

LAFCO *of Monterey County*

LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION OF MONTEREY COUNTY

**2022
Commissioners**

Chair
Mary Ann Leffel
Special District Member

Vice Chair
Matt Gourley
Public Member

Luis Alejo
County Member

Wendy Root Askew
County Member, Alternate

Kimbley Craig
City Member

Christopher Lopez
County Member

Ian Oglesby
City Member

Warren Poitras
Special District Member

Steve Snodgrass
Public Member, Alternate

David Kong
Special District Member, Alternate

Anna Velazquez
City Member, Alternate

Counsel

Kelly L. Donlon
General Counsel

Executive Officer

Kate McKenna, AICP

132 W. Gabilan Street, #102
Salinas, CA 93901

P. O. Box 1369
Salinas, CA 93902

Voice: 831-754-5838

www.monterey.lafco.ca.gov

July 8, 2022

The Honorable Stephanie E. Hulse
Judge of the Superior Court
c/o Office of the County Counsel
Attention: Sandra Ontiveros
168 W. Alisal Street, 3rd Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Re: May 24, 2022 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report –
“Consolidation of Two North Monterey County Fire Districts” (North County
Fire Protection District and Monterey County Regional Fire District)

Dear Judge Hulse:

I am writing to provide LAFCO of Monterey County’s optional response to the May 24, 2022 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury Final Report entitled “Consolidation of Two North Monterey County Fire Districts.” Regarding a potential consolidation of two agencies, LAFCO would like to emphasize the importance of ensuring sufficient funding availability to meet the consolidated agency’s plan for providing services. Consolidation of a financially stable district and a financially struggling district has the potential to result in a larger consolidated district that remains in a financially strained position unless additional revenues are identified or committed as part of the consolidation.

LAFCO staff and LAFCO’s fire consultant participated in the Monterey County Board of Supervisors’ Fire and Emergency Medical Services Ad Hoc Committee meetings as invited in late 2020 and during 2021. The Ad Hoc Committee reviewed recommendations from LAFCO’s 2020 study of fire protection and EMS services in unincorporated Monterey County and researched potential ways to support local fire agencies experiencing financial challenges. The Ad Hoc Committee also received information regarding the feasibility of consolidating the North County and Monterey County Regional fire districts. The Ad Hoc Committee reviewed preliminary cost estimates for a potential consolidation of these two districts based on information provided by both agencies in late 2021. LAFCO is not aware of any further meetings or discussions.

LAFCO of Monterey County thanks the Civil Grand Jury for sharing this report. We appreciate the members of the Civil Grand Jury for their many hours of work dedicated to improving our community. We hope that this information provides additional context with respect to the Grand Jury’s findings and recommendations. Please contact the LAFCO office at 831-754-5838 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Kate McKenna, AICP
Executive Officer