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:**April 19, 2021

**Originator:** Cary Curtis

**Purpose**: 2nd Reading of Resolution of continuing participation in the reorganization of Regional Fire Services and commitment to funding of a feasibility study

**Supporting Documents Included: Yes**

**Desired Action by the Board:**

1. Approve revised Resolution as substantially presented.
2. Approve a cost of share for feasibility study not to exceed $15,000.
3. That the board requests Legal Counsel review of the final version of the Request for Proposal developed by the Study Group.

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1. **Description:**

Presented for consideration and action a 2nd reading of:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE GOLD MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT CONFIRMING CONTINUING PARTICIPATION IN THE REORGANIZATION OF REGIONAL FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES.**

**Background:**

The Local Emergency Services Study Group (LESSG) has provided a report to the Board (attachment 1) explaining the status of the group’s efforts and discussion points. As you will note in the provided report, the LESSG is looking for additional commitment from each of the participating entities, to ensure that each group still agrees to be a part of the study prior to hiring a consultant to review the creation of a new district.

It is anticipated that the consultant work will come at a cost that will be shared by the participating entities in a way that is mutually agreed to by all parties. As noted in attachment 1, the shared cost is not known yet, however the group is requesting that each participating entity determine a maximum dollar figure that the board is willing to commit for the initial project cost.

Attachment 2 includes a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) relating to the acquisition of this service.

**Recommendation:**

The Board’s ad hoc Fire Study Group Committee recommends and requests the following actions:

* 1. That the GMCSD Board adopts the attached Resolution (# TBD) substantially in the form presented (attachment 3). This Resolution is a commitment in good faith that: (1) the District is obligated as a Participating Agency in the completion of a feasibility study, and (2) the District is obligated to its share of the cost of such study, as mutually agreed to by all the Participating Agencies, through the completion of the feasibility study.
  2. That the Board authorizes the GMCSD ad-hoc Fire Study Group Committee, as its representative to the Study Group, to negotiate the District’s cost share of the feasibility study up to an amount of $15,000.
  3. That the Board requests Legal Counsel review of the final version of the Request for Proposal developed by the Study Group.

*Attachments:*

*Attachment 1: LESSG Study Group Report (including Appendix A)*

*Attachment 2: DRAFT RFP for a feasibility study for the creation of a new district*

*Attachment 3: Resolution #TBD*

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

At the GMCSD Fire Services Workshop on March 31, 2021, the Board received the history of fire protection and emergency services responsibilities of the CSD and the pros and cons for continuing as a participant in the Study Group effort. Currently, the risk of continuing participation is the recommended financial commitment of up to $15,000. The risk of not committing financially puts the District at a complete disadvantage. Annexation costs to join a newly formed Fire District later would greatly exceed the share of cost for the District to continue through the completion of a feasibility study and continuation as a participating agency. As reference, a 2014 Study done to evaluate the cost to the Feather River Inn to annex to Graeagle Volunteer Fire Dept. was $250,000.

One of the stated needs for a GMCSD fire tax was for sustaining and improving fire protection services in the District. Based on that need and after the ballot measure passed, the District set aside $30,000 in a reserve fund for this purpose. This effort by the Local Emergency Services Study Group is the best aligning approach for sustainable fire protection and emergency services that the District has been involved in since the creation of the District some 17 years ago. It is also the lowest cost option to the District that has been evaluated in the past.

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*):

**Impacts to the District:** Adopting the Resolution and commitment to funding as recommended, secures the GMCSD as a continuing participant in the efforts of the Study Group and through the completion of a feasibility study. The recommended $15,000 maximum commitment to the District’s cost of the feasibility study allows for the District to pay its fair share of the cost of the Study while realizing GMCSD does not bring additional resources to the table in the formation of a new fire district. Currently, the only impact to the District, staff and community is a commitment to funding.

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

None currently.

1. **Recommendation (s):**

The Board’s ad hoc Fire Study Group Committee recommends and requests the following actions:

* 1. That the GMCSD Board adopts the attached Resolution (# TBD), substantially in the form presented (attachment 3). This Resolution is a commitment in good faith that: (1) the District is obligated as a Participating Agency in the completion of a feasibility study, and (2) the District is obligated to its share of the cost of such study, as mutually agreed to by all the Participating Agencies, through the completion of the feasibility study.
  2. That the Board authorizes the GMCSD ad-hoc Fire Study Group Committee, as its representative to the Study Group, to negotiate the District’s cost share of the feasibility study up to an amount not to exceed $15,000.
  3. That the Board requests Legal Counsel review of the final version of the Request for Proposal developed by the Study Group.