



SPRINGLAKE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
1556 Springlake Ct.
Woodland, CA 95776
(530) 661-5860

Board of Fire Commissioners

Wes Arvin, Chair
Celeste Santoni, Vice-Chair
Carolyn Bunfill
Brooke Herrgesell
Patrick Raber

February 26th, 2026

Chair Allen and Members of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors,

As Commissioners of the Springlake Fire Protection District, we are writing to respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors realign the current governance structure from a Fire Commission to an Advisory Committee. We believe this change will continue to support the Springlake FPD and better position the District for future regional coordination.

As the Board is aware, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors serves as the governing body of the Springlake Fire Protection District and delegated its authority to the Fire Commission when the district transitioned from an independent to a dependent district in 2017. This transition was undertaken due to challenges in achieving a quorum to conduct business. Since that time, the Commission has remained fully seated, with all five positions consistently filled.

Because fire protection services for the District are delivered through contracts with the Cities of Davis and Woodland, the Commission's role is necessarily limited. Our responsibilities primarily include approving bills, reviewing budget requests, and authorizing weed abatement activities. We meet quarterly, in accordance with requirements, and our meetings are typically brief. Following the Oakdale Fire in 2025, some Commissioners have raised concerns regarding potential personal liability and the need for clearer delineation of authority and responsibility.

Additionally, as the Elkhorn Fire Protection District reorganization proceeds through LAFCo, it has become increasingly apparent that the Fire Commission may be placed in the position of reviewing or approving contracts related to a community that it does not currently represent. In our view, these decisions may be more appropriately addressed by a broader governing body, such as the Board of Supervisors.

At our meeting on February 20th, 2026, the Fire Commission voted to support a transition from a Fire Commission structure to an Advisory Committee. Should the Elkhorn Fire Protection District reorganization be approved, we further recommend including two representatives from the Elkhorn community on the Advisory Committee to ensure appropriate and balanced representation.

We appreciate the Board's consideration of this request and look forward to continued collaboration in support of effective governance and fire protection services for our communities.

Respectfully,



Wes Arvin, Chair
Springlake Fire Protection District

CC: Yolo County BOS

Mike Webb, CAO

Christine Crawford, LAFCO

Philip Pogledich, County Counsel