This brief is being provided to inform the Board, staff and public of the details of an agenda item that requires action from the Board. The President of the Board will provide board members, staff, and the public the opportunity to ask questions about this topic when this agenda item is announced.

**Date:**March 3, 2021

**Originator:** Cary Curtis

**Purpose**:

**Supporting Documents Included: Yes – Resolution Document**

**Desired Action by the Board:**  Review and Consider Adoption of ***a Resolution Confirming Continuing Participation in the Reorganization of Regional Fire and Emergency Services***

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1. **Description:** Last update of the Fire Study Group occurred at the GMCSD Board Meeting on Jan. 19, 2021.

The Fire Study Group held a meeting on February 25, 2021. One of the issues faced by the Study Group was a verbal statement of withdraw from the Study Group by Sierra Valley Fire. The Study Group Leadership worked diligently with representatives of Sierra Valley and County Supervisor Dwight Ceresola to ensure Sierra Valley’s desire to withdraw was formalized by a vote of their board of directors. At the Study Group’s Feb. 25, 2021 meeting, a representative of Sierra Valley Fire attended and stated their board had a desire to continue participation.

*To formalize agency commitments, a Resolution has been created and reviewed by legal counsel that if adopted, affirms two key commitments* -

#1) The Governing Board of Gold Mountain Community Services District is obligated as a Participating Agency in the completion of a feasibility study and

#2) that the Board of GMCSD, is obligated to its share of cost of such study, as mutually agreed to by all the Participating Agencies, through the completion of said feasibility study.

**Impacts to Adopting the Resolution –**

Key Commitment #1 – The next step for the Study Group is crafting a Request for Proposal, (RFP), to determine the cost of services for a Feasibility Study consultant or consulting firm. The Feasibility Study is required to determine if creating a new regional fire district benefits the constituents of the participating agencies and if financially, a new Regional Fire District is sustainable. The Resolution presented, if adopted, commits GMCSD to participating through the delivery of the Feasibility Study. This is a necessary upfront commitment obligating the participating agencies. Otherwise, time and money will be wasted if an agency withdraws before a feasibility study can be completed which would require a rework of the effort.

Key Commitment #2 – We will not know GMCSD’s share of cost for the Feasibility Study until proposals for services have been collected. The Study Group representatives will collaborate on a method for how costs for the Study will be determined. This detail and a recommendation of the share of cost for the Feasibility Study will be presented to the GMCSD Board of Directors for review and approval during a future meeting of the Board.

\*\*Note: Representatives of each participating agency cannot independently authorize or commit their Board financially to this effort. All financial commitments are the responsibility of the agency’s Board of Directors.

1. **Reason for Recommended Board Action -** (*Consider compliance, cost savings, fixing a problem*):

Previous actions by the GMCSD Board affirmed the Board’s desire to pursue the formation of a new Regional Fire District. This resolution obligates GMCSD to fully participating in the development of an acceptable Feasibility Study and to a shared cost (to be determined), for that Study.

1. **Anticipated Impacts to the District (negative and/or positive) -** (*Consider financial impact, change in procedures, customer and staff communication and effect if recommendations are not adopted*):

Positive Impacts: A new Regional Fire District capitalizes on economies of scale where services are currently being duplicated across 6 agencies. It solves for “islands” where coverage does not exist, and services are provided and at no cost. This type of “pay nothing for services” impacts others who do pay. This effort could equalize the cost for services across similar zones, based on property use type.

More efficient, better capitalized, greater draw of resources and consistency of service are other identified benefits. Another is GMCSD would not be subject to negotiating a fire services contact where the District has limitations on service providers and negotiable terms and is subject to annual cost increase for contracted services.

Negative Impacts: It is not yet known what the cost to GMCSD will be for the Feasibility Study and other costs associated with the effort. Costs associated with a ballot measure, communications and other associated expenses have not yet been determined. The Study Group is working to identify these costs. It is estimated that the Feasibility Study cost is in the upper $40,000 range and represents the largest single expense.

1. **Anticipated Impacts to the Customer –** *Standby, Residential, Commercial***:**

Sustainable Regional Fire Protection and Emergency Response services

1. **Recommendation (s):**

After review and discussion, place the Resolution before a vote of the board for their approval.