### **Application for Reorganization**

# Consisting of the Annexation of the City of Sebastopol Fire and Emergency Services into the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District

Submitted February 6, 2025 Shepley Schroth-Cary, Fire Chief Gold Ridge Fire Protection District





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#### **Application Information**

Submittal Date: February 2025

Name of Applicant: Gold Ridge Fire Protection District

Mailing Address: 4500 Hessel Rd. Sebastopol, CA 95472

**Contact Person:** Fire Chief Shepley Schroth-Cary

Contact Email: shepleyschroth-cary@goldrigefire.org

**Title of Application:** Application for Reorganization Consisting of the Annexation of the City of Sebastopol Fire and Emergency Services into the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District.

**Project Description:** As provided in the Joint Resolution City of Sebastopol No. 6619-2024 and Gold Ridge Fire Protection District No. 24/25-05, effective October 1, 2024, reorganization consisting of the detachment of City of Sebastopol Fire and Emergency Services and the consolidation of the detached City of Sebastopol Fire and Emergency Services into a reorganized Gold Ridge Fire Protection District.

**Location/Area Involved:** As set forth in the Municipal Service Review and amended Sphere of Influence approved by Sonoma County LAFCO on November 6, 2024, in LAFCO Resolution No. 2789 the boundary of the reorganized Gold Ridge Fire Protection District will include the combined existing Sebastopol City limits and the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District. A concurrent reorganization application by Gold Ridge Fire Protection District will also annex the Monte Rio Fire Protection District. The map showing the entirety of the reorganized District is provided with Joint Resolution included in this application.

#### Joint Resolution

City of Sebastopol Resolution Number 6619-2024

Resolution No. 24/25-05 September 11, 2024

## A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL AND GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ENDORSING THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL'S FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES INTO THE GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

WHEREAS, in May 2024, the City of Sebastopol ("City") and Gold Ridge Fire Protection
District ("District") (collectively the "Parties") entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for Shared
Services which resulted in greater fire and emergency medical services ("EMS") management and
coordination between the two agencies and responses to emergency incidents; and

WHEREAS, the Parties have initiated assessing the sharing of resources via an annexation of City fire and EMS into the District which will then be considered for approval by the Sonoma County Local Agency Formation Commission ("Sonoma LAFCO") pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (California Government Code section 56000 et seq.) (the "LAFCO Act") in order to best serve the residents of both jurisdictions, and

WHEREAS, pursuant to California Government Code section 56855, the Parties are preparing separate contracts regarding the terms and conditions of annexation of the City's fire and EMS services into the District for a minimum of 20 years, and which Sonoma LAFCO is requested to approve; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Reorganization is subject to Sonoma LAFCO approval of the amended spheres of influence of the Parties to include the entirety of the reorganized District; and

WHEREAS, the boundaries of the territory included in the reorganized District will be the are shown in Exhibit "A", the map attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference; and

WHEREAS, the territory included in the Reorganized District is inhabited, as defined in the Cortese-Knox- Hertzberg Act; and

WHEREAS, the Parties desire that the Proposed Reorganization be subject to the following terms and conditions as set forth herein:

- a. The name of the reorganized District shall remain the "Gold Ridge Fire Protection District."
- b. The reorganized District is intended to achieve greater economy and efficiency in providing fire protection and emergency services. The Parties have determined that the Proposed Reorganization is in the best interest of the Parties in order to provide better services to the residents of the reorganized District.

- c. Pursuant to the provisions of California Health and Safety Code §13842 and Government Code section 56866(n), reorganized District shall continue to be governed by a seven (7) member Board of Directors, subject to District-wide election.
- d. With the exception of the City's fire station, which will be subject to a separate agreement; all fire and EMS assets, unrestricted, restricted or fiduciary, held by the Parties may be transferred to and become assets of the reorganized District. The reorganized District shall be the successor agency to the Parties for fire and EMS services.
- e. The Parties shall enter into a revenue transfer agreement to City payment for the costs of enhanced fire and EMS services by reorganized District, as well as transfer of the City's allocation of Measure H sales tax revenue pursuant to Sonoma County Code section 12-60 et seq.
- f. All fire and EMS services liabilities of the Parties shall be transferred to and become liabilities of the reorganized District.
- g. The effective date of the Proposed Reorganization shall be the date of recordation of the certificate of completion of reorganization pursuant to Government Code section 57200 et seq.
- h. Distribution of Services: The Board of Directors of the reorganized District will authorize an annual work plan for services throughout the reorganized District; and

WHEREAS, the Parties hereby consent to the annexation of City fire and EMS into the District without election by the registered voters within the City and District; and

WHEREAS, the Parties' find that the annexation of City fire and EMS into the District appears to be categorically exempt on the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") by virtue of section 15320 of the State CEQA Guidelines ("Class 20 Exemption") because this annexation is a reorganization of a local government agencies where the changes do not change the geographical area in which previously existing powers are exercised.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that (1) the Sebastopol City Council and the Board of Directors of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District are satisfied with the proposed terms and conditions of the annexation of the City to the District and (2) the District Fire Chief is authorized to transmit this resolution to Sonoma LAFCO.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sebastopol City Council and the Board of Directors of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District hereby find, determine, declare, and order as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and are adopted as herein for set forth above.

- Sonoma LAFCO is requested to undertake proceedings for the proposed annexation of City fire and EMS into the District according to the terms and conditions stated above, the Parties separate agreements, and in the manner provided in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act.
- The Mayor of the City and President of the District Board of Directors are authorized and directed to execute this Concurrent Resolution and any other documents as Sonoma LAFCO may reasonably request to accomplish the proposed annexation of City fire and EMS into the District.
- 4. The Fire Chief of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District, and/or his designee, shall be, and is hereby, authorized and directed to perform any and all acts required to complete the proposed annexation of City fire and EMS into the District, including, but not limited to, preparation and coordination of the application to Sonoma LAFCO, and preparation and filing of Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk in accordance with the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA guidelines.

This Joint Resolution may be executed in counterparts and is effective from the latest date of execution shown below.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Sebastopol City Council this 1st day of October 1000 fing vote:

VOTE:
AYES: Councilmembers Hinton, Maurer, McLewis, Vice Mayor Zollman and NOES: None Mayor Rich

ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: None

ATTEST: May C. Jourley Mayor

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District this

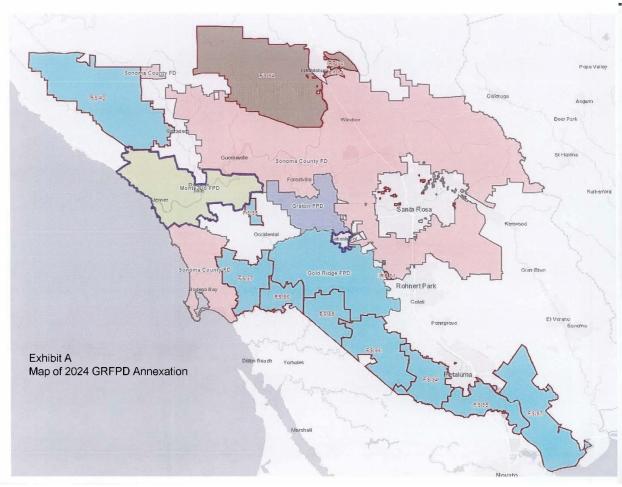
September 11, 2024 by the following vote:

VOTE: AYES: NOES: ABSENT: ABSTAIN:

TTEST: Karen Jh

Board Presiden

#### **Map of Reorganized District**



#### **Revenue Sharing and Property Transfer Agreement**

Docusign Envelope ID: 081CAD40-FD4E-42A5-B2EB-66F74FE38D8F

## REVENUE SHARING AND PROPERTY TRANSFER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, AND THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL FOR THE ANNEXATION OF THE CITY FIRE AMD EMERGENCY SERVICES INTO THE DISTRICT

This Revenue Sharing and Property Transfer Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into and effective January 21, 2025, between the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District ("GRFPD" or "District"), which is an independent fire district organized and operated pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (California Health and Safety Code section 13800 et seq.), and the City of Sebastopol (the "City") (collectively referred to herein as "the Parties"), with respect to the following Recitals, which are incorporated as a substantive part of this Agreement.

#### RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of GRFPD and the City Council, all located in Sonoma County, California (collectively referred to as "the Parties"), desire to initiate proceedings pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Heltzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (California Government Code section 56000 et seq.), with the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Sonoma ("Sonoma LAFCO") for the reorganization of the Parties as specified herein; and

WHEREAS, the Districts approved and adopted Joint Resolution No. 24/25-05, effective October 1, 2024, jointly requesting Sonoma LAFCO to approve the proposed reorganization and annexation of the City fire and emergency services for the Subject Territory, as shown in Exhibit A, attached hereto and incorporated herein, and

WHEREAS, the Subject Territory is consistent with the amended spheres of influence of the Parties to be adopted by Sonoma LAFCO Resolution 2789 on November 6, 2024; and

WHEREAS, GRFPD will submit its "Application for Reorganization consisting of the Annexation of the City of Sebastopol Fire and Emergency Services into the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District to Sonoma LAFCO in or about February 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Parties are desirous of facilitating successful fire protection services in the Subject Territory, should the reorganization and annexation be approved, by entering into this Agreement relating to the revenue sharing and property transfer in the Subject Territory now allocated for fire protection by the Parties, and

WHEREAS, this Agreement is intended to specifically implement the proposed annexation and reorganization for the Subject Territory only.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

#### **AGREEMENT**

1. Effect of Recitals. The foregoing Recitals are incorporated into and are a part of this

#### Agreement.

- 2. <u>Definitions</u>. For purposes of this Agreement, except as otherwise provided or unless the context otherwise requires:
- (a) "Reorganization" means the annexation of fire and emergency services within the territory of the City into the reorganized GRFPD.
  - (b) "ACTTC" means the Sonoma County Auditor-Controller Treasurer-Tax Collector.
- (d) "Effective Date" means the date of recordation of the LAFCO Executive Officer's Certificate of Completion for the Reorganization.
- (e) "Unincorporated Area" means the area of the GRFPD located outside the boundaries of the City of Sebastopol.
- 3. Extension of District-wide special taxes in City territory. GRFPD currently levies a 1997 tax established by District Ordinance 96-97-1, a 2008 tax established by District Ordinance 08-09-1-R, and a 2018 tax established by District Ordinance 2019/20-1 (collectively, the "Special Taxes"). Beginning in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 and each Fiscal Year thereafter, GRFPD shall request the ACTTC levy the Special Taxes on all parcels of real property within the City.
- 4. <u>Annual Revenue Sharing Payment.</u> In exchange for GRFPD providing the fire and emergency services within the City of Sebastopol in the manner and subject to the conditions specified in the Application for Reorganization submitted by GRFPD to Sonoma LAFCO, the City shall make an annual payment to the GRFPD on or before December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, starting in December 2025, in an amount equal to \$1,110,000.00, as annually adjusted, which payment shall continue in perpetuity subject to the provisions of this Agreement ("Revenue Sharing Payment"). This initial dollar figure is a baseline amount that shall be annually adjusted based on the percentage change in the annual Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers for the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward Area ("CPI"), issued in January of each year, over the prior year. Notwithstanding the foregoing, in no event shall the annual adjustment be less than two percent (2%) or greater than five percent (5%). In the event that reorganization is effective after July 1, 2025, the Revenue Sharing Payment for Fiscal Year 25-26 shall be prorated based on the number of days remaining in the year.
- 5. <u>Local Debt Limit</u>. Should a court determine that the payments under Sections 3 or 4 constitute City-issued debt made in violation of California Constitution Article XVI, section 18, then the Parties agree that such payments are made in satisfaction of their obligations under Revenue and Taxation Code Section 99. The payments will remain as annual lump sum payments made separately from the ACTTC's AB 8 allocation process. The Parties agree that the reorganization shall not result in any change or adjustment to the ad valorem property tax received by either the City or GRFPD pursuant to the ACTTC's AB 8 allocation process.
- 6. <u>Transfer of existing City Fire Station real property and facility improvements located at 7425 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA.</u> As part of the annexation and LAFCO approved

reorganization, City agrees to transfer to the District full title, ownership, and responsibility for the existing City Fire Station real property and facility improvements located at 7425 Bodega Avenue, Sebastopol, CA (collectively the "Fire Station") upon the effective date of the reorganization. The Fire Station shall be transferred to GRFPD in an "as is" condition. GRFPD shall use the Fire Station solely for fire-related purposes and other ancillary uses. In the event the Fire Station is no longer used by the District as a fire station from which a fire engine is dispatched to respond to emergency calls, ownership of the Fire Station shall revert back to the City. However, this reversion clause will not be triggered if the District sells or otherwise transfers the Fire Station in order to help fund replacement of the Fire Station with another fire station facility located within the City limits, provided that the new fire station facility is subject to the same reversion restriction. On or before June 30, 2025, the parties shall prepare and record a separate Grant Deed transferring the fire station to the District, which includes this reversion clause, in substantially the form shown in Exhibit B, attached hereto and incorporated herein. Upon transfer of the First Station to the District, the District shall be responsible for all repair and maintenance thereof, and the City will have no further duties, obligations, or liabilities related to the Fire Station.

- 7. Payment for remaining Type 1 Engine debt payments. The Parties agree that not later than July 1, 2025, the City and District shall each pay one of the two remaining apparatus payments of approximately \$240,000.00 each to Community Leasing Partners, so that this Type I Engine transfers with clean title to the District upon the effective date of reorganization. After that date, District shall be solely responsible for all repair and maintenance of all vehicles/apparatus transferred from City to GRFPD, and the City will have no further duties, obligations, or liabilities related to the such vehicles after the effective date of reorganization.
- 8. <u>City Measure H sales tax revenue.</u> As required under Sonoma County Code section 12-66(E), the City allocated Measure H sales tax revenue collected after the date of reorganization shall transfer to District beginning upon the effective date of the reorganization. The Parties agree that Measure H sales tax revenue collected in the fourth quarter of FY 24-25, and anticipated to be distributed to the City in September 2025, shall be the property of the City. The City shall transfer any remaining fund balance of unspent City Measure H sales tax revenue for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to the District on October 1, 2025.
- 9. <u>City Fire Impact Fees.</u> The City shall transfer to District any fire impact fee fund balance effective July 1, 2025. The City shall continue to collect the fire impact fees on behalf of the District, and timely transfer such funds to the District upon receipt, until a District-wide fire impact fee is approved. The District shall use such funds in accordance with all applicable legal restrictions. The District shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the City, its officers, officials, employees and agents against any and all claims relating to the fire impact fees, including but not limited to claims of misuse or misappropriation by the District.
- 10. <u>Accounting.</u> The designated representatives of City and GRFPD shall have the right to audit any records and supporting documentation pertaining to the performance of this Agreement. City and GRFPD shall maintain such records for a minimum of four (4) years from the Effective Date and to allow access to such records during normal business hours.

#### 11. Termination.

- (a) <u>GRFPD Reorganization</u>. This Agreement is contingent upon the final Reorganization. Should the Reorganization as contemplated above not occur, the parties agree that this Agreement shall be null and void and no transfers of revenues will occur without a new agreement to do so.
- (b) <u>Termination Due to Invalidity</u>. Should any material portion of this Agreement be declared invalid or inoperative by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect, unless enforcement of this Agreement, as so invalidated, would be unreasonable or inequitable under all the circumstances or would frustrate the purposes of this Agreement and/or the rights and obligations of the Parties hereto.
- (c) <u>Termination Due to Change in Law</u>. Subject to Section 5(d) and (e), should substantial changes occur in the statutory scheme or successor statutory schemes (whether by legislative or judicial action) governing this Agreement, including but not limited to the Government Code and Revenue and Taxation Code, which negate or frustrate the fundamental tenets of this Agreement, the parties may discuss a termination or amendment of this Agreement.
- 12. Remedies for Breach of Agreement. In the event of a breach of this Agreement, the non-breaching Party shall send written notice of the breach to the breaching Party. If the breaching Party fails to cure such default within thirty (30) days, or such other longer period of time as specified in the notice, the parties may exercise any remedy available to them at law or in equity for a material breach by the other party, including specific performance, injunctive relief, and writ of mandate.
- 13. <u>Modification/Amendment</u>. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by a writing duly authorized and executed by the parties to this Agreement.
- 14. <u>Enforcement</u>. The District and City each acknowledge that this Agreement cannot bind or limit themselves or each other or their future governing bodies in the exercise of their discretionary legislative power except as the Agreement provides. However, each binds itself that it will insofar as is legally possible, fully carry out the intent and purposes hereof, if necessary, by administrative and ministerial action independent of that legislative power and that this Agreement may be enforced by injunction or mandate or other writ to the full extent allowed by law.
- 15. <u>Indemnification</u>. Except as otherwise specifically provided for in this Agreement, each Party shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the other Party from and against any claims, losses, damages, liabilities, and expenses (including reasonable attorneys fee) based on or assert upon any act or omission of the indemnifying Party, except to the extent caused by the negligence or willful misconduct of the indemnified Party.
- 16. <u>Integration</u>. With respect to the subject matter hereof, this Agreement is intended to be an integrated agreement and supersedes any and all previous negotiations, proposals,

commitments, writings and understandings of any nature whatsoever between the Districts and the City as to the subject matter of this Agreement.

17. <u>Notice</u>. All notices, requests, determinations or other correspondence required or allowed by law or this Agreement to be provided by the parties shall be in writing and shall be deemed given and received when delivered to the recipient by first-class mail ( or an equal or better form of delivery including electronic mail) at the following addresses, or such other address as either Party may identify in writing:

#### **GRFPD**

Gold Ridge Fire Protection District 4500 Hessel Road Sebastopol, CA 95472

#### **CITY**

City of Sebastopol City Manager's Office 7120 Bodega Avenue Sebastopol, CA 95472

By giving notice, either party may change its address for these purposes.

- 18. <u>Third Parties</u>. This Agreement shall not be construed as or deemed an agreement for the benefit of any third party or parties. No other person shall have any right of action based upon any provision of this Agreement.
- 19. <u>Attorney's Fees and Costs</u>. In any action to enforce the provisions of this Agreement or for breach of the Agreement, the prevailing party shall recover from the other party, in addition to any damages, injunctive or other relief, all costs reasonably incurred at, before and after trial or on appeal, including without limitation attorneys' and witness (expert and otherwise) fees, deposition costs, copying charges and other expenses.
- 20. <u>Approval</u>. The parties represent that this Agreement was approved by their respective governing boards at a properly noticed meeting.
- 21. <u>Choice of Law and Venue</u>. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California. Venue for actions and proceedings between the parties related to this Agreement shall be in the Northern District of California for any federal action and, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, in Sonoma County Superior Court for state actions.
- 22. <u>Agreement Mutually Drafted</u>. Each party has participated jointly in the drafting of this Agreement, which each party acknowledges is the result of negotiations between the parties, and the language used in this Agreement shall be deemed to be the language chosen by the parties to express their mutual intent. If an ambiguity or question of intent or interpretation arises, then this Agreement will accordingly be construed as drafted jointly by the parties, and no presumption or burden of proof will arise favoring or disfavoring any party to this Agreement by virtue of the

authorship of any of the provisions of this Agreement. The captions, headings and table of contents contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

- 23. <u>Joint Defense</u>. In the event of a third party challenge of any type to this Agreement, the parties agree to meet and confer regarding jointly defending the validity and implementation of the Agreement.
- 24. Waiver. A waiver by any Party of any breach of any term, covenant, or condition herein contained or a waiver of any right or remedy of such Party available hereunder at law or in equity shall not be deemed to be a waiver of any subsequent breach of the same or any other term, covenant, or condition herein contained or of any continued or subsequent right to the same right or remedy. No Party shall be deemed to have made any such waiver unless it is in writing and signed by the Party so waiving.
- 25. <u>No Joint Venture.</u> Neither this Agreement, nor payment, shall constitute or create any form of association, joint venture, partnership, or cooperative activity, of any nature whatever, for any purpose between the City and the GRFPD. The City and GRFPD shall remain at all times independent parties.
- 26. <u>Successors and Assigns</u>. All representations, covenants and warranties specifically set forth in this Agreement, by or on behalf of or for the benefit of any or all of the Parties hereto, shall be binding upon an inure to the benefit of such Party, its successors, and assigns.

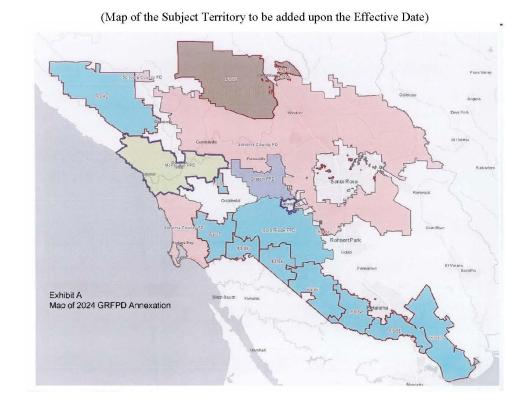
SIGNATURES ON FOLLOWING PAGE

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into this Agreement in Sonoma County, California.

#### GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:

Signed by:	
Bob Glockner	2/5/2025
President, Board of Directors, GR	FPD Date
Bob Gloeckner	
ATTEST:DocuSigned by:	
leslie McCormick	2/5/2025
Clerk of the Board, GRFPD	Date
Leslie McCormick	
CITY OF SEBASTOPOL:	
Signed by:	
Don Schwartz	2/5/2025
City Manager Don Schwartz	Date
ATTEST: Mary Gowley Clerk of the City Council Mary Go	2/5/2025 ourley Date
APPROVED AS TO FORM:	
William L Adams	2/5/2025
General Counsel for the District	Date
Bill Adams  Signed by:  May Mog	2/5/2025
City Attorney Alex Mog	Date

Exhibit A



#### Exhibit B

Deed for Transfer of Fire Station

RECORDING REQU AND WHEN RECORD	JESTED DED MAIL	BY TO:	
Gold Ridge Fire Protection I 1690 Watertrough Rd. Sebastopol, CA 95427 Attention: General Manage			
With a copy to:			
City of Sebastopol 7120 Bodega Ave. Sebastopol, CA 95472			
Exempt from recording fee Code §§6103, 27383	s per Governr	nent	
APN:	2	(	  SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE RESERVED FOR RECORDER'S USE)

Exempt from Documentary Transfer Tax Per Rev. & Tax. Code §11922, Governmental Agency acquiring title.

#### **GRANT DEED**

THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL, a California municipal corporation (the "City) hereby grants to GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (the "District"), certain real property (the "Property") known as County Assessor's Parcel Number \_\_\_\_\_\_ (the "Property"), as more particularly described in <a href="Exhibit A">Exhibit A</a> attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference, subject to the following terms:

- 1. Effective July 1, 2025, the Property is conveyed in fee simple absolute subject to the continued use of the Property as an active fire station (the "Fire Station"). The Property is also conveyed subject to any easements and permitted exceptions of record.
- 2. The District hereby covenants and agrees that it will continue to actively use the Fire Station for the purpose of fire protection for the City and the area surrounding the City, which shall include, but not be limited to, using the Fire Station as the base for a fire engine that is dispatched to respond to emergency calls.
- 3. Right of Reverter.
- (a) City reserves the right to enter or reenter, as the case may be, and take possession of, the Property and all improvements thereon and to vest or revest, as the

case may be, in City the estate of District therein upon the failure by District to continue to use the Fire Station for active fire protection services in the City and surrounding area.

- (1) Sale of the Fire Station by the District shall not be considered a failure by the District to continue to use the Fire Station for active fire protection services if: i) the proceeds from the sale of the Fire Station are used to acquire or build a new fire station providing fire protection services elsewhere within the City of Sebastopol, and ii) a right of reverter for the benefit of the City in substantially the same form as this Deed is recorded on title for the property on which such new fire station is built or acquired.
- (b) District shall, upon request of City, provide City with a recordable Quitclaim Deed, identical or substantially similar to that attached hereto as <u>Exhibit B</u> executed by District in favor of City, which quitclaim deed shall transfer District's entire right, title and interest in the Property to City for City's use for any lawful purpose.
- (c) The term of the right of reverter shall commence upon the date of this Grant Deed and shall continue in perpetuity.
- (d) City's right of reverter shall be subordinate and subject to and be limited by and shall not defeat, render invalid or limit:
- (1) Any mortgage, deed of trust or other security instrument executed by District with respect to the purchase of the Property; or
- (2) Any rights or interests for the protection of the holder of such mortgages, deeds of trust or other security instruments.
- (e) Upon any resale by the City of the Property and any improvements constructed thereon, the proceeds of such sale shall be applied as follows:
- (1) Reimburse the City for any costs it incurs in managing or selling the Property including but not limited to amounts to discharge or prevent liens, encumbrances or obligations arising from any acts or omissions of District;
  - (2) Any balance to the City.
- (f) Notwithstanding anything in this Section 3(a) to the contrary, the District may sell the Property without the City being
- 4. No violation or breach of the covenants, conditions, restrictions, provisions or limitations contained in this Grant Deed shall defeat or render invalid or in any way impair the lien or charge of any mortgage, deed of trust or other financing or security instrument, provided however, that any successor of District to the Property shall be bound by such remaining covenants, conditions, restrictions, limitations and provisions, whether such

By:

General Manager

successor's title was acquired by foreclosure, deed in lieu of foreclosure, trustee's sale or otherwise.

The covenants contained in this Grant Deed shall be binding for the benefit of the City and its successors and assigns, and such covenants shall run in favor of the City for the entire period during which such covenants shall be in force and effect, without regard to whether the City is or remains an owner of any land or interest therein to which such covenants relate. The City, in the event of any breach of any such covenants, shall have the right to exercise all of the rights and remedies and to maintain any actions at law or suits in equity or other proper proceedings to enforce the curing of such breach. The covenants contained in this Grant Deed shall be for the benefit of and shall be enforceable only by the City and its successors and assigns. The prevailing party in any action or proceeding to enforce the provisions of this Grant Deed shall recover their reasonable attorneys' and experts' fees and costs, in addition to all other recoverable costs. IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the City and District have caused this instrument to be executed on their behalf by their respective officers on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2025. CITY OF SEBASTOPOL. a California municipal corporation City Manager The provisions of this Grant Deed are hereby approved and accepted. GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## EXHIBIT A LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

#### **EXHIBIT B**

#### FORM OF QUITCLAIM DEED

RECORDING AND WHEN	REQUESTE RECORDED		BY TO:	
Gold Ridge Fire	Protection Distric	t		
1690 Watertroug	h Rd.			
Sebastopol, CA	95427			
Attention: Gener	al Manager			
With a copy to:				
City of Sebastop	ol			
APN:			(	SPACE ABOVE THIS LINE RESERVED FOR RECORDER'S USE)
Agency acquiri				
conveys to the property locate	City of Sebast d at,	opol (" <b>D</b> as more	i <b>stri</b> par	ct (" <b>Grantor</b> ") hereby quitclaims, releases and ict") any and all right, title and interest in certain known as Assessor's Parcel Number ticularly described in Exhibit A attached to this by this reference.
IN WITNESS V		rantor ha	as e	xecuted this Quitclaim Deed as of the of
GRANTOR:				

#### GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE

By:	
Its:	

[Signatures Must Be Notarized]

#### CERTIFICATE OF ACCEPTANCE

of, 20 fro Protection District ("District"), is undersigned officer or agent on be conferred by resolution of the Go	real property conveyed by the Grant Deed dated the m The City of Sebastopol to the Gold Ridge Fire hereby accepted on behalf of the District by the chalf of the Board of Directors pursuant to authority ld Ridge Fire Protection District Board of Directors ar] and that Board of Directors consents to recordation rized officer.
Dated, 20	D
GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION	I DISTRICT
Rv.	

#### **History of Consolidating Agencies**

#### **Gold Ridge Fire Protection District**

The Gold Ridge Fire Protection District ("Gold Ridge" or "the District") was initially formed in 1993 as a consolidation of the Hessel and Twin Hills Fire Protection Districts. In 2023, the District consolidated County Service Area-40 which included 7 volunteer fire companies who served the communities of Fort Ross, Camp Meeker, Bodega, Valley Ford, Two Rock, Wilmar, and Lakeville. The District provides fire protection and emergency services to a resident population of approximately 30,000 across 226 square miles. The District's service area is mainly residential, but also includes a mix of commercial, light industrial and rural agricultural properties.

Gold Ridge is a combination Fire District consisting of 21 full-time fire suppression staff, 3 Battalion Chiefs, 2 Division Chiefs, a Fire Chief, 3 administrators and approximately 170 volunteers. The full-time fire suppression staff at Gold Ridge work a 48 hour on-duty, 96 hour off-duty schedule covering three rotating shifts.

Gold Ridge volunteers contribute to the organization in several important ways. They are available for response whenever needed, fill stipend daytime and sleeper shifts, staff engine companies during large wildland fire response, and provide station coverage. Gold Ridge volunteers are comprised of district residents and out of district members.

The District recruits interns from the Santa Rosa Junior College who make a year-long commitment to the organization. After their year-long internship, they have the option to become volunteers. Additionally, Gold Ridge has an Explorer Post which provides a pathway for new volunteers.

Gold Ridge operates 3 staffed stations: Hessel Station 81 (Headquarters), Twin Hills Station 82, and Wilmar Station 94. The District also has volunteer stations located in Lakeville, Two Rock, Valley Ford, Bodega, Freestone, Camp Meeker and Fort Ross.

#### City of Sebastopol and Sebastopol Fire Department

The City of Sebastopol ("the City") is a small semi-urban community located in Sonoma County, California on the western edge of the Santa Rosa plain. It is 50 miles north of San Francisco, 8 miles west of Santa Rosa, 10 miles from Bodega Bay, and about 15 miles from the Russian River. The City, incorporated in 1902, currently has a population of about 7,800 and is comprised of approximately 2,900 parcels.

The Sebastopol Fire Department operates as a volunteer department within the confines of city government. The City has two full-time 40-hour fire engineers, currently contracts for shared services with the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District for Fire Chief services, and staffs the remaining positions with 27 volunteer firefighters and 3 Reserve Firefighters. There is a shared, full-time administrative assistant that is funded 50/ 50 with the City Building Department performing duties as assigned for both departments.

#### Historical Call for Service Volumes and Average Response Times

Year	# of Calls	Average Response Times (Dispatched to "Arrived On Scene")			
2019	1212	4 minutes 11 seconds			
2020	1121	4 minutes 39 seconds			
2021	1221	5 minutes 19 seconds			
2022	1351	5 minutes 9 seconds			
2023	1444	5 minutes 11 seconds			

#### **Plan for Service**

#### **Description of Current Services**

Sebastopol Fire Department is regarded as one of the best Volunteer Fire Departments in Sonoma County. This distinction is one to be proud of. However, the continued increase in call volume and the ever changing and increased requirements for training volunteers has made the service model fragile. The current service level in Sebastopol is inconsistent from one day to the next and depends on the time of day. The inconsistencies are both in the form of response time and weight of the response. On occasion, there are calls for service where there is no response from the Fire Department.

The City has made improvements recently, adding a second Full-Time Fire Engineer which provides a guarantee of one person on duty 6 out of the 7 days a week and two people on duty for 1 day a week during the hours of 7am-5pm. Many days there is a stipend volunteer firefighter who supplements the paid Fire Engineer during the daytime hours. Any additional response and nighttime response are provided by volunteers.

Chief Officer coverage is provided by Volunteer Captains who cover Battalion 83 Friday evening to Monday morning and holidays. The Captains who cover the weekends are reimbursed for their time with a stipend. In the absence of weekend coverage, the Fire Chief or the Volunteer Captains may respond to calls that require a Chief Officer, the Gold Ridge Battalion Chief B8 will also respond if needed. Ultimately the Chief officer's response to calls of significance has been intermittent, leaving a void in incident leadership.

Responsibilities outside of emergency response like fire prevention, public education, preventative maintenance, and training are shared between the paid staff and volunteers. These programs require a greater amount of support.

The leadership of the Sebastopol Fire Department has had a high turnover in recent years. The frequent change of Fire Chief has been challenging for the volunteer firefighters. Lack of consistency has also put strain on the abovementioned programs.

#### **Description of Proposed Services**

The Sebastopol Fire Station will be staffed 24/7 with a minimum of 3-person engine company consisting of a captain, engineer, and firefighter. This additional staffing will be the most significant enhancement to public safety and community services. The proposed staffing model will include participation from volunteers in the form of a daily stipend position. When a volunteer is available we will achieve a 4-person engine company. The inclusion of volunteers is important to ensure appropriate response depth when multiple resources are required i.e.: fires, traffic accidents, storm flood events, and multiple calls within the response area. As a result of the reorganization, a larger volunteer and paid labor force will enhance the ability to cover responses and station coverage. The combining of the two agencies will provide an enhanced recruitment and retention tool, allowing more choices and opportunities for participation. A combined work force will strengthen specialized programs like water rescue, large animal rescue, and technical rescue. As one agency, immediate efficiencies will be achieved on a day-to-day operational level. This includes 24-hour Battalion Chief coverage. The staffing, along with the efficiencies from reorganization will ensure that we are able to meet the needs of our community and visitors.

GRFPD agrees to retain its historic practices for replenishing water in its trucks and engines as they affect the City's water supply. GRFPD will not use City supplies as a regular, primary source of water for trucks and engines that primarily serve other areas.

The reorganized District will hire a 40-hour a week Fire Prevention Captain, who will conduct new construction and tenant improvement inspections, coordinate annual fire inspections, and pre fire plans. The Fire Prevention Captain would handle community outreach programs as well as act as the Public Information Officer (PIO).

Gold Ridge has three Training Captains who coordinate the annual training calendar, administer Target Solutions (an online training program), develop training curriculum, monitor training compliance, and provide hands-on training. These Captains work two full days on, then four full days off (a 2x4 schedule), ensuring that they are available to administer drills at night when the bulk of the volunteers receive training. Providing adequate training for nearly 200 volunteers in the reorganized District is a recognized challenge and the District has made a significant investment to meet the challenge.

The Gold Ridge Fire District's Management Team consists of the Fire Chief, two Division Chiefs, and three Battalion Chiefs. The daily operation of the District is managed by the Battalion Chiefs who work on 2x4 providing 24/7 coverage. The Fire Chief and the two Division Chiefs work a 40-hour work week and remain on call on a rotating 2x4 schedule as the Duty Chief to provide redundance to the battalion chiefs. The depth of the management team ensures that fire ground leadership is present when needed. The Division Chiefs have additional expertise in training and fire prevention which helps to bolster these important programs.

The Gold Ridge District Administrative Team consists of an Executive Assistant/Finance Officer, a part-time Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper, and a part-time Volunteer Coordinator. This team handles all the business needs of the District including but not limited to budgeting and finance, accounts payable and receivable, and human resources.

While the immediate and most dramatic improvement for City residents will be the staffed engine company, the addition of an administrative and management team will provide consistency and sustainability to the City of Sebastopol. Meeting the immediate challenges is important, but a continued focus on the future, the ability to grow, anticipate, and plan is critical. The Gold Ridge Team has the expertise and ability to provide a sustainable improved level of service to the City, its residents, and visitors well into the future.

#### **Schedule for Providing Services**

Based on consultations with Sonoma County LAFCO staff, with a submittal date in February 2025, LAFCO could move through application review, consideration, and approval process, including any protest proceedings, to complete approval of this application by the regular LAFCO meeting on May 7, 2025. Based on this ongoing coordination and timeline, the annexation of the City of Sebastopol Fire and Emergency services into the reorganized Gold Ridge Fire Protection District would be completed not later than June 30, 2025, for a "go live" date not later than July 1, 2025.

#### **District Financial Position**

The Gold Ridge Fire Protection District seven-member elected board passes a balanced budget each fiscal year. The District's current operating budget for FY 2024-25 is \$12,794,185. Property tax accounts for 42% of total revenue, approximately 20% from Measure H Sales Tax, 36% is composed of intergovernmental revenue, i.e. county revenue sharing payment and contracts for services, and the remaining is made up of miscellaneous income and reimbursements. Salaries and employee benefits make up 63% of the expenditures, approximately 18% is dedicated to operating supplies and services, 9% is made up of building and equipment assets and loans, and 10% has been set aside for specific large purchases and contingencies.

The District has engaged Weist Law Firm and Cal Muni Advisors to assist the District in strategic planning, financial policy development, pension management, and municipal bond financing. This past year the Board has passed the following financial policies: Reserve Management Policy, Investment Policy, Debt Management Policy, and UAL Management Policy. Recently the District was awarded an AA+ credit rating by S&P which reflects the District's financial health and long-term stability. This high rating allows the District to secure more favorable borrowing terms and access to lower interest rates, resulting in significant cost savings when funding capital improvement projects.

#### **Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Tax Revenue Sources**

#### Special Tax

Gold Ridge Fire Protection District's special property tax revenue is generated from three voter-approved taxes. The 1997 tax approved in District Ordinance 96-97-1 is a unit of risk assessment at \$5.00 per unit of risk. A typical residential home is 4 units of risk equaling a total charge of \$20.00. The 2008 tax Measure O approved in District Ordinance 08-09-1-R is a simple tax applied to improved parcels at the rate of \$45.00/parcel. Finally, the 2018 tax Measure E approved in District Ordinance 2019/20-1 is a special tax which is levied at a rate not to exceed \$200.00 per assessor's parcel number plus \$100.00 per additional unit or site for residential and lodging properties; \$300.00 per assessor's parcel plus \$0.14 per square foot for commercial, industrial and warehouse property; \$50.00 for pastureland; and \$100.00 per assessor's parcel for other agricultural and vacant land.

This special tax has an inflation adjustment which is applied each year and can be levied at a higher rate should the board vote to do so. Currently, the three special taxes combined, when applied to a typical single-family home, total \$265 annually.

#### **Summary of District Special Tax Rates**

Tax	Rate	Unit
1997 Tax	\$5	per unit of risk - typical family home is 4 units
Measure O	\$45	per improved parcel
Measure E	\$200 \$300 \$100 \$50	per residential property + \$100/additional unit per commercial property = \$0.14 per sq. ft. per other parcel i.e. vacant for pastureland

The District special tax is estimated to generate \$2.4M in FY 2024/25. A component of application to annex the City of Sebastopol Fire and Emergency services into the reorganized Gold Ridge Fire Protection District is for LAFCO to order to collection of these special taxes within Sebastopol pursuant to Government Code section 56886(f). When applied to the 2,977 parcels within Sebastopol City limits, the district special taxes are estimated to generate \$1.1M annually.

#### **Ad Valorem Tax**

The District ad valorem property tax is estimated to generate approximately \$3M in FY 2024/25. The characteristic of this revenue source provides steady growth, the housing market in the district is stable.

#### **Measure H Sales Tax**

In March 2024, Measure H or the "Improved and Enhanced Local Fire Protection, Paramedic Services and Disaster Response Initiative" was passed which imposes a ½ cent sales tax on retail transactions within Sonoma County starting October 1, 2024, and was estimated by the ordinance to generate \$60M in County-wide revenue. The District's allocation of Measure H funding is 9.67% and is estimated to generate \$6.3 M annually. The City's allocation of Measure H funding is 1.80% which is estimated to generate \$1.1M annually. Pursuant to the requirement of Measure H, upon the annexation of the City of Sebastopol Fire and Emergency services into the reorganized Gold Ridge Fire Protection District, Gold Ridge will automatically begin receiving the City's Measure H allocation.

#### **Revenue Sharing and Property Transfer Agreement**

Measure H establishes a maintenance of effort requirement, to ensure Measure H funding does not supplant historic funding for fire services and related activities. The City's maintenance of effort requirement under Measure H is approximately 10-11%. In February 2025, the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District entered a Revenue Sharing and Property Transfer Agreement with the City of Sebastopol for the annexation of the City's Fire and Emergency Services into the reorganized Gold Ridge Fire Protection District. This revenue sharing agreement requires the City to pay Gold Ridge \$1,110,000.00 annually, with such amount increased annually based on the percentage change in the consumer price index for the San Franciso Bay Area. In addition, annexation would allow the District to collect its special taxes throughout the City, which would generate approximately \$1.1 million annually. The City of Sebastopol's Measure H allocation, which Gold Ridge will receive upon

reorganization, is estimated to generate \$1.1M. Combined, this would amount to approximately \$3.3 million of revenue. These collective revenue sources will support and sustain the proposed staffing and operating plan.

Debt Service Total Expenditures	550,000 <b>3,326,908</b>
Operating Costs	450,260
Salaries and Benefits	2,326,648
Total Revenue	2,216,908
Fire Impact Fees	,,.
Measure H Sales Tax Revenue	1,080,000
Gold Ridge Special Tax Revenue	1,136,908
GRFPD/Sebastopol Fire A Financial Projection	imoxacioi

#### **Five-Year Projection**

Gold Ridge Fire Protection District							
5 year Financial Projection of Consolidated Fire District							
	2024-25 Final	2025-26 Year 1	2026-27 Year 2	2027-28 Year 3	2028-29 Year 4	2029-30 Year 5	
Total 10 · Property Tax	3,059,826	3,121,023	3,183,443	3,247,112	3,312,054	3,378,295	
Total 10.1 · Special Tax	2,400,000	3,536,908	3,536,908	3,536,908	3,536,908	3,536,908	
Total 17 · Use of Money/Property	13,212	13,212	13,212	13,212	13,212	13,212	
Total 20 · Intergovernmental Revenues	4,801,247	5,635,297	5,781,815	5,932,142	6,086,378	6,244,623	
Total 20.1 · Measure H	2,500,000	7,400,000	7,474,000	7,548,740	7,624,227	7,700,470	
Total 30 · Charges for Services	760	560	560	560	560	560	
Total 40 · Miscellaneous Revenues	19,140	19,140	19,140	19,140	19,140	19,140	
Total Revenue	12,794,185	19,726,140	20,009,078	20,297,814	20,592,479	20,893,208	
Total 50 · Salaries/Emp Benefits	8,074,290	13,808,298	14,006,354	14,208,470	14,414,735	14,625,246	
Total 60 · Services/Supplies	2,251,300	2,735,330	2,776,360	2,818,005	2,860,275	2,903,180	
Total 75 · LT Debt	288,778	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	
Total 85 · Assets	923,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	
Total 90 · Approriations	1,256,817	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	
Grand Total Expenditures	12,794,185	18,543,628	18,782,714	19,026,475	19,275,011	19,528,425	
Operating Surplus/Deficit	-	1,182,512	1,226,363	1,271,339	1,317,468	1,364,783	

<sup>\*</sup> Assuming 2% increase in Property Tax annually, 2.6% CPI increase in the County and City Revenue Sharing Agreements annually, 1% increase in Measure H Sales Tax annually, Salaries and benefits are 70% of the annual budget, and 1.5% increase in operating costs per year.

#### **Financial Benefits & Opportunities of Reorganization**

- Cost reductions from shared Management, Fire Prevention and Administrative positions.
- Combining fleet into one available pool will reduce the need to purchase certain vehicles.
- Better positioned as a larger agency when competing for grants
- Increased purchasing power through volume purchases, competitive bid processes, and standardization of vendors.
- Administrative, indirect, and operative cost savings.
- Service improvement will include enhanced community risk reduction services, community outreach services, dedicated training officer, enhanced disaster preparedness and response, depth of operational resources, enhanced command and control of major incidents.
- General fund contribution to fire services creates predictability of fire service costs
- Depth of labor force which reduces turnover and provides opportunity

#### **Capital Improvements**

#### Fleet Management

Gold Ridge will provide a comprehensive preventive maintenance (PM) program consisting of semiannual service and safety inspections by equipment/safety specialists and a certified fire mechanic, brake and lamp inspections, and Basic Inspection of Terminal, if applicable. Repairs will be completed in-house, within our capability, and by outside vendors such as Twin Oaks Garage, Burton's Fire Apparatus in Modesto, Pete's Automotive in Sebastopol, as well as others, depending on the nature of repair. Reserve apparatus may also be available when equipment is out of service for an extended time. The District has a comprehensive Fleet Replacement plan:

- Command Vehicles: 10 years. Battalion Chief's unit runs 3-4 years front-line, then is moved into utility use for the balance.
- Type 1 Engine: 20 years. One reserve.
- Type 3 Engine: 20 years. Two reserves.
- Water Tender: 25 years. No reserves.
- Ladder Truck: 25 years.
- Rescue: 25 years.

The City has purchased and will receive a Type 3 engine in the spring of 2025 and a Type 1 engine in 2026. The Type 3 is paid for in full, the Type 1 has two remaining payments of roughly \$240K. The City and District will each make one of these payments by July 1, 2025, so that the Type 1 transfers to the District with clean title and no debt payments. The ladder truck needs to be replaced by 2028 and due to build-time it should be ordered soon. The estimated cost to replace the truck is estimated to be \$2.7M and has been accounted for in debt service projections.

Title to all vehicles and equipment owned by the City shall transfer upon reorganization. After that date, the City will have no further duties, obligations, or liabilities related to such vehicles. Both the Type 3 engine to be received in Spring 2025, as well as the Type 1 engine to be received in 2026, shall be based at the fire station location in the City of Sebastopol (although it may respond to calls outside the City of Sebastopol, or be temporary relocated to as part of emergency response).

#### **Facilities**

The City will transfer ownership of all assets including the fire station, located at 7425 Bodega Avenue, upon reorganization. Thereafter, the District shall be responsible for all repair and maintenance of the station, and the City will have no further duties, obligations, or liabilities related to the station. The District and the City have conducted a station needs assessment and have a remodel plan to address the facility, particularly developing sleeping quarters so this can become a staffed station. The District is poised to secure financing to immediately begin station improvements. The District and City have also agreed that if the fire station ceases to be used as a fire station, the District shall return the property to the City. The parties will record a deed restriction on the property to memorialize these obligations.

#### **Appropriations Limit for Reorganized Gold Ridge Fire Protection District**

As directed by the Gold Ridge FPD and City Joint Resolution effective October 1, 2024, LAFCO is requested to establish the initial appropriations limit for the reorganized Gold Ridge Fire Protection District starting in Fiscal Year 2025-2026 as the total of the combined City funding of fire services and the combined appropriations limits of the Gold Ridge FPD and the Monte Rio FPD, as well as the anticipated increased tax collections projected from the extension of Gold Ridge FPD special tax throughout the entirety of reorganized District and the revenues for all agencies from the Countywide sales tax measure which was passed in March 2024. Accordingly, it is requested that the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 appropriations limit for the reorganized Gold Ridge FPD be established at \$35,000,000.00.

#### Identification of Existing Fire Service Providers Affected by Reorganization

As set forth in the Joint Resolution effective October 1, 2024, and included in this application, the reorganization includes the consolidation of the City of Sebastopol's fire and emergency services into the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District. Additionally, a concurrent reorganization annexing the Monte Rio Fire Protection District into Gold Ridge is submitted to Sonoma County LAFCO.

Any existing automatic and mutual aid agreements with neighboring cities and fire districts will remain in place. An improved level of service will be achieved by consolidation and be realized by neighboring cities and fire districts.

#### Governance

As set forth in the Joint Resolution effective October 1, 2024, it has been determined that the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Board of Directors will continue to be comprised of seven Directors elected in District-wide election to at-large positions serving four-year terms of office. The formation of the Board of Directors is pursuant to the provisions of the California Health and Safety Code section 13842 and Government Code section 56886(n).

#### Impacts of Reorganization on Current Employees and Volunteers

Gold Ridge is a combination Fire District consisting of 33 full-time fire suppression staff, 3 Battalion Chiefs, 2 Division Chiefs, a Fire Chief, 3 administrators and approximately 170 volunteers. The full-time fire suppression staff at Gold Ridge are represented by the International Association of Firefighters (IAFF) Local 1401, Gold Ridge Paid Firefighters Association. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) defines the salaries and benefits of these positions and is collaboratively negotiated on an annual basis. No change in staffing is anticipated.

The Sebastopol Station will be staffed 24/7 with a minimum of a 3-person engine company consisting of a captain, engineer, and firefighter. In addition to the minimum 3-person engine company the budget supports daily participation from volunteers often achieving a 4-person engine company. Current Sebastopol Fire suppression employees will become employees of the District upon the effective date of the reorganization. Current Sebastopol Fire suppression employees shall be blended into one District-wide workforce retaining their current rank and will be assigned a shift and station assignment based on operational need by the Fire Chief or his designee. The seniority for such employees shall be based on the date they were hired to be full time Sebastopol Fire suppression employees, consistent with Section 7.1 of the MOU.

To recognize the community and the City, the rebranding of the station and fire apparatus will include the Sebastopol name along with the Gold Ridge Fire District. This is consistent with our previous reorganizations. To recognize the many years of dedicated service the Sebastopol Volunteers are authorized to wear a pin on their right chest to commemorate their commitment to the community.

#### Liabilities

As directed by the Gold Ridge FPD and City Joint Resolution effective October 1, 2024, all fire and EMS services liabilities of the Parties shall be transferred to and become liabilities of the reorganized District.