

SONOMA LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

PO BOX 1428 SANTA ROSA CA 95404
111 SANTA ROSA AVENUE, SUITE 240, SANTA ROSA 95404

(707) 565-2577
www.sonomalafco.org

NOTICE OF PROTEST HEARING GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT REORGANIZATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission that the Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at or after 2:00 p.m., at the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 575 Administration Drive, Santa Rosa.

The purpose of the hearing is for the Commission to receive **written protests** filed against the following item:

File No. 2024-13: Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Reorganization No. 2024-13 Involving Dissolution of the Monte Rio Fire Protection District, and Annexation of That Same Territory to the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District

The proposal was initiated by resolution of the Board of Directors of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District (Gold Ridge FPD) and by the Board of the Monte Rio Fire Protection District. Gold Ridge FPD submitted an application including a plan for serving the affected territory. These documents can be viewed on the Commissions website at: <https://sonomalafco.org/proposals-and-projects/proposal-for-reorganization-of-the-gold-ridge-and-monte-rio-fire-protection-districts>

The short form designation is Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Reorg No. 2024-13 (Monte Rio FPD)

The territory to be annexed to Gold Ridge FPD comprises those parcels located within the Monte Rio Fire Protection District, which serves the unincorporated communities of Villa Grande, Duncans Mills, and Jenner and environs in the lower Russian River area in western Sonoma County.

The reason for the reorganization is to achieve greater economy and efficiency in providing fire protection and emergency medical services for the residents of and visitors to the area.

Owners of property annexed to the Gold Ridge FPD will be subject to special taxes, including parcel taxes, that the District collects due to voter-approved tax measures. For a typical single-family home, the current assessed parcel tax is \$265 per year. Sonoma Valley FD's special tax roll is generally higher than taxes assessed by the Monte Rio Fire Protection District.

To determine the taxation level for your property, please contact Gold Ridge Fire Protection District at 707-823-1084.

The Commission approved the reorganization by Resolution No.2793 on March 5, 2025, which sets forth a full and complete description and the terms and conditions of the Commission's approval. The Commission found the proposal exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Sections 15061(b)(3) and 15320 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

By: Mark Bramfitt, Executive Officer

Date: March 6, 2025

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HOW TO FILE A PROTEST

(Please read carefully)

Any registered voter residing within, or owner of land located within, the territory proposed to be annexed to the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District may file an official protest. All protests must be made **in writing**, must **contain the specific information** stated below as required by law and must be **received during the official protest period**, which begins as of the date of this notice and ends at the close of the protest hearing on May 7, 2025.

Registered Voters: All protests submitted by a registered voter must be signed, dated, and include the name of the voter and the voter's residence address.

Landowners: All protests submitted by a landowner must be signed, dated, and include the name of the landowner, the street address of the land owned within the affected territory, and the Assessor's Parcel Number or other description to identify the location of the land.

Landowners that own more than one parcel within the annexation boundary may file a protest for each parcel. All owners on title for a parcel may vote and the individual vote will be calculated based on the proportional share of ownership.

If you are both a registered voter and landowner within the territory to be annexed, you may file both types of protests.

It is not necessary to state a reason for filing a protest. Anyone who has filed a protest may withdraw it at any time before the end of the May 7, 2025, hearing. If sufficient protests are filed within the protest period, confirmation of the reorganization may be placed before registered voters through an election, or the reorganization may be terminated.

Copies of the protest forms are enclosed and are available on the Commission's website at https://sonomalafco.org/proposals-and-projects/proposal-for-reorganization-of-the-gold-ridge-and-monte-rio-fire-protection-districts_or at the LAFCO office. Use of a protest form is not required, but a protest must meet all the requirements described in this notice.

Written protests may be mailed to Sonoma LAFCO, PO Box 1428, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. **All protests must be received by the conclusion of the protest hearing on May 7, 2025.** Any protest that does not meet the conditions stated in this notice will be considered invalid.

Copies of all related documents are on file and may be reviewed by appointment at the office of the Sonoma Local Agency Formation Commission at 111 Santa Rosa Ave Ste 240 in Santa Rosa. For questions, call Sonoma LAFCO: (707) 565-2577.