

**Draft Resolution**

111 Santa Rosa Avenue, Suite 240  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

**February 1, 2023**

**Resolution of the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Sonoma, State of California, Finding Insufficient Protest and Confirming and Ordering Without An Election A Change of Organization Consisting of: Northern Sonoma County Fire District Reorganization No. 2022-03 (County Service Area 40) Involving Detachment of territories from County Service Area 40 and Subsequent Annexation of That Territory to the District**

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

**I. Procedural History.**

1.1 The Northern Sonoma County Fire District (“the Applicant”) filed Application No. 2022-03 with the Executive Officer of the Commission (“the Executive Officer”) requesting a change of organization consisting of annexation to the Northern Sonoma County Fire District (“the District”) of territory within the boundaries of County Service Area 40t (“the Proposal”), generally located in northern region of Sonoma County (“the Affected Territory”).

1.2 At its meeting on December 7, 2022, the Commission considered the Proposal, conducted the required proceedings on the Proposal pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, Division 3 (commencing with Section 56000) of Title 5 of the Government Code (“the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act”). The Commission approved the Proposal and adopted Resolution No. 2755, a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix “A” and incorporated herein by this reference. Resolution No. 2755 directed that the Commission, or by delegation, the Executive Officer, initiate and conduct protest proceedings for the Proposal in compliance with the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act.

1.3 The Commission conducted the duly noticed Protest Proceedings on the Proposal on February 1, 2023. At the hearing, the Commission’s resolution making determinations was summarized. The Commission heard and received all relevant oral and written protests, objections, and evidence presented or filed. All interested persons were given the opportunity to hear and be heard. At the conclusion of public testimony, the Commission closed the hearing, determined the value of written protests filed against

the Proposal and not withdrawn prior to the conclusion of the hearing, and voted to order the Proposal without an election, as set forth herein.

1.5 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 Acting as the lead agency for the Proposal, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”), the Commission, as part of Resolution No. 2755, found and determined, prior to reaching its decision on the Proposal, that the Proposal was exempt from the provisions of CEQA, under State CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3).

2.2 The Commission finds that it fully discharged its responsibilities under CEQA for the Proposal by its actions in Resolution No. 2755.

## **3. Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act Compliance.**

3.1 The actions herein on the Proposal are being taken pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act.

3.2 The Proposal consists of a change of organization consisting of annexation to the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District of County Service Area 40 territories in northern Sonoma County, including Incident Response Plan area 61 (the Geysers), Incident Response Plan area 63 (Fitch Mountain) and a portion of Incident Response Plan area 64 (Sotoyome).

3.3 The exterior boundaries of the Affected Territory included in the Proposal are shown in Exhibit “A” of Resolution No. 2755.

3.4 The terms and conditions upon the Proposal shall be the terms and conditions specified in Resolution No. 2755.

3.5 The reason for the change of organization is to continue to provide fire and emergency medical services in the area in a sustainable fashion.

3.6 The short-form designation for the Proposal is: “File No. 2022-03: Northern Sonoma County Fire District Reorganization No. 2022-03 (County Service Area 40).”

3.10 The value of written protests filed and not withdrawn is less than 25 percent of the registered voters residing within the Affected Territory or less than 25 percent of the number of owners of land owning less than 25 percent of the assessed value of land within the Affected Territory. In such cases, pursuant to Section 57075(a), the Cortese-

Knox-Hertzberg Act directs the Commission to order the change of organization without an election.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, based on the foregoing findings and determinations and the record of these proceedings, 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 value of written protests filed and not withdrawn is insufficient to terminate proceedings or order the change of organization subject to a confirmation election, and the Proposal is therefore ordered without an election.

3. Subject to receipt of all charges assessed and fees due to the Commission and the State Board of Equalization, the Executive Officer is directed to prepare and execute a certificate of completion for the Proposal and to record a certified copy thereof with the Sonoma County Recorder. If the certificate of completion is not filed within one year after the Commission's approval of the proposal, the proceeding will be deemed terminated unless the Commission authorizes an extension of time for that completion.

4. The Executive Officer is directed to mail certified copies of this resolution as provided by law.

5. 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 Avenue, Suite 240, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.

**THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION** was introduced at a regular meeting of the Commission on the 1st day of February 2023 and ordered adopted by the following vote:

Commissioners:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent or not voting:

WHEREUPON, the Chairman declared the foregoing resolution adopted, and

SO ORDERED

ATTEST:

BY:

Mark Bramfitt, Executive Officer

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

ATTEST:

BY:

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Clerk