# NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission will conduct a public hearing at or after 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at the Sonoma County Supervisors Chambers, 575 Administration Drive, Santa Rosa, at which time all interested persons may be heard on the following item:

File No. 2022-03: Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District Reorganization (County Service Area 40 – Fire Services) Involving Detachment of areas within County Service Area 40 and Annexation of those Territories to the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District

The subject territory includes:

* The Geysers area of Integrated Response Plan 61 (IRP 61)
* The Gray Creek Road area of IRP 61
* The Fitch Mountain area (IRP 63)
* The lower Dry Creek Road and Mill Creek Road areas of IRP 64 (Sotoyome)

The proposal was initiated by resolution of the board of directors of the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District.

The reason for the proposed annexation is “to increase fire and emergency services with an emphasis on prevention, preparedness, and mitigation using a community risk reduction program. The proposed reorganization will allow the development of a regionalized fire agency which will specialize in a rural service delivery model. A regionalized fire district will allow for an appropriate balance of local control to be responsive to communities needs and the economies of scale to keep costs of operations appropriate for a rural combination (paid and volunteer staffing) organization”.

At its meeting of March 3, 2021, LAFCO amended the sphere of influence of the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District to include the County Service Area 40 territories noted above. Territory must be within an agency’s sphere of influence to be eligible for annexation.

The Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District does not impose any special taxes, and therefore residents within the areas to be annexed will not be assessed additional taxes. The District retains the right to seek special tax levies subject to voter approval.

The proposed action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3) and Section 15320 of the State CEQA Guidelines

At the hearing, LAFCO will hear any relevant oral or written testimony and evidence presented or filed regarding the proposed reorganization.

Copies of all documents relating to the action may be viewed at the Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission office, 111 Santa Rosa Avenue, Suite 240, Santa Rosa, California, 95404; to make an appointment with staff call (707) 565-2577 or email lafco@sonoma-county.org. Documents are also available on the Commission’s web site at www.sonomalafco.org.

To be included with hearing materials, written comments must be received by August 29, 2022. Written comments received after that date will be provided to the Commission at the public hearing.

**ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE HEREBY INVITED TO BE PRESENT AND HEARD ON THE MATTER DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE.**

If you challenge the action of the Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission on the subject reorganization in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice or in written correspondence delivered to the Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission at, or prior to, the hearing.

By: Mark Bramfitt, Executive Officer

Date: August 1, 2022