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625 Court Street, Suite 107
Woodland CA 95695

(530) 666-8048
lafco@yolocounty.gov

www.yololafco.org

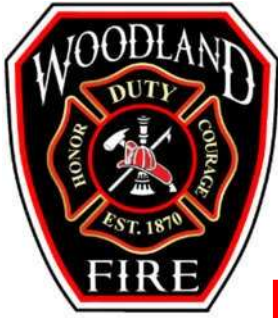
To: LAFCo Members

From: Christine Crawford

Re: Comment letter in support of Item 10 – study session to discuss the reorganization plan for the Elkhorn FPD

Date: January 26, 2026

Please review the attached letter from the City of Woodland Fire Chief in support of the proposed reorganization plan change. Chief Zane was planning to attend the meeting in person but is unable to attend the rescheduled date on January 29th.



WOODLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

1.26.2026

Fire Chief
ERIC ZANE

Battalion Chief
JIM DAHL

Battalion Chief
ERIK KOMULA

Battalion Chief
KEVIN KANZLER

Fire Marshal
MATT FLINT

Management Analyst
NALLELY CASTRO

Honorable Chair and Members of the Local Agency Formation Commission,

I am writing to express my support for the creation of a successor fire protection district to provide fire and emergency services within the Springlake, Elk Horn, and CSA-9 areas.

Fire agencies today are operating in an increasingly complex and higher-risk environment. While governance alone does not eliminate operational risk, sound governance significantly improves coordination, preparedness, accountability, and oversight. In my experience, the structure under which fire services are governed matters—not only for day-to-day operations, but for long-term sustainability and the ability to adapt to changing service demands.

The formation of a single successor district offers clear advantages. A unified district creates opportunities for shared services such as fire prevention, inspections, training, and administrative support. These functions benefit from scale, consistency, and clear authority, all of which are difficult to achieve under fragmented models. A consolidated structure also creates capacity to support surrounding rural and special districts when operational or administrative needs arise.

Springlake currently operates with multiple service providers, which has required coordination across jurisdictional and organizational boundaries. Including additional service partners within a clearly defined district governance framework does not complicate service delivery; rather, it aligns operations under a cohesive and transparent structure. This approach preserves service continuity while improving clarity in roles, responsibilities, and decision-making.

From an operational leadership standpoint, this proposed reorganization strengthens governance without disrupting emergency response. More importantly, it establishes a durable foundation that supports current service needs while positioning the region to meet future challenges and opportunities. As the demands placed on fire and emergency response agencies continue to grow, proactive and thoughtful governance decisions such as this are essential.

For these reasons, I support LAFCo's consideration of a successor fire district and appreciate the Commission's role in helping ensure effective, sustainable fire protection services for the community.

Respectfully,

Eric Zane

Eric Zane

FIRE HEADQUARTERS
1556 Springlake Court
Woodland, CA 95776
P: 530-661-5872