



Countywide Fire Services

Municipal Service Review & Sphere of Influence Update

**Commission Approved
October 2022**

Klamath



Prepared by: Del Norte
Local Agency Formation Commission

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This Municipal Services Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence (SOI) Update is prepared pursuant to the Cortese Knox Herzberg Local Government Reorganization (CKH) Act of 2000, that requires Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFcos) to conduct municipal services reviews (MSRs) and the spheres of influence updates of all agencies under LAFco's jurisdiction. This service review focuses on Del Norte County Fire Protection Districts (FPD) including Crescent City Fire & Rescue; Fort Dick; Gasquet; Klamath; and Smith River Fire Protection Districts.

Service Review Determinations

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (California Government Code Section 56000 et seq.) requires LAFco to review and update spheres of influence every five years as needed, and to review municipal services prior to or in conjunction with sphere updates. The requirement for service reviews arises from the identified need for a more coordinated and efficient public service structure to support California's anticipated growth.

Effective January 1, 2008, Government Code Section 56430 requires LAFco to conduct a review of municipal services provided in the county by region, sub-region or other designated geographic area, as appropriate, for the service or services to be reviewed, and prepare a written statement of determination with respect to each of the following topics:

- o Growth and population projections for the affected area;
- o The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence (effective July 1, 2012);
- o Present and planned capacity of public facilities, adequacy of public services, and infrastructure needs or deficiencies (including needs or deficiencies related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, and structural fire protection in any disadvantaged, unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence);
- o Financial ability of the agency to provide services;
- o Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities;
- o Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies; and
- o Any other matter affecting or related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by Commission policy.

Uses of This Report

The service review process provides LAFco with a tool to study current and future public service conditions and to evaluate organizational options for fostering orderly growth and development, promoting the efficient delivery of services, and encouraging the preservation of open space and agricultural lands. The potential uses of this report are described below.

Update Spheres of Influence

LAFCo will use this report as a basis to update District SOIs, as needed. To reflect the affected agencies' appropriate future jurisdictions and service areas. All boundary changes, such as annexations, must be consistent with the affected agencies' SOI with limited exceptions.

Consider Jurisdictional Boundary Changes

LAFCo is not required to initiate any boundary changes based on service reviews. However, LAFCo, local agencies, or the public may subsequently use this report together with additional research and analysis, where necessary, to pursue changes in jurisdictional boundaries.

Resource for Further Studies

Other entities and the public may use this report for further studies and analysis of issues relating to resource conservation services in Del Norte County.

Review Methods

Each agency reviewed as part of this service review process demonstrated full accountability in disclosure of information and cooperation with LAFCo. The following information was considered in the service review:

- Agency-specific data: responses to LAFCo Requests for Information, budgets, fee schedules, maps, and district plans.
- Demographic data: U.S. Census Bureau; Department of Finance.
- Population projections: Department of Finance.
- Long-Term Debt: California State Controller.
- Revenue: California State Controller; Del Norte County Auditor/Controller; Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports.

Information gathered was analyzed and applied to make the required determinations for each agency. All information gathered for this report is filed by LAFCo for future reference.

The preparation of a municipal service review for fire protection service providers at a county-wide level serves to determine the best approaches to address common service needs. The service review provides an overview of fire protection services along with profiles of each agency, evaluates the provision of these services, and identifies opportunities to increase the efficiency of service provision. The report includes service review determinations and sphere of influence recommendations and determinations for each of the following fire districts:

- Crescent Fire Protection District/Crescent City Volunteer Fire Department operation as Crescent City Fire & Rescue
- Fort Dick Fire Protection District
- Gasquet Fire Protection District
- Klamath Fire Protection District
- Smith River Fire Protection District

The following information was gathered from the fire districts to understand the current status of district operations and services:

1. Governance and Organization
2. Financial
3. Personnel
4. Training
5. Calls for Service
6. Response Standards and Performance
7. Mutual/Automatic Aid
8. Stations and Apparatus

Information gathered was analyzed and applied to make the required determinations for each agency and reach conclusion about the focus issues identified in the service review. All information gathered for this report is filed by LAFCo for future reference.

Purpose

This report focuses on Del Norte County FPDs, (Figure 1) including Crescent City Fire & Rescue a partnership between the City of Crescent City and the Crescent Fire Protection District. Due to the rural nature and accessibility in the County, fire & emergency response services are being considered on a regional basis, but rather by small individual districts. In addition to the FPDs, there are other service providers identified but not subject to LAFCo review.

The purpose of this MSR and SOI Update is to examine and evaluate local governmental fire and emergency response services in order to increase overall understanding of local service conditions and to enhance these conditions through comprehensive review and analysis.

This MSR presents for the Commission's consideration a discussion, analysis, and determinations regarding services provided by the three CSDs. This MSR serves to update the relevant data on services provided within each District's boundary and define appropriate spheres of influence.