

Gold Ridge Fire District Reorganization No. 2025-02 (Sebastopol Fire)

Factors for Consideration, California Government Code §56668

- (a) ***Population and population density; land area and land use; per capita assessed valuation; topography, natural boundaries, and drainage basins; proximity to other populated areas; the likelihood of significant growth in the area, and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas, during the next 10 years.***

As noted in a Municipal Services Review for the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District and the City of Sebastopol (for fire and emergency services) conducted in 2024, population growth in the region is low and is not the predominant factor driving service needs. Other factors, such as an aging population, transient populations (tourism related), and higher expectations for emergency medical services are more significant factors.

In summary, none of the factors in this section are determinants of fire and emergency service provision growth.

- (b) ***Need for organized community services; the present cost and adequacy of governmental services and controls in the area; probable future needs for those services and controls; probable effect of the proposed incorporation, formation, annexation, or exclusion and of alternative courses of action on the cost and adequacy of services and controls in the area and adjacent areas. "Services," as used in this subdivision, refers to governmental services whether or not the services are services that would be provided by local agencies subject to this division, and includes the public facilities necessary to provide those services.***

The proposed reorganization Plan for Services identifies funding sources that would support the continued provision of fire and emergency services to the affected territories.

- (c) ***The effect of the proposed action and of alternative actions, on adjacent areas, on mutual social and economic interests, and on the local governmental structure of the county.***

The affected territory is located within unincorporated Sonoma County and within the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District's sphere of influence, making it eligible for annexation. The reorganized District will continue to provide mutual aid to other fire service providers in the area, as needed. No negative effects of the reorganization are anticipated.

- (d) ***The conformity of both the proposal and its anticipated effects with both the adopted commission policies on providing planned, orderly, efficient patterns of urban development, and the policies and priorities set forth in Section 56377. (Note: Section 56377 encourages preservation of agricultural and open-space lands.)***

The proposal is consistent with Commission policies. The affected territory is within the District's sphere of influence.

- (e) ***The effect of the proposal on maintaining the physical and economic integrity of agricultural lands, as defined by Section 56016.***

Not applicable.

- (f) ***The definiteness and certainty of the boundaries of the territory, the nonconformance of proposed boundaries with lines of assessment or ownership, the creation of islands or corridors of unincorporated territory, and other similar matters affecting the proposed boundaries.***

The parcels that comprise the affected territories have specific boundary lines that are certain and identifiable.

- (g) ***A regional transportation plan adopted pursuant to Section 65080.***

Annexation of the affected territory would not affect or be affected by Plan Bay Area, the Regional Transportation Plan for the San Francisco Bay Area.

- (h) ***The proposal's consistency with city or county general plans.***

The proposal is consistent with the Sonoma County General Plan and the City of Sebastopol's General Plan in that it does not promote urban sprawl and the District can provide the necessary services to the affected territories.

- (i) ***The sphere of influence of any local agency that may be applicable to the proposal being reviewed.***

The affected territories are located within the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District's sphere of influence and are not located within the sphere of influence of any other agency that provides fire and emergency services.

- (j) ***The comments of any affected local agency or other public agency.***

No agency comments have been received.

- (k) ***The ability of the newly formed or receiving entity to provide the services which are the subject of the application to the area, including the sufficiency of revenues for those services following the proposed boundary change.***

The Gold Ridge Fire Protection District has stated that it has identified and secured suitable funding sources to enable the continued provision of fire and emergency medical services to the affected territory and to the region (mutual aid).

- (l) ***Timely availability of water supplies adequate for projected needs as specified in Section 65352.5.***

Not applicable.

- (m) ***The extent to which the proposal will affect a city or cities and the county in achieving their respective fair shares of the regional housing needs as determined by the appropriate council of governments consistent with Article 10.6 (commencing with Section 65580) of Chapter 3 of Division 1 of Title 7.***

Not applicable

- (n) ***Any information or comments from the landowner or owners, voters, or residents of the affected territory.***

No comments have been received.

- (o) ***Any information relating to existing land use designations.***

The affected territories are incorporated, subject to the City of Sebastopol's General Plan. No change is projected in land-use designations as a result of the proposal.

- (p) ***The extent to which the proposal will promote environmental justice. As used in the law, "environmental justice" means the fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the location of public facilities and the provision of public services.***

The proposal makes no representations or exclusions of peoples of any race, culture and/or income with respect to location of public facilities and public services.

Factors for Consideration, California Government Code 56668.3

- (1) ***In the case of district annexation, whether the proposed annexation will be for the interest of landowners or present or future inhabitants within the district and within the territory proposed to be annexed to the district.***

The territories are located within the boundary of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District's (District) sphere of influence. The District has indicated that it has capacity to adequately finance and manage the territories without impinging on the service levels provided to residents and communities already within the District.