

May 5, 2023

Mark Bramfitt
Executive Director
Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission
PO Box 1428
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

RE: LAFCO Letter of April 28, 2023

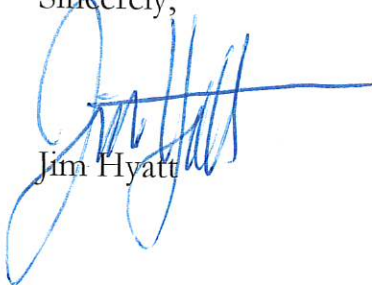
Dear Mr. Bramfitt:

I am writing you to inform you and the LAFCO Commission of my full support for the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Reorganization No. 2023-02.

Your letter of April 28, 2023 reflects a tone of protest against this reorganization, providing only a method of protest and tax assessment. No where does your letter inform the community of the additional benefits of this reorganization, or how to locate a document addressing those benefits. So I am informing you and the Commission of my 100% support.

I will ask you to forward my letter of support to all members of the Commission and to the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,



Jim Hyatt

Subject: LAFCO and Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Reorganization

EXTERNAL

Members of LAFCO,

I am writing this letter to state that I object to the lack of transparency and the process used for the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Reorganization as handled by LAFCO.

I am a property owner and voter and I received alarming notices about the new tax that will be levied on our parcels. We received these notices without benefits identified.

We understand there may be variables relative to how taxes are assessed and these ought to be clearly identified for each of us so that we know what to expect. This is taxation without representation and should be considered illegal. The reality for property owners and voters in our area - proper process has not been followed.

What assurances can you give us that taxation will not be increased? We are told that this could only happen with voter approval. I'd like to hear from LAFCO that this is true.

Proper notification was not given and LAFCO did not spell out benefits for the WVFD that will be derived from this reorganization. This remains unclear to me even after our meeting at WVFD last night.

If operations of our community fire protection are to now be overseen by Gold Ridge - then the Wilmar area should have proper representation on the board. This may require adding members to the board to insure that we have proper representation. We should have district-wide elections with adequate communication for voters to make informed decisions. Board meeting locations should be varied throughout the year to allow access for community members to attend and should be properly noticed.

We are told that all equipment, all gear, all property that is currently located at the Wilmar station will remain on site and that it can not be reassigned. What assurances can you give us that this will be the case? Our community founded this district/department and we want assurances that nothing can be reassigned.

A point of background - my family helped create the WVFD and specifically my father was instrumental in its formation and expansion.

Sincerely,

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