

April 5, 2023

Resolution of the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Sonoma, State of California, Making Findings and Determinations, Determining Exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act, Approving a Reorganization of Territory Designated as: Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Reorganization No. 2023-02 (CSA 40) Involving Detachment of Territories From County Service Area 40 – Fire Services and Subsequent Annexation of That Territory, and Setting Protest Proceedings for the Proposal (File No. 2023-02)

RESOLVED, that the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Sonoma (“the Commission”) hereby finds and determines as follows:

1. Proposal and Procedural History

1.1 The Gold Ridge Fire Protection District (“the District,” or “the Applicant”) filed a resolution of application (“the Application”) with the Executive Officer of the Commission (“the Executive Officer”) pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, Government Code section 56000 et seq. (“the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act”), proposing a reorganization consisting of detachment of territories from County Service Area 40 – Fire Services (a dependent district of the County of Sonoma) and subsequent annexation of that territory (“the Proposal”). The territories that are the subject of the Proposal are areas served by active and inactive volunteer fire companies and one Incident Response Plan area (“the Affected Territory”). As part of the Application, the Applicant included a plan for providing services within the Affected Territory (“the Plan for Services”). The Application and the Plan for Services were submitted to the Executive Officer required by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act. The Executive Officer set the Proposal for consideration by the Commission and provided notice thereof as provided in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act.

1.2 The Executive Officer determined that the proposal was exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Sections 15320 and 15061(b)(3) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

1.3 The Executive Officer reviewed the Proposal and written comments received thereon and prepared a report analyzing the Proposal and recommending its approval (“the Executive Officer’s Report”). Upon completion, the Executive Officer furnished copies of the Executive Officer’s Report to all persons entitled to copies under the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act.

1.4 The Commission considered the Executive Officer's Report and the Proposal at a noticed public hearing on April 5, 2023. At the hearing, the Commission heard and received all relevant oral and written testimony and evidence presented or filed and considered the Executive Officer's Report, the Proposal, and the CEQA determination. All interested persons were given the opportunity to hear and be heard.

1.5 At the conclusion of public testimony, the Commission discussed the Proposal and the environmental effects of the Proposal and voted to approve the Proposal, as set forth herein.

1.6 The Commission has reviewed and considered this resolution and hereby finds that it accurately sets forth the intentions of the Commission with respect to the Proposal.

2. CEQA Compliance

2.1 The Commission concurs with the Executive Officer's determination that the Proposal is exempt from CEQA under State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15320. The District will continue to provide fire and emergency medical services to the Affected Territory. It can be seen with certainty that the Proposal will not have a significant effect on the environment.

3. Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act Compliance

3.1 The Commission makes the following findings and determinations with respect to the Proposal.

a. The affected territory is within the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District's sphere of influence, making it eligible for annexation.

b. The reason for the reorganization is to allow residents of the affected territory to directly receive the full range of services provided by the District.

c. The Municipal Service Review conducted for West County Fire and Emergency Services Agencies, the Municipal Service Review for Southern Territories of County Service Area 40 – Fire Services, and a Sphere of Influence Study for Portions of County Service Area 40 – Fire Services, reflects the District's ability to serve the affected territory.

d. The District has executed a financial agreement with the County of Sonoma that will provide sufficient funding for the District to serve the affected territory.

3.2 The District has stated, and Municipal Service Reviews addressing the affected territories found, that the District can adequately serve the Affected Territories.

3.3 The Affected Territories have been determined to be inhabited, in that more than twelve registered voters reside within. Therefore, the Commission will

establish a Protest proceeding beginning on April 12, 2023 and concluding at the Commission's regular meeting on June 7, 2023.

3.4 Based on the foregoing findings and determinations and the record of these proceedings, the Commission finds and determines that the Proposal is consistent with the intent of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act and the purposes of the Commission, as expressed in Government Code §56001 and §56301. The Commission further finds, therefore, that approval of the Proposal is appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, based on the foregoing findings and determinations and the record of these proceedings, and pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act, the Commission hereby declares, and orders as follows:

1. The foregoing findings and determinations are true and correct, are supported by substantial evidence in the record, and are adopted as hereinabove set forth.
2. The Proposal is approved.
3. The boundaries of the Affected Territory shall be as shown and described in Exhibit "A" to this resolution, attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.
4. The Proposal is assigned the following short-form designation: Gold Ridge FPD Reorg No. 2023-02 (CSA 40 Territories).
5. The regular county assessment roll shall be utilized for the Proposal.
6. The Affected Territory shall not be taxed for existing bonded indebtedness and contractual obligations.
7. The Executive Officer is authorized to file a notice of exemption in accordance with the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The Executive Officer is further authorized and directed to mail copies of this resolution in the manner provided by law.
8. If a certificate of completion for the Proposal has not been filed within one year after the adoption of this resolution, the Proposal shall be deemed abandoned unless, prior to expiration of the one-year time-period, the Commission authorizes an extension of time for completion of the Proposal.
9. The Clerk of the Commission is designated as the custodian of the documents and other materials that constitute the record of the proceedings upon which the Commission's decision herein is based. These documents may be found at the office of the Clerk of the Commission, 111 Santa Rosa Ave., Ste. 240, Santa Rosa, CA, 95404.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION was introduced at a regular meeting of the Commission on the 5th day of April 2023, and ordered adopted by the following vote:

COMMISSIONERS:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

WHEREUPON, the Chair declared the foregoing resolution adopted and

SO ORDERED.

Mark Bramfitt, Executive Officer

The within instrument is a true and correct copy of the original on file in this office.

ATTEST:

BY: _____
Clerk