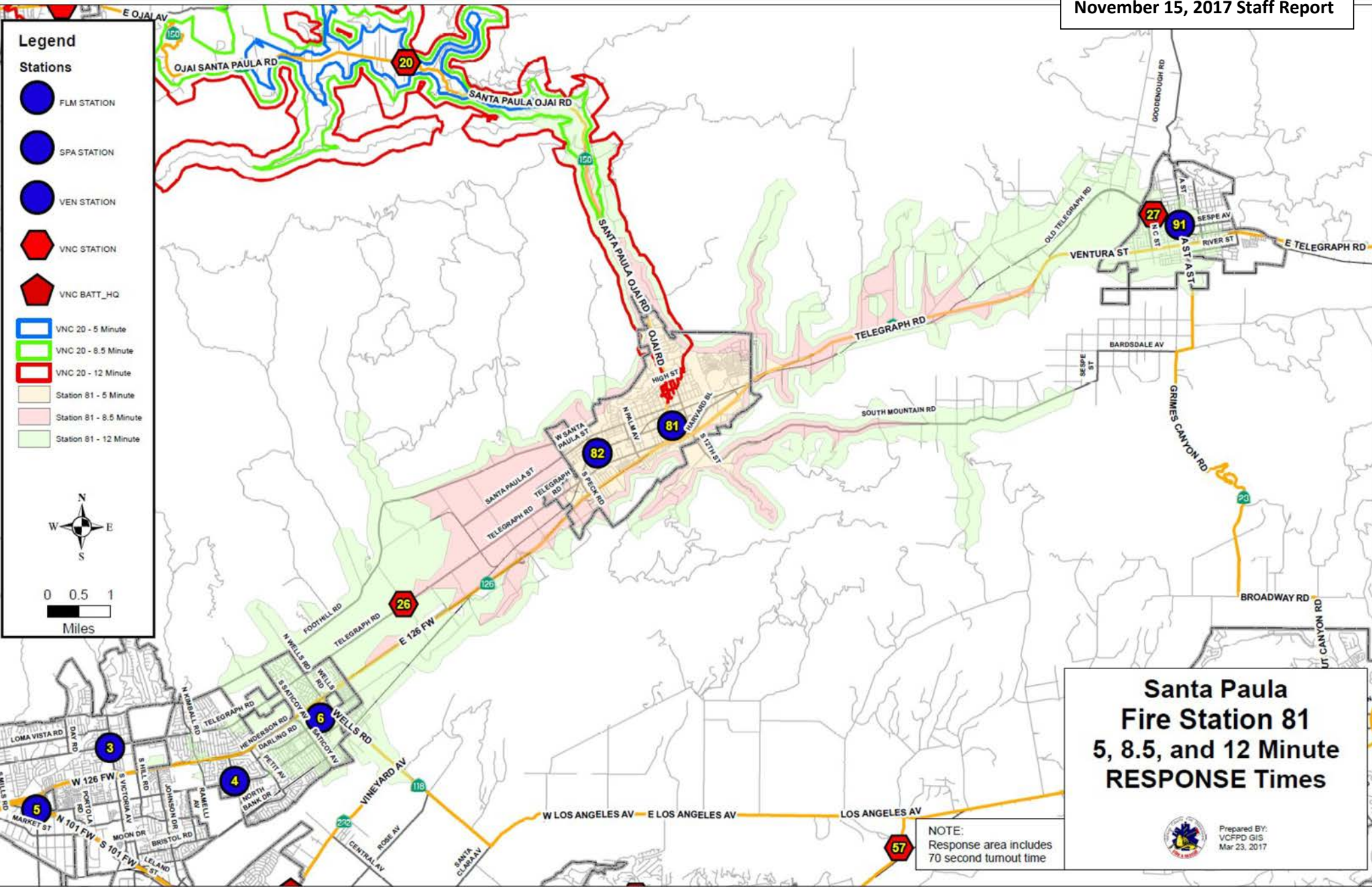
VNC 20 - 8.5 Minute

VNC 20 - 12 Minute

Station 81 - 5 Minute

Station 81 - 8.5 Minute

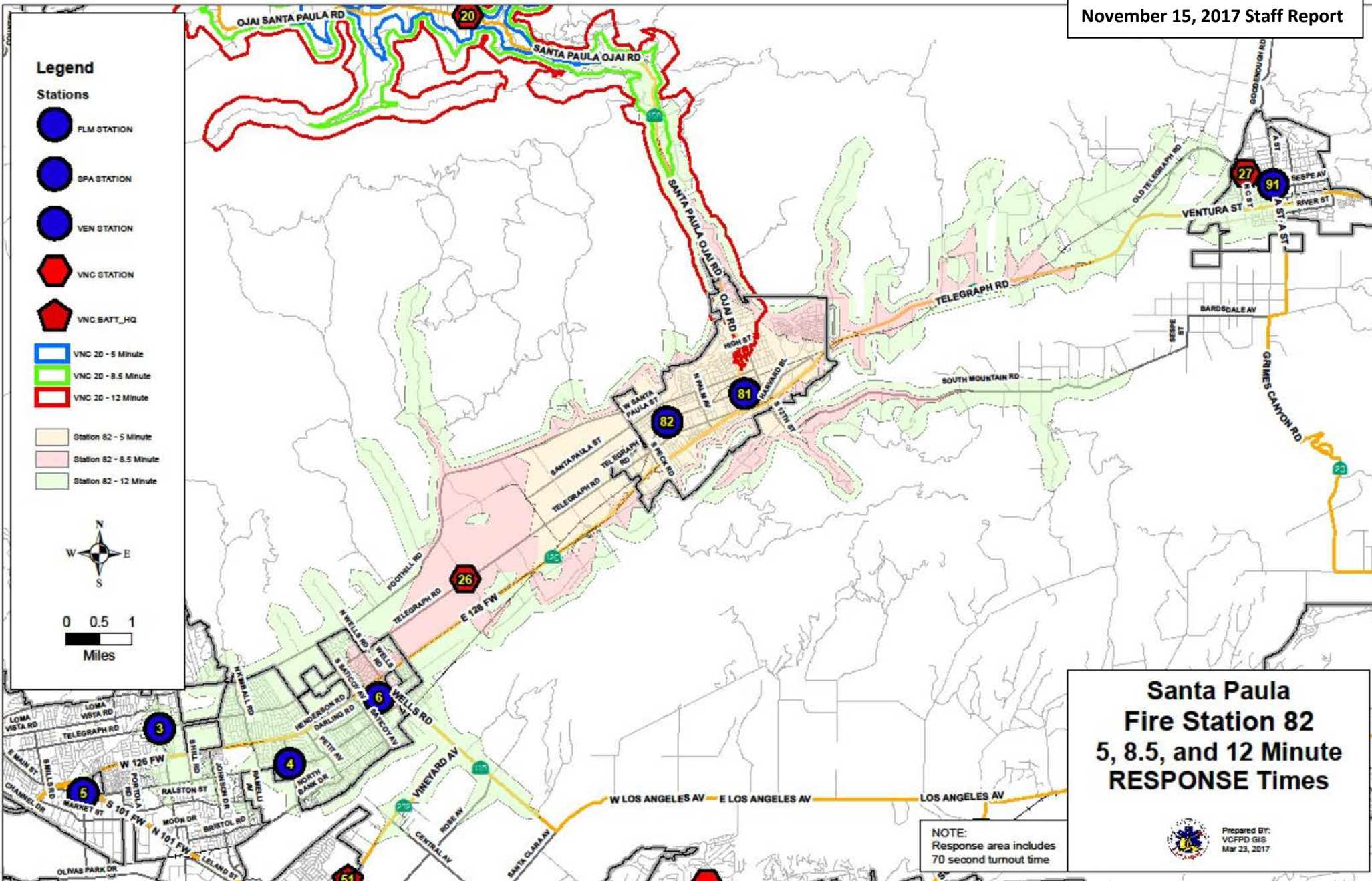
Station 81 - 12 Minute



**Santa Paula
Fire Station 81
5, 8.5, and 12 Minute
RESPONSE TIMES**

NOTE:
Response area includes
70 second turnout time

Prepared BY:
VCPD GIS
Mar 23, 2017





Kai Luoma
Executive Officer
Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93003-7101

Dear Mr. Luoma:

We have received your notice of receipt of application for LAFCo Case # 17-08; an annexation of the City of Santa Paula into the Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD).

As part of the proposal to annex the City of Santa Paula into the VCFPD, we understand that the VCFPD will permanently close Fire Station #26, located on Telegraph Rd., roughly half way between the eastern boundary of the City of San Buenaventura and the western boundary of the City of Santa Paula. We would like to know whether the impacts on the City of Ventura have been quantified and what measures will be put into place in order to mitigate those impacts. This inquiry is especially required when considering the operational agreements the City currently has in place amongst all fire departments within the county to respond to all emergencies with the closest available unit. These operational agreements are a tremendous asset to all residents of Ventura County, as they were assured emergency services from the closest available unit at all times. However, these agreements require the City of Ventura to respond into the unincorporated areas of Ventura County as well as the County into the city. The closure of a fire station on the City of Ventura's eastern terminus will have an impact on service levels within the eastern areas of Ventura. We would like to quantify those impacts and look at mitigation measures in order to be sure that the City of Ventura is not negatively impacted by this annexation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we look forward to continued discussion in this regard.

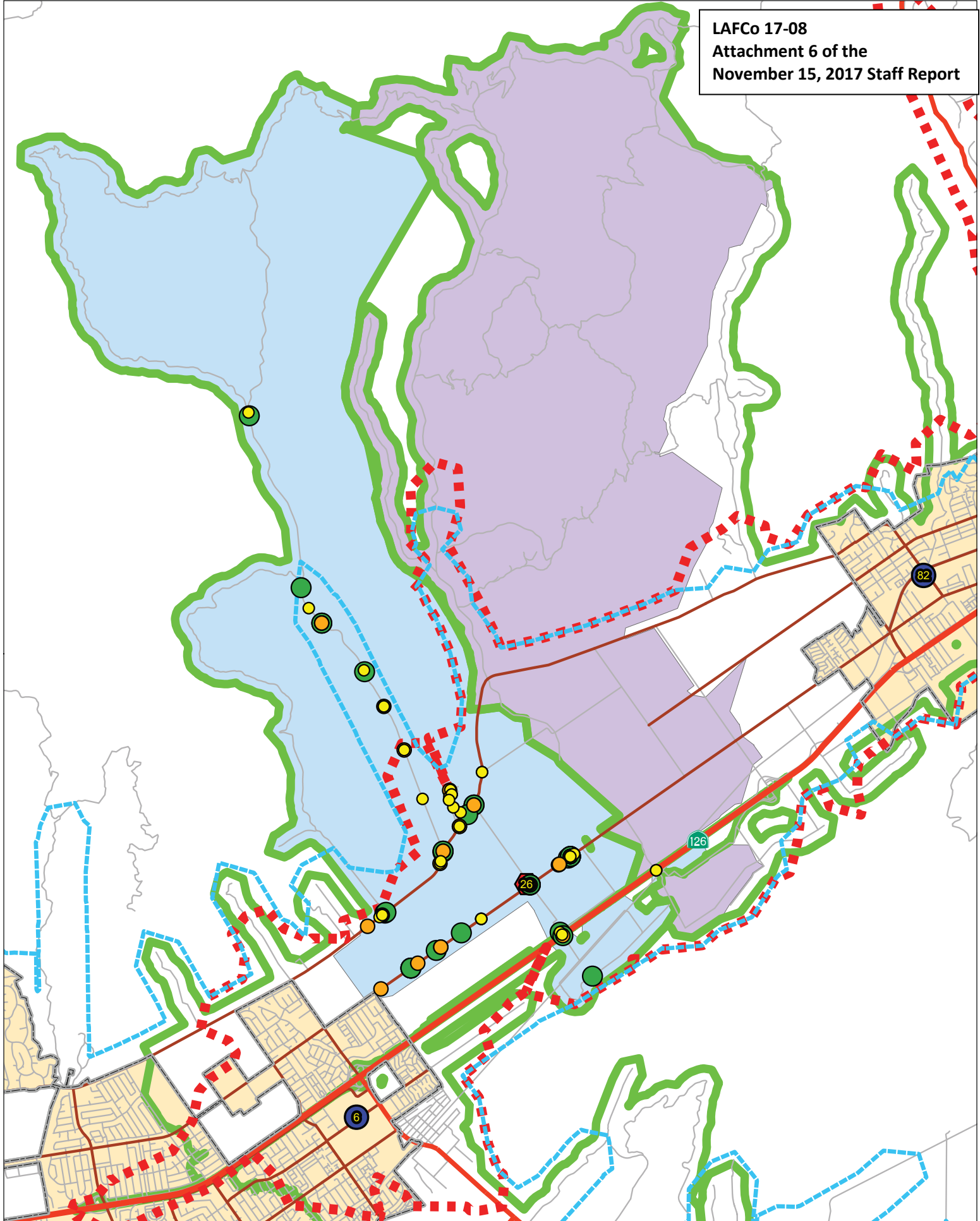
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark D. Watkins".

Mark D. Watkins
City Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Endaya".

David Endaya
Fire Chief

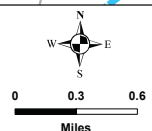


Legend

- Station 6 Addition 2016 Incidents (45)
- Station 6 Addition 2015 Incidents (38)
- Station 6 Addition 2014 Incidents (35)
- Station 6 - 8.5 Minute Travel
- Station 82 - 8.5 Minute Travel
- Equal Travel Time from Station
- SPA STATION
- VEN STATION
- VNC STATION
- Station 82 Additional Coverage Area
- Station 6 Additional Coverage Area
- City

**Incident Coverage
Without
VNC Station 26**

70



Prepared by
VFPD GIS
Oct 18, 2017

September 27, 2017

Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission
Hall of Administration
800 S. Victoria Ave., 4th Floor, L#1850
Ventura, CA 93009

Re: OPPOSITION TO ANNEXATION OF SANTA PAULA FIRE
DEPARTMENT

Dear LAFCo Commissioners:

We are citizens of Santa Paula who are opposed to the proposed annexation of the City's fire department to the Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCPFD). Our opposition arises out of three concerns: 1) lack of affordability, 2) excessive cost and 3) potential conflicts of interest by decision makers and others involved in the process. We support our fire department personnel and understand that annexation would significantly increase their compensation and would enhance fire services in our community. However, the annexation will have catastrophic effects on the City's ability to provide other basic services to its citizens. We urge you not to approve the annexation as currently proposed.

BACKGROUND

About Santa Paula

Santa Paula is a town of approximately 30,000 people spanning just over 4 square miles. The median income is about \$52,000 per year. Less than 15% of the population has a college degree. Approximately 20% of the town is estimated to live in poverty. [Source: U.S. Census Data, available on line.] The City's general fund operating budget has hovered between \$13M and \$14.2M over the past several years. [Source: Santa Paula Adopted Budgets, available on line.]

Santa Paula's fire department was founded in 1903 and is a source of pride in the City. The budget for the City's fire department from FY 10-11 to FY 15-16 has

ranged between \$2.1M and \$2.7M. [Source: Santa Paula Adopted Budgets, available on line.]

The City only receives a fraction (20.8%) of all property taxes generated within the City to fund its budget. Over the past 5 years, the City has received annual property tax revenues ranging from \$3.3M to \$3.9M. [Source: Santa Paula Adopted Budgets, General Fund Revenue by Type, available on line.]

The City has very few revenue generating mechanisms. Among the City's more reliable revenue sources, the fire department generates monies through inspection fees and permits, and typically generates \$300,000 to \$400,000 in revenues annually. [Source: Santa Paula Adopted Budgets, General Fund Revenue By Department, available on line.]

According to a City-wide poll done in 2014, the most critical issues facing the City are crime, depleted youth services and crumbling streets. [Source: *Santa Paula voters face sales tax decision*, September 25, 2014, VC Star.] There is almost a complete lack of code enforcement personnel or resources, and the lack of code enforcement has resulted in blight, which fosters criminal activity in blighted areas. Additionally, the City's employees are underpaid by comparison to employees in neighboring cities. [Source: TransparentCalifornia.com.]

The City was unable to balance its budget this year without incorporating future revenues from a general sales tax that was recently approved by voters (Measure T), and the budget was already stripped down to its bare bones with staffing levels and services at all-time lows. [Source: May 25, 2017 City Council Meeting; *Council Balances 2017/2018 Budget using 30% of Measure T Funds*, June 27, 2017, Citizens Journal.] The Council was actively involved in the Measure T campaign and the measure was marketed as a *supplemental* revenue source to improve public safety, youth programs and streets. The Council recently acknowledged that they anticipated using the additional sales tax to fund their basic operating budget instead of using it to supplement and enhance services. [Source: May 25, 2017 City Council Meeting.]

The City's fire department union also contributed to and campaigned aggressively for Measure T, and additionally gave monetary contributions to the campaigns of every member of the current City Council. [Source: *SP Firefighting PAC backed entire council*, May 20, 2017, VC Star.] It is believed that the fire union supported Measure T because they were led to believe that the Council would spend a significant portion of Measure T funds on fire department compensation and

resources, either directly or by offsetting the costs of annexation. This belief is supported by the fact that the fire union aggressively supported Measure T, which facially guaranteed the fire department *no resources*; yet the fire union campaigned *against* a prior special tax measure that would have *guaranteed* 25% of all increased sales tax revenues to be spent on fire services. Fire department personnel publicly commented that they did not think 25% was a fair allocation and were especially opposed to the allocation of 50% of the special tax to police and related services.

Measure T sunsets in 20 years unless it is overturned by voters before then. The City appointed a 5-member committee to oversee the use of Measure T funds but has ignored the committee's recommendations. [Source: May 25, 2017 City Council Meeting.] Local groups have already begun organizing to protest how Measure T monies are being spent. [Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy September 11, 2017 Facebook page (describing plans to protest Measure T spending).]

The Proposed Annexation and Its Inflated Cost

With Measure T in progress, members of the City's current fire department and representatives for VCFPD began negotiating the terms for annexation of the City's services to VCFPD. Under the current proposal, VCFPD will provide fire protection service to the City in exchange for 16.5% of the City's total property taxes. Since the City only receives 20.8% of all property taxes generated within the City, this translates to a cost equal to almost 80% of the available property tax that would otherwise be used to fund the City's budget.

The City has been unable to determine the true cost of annexation under the proposed payment formula because, among other reasons, property taxes may fluctuate over time depending on future development and the real estate market. Over the course of the Council's consideration of the issue, they have been presented with several conflicting and demonstrably inaccurate cost estimates relating to the annexation. In an attempt to clarify the costs, the City ultimately accepted the free services of a consultant (a former city manager) and his former colleague (who charged a nominal amount) who purported to analyze the

annexation costs and present cost estimates to the Council and the public. The expertise of the consultants to do such an analysis was not apparent or explained.¹

The consultants made 17 assumptions upon which their cost estimates were based, many of which are questionable. For example, in calculating the cost of retaining the City's fire department, the consultants assumed the City would incur the following costs, among others: (1) a fully staffed fire department of full time employees at increased salaries (despite that no other City department is fully staffed with full time employees at increased salaries); (2) a complete absence of grants or any supplemental funding (despite that the City has received significant fire service grants for the past several years); (3) an annual 5% increase in costs of supplies and services; and (4) the cost of building a new fire station in East Area 1 at a cost of \$6-8 million, as well as provide staffing at the new station going forward. [Source: June 17, 2017 City Council Meeting, Agenda Item 1.7.B.a.]²

While the assumed cost of retaining the City's fire department was artificially increased, the assumed costs of annexation were artificially decreased. For example, the estimated annexation costs: (1) ignore increased property taxes from new developments and redevelopment bond retirement; (2) ignore the City's continued liability for disability and pension costs for fire personnel at a significantly higher rate; and (3) ignore the hundreds of thousands in lost revenues associated with the loss of a city fire department (inspection and permit fees, etc.). [Source: June 17, 2017 City Council Meeting, Agenda Item 1.7.B.a.]

Using demonstrably flawed assumptions, the consultants estimated that the City would recognize a modest savings for the next three years if the fire department was annexed. Thereafter, the City would begin to pay significantly more each year

¹ Just one year prior, the City Council paid \$50,000 for the services of an experienced professional consultant (Matrix) to evaluate the City's fire department and analyze how to ensure effective fire service operations and affordability. Matrix found the City's fire department could be sustained by backfilling open positions with reserve or part time employees and/or closing one of the City's two stations. [Source: June 6, 2016 City Council Meeting, Item 2.12.C.a.] Matrix also noted that annexation could be explored as a potential option, but did not evaluate what a reasonable cost for annexation would be.

² The consultants also factored in the cost of replacing certain outdated equipment, which we agree was reasonable.

for fire services above and beyond what it would cost to retain its own fire department. Indeed, over the following 10 years, the City would pay approximately \$6 million more for annexation than it would to retain its fire department. [Source: June 17, 2017 City Council Meeting, Agenda Item 1.7.B.c.]³ As previously noted, this \$6 million cost is undeniably *understated* because it does not account for (1) the City's continuing and increased pension liability for fire personnel, (2) the loss of hundreds of thousands in revenues from property tax increases (new development and redevelopment bond retirement) or (3) revenues historically generated by the fire department, among other losses.

The consultants did not recommend annexation and refused to opine that annexation would save the City money. One of the consultants repeatedly stated that in light of the numbers, annexation was purely a policy decision. [Source: May 25, 2017 City Council Meeting.]

It is not clear whether City Council members fully comprehended their responsibility to address the potential financial risk associated with the annexation cost estimates. During a presentation to the Council, a fire chief specifically told the Council that LAFCo would base its approval on whether the project was in the City's best financial interests. [Source: April 17, 2017 City Council Meeting.] At a subsequent meeting, a City Council member reiterated his understanding that LAFCo would only approve annexation if it was in the City's best financial interests. Fire department personnel did not correct him or explain LAFCo's role. [Source: May 25, 2017 City Council Meeting.] As a result, the City has abdicated

³ The consultants ran a separate analysis to compare the cost of annexation against the cost of retaining a City fire department with increased resources and compensation at 90% parity with VCFPD fire personnel. Under that comparison, the consultants' numbers indicated there would be a significant savings to annex the fire department compared to upgrading City fire services and compensation to a level that is comparable to VCFPD. While it is not unexpected that there might be a savings resulting from such a comparison, even that projected savings was grossly inflated because the consultants' estimates assumed that even if the City was providing service that was roughly equivalent to VCFPD, the City would still be required to build out and staff a station at East Area 1 (resulting in tens of millions of dollars in additional cost to the City). As discussed herein, VCFPD later opined that if the fire services provided in the area are equivalent to those provided by VCFPD, there is no need for a third station to be built in East Area 1.

its responsibility to ensure annexation is beneficial because they have the misimpression that LAFCo will not approve the annexation unless it is in the best financial interests of the City.

The Services to Be Provided

The City represented that in exchange for almost 80% of the City's property taxes, the City would receive fully staffed and fully equipped fire protection services, including full staffing at the City's existing two fire stations, retrofitting and updating one station, and constructing a new fire station in the East Area 1 development. [Source: May 25, 2017 City Council Meeting.]

When VCFPD presented the proposed annexation to the Board of Supervisors, however, the description of the services to be provided was drastically reduced. VCFPD indicated that the services provided would involve closing the County's existing fire station on the west end of the City, purchasing the City's two existing stations at a nominal cost and using a \$4 million grant from Limoneira to retrofit one of the existing stations. [Source: July 25, 2017 Board of Supervisors Meeting] Under annexation, VCFPD will not build a new fire station at East Area 1, despite the fact that the consultants identified the cost of building a new fire station in East Area 1 as an assumption in their cost analysis and a factor weighing in favor of annexation.⁴

VCFPD's presentation to the Board also included an analysis of the revenues VCFPD would receive as a result of the annexation. After VCFPD's costs for service are covered, VCFPD is left with a windfall every year. The windfall grows substantially over time. For example, the first year surplus is projected to be \$292,000. The windfall increases every year, and by 2026-27, the windfall is projected to be \$1.9 million for that fiscal year alone. [Source: *Supervisors approve Santa Paula's request to join county fire district*, Aug. 2, 2017, VC Star.]

⁴ VCFPD opined that no new station was required with annexation because fire services at existing stations would be improved. But that should mean that the City could also improve services without having to build a new station. We question why the City was not provided that option. A fire station costs between \$6-8 million according to VCFPD. [Source: *Fire district plan stirs questions in Santa Paula*, April 1, 2017, VC Star.] This means that for comparison purposes, the consultants' decision to include the cost of building a new station in the cost estimates *overstated* the City's costs of retaining its fire department by *millions*.

There is nothing in the annexation proposal that requires the windfall to be spent in Santa Paula. [Source: July 25, 2017 Plan for Service.]

OPPOSITION TO THE ANNEXATION

The Annexation is Not Affordable and the City Cannot Operate with What Little Remains of Its Property Tax Revenues

The City cannot afford the annexation. The City's budget is not truly balanced and relies heavily on projected sales tax revenues that may not materialize or be sustained. Services are stripped down to the bare minimum and the City has suffered greatly as a result. The May 25, 2017 budget meeting painted a dire picture of the City's ability to continue operations. As consultant Mike Sedell repeatedly commented at the meeting, the budget numbers presented were the type "no one wants to see," and Mr. Sedell cautioned that the City was "at a crossroads. You need to make some very difficult decisions." [Source: *In budget, Santa Paula weighs tough decisions*, May 27, 2017, VC Star.]

Annexation will use almost 80% of available property taxes, which taxes are currently used as a significant funding source for other basic services in the budget. To make up this deficiency, the City must admittedly rely on money from the Measure T sales tax measure. Measure T terminates in 20 years, or sooner if it is repealed by voters unhappy with how it is being spent. Moreover, it is well known that retail in Santa Paula has always struggled. The City's biggest and only major retail operation is K-Mart, and its future seems uncertain in light of recent news reports. Increasing internet sales also weaken the local economy. Ignoring these threats, the City will be giving away a reliable funding source (property taxes) to benefit a single service (fire), and will be forced to stake its entire viability on sales tax revenues to fund critical operations, despite the fact that the sales tax revenues are less reliable and a significant portion of these revenues will terminate in 20 years or sooner.

In analyzing the annexation, one of LAFCo's objectives is to ensure the City can afford the services it is purchasing and that the arrangement creates an efficiency in services without detrimentally impacting the City's ability to provide other services. While annexation may streamline fire service operations throughout the County, the City cannot afford to overpay in the interest of County-wide streamlining. The annexation has the real potential to bankrupt the City if there are insufficient sales taxes to fund its other services. And there is no question the annexation as proposed will deprive the City of monetary benefits that could

otherwise be realized through increased property tax revenues, revenues generated by a local fire department and the retirement of redevelopment bonds. With a woefully underfunded police force, no code enforcement, stripped down youth services and dilapidated public buildings, Santa Paula needs every penny it can get.

Sadly, if the City makes the wrong decision, there will be no way out of annexation. Under the proposed agreement, the City will give all of its fire service infrastructure (buildings, equipment, etc.) to VCFPD. [Source: July 25, 2017 Plan of Service.] If the City determines it needs its property tax revenues to survive, it will have be unable to withdraw from annexation and resuscitate its city fire department as it will be cost-prohibitive to re-establish or reacquire the required infrastructure. Thus, annexation will tie up the City's most reliable funding source *permanently*.

The Cost Charged By the County for Fire Protection Is Excessive

As VCFPD has transparently acknowledged, the tax sharing arrangement is a great deal for VCFPD, resulting in money that not only compensates the District for its actual costs, but also allows it to stockpile a surplus to invest into the District for the benefit of areas besides Santa Paula. Critically, the 16.5% tax rate demanded by VCFPD is not based on the District's actual cost to provide services, but is instead based on the fact that VCFPD does not want to charge the City less than it charges other cities in the County (the city of Moorpark currently pays the highest rate at 16.4%). Frankly, this is not a reasonable basis to charge Santa Paula the highest rate in the County. The charge should be based on actual costs.

In addition to overcharging the City, VCFPD will take its property tax allocation based on an assumption of full collection of property taxes, regardless of whether the full amount is actually collected. This could leave the City with even fewer funds than projected.

Perhaps this forced overpayment is not as much of an issue for cities that can afford it. For example, the city of Thousand Oaks has a similar property tax sharing arrangement with VCFPD. Over time, as that city developed and property taxes increased significantly, Thousand Oaks ended up paying significant amounts for fire service. Yet, even though the amount it paid increased significantly, Thousand Oaks still had robust revenue generating mechanisms and a significant amount of property tax revenues to sustain itself. Santa Paula – one of the poorest cities in the County – will pay the highest rate for fire protection services and will be left with a pittance after the VCFPD contract is paid from the property tax

revenues. Indeed, as the chart below shows exemplifies, after the VCFPD contract is paid Santa Paula will pay the *highest rate* and will be left with the *lowest property tax revenues*:

<i>Data based on FY 2015/16</i>	Amount Paid to VCFPD for Fire Protection Services	Property Taxes Retained by City After Paying for Fire Protection Services	Percentage of Property Taxes Paid By City for Fire Protection Services
Ojai	\$1.9 million	\$1.8 million	0.126
Port Hueneme	\$2.4 million	\$2.6 million	0.135
Moorpark	\$9.3 million	\$5 million	0.164
Camarillo	\$17.9 million	\$5.8 million	0.147
Simi Valley	\$25.2 million	\$11.3 million	0.145
Thousand Oaks	\$42.7 million	\$14.6 million	0.153
Santa Paula	\$3.3 million	\$882,000	0.165
[Source: tax assessor reports available at www.ventura.org/auditor-controller/ab8-tra-history-fy-2015-16 .]			

As the chart makes clear, the cost of annexation is too high for a city like Santa Paula. It is inherently inequitable that the City would pay more than the actual cost of the services being provided and it makes no sense for one of the poorest cities in the County to pay a premium for any of its services, especially given that the City also has pressing issues to address related to high crime rates and deficient youth services.

We understand that other cities, including Thousand Oaks, have tried without success to revise their arrangements with VCFPD because they are now forced to significantly overpay for fire service. For example, Thousand Oaks pays approximately \$42.7 million for fire service –almost twice as much for fire protection services as it does for police services. As Thousand Oaks noted, it is “highly unusual” for fire service costs to exceed police services costs, especially by such a large margin. [Source: *Thousand Oaks to evaluate fire service options*, November 4, 2009, VC Star.] The County’s model requiring a forced overpayment should be reevaluated to ensure that rates charged align with actual costs to avoid this type of lopsided budgeting.

The Annexation Raises Serious Conflict of Interest Concerns

The fire union has made monetary contributions to the campaigns of every member of the Santa Paula City Council, and has actively contributed to council member campaigns by walking door to door and handing out campaign materials. There are documented concerns that the fire union may have some undue influence over City Council members. [Source: *SP Firefighting PAC backed entire council*, May 20, 2017 VC Star.]

More troubling, however, is the fact that members of the City's own fire department (who will receive as much as 80-90 % raises as a result of annexation) appear to have been *directly* involved in providing cost estimates and negotiating the arrangement with VCFPD. Estimates concerning the City fire department's current annual budget appear disproportionate to the fire department's historical budgets, perhaps to make it appear that annexation will result in a cost savings. [Source: Santa Paula Adopted Budgets, available on line.] We believe the direct and substantial involvement of City fire department employees in the annexation analysis and negotiations was a violation of Government Code section 1090, et seq., which would ultimately void any annexation agreement. As a result, these conflict issues should be fully investigated before any annexation is approved to conserve the resources of all agencies involved.

CONCLUSION

Our opposition finds support from objective journalists who have followed this issue and have publicly questioned whether the annexation is defensible, including the following, enclosed for your review:

- *Editorial: Santa Paula hasn't made case for fire change*, VC Star, April 25, 2017
- *Santa Paula: Where there's smoke, there's fire?*, VC Reporter, May 24, 2017
- *Santa Paula: Ventura County Fire Protection District Enigma*, Citizens Journal, April 18, 2017
- *Fire district plan stirs questions in Santa Paula*, VC Star, April 1, 2017

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. We love our City, and while we support giving all city personnel raises and improving services, the City

can achieve those benefits without risking bankruptcy and without losing critical resources needed to address crime and other pressing issues.

Sincerely,

/s/⁵ Dr. Gabino Aguirre (former Santa Paula mayor) (805) 701-3423

/s/ Laura Espinosa (former Santa Paula vice-mayor) (805) 407-1608

/s/ Ralph Fernandez (former Santa Paula mayor)

/s/ Mary Ann Krause (former Santa Paula mayor)
(805) 415-0187

/s/ Lorenzo Moraza (President, Santa Paula Latino Town Hall)
(805) 616-1134

/s/ Gabrielle Muratori
(805) 525-4566

/s/ Judy Rice (former Santa Paula City Clerk) (805) 660-0997

/s/ Fred Robinson (former Santa Paula mayor; former chief executive officer of ARC) (805) 320-6811

/s/ Jim Tovias (former Santa Paula mayor) (805) 766-8242

/s/ Connie Tushla (former chair, Santa Paula Chamber of Commerce)
(805) 368-8841

/s/ Walter Adair (former Santa Paula Chief of Police) (805) 701-3853

Concerned Santa Paula Citizens⁶

cc: Santa Paula City Council
Enclosures

⁵ “/s/” indicates permission to sign electronically has been given.

⁶ Electronic signatures of approximately 340 people were obtained via an online petition opposing the currently proposed annexation; those signatures are attached and we continue to receive more signatures.

Petition Opposing Annexation

We urge the City Council not to move forward with annexation of Santa Paula's fire department for the following reasons.

Le urgimos al consejo municipal cancelar el procedimiento de transferir el departamento de bomberos al condado por los siguientes motivos.

1. The City cannot afford annexation/La ciudad no lo soportará económicamente.

The City budget is stripped down to its bare bones with staffing levels and services at all time lows. Santa Paula doesn't have a dime to spare. Yet, based on the understated cost estimates provided by the City, Santa Paula will pay at least an extra \$6 million for County fire services over the next 13 years than to keep fire service local. Moreover, annexation forces the City to trade a solid, reliable revenue source (property taxes) for an uncertain, unreliable revenue source (sales taxes). A key component of the City's sales tax revenues (Measure T) has an expiration date and could be repealed. Our fiscal situation has never been more dire; this is not the time for annexation given the inflated cost.

El presupuesto de la ciudad ya está exhausto con niveles bajos históricos de empleados y servicios. Santa Paula no tiene presupuesto de sobra. Sin embargo, según un estimado sutil proporcionado por la ciudad, Santa Paula pagará por lo menos 6 millones de dólares adicionales por servicios contra incendios del condado a lo largo de los siguientes 13 años. Además, la transferencia de servicio impone sobre la ciudad un intercambio de una fuente de recursos fiable y sólida (impuestos sobre propiedades) por una incierta y poco fiable (impuestos sobre ventas). Uno de los recursos principales para el impuesto sobre las ventas de la ciudad (Medida T) tiene fecha de vencimiento y puede ser revocada. Nuestra situación económica está en graves cadencias, ahora no es el momento para la transferencia dado el costo inflado.

2. The County is overcharging us/El condado está cobrando de más. The City will pay the highest rate in the County solely because the County wants to charge us more than cities who previously contracted with the County. The County has admitted that the annexation deal results in a huge surplus for the County, up to millions of dollars annually over time. Other cities who have County fire service regret their arrangements. In Thousand Oaks, for example, the property tax share arrangement has led to grossly inflated payments for fire service. This prevents Thousand Oaks from realizing most of the revenues that would otherwise result from increased property values and new development.

La ciudad pagará la tarifa más alta en el condado solo porque el condado quiere cobrarnos más que ciudades que han contratado con el condado anteriormente. El condado ha admitido que la transferencia resultará en una suma excesiva para el Condado, hasta millones de dólares anuales a lo largo del tiempo. Otras ciudades que tienen servicio contra incendios con el condado se arrepienten del arreglo. En la ciudad de Thousand Oaks, por ejemplo, el arreglo de impuestos sobre propiedades compartido ha resultado en pagos exageradamente altos para servicios contra incendios. Esto le impide a Thousand Oaks obtener los ingresos que hubieran resultado de aumentos en el valor de propiedades y construcciones nuevas.

3. Annexation is permanent/La transferencia es permanente. There is no fallback provision in the agreement that would allow the City to terminate the contract with the County and transfer the City's buildings and equipment back to the City. As a result, re-establishing the City's fire department would be cost-prohibitive. Santa Paula cannot afford to get this decision wrong.

Ya implementada, no habrá ninguna provisión en el arreglo que le permitirá a la ciudad cancelar el contrato con el condado y devolver los edificios y el equipo a la ciudad. Como resultado, estableciendo el departamento de bomberos de la ciudad otra vez no será posible económicamente. Santa Paula no puede arriesgar tomar la decisión equivocada.

Our Request:

We are asking the City Council to slow down and explore other solutions. Consider using Measure T funds to augment the City Fire Department directly. Negotiate a lower rate with the County. Include a termination provision in the annexation agreement that allows Santa Paula to transition back to a City Fire Department without excessive cost, so that we have a way out when we realize the cost of annexation is too great. Let's make sure the deal we strike is affordable, thoughtful and in the very best interests of our entire City. The future of Santa Paula is at stake.

Le estamos pidiendo al consejo municipal que se detenga e investigue otras soluciones. Usar fondos de la Medida T para aumentar directamente el departamento de bomberos de la ciudad. Negociar una tarifa más baja con el condado. Incluir una provisión para cancelar el arreglo de transferencia permitiéndole a Santa Paula recuperar el departamento de bomberos sin costo excesivo para que tengamos una salida cuando nos demos cuenta que el precio de la transferencia es demasiado alto. Hay que asegurarnos de que el trato que hagamos sea asequible, razonable y para el bien estar de la ciudad entera. El futuro de Santa Paula está en juego.

Name	City	State	Postal Cod	Country	Signed On
Judy Rice	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Daniel Wreesman	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Gabrielle Muratori	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Pamela Murphy	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
sheryl hamlin	santa pauli	CA	93060	US	9/5/2017
Heather Silva	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Eliazar Baltazar				US	9/5/2017
Nicole Dryden	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Michael Lambert	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Catherine Rico	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Traci Falls	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
James Nelson	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Lori Beyer	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Vikki Davis	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
candace lozano		CA		US	9/5/2017
Rocío Martínez	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Courtney Boyce	Santa Paul	CA	93060	US	9/5/2017
Jen Scott	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Louie Medina	santa pauli	CA	93060	US	9/5/2017
Gary Nichols	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
amber mickelson	Santa Paul	CA	93060	US	9/5/2017
Donaven De Alejandro	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Katherine Lawless	Santa Paul	CA	93060	US	9/5/2017
Trevor Patterson	Santa Paul	CA	93060	US	9/5/2017
Celeste Baca	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Mark Countryman	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Pat Kennedy	Santa Paul	CA	93060	US	9/5/2017
Meaghan Rhodes	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Jeff Cowan	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Korie Conant	Santa Paul	CA	93060	US	9/5/2017
Ronda McKaig	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Melissa MURRAY	Santa paul	CA	93060	US	9/5/2017
Vincent Stapleton				US	9/5/2017
Megan Hadley	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Yolanda Saenz	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Melanie Crowther	Bellingham		98225	US	9/5/2017
adrian dyrness	Santa Paul	CA	93060	US	9/5/2017
Della Reyes	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Lisa Garcia	Santa Paul	CA	93060	US	9/5/2017
Nathaniel Nava				US	9/5/2017
William Murray	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Brandon Nichols	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Eileen Benedict	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Sierra Ming	Santa Paul	CA	93060	US	9/5/2017
Jazi Vega	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017
Shirley Ortiz	Santa Paula		93060	US	9/5/2017

Meghan Robledo	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Gayle Washburn	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Kevin Fildes	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Vanessa DeHaro	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Rebecca patton	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Marisela Ortiz	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Marissa Moses	Santa Mon CA	90403 US	9/5/2017
Cynthia Carrillo	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Deanna Ruiz	Fillmore CA	93015 US	9/5/2017
Newts Gomez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Jose Miranda	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Anthony Ontiveros	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
janet mckeen	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Kisha Deneef	Ojai	93023 US	9/5/2017
Gabriela Ramirez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Joanna Trujillo	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Carolyn McDonald	Oak View CA	93022 US	9/5/2017
Cynthia Montalvo	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Yolanda Manzano	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Patricia Gomez	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Glory Cruz	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Maria Cancino	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Marshall Roath	Los Angeles	90009 US	9/5/2017
Jeraldine Rodrigues	SANTA PAI CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
James Procter	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
RICHARD MCDONALD	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Diana Tapia	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Wilma Moulder	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Cheyenne Barcelona	Visalia	US	9/5/2017
gicela cedillo	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Fred Davis	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Monica Arana	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Heather Marr	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Juanita Chinchilla	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Everardo Magana		US	9/5/2017
Kit Sauer	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Jessica Sanchez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
jon stephenson	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Christine Mount	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Tammy Bell	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
jim tovias	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Melinda Kaye	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Noel Kiesewetter	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Ashley Colvard	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Philip Rice	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Nancy Mitchell	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Diana Mendoza	Oxnard	93036 US	9/5/2017

Bernadette Bergen	Norfolk	23518 US	9/5/2017
Bernard Weintraub	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Gloria Casas	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
STEVE SMEAD	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Bradley Jewett	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Candace Bibb	Ventura CA	93003-520 US	9/5/2017
Kevin Beyer	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Ken Johnson	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Michelle Martin	Culver City CA	90231 US	9/5/2017
Beverly Ann Lozano	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Susan Underwood	Sherman Oaks	91423 US	9/5/2017
John Bautista	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Mark Caldwell	Oklahoma City	73120 US	9/5/2017
Gerard Coughlin		US	9/5/2017
Leanne Vawter	Littlerock CA	93543 US	9/5/2017
Devon Cichoski	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Chris Huante		US	9/5/2017
Michael Covino	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
MC Limerick	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Jamie Henderson	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Betsy Blanchard Chess	Ventura	93001 US	9/5/2017
Ralph A Gomez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Evalinda Meza		US	9/5/2017
Jeffrey Carr		US	9/5/2017
Karen Carr	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
angela vasquez	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Carrillo Gloria	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Simone Kelly	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Patricia Ruiz	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
MARK MARTINEZ		US	9/5/2017
Ann Perez		US	9/5/2017
Cristina Pacheco	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Karen Kelly	Simi Valley	93062 US	9/5/2017
Gabriel Leon	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Juana Alvarez	santa paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Lawrence Cossid	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
LOUISE RANGEL	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Julie Acuff	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Karina Aspera		US	9/5/2017
Trisha Klatt-Garcia		US	9/5/2017
Blanca Rivas		US	9/5/2017
Rosalie Hill		US	9/5/2017
John Blanchard		US	9/5/2017
Realeen Portillo	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Cindy Alamillo	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Joseph Schey	Ventura	93004 US	9/5/2017
Anna Forhan	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017

Joe Garces	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Julie Fullmer		US	9/5/2017
Vince Cichoski	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Amy Kiesewetter	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Barbara Lockhart	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Sophia Cain	Stafford	22554 US	9/5/2017
yvonne Medina Jackson		US	9/5/2017
Daniel Sandoval	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Shannon Kroon		US	9/5/2017
Courtney Regalado	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Elizabeth Fernandez	Berkeley	94720 US	9/5/2017
Maxine McKaig	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Helen De Los Santos	Pico Rivera	90661 US	9/5/2017
Joanna Vargas	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Mary Jane Lax	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Diana Segovia	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/5/2017
Weston Johnson	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/5/2017
Patricia English	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/6/2017
Susan Sauer	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Keri Atwood	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/6/2017
Sabrina CHAVEZ	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Brenda Longbine	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Joyce Garnica	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/6/2017
Denise Lugo	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Steven Funk	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Michael Stubbs		US	9/6/2017
sarah armstrong	santa pauli CA	93060 US	9/6/2017
Lizet Magana		US	9/6/2017
Jenny Cabral	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Barbara Gomez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Susan Powers	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Diego Soto	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Yvonne Segovia	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Kimberly Aguilar Lira		US	9/6/2017
Serena Jasso	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Tanya Cabral	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Gerald Ladosky	Placerville	95667 US	9/6/2017
Craig Benedict	Los Angeles	90003 US	9/6/2017
Elaine Becker	Roanoke VA	24018 US	9/6/2017
Ricardo Mendoza	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Sara Garcia	Merced CA	95348 US	9/6/2017
jose medina	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
GEORGINA RAMIREZ	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Victor Perez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
johnny cardenas	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/6/2017
Nancy Gonzalez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Elizabeth Manzano		US	9/6/2017

Cynthia Alvarez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
John Marquez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Natalie Huff	Ventura	93003 US	9/6/2017
Petra Quinteto	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Frederick Stafford	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Adriana García	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/6/2017
Maria Delgadillo	Ventura CA	93001 US	9/6/2017
Adam Weber	Hood River OR	97031 US	9/6/2017
Will Armendariz	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Elaine Botelho		US	9/6/2017
William Pennock	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Marietta Collins		US	9/6/2017
Nicey Cabral	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Matcia Crow	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Brandy Manzano	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Yvonne Montelongo Apodaca		US	9/6/2017
Darlene Cardoza	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/6/2017
Maria Bedolla		US	9/6/2017
Kennetha Jespers		95134 US	9/6/2017
Estefana Jacobo		US	9/6/2017
Soheil Roshan-Zamir	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Brittany Nowland		US	9/6/2017
Marilyn Cardoza		US	9/6/2017
Ruben Alfaro	Ventura	93004 US	9/6/2017
Esmeralda Herrera	Berkeley	94720 US	9/6/2017
Susan Salas	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/6/2017
Allene Swan	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Selina Nevarez	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/7/2017
Cheryl J Starling	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/7/2017
Laurie Wreesman	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Michael LOZANO	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Alma Brambila		US	9/7/2017
ELLEN EVANOW EVANC	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Nancy Monje Vasquez	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/7/2017
Ed Ramirez		US	9/7/2017
April Garcia		US	9/7/2017
Tj Ductor		US	9/7/2017
Teresa Zendejas	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Helen Gamber	Ojai	93023 US	9/7/2017
Cynthia Jordan	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Luis Magana	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Elsa Alcantar	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Brenda Marquez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Xitlaly Santos	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Roberto Reyes	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Marta Castorina	Simi Valley	93065 US	9/7/2017
Nancy Coker	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/7/2017

lillian almanza		US	9/7/2017
Highian Aguilera	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/7/2017
Greta Rochelle	Santa Paul. CA	93061-012 US	9/7/2017
Ellen Smith	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
April Davison	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Anastasia Frangos	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/7/2017
Carol Villa	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Timothy Carr	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Sally Knight	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/7/2017
Cynthia Rodriguez		US	9/7/2017
Lisa Salazar		US	9/7/2017
KristiLisa A. Kleiner	Camarillo CA	93011 US	9/7/2017
Debbie Miller	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Jude Kiesewetter	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/7/2017
Jamie Hartford	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/8/2017
Ashton Thurneyssen	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/8/2017
Patrick Silva	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/8/2017
Yvette Herrera	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/8/2017
Janine Ybarra		US	9/8/2017
Tatiana Kiesewetter	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/8/2017
Robert Kiesewetter		US	9/8/2017
geneva obiols	santa pauli CA	93060 US	9/8/2017
Christine Law		US	9/8/2017
Jannette Jauregui	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/8/2017
Kathy Garcia	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/8/2017
Thomas Hunter	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/8/2017
Sandra Andrade	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/8/2017
Sushila Wood	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/8/2017
Mark Soto	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/8/2017
Michelle Peralta	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/8/2017
Richard Main	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/8/2017
Maiya A. Herrera	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/8/2017
Jillian Ruby	Ventura CA	93003 US	9/8/2017
Rita McKinney	Ventura	93004 US	9/8/2017
April Burgener		US	9/8/2017
David Smith	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/8/2017
Lissa Venegas		US	9/8/2017
Lynne Hengehold		US	9/8/2017
Rebecca Peterson		US	9/9/2017
Denise Chavez-Alcala	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/9/2017
Arlene Munoz	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/9/2017
Angela Pelton	Ventura CA	93004 US	9/9/2017
Burma & Butch Baselic	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/9/2017
Christine Pacheco	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/9/2017
Denise Brown	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/9/2017
Charles Spink	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/9/2017
ROBERT Chavez		US	9/9/2017

Lisa Hoekstra	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/9/2017
Meghan Belgium	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/9/2017
Gabriel Zamora	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/9/2017
Medea Lee	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/10/2017
Krystal Johnson	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/10/2017
Krys Bojanowski	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/10/2017
Nancy Rogers		US	9/10/2017
Claudia Pierce		US	9/10/2017
Jerome Filzen	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/11/2017
Yvette Sanchez	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/11/2017
Joshua Jimenez	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/11/2017
Rae Lynn Allgood	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/11/2017
Carolina Rodriguez	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/11/2017
Lourdes Gonzalez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/11/2017
Matthew McKaig	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/12/2017
James Sutherland	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/12/2107
Abraham Luna	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/12/2017
Barbara Aparicio	Santa Paula	91766 US	9/12/2017
Carrie Owens	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/12/2017
Crystal Antwine	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/13/2017
Almendra Valdez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/13/2017
Mariana Pena		US	9/13/2017
Edward Lopez	CA	US	9/13/2017
Darcy Monteith		US	9/13/2017
Crystal Antwine	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/13/2017
Rita Brooks Brooks	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/14/2017
gilbert Castro	CA	US	9/14/2017
Kathryn Cook		US	9/15/2017
Willene Summerford		US	9/16/2017
Michael Lara		US	9/16/2017
Rebeca Ibarra		US	9/16/2017
Alicia Ibarra		US	9/16/2017
Cristina Avila		US	9/16/2017
Valerio Longoria	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/17/2017
Leticia Ramirez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/18/2017
Rose Real		US	9/18/2017
GERRI CANTU	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/18/2017
Pm Lemmon	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/19/2017
Gena Mathwin		US	9/19/2017
Pamela Fuller	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/19/2017
Amy Pla		US	9/19/2017
Sam Lujan		US	9/19/2017
Eve Reeves	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/19/2017
Lupe Ramirez		US	9/19/2017
Maiya Rodriguez	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/19/2017
Jane Goodwin	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/21/2017
Patty Kodenko	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/22/2017

Carmen Vargas	Santa Paula	93060 US	9/22/2017
Christine Wells	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/22/2017
Rachel Oleson	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/23/2017
Susanna Emerson	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/23/2017
Andrew Seeley	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/23/2017
steven cain	CA	US	9/23/2017
Kathryn Gardner	CA	US	9/23/2017
Cynthia Cruz	Santa Paul. CA	93060 US	9/24/2017

Opposition to Current Annexation of Santa Paula Fire Department

[illegible]

Editorial: Santa Paula hasn't made case for fire change

Ventura Published 5:56 p.m. PT April 25, 2017



(Photo: STAR FILE PHOTO)

There's a reason why cities and counties spend a large percentage of their taxpayer dollars on fire protection. Most taxpayers would agree law enforcement and fire protection are the most important services that local governments provide.

That does not mean, however, that our elected officials should write a blank check to public safety. They should not ignore their responsibility to spend every single taxpayer dollar as wisely as possible.

Unfortunately, we have serious concerns that the city of Santa Paula might be starting down a path of irresponsibility as it considers eliminating the town's fire department and instead joining the Ventura Fire Protection District.

We urge the Santa Paula City Council to slow down, take a closer look at the numbers, perhaps seek another third-party consultant, and, above all else, be honest with the public before making a decision Santa Paulans may later regret.

If you live in Santa Paula, we encourage you to educate yourself on this issue and get involved. You agreed in November to raise your sales tax 1 percent to give the city an additional \$2.1 million a year, and time is running out for you to make sure city funds are spent wisely.

The council last week unanimously voted to prepare an application to be annexed into the county fire district. The Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission will rule on that, possibly as early as next month. The council would vote again on the matter, and by September the city's fire department, founded in 1903 — could be history.

It's hard for us to definitively say the move would be financially foolish, because the city seems to throw out different numbers at every meeting. These numbers come from the city fire department itself, whose firefighters would be hired by the county and earn higher salaries and benefits. Coincidentally, at that same council meeting last week, Fire Chief Rick Araiza was promoted to interim city manager.

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We can tell you that a consultant hired by the city to study fire services found last year that switching to county fire would cost Santa Paula an additional \$218,000 a year. And that doesn't include the loss of property tax revenue from future development. If Santa Paula joins the fire district, the latter would get 80 percent of the city's property tax revenue.

The consultant found the city's fire department provided good service and responded promptly to calls. And when it needs help, the Ventura Fire Department already responds — usually for free, under mutual aid agreements. The consultant recommended the city use reserve and paid firefighters to improve efficiency, not join county fire.

Frankly, we believe Santa Paula has not yet made a compelling case to join county fire. The city must give residents some better numbers about the costs and explain in detail how all residents would benefit — not just firefighters.

We endorsed Santa Paula's sales tax measure, saying the council had done "a good job tightening its belt in recent years" and "shown it could live on its own funds." We now wonder if we made a mistake.

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Santa Paula: Where there's smoke, there's fire?

May 24, 2017 | Editorial, Santa Paula | 0 |

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Santa Paula has long been known for its quaintness, serving a diverse community, from migrant workers and small business owners to doctors and teachers. It has special historical significance, from being home to some of the county's founding fathers to longtime establishments such as the Glen Tavern Inn and a small airport where Steve McQueen used to keep some of his most prized possessions. But with the 2014 and 2016 elections and ensuing pursuits since then, something seems awry.

A political action committee representing Santa Paula's firefighting union has been especially busy with the recent elections. As reported by the VC Star, in 2014 and 2016, the PAC spent \$15,400 total on five candidates who are all now on the City Council. None of the losing candidates received donations from the PAC. Further, the voters last year supported Measure M, a 1 cent sales-tax increase over 20 years that would generate "approximately \$2.1 million annually, to improve police and fire services with the remainder devoted to street repair, youth programs and the provision of other city services." While we did not endorse this measure, a resident in favor of the measure was quick to point out that the money would be distributed fairly. Our concern, that police and fire were the priority, as stated in the actual language of the measure. The increase went into effect April 1.



Clearly, in Santa Paula, firefighters are highly regarded and have certain influence. And this is not unusual, as most people value the lifesaving work of these public servants. But there is something unsettling unfolding in the "Citrus Capital of the World": The city is currently reviewing whether to disband the city's fire department and instead hire the county to provide services. The costs, however, seem exponentially high for the services the city is already receiving.

First, the county would allocate roughly 80 percent of the city's property tax revenues for county fire services. Second, according to a consultant hired to study the costs of moving such services to the county, Santa Paula residents would pay an additional \$218,000 annually. For this, the city's 17 sworn fire department employees would most likely be hired by



the county, see a significant increase in pay to match other county firefighters, have access to better equipment, reduce the city's workers' compensation and add services for residents.

While the City Council recently hired consultants to further study the cost/benefit analysis of the move, during public meetings, members of the fire department were pushing to move the switch forward as city residents urged lawmakers to slow the process down. We agree with the residents.



According to <http://transparentcalifornia.com>, in 2014, Santa Paula firefighters, captains and engineers brought home in total pay and benefits between \$50,000 and \$130,000 a year — not including the chief's pay. The median *household* income in Santa Paula hovers right around \$53,000, with income per capita at \$20,000. It doesn't seem fair that the city's firefighters should continue to push this move that seems to put a heavy financial burden on its residents without more information that shows clearly how the city will benefit. Also, the sense of urgency seems odd without first seeing how Measure T could better improve the city's fire department.

The real issue at hand, however, is the notion that Santa Paula residents can now hand off the responsibility of running their city to elected officials without any further follow-up. Now is the time for the residents to get involved and be engaged before they are all on the hook for decisions made by the City Council members who were all supported by those who stand to benefit the most.



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Santa Paula: Ventura County Fire Protection District Enigma

Added by Sheryl Hamlin on April 18, 2017.

Saved under News, Ventura/Santa Paula/Ojai

Tags: LAFCO, Santa Paula, Sheryl Hamlin, Ventura County Fire

By Sheryl Hamlin

Santa Paula City Council heard presentations from three officers of the county and city fire fighters. Presenters included: Luis Espinosa (Assistant Fire Chief SPFD), Michael Laplant (Deputy Fire Chief Ventura County Fire Protection District), Mark Lorenzen (Chief, Ventura County Fire Protection District).

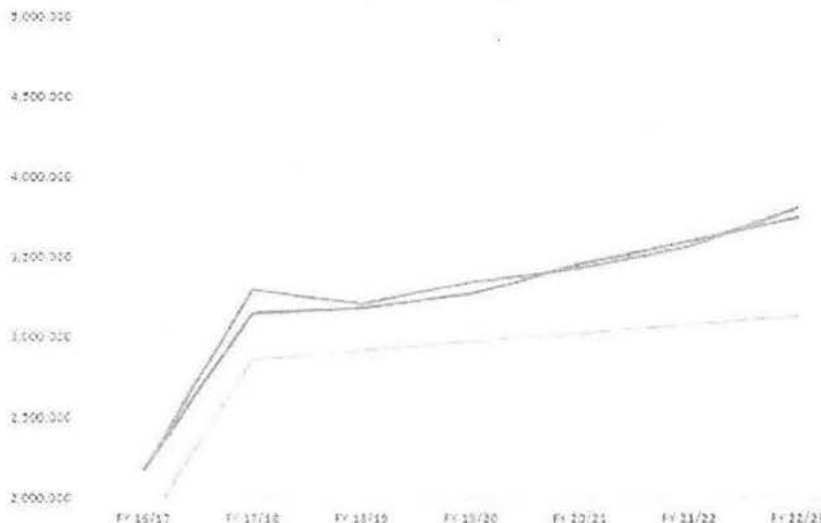
The complete council packet for the April 17, 2017 meeting can be downloaded here. At the time of this writing, no video was available for the meeting.

Highlights from the presentations and discussion follow here.

How much will this cost?

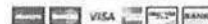
The VCFPD Powerpoint was presented by Mike Laplant. The cost comparison slide was the slide most discussed.

Fire Department Comparison



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Alternative #1 Net Cost Alternative #2 Net Cost Alternative #3 Net Cost

Source: VCFPD Cost Comparison Graph

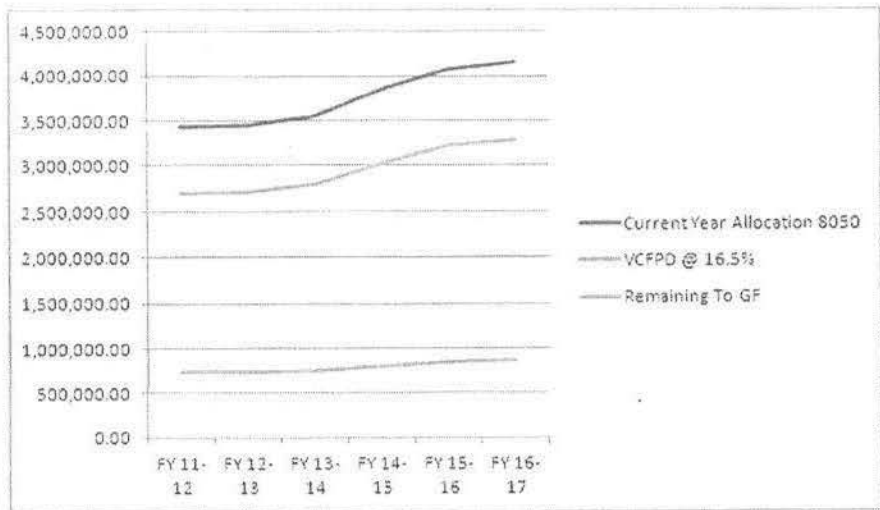
The top two lines show the two options for the City of Santa Paula continuing to own and operate the Fire Department, while the bottom line is the estimated cost of the annexation with the VCFPD. Mayor Crosswhite noted several problems with the graph: 1) the costs did not include East Area 1 or East area 2 properties, whose assessments would drive up the city's VCFPD allocation as well as the city's ownership and 2) the bottom line did not include property turnover, but merely assumed a 2.2% rate of increase based on Proposition 13 limits.

County TRA Reports Not Included in Analysis

At a previous meeting, Chief Araiza had introduced the County's TRA Reports (Tax Rate Assessment) reports which he provided as handouts. A previous report shows how the county uses the TRA reports to compute distributed allocations of the city's property tax.

To see the city's six most recent annual TRA reports click [here](#).

A simple graph shows the 'Current Year Allocation' to the City of Santa Paula and two calculated lines representing what the top line would have been if the City had been a member of the VCFPD during these years: a) payment to VCFPD and b) residual to the General Fund.



Graph of County TRA Totals for Santa Paula

Note that the compound annual growth rate (CAGR) is 3.9%, which is considerably higher than the 2.2% used in the VCFPD forecast shown in the staff presentation. This graph does not include the East Area I and II properties.

Click [here](#) to download raw data for above graph.

East Area I and II

The staff report provided a Limoneira/Lewis schedule of home buildouts. It is important to understand that 638 lots of Haun Creek are to be finished by December 2019, 490 lots of Foothill neighborhood are to be completed by December 2021 and 369 lots of the Santa Paula Creek neighborhood are to be finished by December 2022. The valuations should produce step function increases in the forecasted cost of belonging to the VCFPD as well as to the city's cost of ownership.

LAFCO Analysis and Approval

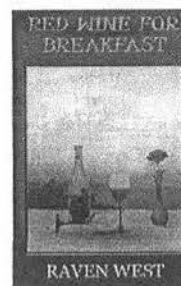
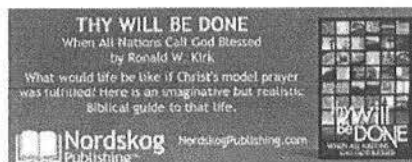
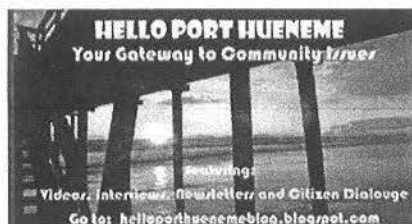
According to Chief Espinosa, LAFCO will start the 60 day review of this process on May 16th. VCFPD has agreed to assume all of the estimated \$15,000 to \$20,000 in fees to LAFCO. LAFCO will analyze the submittal and, according to the presenter, LAFCO will determine if joining the VCFPD is in the city's best financial interests. LAFCO should have direction from the council before commencing this work.

Click [here](#) for a flowchart of the LAFCO approval, notification and protest process.



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the laid-back attitude of LA to overcome the challenges of an industry that threatens to turn her off and a man who only wants to turn her on.

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Measure T?

The VCFPD presentation said there would be no effect on Measure T. However, Mayor Crosswhite astutely noted that funds from Measure T would be needed to pay the VCFPD when the costs to the district exceeded that which the city budgets for fire protection.

Citizen Comments

Richard Rudman spoke in Public Comments saying that the presentation still lacked clarity. He suggested more financial analysis and a "Stay versus Go" chart.

Council Comments

The council commented during and after the presentations.

Council Member Procter asked if this involved Proposition 218, to which the Chief Espinosa said no because there were enough funds to cover the costs without an additional parcel tax. He cited an acrimonious situation in the County of Santa Clara involving a protest vote. There is currently a protest vote for a fire annexation (not discussed) in San Bernardino County. Citizens will be able to attend the LAFCO meeting and protest as well as in writing.

Council Member Hernandez asked to clarify the transfer of personnel between the city and the VCFPD, to which two different responses were given. One respondent said the city's employees would be reviewed and placed on a list for first consideration when a position arose; however, Chief Lorenzen said there would be no lists, but applications would have to pass a background check and a civil service exam. There was no mention of fitness or age requirements.

Mayor Crosswhite asked why the city was not receiving its full allocation shown in the TRA report, to which Sandra Easeley, Finance Director, said that the former Redevelopment Agency took about \$600,000 for debt service and this would continue through 2024. Note that this was NOT mentioned in the previous report to the City Council RDA Dissolution Report and in fact conflicts with that report.

Vice Mayor Gherardi asked "can we afford not to do it?" while Council Member Hernandez said that the huge pay increase the fire fighters will receive could never be accomplished if the city continued its ownership. Nothing was mentioned by either the VCFPD or the council about the effect on the county's pension obligations which are approaching a dangerous level of 10%.

Council Member Hernandez stated that one advantage of joining the VCFPD is a relief from liability suits involving the fire department. He also reiterated that there will be a savings, a point which was clearly not proven by the staff presentation.

The council agreed to bring back a resolution for consideration by LAFCO. The vote was unanimous. According to City Attorney Cotti, a version of this resolution is in progress.

For more information about the author visit Sheryl Hamlin dot com.

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3 Responses to Santa Paula: Ventura County Fire Protection District Enigma



Sheryl Hamlin

April 24, 2017 at 3:05 pm

<http://santapaulaca.igmp2.com/Citizens/SplitView.aspx?Mode=Video&MeetingID=1293&Format=Agenda>

Video just uploaded on Monday 4/24/2017



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Paperback
Available on Amazon.com

by Debra Tash
(Author)

CHALLENGE THE WIND is a powerful American

revolutionary War

tale that dispenses a deep look at the impact of war on a family and those who come into their circle. The novel captures the souls of the audience through its powerful characterizations. However, the key to this strong historical story is the underlying theme that no matter how noble the cause war is hell on not just the combatants, but the loved ones waiting behind for news that those they cherish still live.

Ventura County Events

2017 City of Oxnard Heritage Square Summer Concert Series on September 8, 2017 6:00 pm

Weekly longevity classes- Free on September 13, 2017 5:30 pm

An AFA CINEMA GATEWAY EVENT
Special Screening of NEVER AGAIN IS NOW on September 13, 2017 6:00 pm

Never Again is Now – September 13th Film Screening and discussion with the Filmmaker on September 13, 2017 6:00 pm

Chamber to Present State of the Port Report at Thursday's Luncheon on September 14, 2017 12:00 pm

Habitat for Humanity and Move Inc. Team Up to Build Playhouses for Military Families on September 14, 2017 1:00 pm

VC Community College District hosts Open House; Community invited to new District Admin. Center in Camarillo, Sept. 14th on September 14, 2017 4:00 pm

Thousand Oaks: Sheriff's Deputies Participating in Tip-A-Cop Event For Special Olympics -- Sept. 14th on September 14, 2017 5:00 pm

Ventura County Student Veteran Expo. Sept. 15 on September 15, 2017 9:00 am

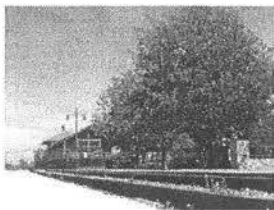
Latino Visions in Oxnard – Open Reception Sept. 15th on September 15, 2017 5:00 pm

Celebrate Chicano Culture with the Museum of Ventura County's Ayer y Todavía on September 15, 2017 6:00 pm

2017 California Coastal Cleanup Day – Saturday, Sept. 16th on September 16, 2017 9:30 am

Fire district plan stirs questions in Santa Paula

Arlene Martinez, amartinez@vestar.com, 805-437-0262 Published 3:24 p.m. PT April 1, 2017 | Updated 8:18 a.m. PT April 2, 2017



(Photo: STAR FILE PHOTO)

As Santa Paula officials continue to explore disbanding their fire department to get protection from the county, questions continue to swirl over what it means for the city's finances.

The city has had its own fire department since 1903, a mix of volunteers, reserves and increasingly, full-time firefighters. Last year, the city began exploring becoming part of the Ventura County Fire Protection District, which is paid for through property taxes.

As it stands, the city would pay just under 80 percent of its share of property taxes for fire service. That means it would be left with about 4.5 percent of every dollar it gets in property taxes and pay the fire district 16.5

percent.

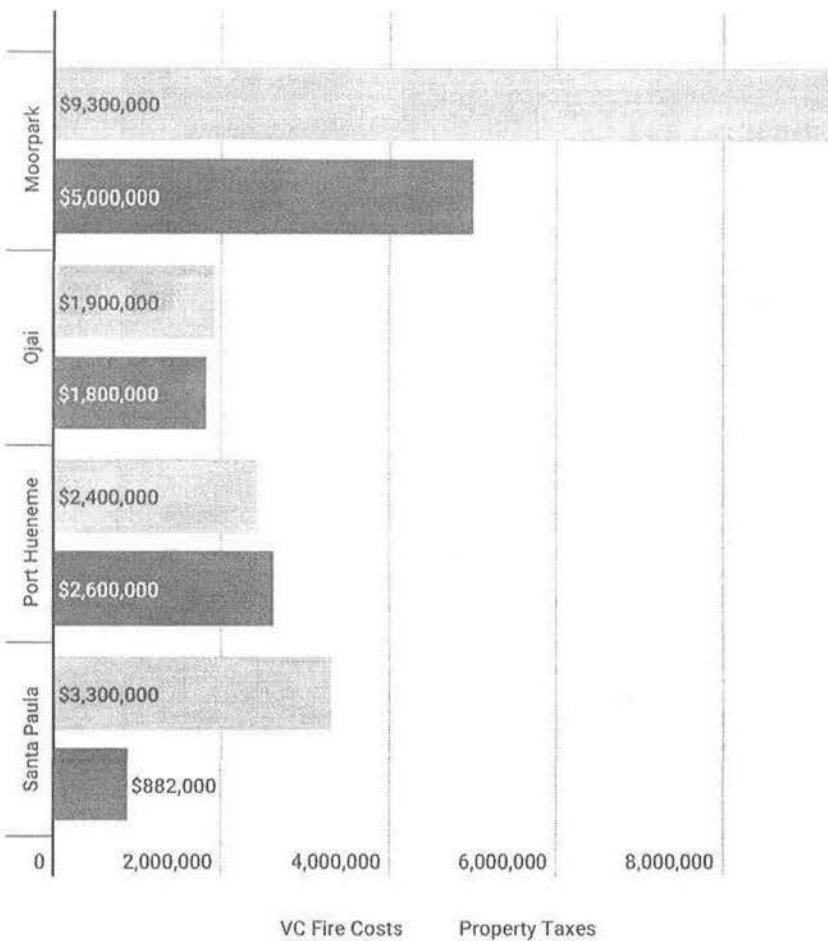
Read more

- [Costs could snag Santa Paula fire switch to county system \(/story/news/local/communities/county/2017/01/22/costs-could-snag-santa-paula-fire-switch-county-system/96740446/\)](#)
- [Santa Paula to revisit fire service change \(/story/news/local/communities/santa-paula/2017/02/18/santa-paula-revisit-fire-service-change/98071894/\)](#)
- [Santa Paula moves toward joining county fire \(/story/news/local/communities/santa-paula/2017/02/22/santa-paula-moves-toward-joining-county-fire/98240218/\)](#)

The City Council requested more information at its meeting last week, which Fire Chief Rick Araiza said he would provide later in April. In February, the council voted 5-0 to return with a plan to apply to the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission, which must sign off on the annexation into the district.

Camarillo, Moorpark, Ojai, Port Hueneme, Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks already receive county fire protection and pay 12.6 percent to 16.4 percent of their annual property tax collections, according to the County of Ventura Auditor-Controller's Office.

At 16.5 percent, Santa Paula's share would be the highest.



Source: County of Ventura 2016-17 AB8 TRA Reports

Santa Paula is based on a rate of 16.5 percent.

*Figures do not reflect adjustment for Redevelopment Authority Annual Tax Increment

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VC Fire Costs & Property Tax Collections for 2016-17
https://infogr.am/fire_costs_out_property_taxes_in
 Create bar charts ([https://infogr.am/create/bar-chart?](https://infogr.am/create/bar-chart?utm_source=embed_bottom&utm_medium=seo&utm_campaign=bar_chart)
[utm_source=embed_bottom&utm_medium=seo&utm_campaign=bar_chart](https://infogr.am/create/bar-chart?utm_source=embed_bottom&utm_medium=seo&utm_campaign=bar_chart))

"It's all proportional and that's the fairest way to do it. It wouldn't be fair any other way," Araiza said at the March meeting. "Our property tax is so low."

The county of Ventura collects all property taxes, then distributes them to every entity that receives a portion: education, water districts, the county, libraries and other sources. How much a city gets depends on the assessment value of properties in that jurisdiction.

Typically, property taxes are the top money source for cities, followed by sales tax and user fees.

Araiza said that Moorpark pays close to what Santa Paula pays – it pays around 16.4 percent – but its fire payment is much higher. In 2016-17, excluding adjustments for redevelopment, Moorpark paid \$9.3 million for fire, according to county reports known as AB8 TRA's

(http://vcportal.ventura.org/auditor/docs/property-tax-reports/ab8-tra-history/2016-2017/VOL_2_AB8_TRA_History_Report_P102142B_20160908_15-36-08.PDF). But it also received an additional \$5 million in property taxes.

Santa Paula, if it had been part of the district in 2016-17, would have paid \$3.3 million for fire and received an additional \$882,000 in property taxes, those county reports show (http://vcportal.ventura.org/auditor/docs/property-tax-reports/ab8-tra-history/2016-2017/VOL_1_AB8_TRA_History_Report_P102142A_20160908_15-35-51.PDF).

Crosswhite asked Araiza to bring back information on how much cities that are part of the district were getting in property taxes in dollars.

Araiza said Santa Paula was "in line with the other cities that are part of the district. It's in line with Camarillo."

Camarillo got a similar amount to Santa Paula, about 4.7 percent from each \$1 in property taxes, but the city still received \$5.5 million after paying for fire service, the county reports show.

Araiza noted that many entities receive a share of property taxes.

"Everyone takes from your dollar," he said.



The city of Santa Paula is exploring joining the Ventura County Fire District. (Photo: STAR FILE PHOTO)

Were the move to happen, the county would take on 17 firefighters and one civilian fire prevention official from Santa Paula, Ventura County Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen said.

"That's our intention. Those things still have to be worked out," he said.

That doesn't include Araiza, who said earlier he would likely retire by the time the switch happened. Araiza has been with the fire department for more than three decades. Earlier conversations had Araiza remaining with the city in a different capacity.

Council member Martin Hernandez said he wanted Araiza to at least be considered in a move to the county department.

"I just want to make sure all our firefighters are taken care of in that regard," he said.

Araiza agreed, saying he would like to continue working. "I would love for someone to negotiate this for me," he said.

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Lorenzen said that hasn't been part of negotiations to date but could be later. As such, he had no information on what pay or position Araiza would hold.

Members of the council have agreed the move would add services to the city.

If the annexation occurs, the county plans to use the \$4 million the city will get from Limoneira's East Area One development toward a new facility and

A station typically costs \$6 million to \$8 million depending on the size, he said. For the first couple of years, the county would likely work out of Santa Paula's existing two stations.

Council member John Procter asked whether the county would be picking up any pension-related costs related to the unfunded accrued liability, or what the city owes on benefits already accumulated.

That isn't likely.

"Generally, when these annexations occur the liability stays with the city that incurred it," Lorenzen said.

That debt usually stretches on for decades, because the city is responsible for paying retirement costs on the years an employee spent working for them. An employee's final pension is usually calculated on the highest paying 12-month period, if they were hired before 2013.

A consultant hired by the city recommended beefing up department ranks with reserve or part-time firefighters, noting East Area One's 1,500 residences would substantially add to the city's property tax collections.

For each \$1 in property taxes, here's how much went to Ventura County Fire in 2016-17 and (how much they paid):

- Camarillo: 14.7 cents (\$17.9 million)
- Moorpark: 16.4 cents (\$9.3 million)
- Ojai: 12.6 cents (\$1.9 million)
- Port Hueneme: 13.5 cents (\$2.4 millón)
- Simi Valley: 14.5 cents (\$25.2 million)
- Thousand Oaks: 15.3 cents (\$43 million)
- *Santa Paula: 16.5 cents (\$3.3 million)

Here's how much cities were allocated in property taxes in 2016-17 after paying for fire service:

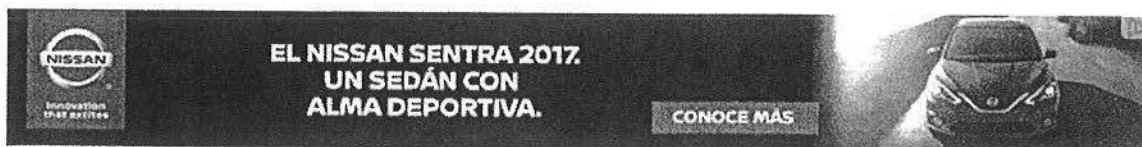
- Camarillo: \$5.7 million
- Moorpark: \$5 million
- Ojai: \$1.8 million
- Port Hueneme: \$2.6 million
- Simi Valley: \$11.3 million
- Thousand Oaks: \$14.5 million
- *Santa Paula: \$882,000

**If Santa Paula were part of the Ventura County Fire Protection District*

***Figures do not reflect adjustment for Redevelopment Authority Annual Tax Increment*

Source: County of Ventura AB8 TRA 2016-17 reports (<http://www.ventura.org/auditor-controller/ab8-tra-history-fy-2015-2016>)

Read or Share this story: <http://www.vcstar.com/story/news/local/communities/santa-paula/2017/04/01/questions-swirl-santa-paula-over-move-county-fire-district/99888756/>





Ventura County Professional Firefighters Association

IAFF Local 1364

"Proud Professionals Serving the Citizens of Ventura County and Beyond"

LAFCo 17-08

Attachment 8 of the

November 15, 2017 Staff Report

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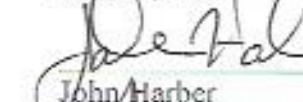
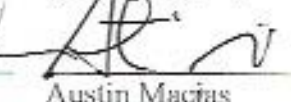
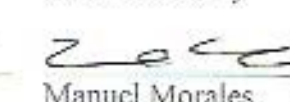
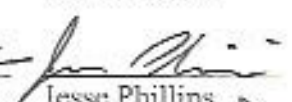
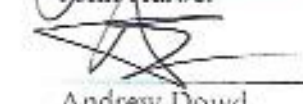
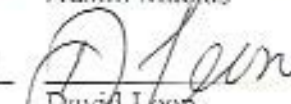
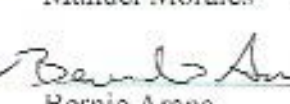
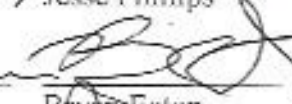
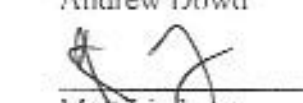
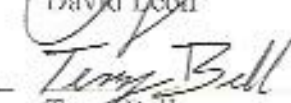
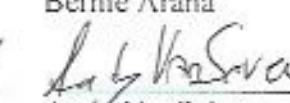
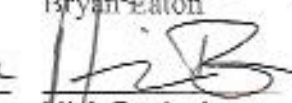

As firefighters that protect the lives and property of Santa Paula's citizens, we are dedicated to providing fire and rescue services at the highest possible level. Many of us have dedicated decades of our lives to the Santa Paula Fire Department, and more importantly to the mission of saving lives and property. Even as we have proudly served, we have been painfully aware of the challenges of providing modern fire and rescue services in an environment of chronic under-funding and an ever increasing demand for service.

Faced with the limitations imposed by this ongoing situation, we are forced to acknowledge that there are better options for providing these vital services. Recently Fire department management has been exploring these options, including the potential to consolidate the Santa Paula Fire Department with the Ventura County Fire Protection District. A consolidation with County Fire would provide both immediate and long-term advantages. The Fire District has enjoyed stable funding with a demonstrated ability to provide needed fire apparatus, equipment, and fire stations.

These are critical needs that Santa Paula has struggled to meet for many years. Despite efforts to address these problems, the long-term outlook remains questionable at best and we see no other viable alternatives that effectively address these concerns.

Based on the foregoing, we, the undersigned firefighters of the Santa Paula Fire Department hereby express our support for a consolidation of fire and rescue services with the Ventura County Fire Protection District.

Respectfully,
Your Santa Paula Firefighters

 Terry Byron	 Gil Senovia	 Dustin Lazenby	 Carlos Arana
 John Harber	 Austin Macias	 Manuel Morales	 Jesse Phillips
 Andrew Dowd	 David Leon	 Bernie Arana	 Bryan Eaton
 Matt Lindsey	 Terry Bell	 Andy VanSciver	 Nick Bacigalupo
 Tyler Zeller			



Santa Paula Police Officers Association

MEDIA RELEASE

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4/20/2017

The Santa Paula Police Officers Association would like to formally announce our support for the Santa Paula Fire Association's move to join the Ventura County Fire Protection District. Over the last several months members of the SPPOA have meet with members of the Santa Paula Fire Association, City Council, City Manager, and City Staff to discuss the possible move to the Ventura County Fire Protection District. During these meetings we have reviewed numerous documents and financials we show this move to be the right move for the city of Santa Paula and its residents. After looking at all aspects of this transition we full support this change and believe it to be in not only the best interest of the current members of the Santa Paula Fire Association but also the city of Santa Paula.

Sincerely

SPPOA Board of Directors

October 14, 2017

Over the last couple of months, the Santa Paula Police Officers Association has been informed of a group of community members who strongly oppose the Fire Annexation, and as a result are now pushing a movement to recall Measure T. We have been informed that on many occasions it has been stated that this group strongly supports the members of the Santa Paula Police Department, and feels the Annexation is not only detrimental to the City of Santa Paula but the Santa Paula Police Department as well. The Santa Paula Police Officers Association would like to take this opportunity to voice our position regarding this matter.

Below you will find a press release dated in April 2017 in which the SPPOA publicly endorsed the annexation of the Santa Paula Fire Department to the Ventura County Fire District. Today, we remain steadfast in this endorsement. Additionally, it should be noted the members of the Santa Paula City Council and City Manager Michael Rock have gone above and beyond to show their commitment to the Santa Paula Police Officers Association and to the voters of the City of Santa Paula regarding Measure T funds. (We have not been forgotten)

The City is recommending 50% of all Measure T funds go to the Santa Paula Police Department budget (this was a Measure T oversight Committee recommendation). This coming Monday October 16, 2017, City Manager Rock, will be proposing a reorganization recommendation in which three Full Time Officer Positions funded by Measure T will be added to the Police budget. The Santa Paula Police Officers Association and the City of Santa Paula have reached a tentative contract agreement in which we believe we will now be able to retain qualified, productive Officers, and attract additional qualified Officers to work for the City of Santa Paula. The City is currently in the information gathering and discussion phase of remodeling and reconstruction of the Santa Paula Police Department Station. This tentative agreement, additional positions, and facility upgrade would not have been possible without Measure T funds. Additionally, with the Santa Paula Fire Department not being annexed this would not be possible, as the public safety funds of Measure T would have to be divided amongst both Public Safety entities.

Although we understand members of our Community may feel deceived by the passing of Measure T, and now with the processing of the Annexation of Fire services to the Ventura County Fire District, it is important to realize the City is now in a position to provide the most efficient, and top quality of Public Safety Services to the members of the Santa Paula community. The SPPOA has completed vast research and discussion of the Annexation and realizes this will not only address the many issues the Santa Paula Fire Department currently faces, but with the Measure T funding now solely earmarked for the SPPD, many of the issues our members face will be or have been addressed.

It should be noted that the Santa Paula Police Officers Association Board of Directors have not been contacted or provided an opportunity to speak to the members of any community groups who strongly opposes the annexation or support a recall of Measure T. This in itself is

concerning as these groups should take the opportunity to become informed on how the annexation of the Fire Department benefits the Police Department. The SPPOA welcomes and encourages these groups, and members of the community to reach out to us to discuss these important topics.

Respectfully,

Santa Paula Police Officers Association-Board of Directors

To the Editor,

The recent spate of wildfires, including those that surged through the Punch Bowls area, serve as an important reminder of why quick and decisive fire response matters to every community. It's also a reminder of another of the many ways our citizens and taxpayers will benefit from the proposed fire service consolidation with Ventura County Fire Department.

It all starts with a blunt reality that we face: Santa Paula's fire department is ill-equipped for the needs of our community and can't afford to upgrade on its own.

Numerous reports to our City Council has revealed that equipment is being used well beyond its life span, fire stations are not fit for habitation and some gear is sitting broken in a storage yard. With regard to personnel, our department has become a training ground for the rest of the state: Not only are pay and benefit levels not nearly comparable with surrounding areas, but our firefighters are forced to buy their own protective safety equipment.

Beyond the basic concerns about the state of our department's equipment we also face a much more expansive set of risks. Fire response is only the beginning of adequate public protection. Firefighters are the ones providing swift-water rescue services, which recent events have shown to be critical life-saving. Firefighters respond to traffic accidents, and bring the Jaws of Life. Earthquake rescue, HAZMAT response, mountain rescue, gas leaks, fire prevention ... all from the fire department.

Then there is emergency medical response – the level of sophistication required to equip a medical response vehicle that provides value approaches that of a fully-equipped engine. For many, this is where our most direct interaction comes with first responders. What we can have or create on our own pales in comparison with the benefits that would come with a modern agency like Ventura County.

There is no substitute for the ongoing training and special equipment needed for the wide range of emergencies that a well-run and well-trained fire service has to handle. By any meaningful standard of public safety, consolidating with Ventura County Fire is a winner for our residents.

Consolidation provides this incredible breadth of protection at an equally incredible value to our taxpayers. For every dollar spent on consolidation we will receive a significant return on services, infrastructure, and value contributing to a safer city. It also relieves pressure from the pension obligations currently facing our city – a potential long-term saving to taxpayers. Home and business owners may see another, hidden cost saving: insurance rates. These rates are often tied to the quality and speed of first response services.

The Ventura County Fire District will be delivering a level of services to us that we could never afford on our own – even in our dreams – at a substantial cost savings. Sounds to me like a win-win.

As a Santa Paula resident and taxpayer, I understand many of the public and private concerns that have been expressed about consolidation. I share the frustration of many about how the consolidation process would distribute property-tax revenue. But the cold reality is that, without

consolidation, almost all of any additional revenue – about 90% -- would have to go into upgrades for our dangerously ill-equipped fire department. These critical needs must be met to rebuild a fire department that in my opinion no longer meets the current public safety needs of our community.

Those whose objections stem from opposition to unions are, in my view, putting politics ahead of public safety. The men and women of the fire service do the jobs many of us could not or would not do. Yes, we have salary and pension issues that should be part of a separate and much needed discussion. But in this situation, taxpayers and citizens benefit. That's what matters to me.

Government's first duty is the protection of its people. You can't eliminate these costs – you can only shift them or fail to pay for them. I want first class fire and emergency medical response for my city. Santa Paula cannot afford to deliver that – even if all the property tax revenues are retained.

Consolidation gives Santa Paulans the protection they deserve, and taxpayers the value they expect for their tax dollars.

Richard Rudman

To the Editor,

I just read the letter from my friend former Chief Walt Adair to the Editor responding to my September 22 Letter to the Editor on Annexation of our fire department to the County.

As Walt said so well, we are friends and have and will continue to have respectful discussions on this issue. Walt wrote in his letter that he challenges anyone to come up with a case where SPFD did not handle “a medical emergency, traffic accident, or other life critical emergency in the “City Limits” that our fire department couldn’t handle with as timely a response and as efficiently as the County?”. Walt does not take into account in his question the risks and limitations to our firefighters that they are subjected to in their daily responses imposed by equipment that OSHA says should have been junked in 2013 that puts their personal health at risk every time they enter a smoky building, and more.

Walt does not mention in his letter, although I know he knows this, that our firefighters are responding to incidents when two of their engines have a combined age of 47 years, well beyond the accepted standards for fire equipment rolling stock life expectancy. The service record of the SPFD is impressive and is a tribute to their courage, dedication and skill as they work figuratively with one hand tied behind the backs of the safety equipment they have to buy themselves.

The points I made in my letter about the current condition of stations and equipment that put fire protection at potential risk today and for the foreseeable future will be with us until rolling stock and firefighter equipment deficiencies are corrected. Even if the City keeps all the property tax and maintains SPFD, that cannot happen in any realistic City budget financial future I see - not five years or ten! Our SPFD firefighters should not have to continue to buy their own safety equipment, use Scott respirators that should have been junked in 2013, and have to make emergency repairs just to get a fire engine started. That actually happened a week ago Sunday with the SPFD primary engine at 81.

Numerous reports have shown that the dollar amount spent on fire protection services through the County are at nearly identical levels to what we are currently paying out of the general fund. For this amount however, and with the backing of the fire district’s budget as a whole, the city will finally receive the much needed, long-delayed facility, infrastructure and equipment repairs, upgrades and replacements. The city will no longer be on the hook for scraping together money for repairing and purchasing new fire vehicles and rescue equipment.

Rather than saying that the city will be at the mercy of the county financially, it should be said that the city will be the benefactor of a much larger, more efficient funding mechanism that exists county-wide to best serve its’ residents.

Richard Rudman

October 19, 2017

Santa Paula Times
Letter-To-The- Editor

Should Santa Paula Fire Department be annexed to the Ventura County Fire Department? That is a question and a decision that affects every man woman and child living in Santa Paula. Do our residents deserve the same level of fire protection and emergency medical services that our neighbors in the unincorporated areas or those living in Moorpark, Simi Valley, Camarillo, Ojai, Port Hueneme and Thousand Oaks have? Or do we prefer to continue to be second-class citizens whose lives and property are worth less than our neighbors?

We are fortunate to have hardworking and dedicated firemen in Santa Paula, but it is a fact that they are poorly equipped, operating with a discarded old fire engine from another city, underpaid, and using fire stations that are in dire need of repair and or replacement. Unfortunately, our hardworking firemen and residents are at risk every day due to this situation. We cannot fix this problem for ourselves without spending a great deal of money that we do not have.

There are those who say we are fine the way we are, and amazingly there are even some who suggest that we can reduce service to our residents by closing one of our fire stations and going back to volunteer firemen. If your house was on fire with your children injured or trapped inside, wouldn't you want paramedic services and a well-equipped fire department to save their lives and protect your property? I certainly do.

These same people who tell you that we can reduce our existing fire services and costs suggest that if we annex to the County Fire Department, the County of Ventura will be making a fortune on us. What nonsense! The City of Moorpark which has two fire stations like us, for example, and a share of property taxes $\frac{1}{2}$ percent lower than ours, pays \$9.3 million per year for fire services. Santa Paula's cost and share of property taxes for our two fully staffed stations and equal service would only be \$3.3 million per year. Check the amounts paid by all of the cities and it is clear that this is a good deal for Santa Paula.

The opponents to annexation also claim that our property taxes will be going up due to homes being built in East Area One and that the County will be taking advantage of us in the future. But, the property values of Moorpark, Simi Valley, Camarillo and Thousand Oaks will also continue to grow? Do not be misled. It is very clear that annexing the fire department to the County is in our best financial interest and will provide our families with fire protection and paramedic services that we all deserve with no additional cost to taxpayers.

It is troubling that some of the very people responsible for the past mismanagement of this City, the lack of police officers and the financial mess the City was in, are the very people advising the public not to go forward with annexation of the fire department. They would prefer the City to continue to divide our resources between police and fire so that neither department is fully funded or equipped. They would prefer the residents of Santa Paula to continue to be treated as second class citizens who don't deserve improved fire and police services! This is not acceptable to me and should not be acceptable to our citizens!

The passage of Measure T and the annexation of the Fire Department will allow us to add four new police officers, properly pay our existing police officers so that we can keep them and begin the process to rebuild the police station, as recommended by the Grand Jury. Measure T money has been only spent on services approved by the voters and in the specific percentages for police, fire, youth and public works as recommended by the oversight committee – a good investment in our future. So, what do you want for your family – second class status or quality services? Let's continue to move forward, treat our employees fairly, manage the City properly and build a bright future for all of us.

Ginger Gherardi
1183 Los Robles Dr
Santa Paula, CA 93060

Why does consolidating Santa Paula's Fire Department with the Ventura County Fire Department make sense?

**PROVIDES
\$20 MILLION**

**IN UPGRADES - REPLACING
BOTH STATIONS, ENGINES
AND EQUIPMENT**

THAT'S WHY CONSOLIDATION IS SUPPORTED BY

SANTA PAULA FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION

SANTA PAULA POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

RICK ARAIZA, SANTA PAULA FIRE CHIEF

STEVE MCLEAN, SANTA PAULA POLICE CHIEF

GINGER GHERARDI, SANTA PAULA COUNCILMEMBER & VICE MAYOR

CLINT GARMAN, SANTA PAULA COUNCILMEMBER

MARTIN F. HERNANDEZ, SANTA PAULA COUNCILMEMBER

JOHN PROCTER, SANTA PAULA COUNCILMEMBER

SANTA PAULA FIRE DEPARTMENT

*Saves
taxpayers over
\$400,000
a year*

\$3,500,000
\$3,000,000
\$2,500,000
\$2,000,000
\$1,500,000
\$1,000,000
\$500,000
\$0

SPFD Current
Budget 86%
of Property Tax
\$3,567,952

Annexation
79% of
Property Tax
\$3,145,091

SOURCE: Santa Paula City Manager report 4/17/17
<http://santapaulaca.igmp2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=4&ID=1893>

Get the facts at www.SafeSantaPaula.com

LAFCO 17-08

**RESOLUTION OF THE VENTURA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION
COMMISSION MAKING DETERMINATIONS AND APPROVING THE
VENTURA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ANNEXATION –
SANTA PAULA**

WHEREAS, the above-referenced proposal has been filed with the Executive Officer of the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo or Commission) pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (§ 56000 et seq. of the California Government Code); and

WHEREAS, notice was provided at the times and in the manner required by law; and

WHEREAS, the proposal was duly considered on November 15, 2017 and January 17, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Commission heard, discussed and considered all oral and written testimony for and against the proposal including, but not limited to, the LAFCo Staff Reports and recommendations, spheres of influence and applicable local plans and policies; and

WHEREAS, the affected territory has over twelve registered voters and is considered inhabited; and

WHEREAS, the Commission finds the proposal to be in the best interest of the landowners and present and future inhabitants within the County of Ventura and within the affected territory, and the organization of local governmental agencies within Ventura County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, DETERMINED AND ORDERED by the Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission as follows:

- (1) The LAFCo Staff Reports dated November 15, 2017 and January 17, 2018 are adopted.
- (2) The annexation is hereby approved, and the boundaries are established as generally set forth in the attached Exhibit A.
- (3) The boundaries of the proposal are found to be definite and certain as approved.
- (4) The subject proposal is assigned the following distinctive short form designation: **LAFCO 17-08 VENTURA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ANNEXATION – SANTA PAULA**
- (5) In accordance with staff's recommendation that the subject proposal is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to § 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines, the Commission hereby finds the annexation to be exempt.

- (6) The Commission directs staff to file a Notice of Exemption under § 15062 of the CEQA Guidelines.
- (7) The affected territory is inhabited as defined by Government Code § 56046.
- (8) The affected territory shall be liable for all taxes, charges, fees or assessments that are levied on similar properties within the Ventura County Fire Protection District.
- (9) **This annexation shall not be recorded until all LAFCo fees have been paid and until fees necessary for filing with the State Board of Equalization have been submitted to the LAFCo Executive Officer.**
- (10) **This annexation shall not be recorded unless and until the Ventura County Fire Protection District and the City of Santa Paula have executed a memorandum of agreement addressing to their satisfaction matters related to and necessary for the annexation and plan for services to be implemented.**

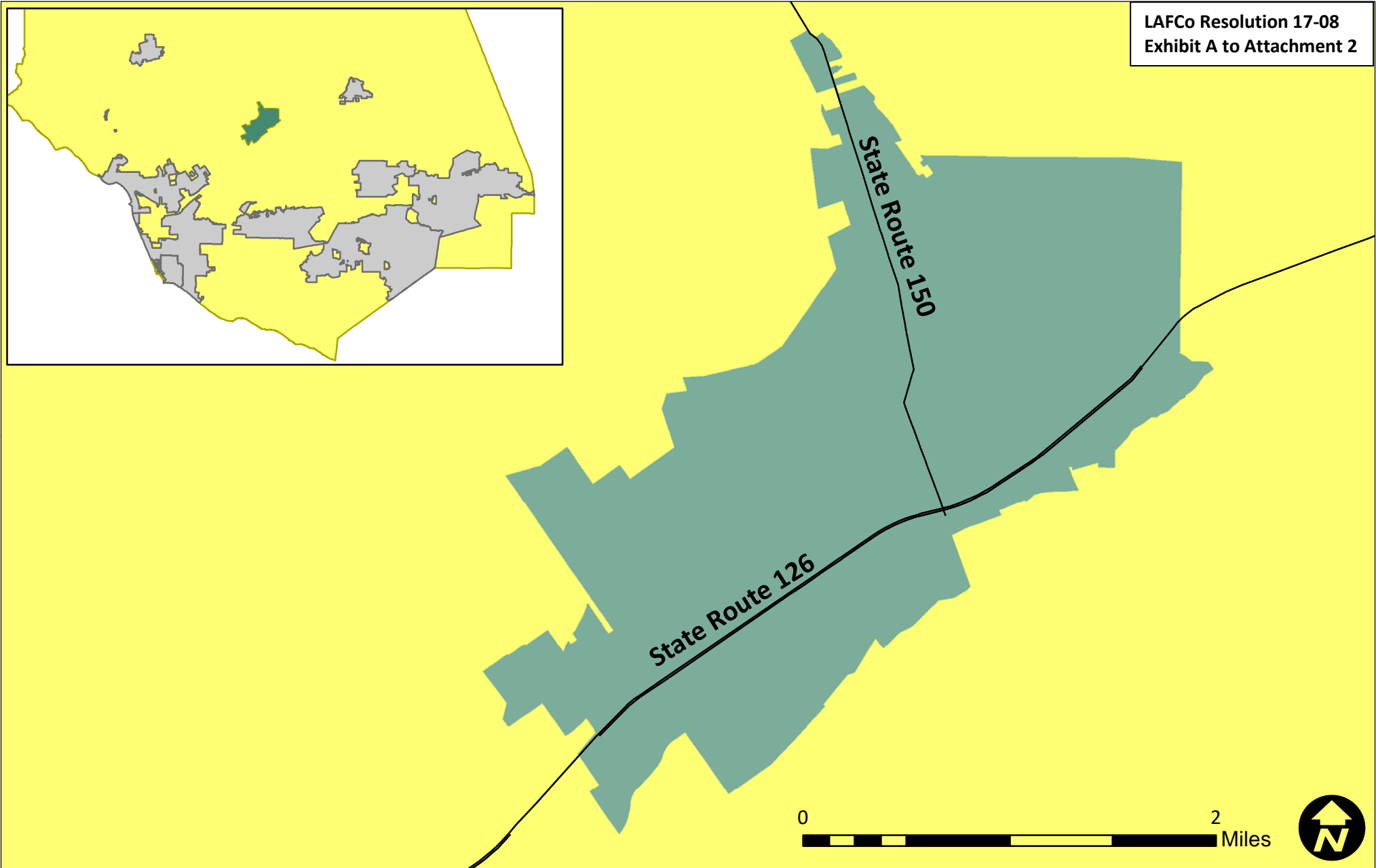
This resolution was adopted on January 17, 2018.

	AYE	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Commissioner Freeman	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Parvin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Ramirez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Rooney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Ross	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commissioner Zaragoza	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alt. Commissioner Bennett	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alt. Commissioner Bill-de la Peña	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alt. Commissioner Richards	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alt. Commissioner Waters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Date	Chair, Ventura Local Agency Formation Commission
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Attachment: Exhibit A

Copies: Ventura County Fire Protection District
City of Santa Paula
Ventura County Surveyor
Ventura County GIS Officer



-  City of Santa Paula - City Boundary
-  VCFPD - District Boundary

Ventura County Fire Protection District (VCFPD) Annexation
LAFCo 17-08
Annexation of City of Santa Paula to VCFPD
January 17, 2018

