

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-0018

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

January 20, 2015

OPPOSING THE PROPOSED SPHERE OF INFLUENCE AMENDMENT FOR THE SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT

BACKGROUND

- A. The City of Sacramento currently provides emergency medical care, fire prevention inspections, rescue and fire protection services to the Natomas Fire Protection District (NFPD) under contract with the County Board of Supervisors (acting as the governing body for the dependent special district). The District was established in 1924; the contract dates to August 25, 1984 with renewals every five (5) years. The current contract expires in 2016.
- B. On December 10, 2002, the City and County entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (City Resolution 2002-830 and County Resolution 2002-1566) regarding principles of land use and revenue sharing for the Natomas Area.
- C. On November 14, 2013, the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Board of Directors approved Resolution 2013-117 authorizing an application to the Sacramento Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) to request and process a Sphere of Influence (SOI) amendment to include the service area of the Natomas Fire District (in unincorporated Sacramento County) and "Sutter Pointe" in unincorporated Sutter County.
- D. On March 14, 2014, the Sutter County Administrative Officer authored a letter to Sacramento LAFCo stating that "Sutter County determined that any decision regarding who will provide future fire protection services is premature at this time."
- E. In September 2014, a consortium of landowners and property owners within the unincorporated area of Natomas in Sacramento County filed an application with the County for the Natomas Vision Plan. The application includes land use development of 5,700 acres north of Elkhorn Blvd. and east of Hwy 99 – adding 19,772 dwelling units (53,582 population) and 34,806 jobs in the unincorporated Natomas area immediately proximate to the City's North Natomas Community Plan Area. The project application would also establish an urban reserve of 3,300 acres.

- F. On December 4, 2014, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District submitted an application to Sacramento LAFCo for Sphere of Influence amendment to expand into Natomas Fire Protection District to include the Natomas Vision area.
- G. Sacramento LAFCo has requested that comments regarding any operational, service, fiscal and/or other impacts or concerns be provided to LAFCo by 4:00 p.m. on January 23, 2015.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

- Section 1. The consideration of a Sphere of Influence (SOI) amendment for Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District is premature. The justification for the SOI amendment and annexation is that the Natomas Vision Area will be urbanizing and that (if urbanization occurs) Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District is the appropriate fire protection service provider. However, while an application for development of the Vision Area in the County has been initiated, the decision about whether, when to urbanize, and who urbanizes (City/County) has yet to be made.
- Section 2. Sacramento LAFCo's decision on a SOI amendment and annexation should be based on reasonable certainty about when and whether the affected territory will urbanize – and whether the City or County will be the agent of urbanization.
- Section 3. The SOI amendment and annexation should be based on an agreement between the City and County as to which areas would urbanize in the City and which would urbanize in the County. The proposed SOI amendment includes several areas for which the City Council has initiated annexations.
- Section 4. LAFCo criteria identify that evaluation of a SOI amendment should be based on the provision of efficient services. The Municipal Services Review (MSR) that was submitted with the application is void in facilitating a City/Metro Fire District comparison of service delivery models and cost structures.
- Section 5. If the City of Sacramento loses the contract to provide fire protection service to the Natomas Fire Protection District, the City anticipates loss of 27 City personnel and loss of City revenues.
- Section 6. If Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District's SOI amendment is granted, because of existing station locations and travel paths, Sacramento Fire Department units would still likely be the first responder, as well as comprise the majority of engines and trucks at large-scale emergencies.

Section 7. The City Manager is directed to forward this Resolution on behalf of the Mayor and City Council to the Local Agency Formation Commission by no later than January 23, 2015.

Adopted by the City of Sacramento City Council on January 20, 2015, by the following vote:

Ayes: Members Ashby, Carr, Hansen, Harris, Jennings, Schenirer, and Warren

Noes: None


Abstain: None

Absent: Mayor Johnson

Vacant: District 6

Attest:

Digitally signed by Shirley A. Concolino
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Date: 2015.01.22 10:56:51 -08'00'



Shirley Concolino, City Clerk