



APPROVED

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CITY CLERK

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DEPARTMENT OF
FIRE

DENNIS SMITH
FIRE CHIEF

CITY OF SACRAMENTO
CALIFORNIA

December 3, 1999

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City Council
Sacramento, California

Honorable Members in Session:

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON CONSOLIDATION OF THE SACRAMENTO FIRE
DEPARTMENT AND THE AMERICAN RIVER FIRE DISTRICT**

LOCATION AND COUNCIL DISTRICT: Citywide - All Districts

RECOMMENDATION:

This report recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to draft a letter to the Fire Chief of the American River Fire Protection District to suspend any further merger studies at this time. There still exist the possibility of revisiting the reorganization at a future date.

CONTACT PERSONS: Robert P. Thomas, City Manager 264-5704
Dennis Smith, Interim Fire Chief 264-5268

FOR COUNCIL MEETING OF: December 14, 1999

SUMMARY:

This report recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to draft a letter to the American River Fire Protection District stating the City's position to suspend existing merger studies at this time. A comprehensive feasibility study could be reestablished in the future when the environment is more conducive and time permits.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

On February 2, 1999, the City Council directed the City Manager to draft a letter to the American River Fire Protection District Board stating that the City of Sacramento was interested in exploring a possible merger between the Sacramento Fire Department and the American River Fire Protection

District. Since that time, American River Fire Protection District has started the merger process with Sacramento County Fire Protection District and the Dry Creek Fire Protection District in Placer County. The Sacramento County Fire Protection District merger will be complete December 2000. The Dry Creek Fire Protection District merger will also be complete in 2000. Both of these mergers will require a tremendous amount of American River staff time.

In April 1999, the City of Sacramento embarked on a very aggressive capital improvement program which includes the replacement of four fire stations. In July 1999, the City Council approved the money to restore one of the three truck companies that were cut during the recession. Along with the restoration of the truck companies, the City Council also approved the hiring of 21 new positions. The restored Companies and new personnel will be in service around December 27, 1999. The Sacramento Fire Department is beginning the process of updating the department Master Plan and will be completed by the Fall of 2000.

Labor agreements for all City departments will end July 2000. Labor negotiations will begin in March or April and hopefully the Fire Contract will be settled by July 2000.

With the completion of the Regional Fire Communication Center, fire service in Sacramento County has made major inroads towards cooperative efforts. A total boundary drop makes the six paid agencies appear to be one. The joint training agency will provide training needs for all the fire agencies in the region and, in some cases, the state. One of the major changes in the county has been the delivery of Emergency Medical Service. Today, fire service provides Basic Life Support and Advance Life Support to all the citizens in Sacramento County.

Both American River Fire Protection District Staff and the Sacramento Fire Department Staff have enough work to last them the next two or three years. Looking at a merger between American River and Sacramento Fire Department at this time would be counter-productive. A merger between a Fire District and a City Fire Department would be very complex due to governance issues and needs the full attention of both organizations in order to insure that all issues are dealt with and both the District and the City can be guaranteed that the merged organizations will be sensitive to the needs of all parties.

The suspension of the existing study has been discussed with the Fire Chief of American River Fire Protection District and representatives from Local 522 and both are in agreement with suspending existing merger studies at this time.

It is very important that the fire service continue to look at the regional process for overall service delivery in Sacramento County and the surrounding area. However, at this time, it is recommended that the City suspend the existing studies with American River Fire Protection District. A comprehensive feasibility study could be reestablished in the future when the environment is more conducive and time permits.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This report does not involve an activity which would have a financial impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS:

This report does not include an activity which would be covered by CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act).

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

This report is consistent with the City Council's direction to research the undertaking of a comprehensive feasibility study for reorganization of the City of Sacramento Fire Department and American River Fire District as an independent district.

ESBD CONSIDERATIONS:

This report does not involve the procurement of supplies or services.

Respectfully Submitted,



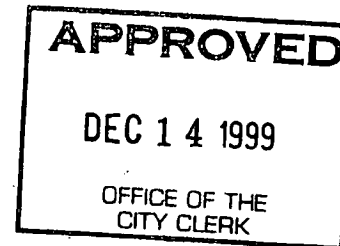
Dennis Smith
Interim Fire Chief

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED:



ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager





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FIRE CHIEF

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This report recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager to draft a letter to the Fire Chief of the American River Fire Protection District to terminate any further merger studies at this time. There still exist the possibility of revisiting the reorganization at a future date.

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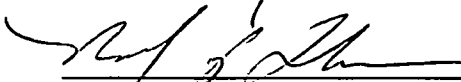
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Dennis Smith
Interim Fire Chief

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ROBERT P. THOMAS
City Manager