

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # B-7

Urgent

Routine

*PS*

AGENDA DATE May 15, 2007

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES  NO

4/5 Vote Required YES  NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Approval to Accept the Request from the Mountain View, Oakdale, Salida, Woodland Avenue, Westport, West Stanislaus and Other Requesting Fire Protection Districts to Discuss Fire Service Options and Refer this Matter to the Board of Supervisors Ad Hoc Committee on Public Safety

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Accept the request by the specified Fire Districts to work together collectively to develop an action plan for the future of these agencies and the fire service in Stanislaus County.
2. Refer the request to the Board of Supervisors Ad Hoc Committee on Public Safety.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The fire districts named in this request provide fire protection to approximately 1,040 square miles or 70% of the County. Combined, these agencies' annual tax revenues total approximately \$3,477,400. Faced with challenges such as an eroding fiscal platform due to city annexations, increased state training mandates, issues with recruitment and retention, and a lack of regional planning, these fire agencies are requesting the Board to engage in a collaborative planning process to map out a strategy for the future.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2007-371

On motion of Supervisor Grover, Seconded by Supervisor Monteith

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Mayfield, Grover, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman O'Brien

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied

3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended

4) \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

MOTION:

*Christine Ferraro*

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

Approval to Accept the Request from the Mountain View, Oakdale, Salida, Woodland Avenue, Westport, West Stanislaus and Other Requesting Fire Protection Districts to Discuss Fire Service Options and Refer this Matter to the Board of Supervisors Ad Hoc Committee on Public Safety  
Page 2

**DISCUSSION:**

The Mountain View, Oakdale, Salida, Westport, West Stanislaus, and Woodland Avenue Fire Districts are all independent fire districts that have requested the County participate in a collaborative planning effort on the future of fire service. Resolutions from each of these Districts are attached. Each district receives a small portion of property taxes and most receive a direct assessment. These districts rely heavily, and some completely, on volunteer firefighters. Recently LAFCO has approved annexations and detachments of areas from the districts into cities; this has had a direct and significant negative impact on the district's revenues and ability to protect the remaining portions of their districts. State mandated training requirements for firefighters are becoming increasingly stringent, and the required training hours are becoming more difficult to achieve. The ability to recruit and retain volunteers is a challenge.

The Fire Authority was formed in 2005 and efforts are underway to assist with regional non-suppression services with the Less Than Countywide Fire Tax and a \$300,000 annual General Fund contribution. These services include fire communications, fire training, fire prevention, investigations, special operations and administration and finance. While these services are critical to the success of the fire service, there is currently no long term strategy or plan to address the operational issues such as a uniform standard for fire protection and stable and adequate funding for the fire service.

These districts are requesting an opportunity to form a partnership with the County for the purpose of seeking long-term solutions and ensuring the viability of the fire service into the future.

**POLICY ISSUES:**

The Board's approval is needed to refer this request to the Ad Hoc Public Safety Committee. This agenda item supports the Board priorities of a safe community, a healthy community, effective partnerships, and efficient delivery of public services.

**STAFFING IMPACT:**

There is no staffing requirement associated with this item.

**MVFPD RESOLUTION: 2007-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
MOUNTAIN VIEW FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REQUESTING FORMAL COUNTY OF STANISLAUS INVOLVEMENT TO ACHIEVE  
EQUITABLE AND STABLE FUNDING FOR FIRE SERVICES COUNTYWIDE AND TO  
FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**

**WHEREAS;** the Mountain View Fire Protection District is a Fire Protection District organized and existing under provisions of the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, Health and Safety Code section 13800 *et seq.* and the Fire Protection District Law of 1961 (former Health and Safety Code section 13801 *et seq.*); and,

**WHEREAS;** it would be in the best interest of all local government – the County, Cities and Fire Protection Districts to approach fire service on a regional basis; and,

**WHEREAS;** there have been initial efforts to address significant issues, such as fire prevention, training, investigation, communications, administrative and financial support, as well as special operations, which need to be supplemented with a uniform standard for fire suppression and funding fire services through the existing fire authority; and,

**WHEREAS;** the District has expressed its concern with respect to the continuing practice countywide of annexation of territory to adjacent cities, along with detachment of affected territory from the fire protection districts resulting in a loss of property tax revenues to the involved fire protection district; and,

**WHEREAS;** this loss of property tax funding, and in some instances voter-approved special taxes for district fire services and voter approved fire benefit assessments resulting from detachment of district territory with annexation to cities has created an inequitable distribution of public funds for fire and life safety services countywide between the annexing cities and districts from whom territory is detached; and,

**WHEREAS;** the District has participated in meetings and/or in public hearings where County elected officials and officers have indicated that the critical issue of adequate funding for fire service will be addressed; and,

**WHEREAS;** although some actions have been taken in the implementation of a regional approach to fire and life safety services, critical and essential steps to address the loss of revenue issue, adequate countywide funding and the effective delivery of fire services can best be fulfilled with involvement of the County decision-makers, both elected and appointed.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the District Board of Directors finds:

1. That there is a present and immediate need to address fire and life safety services countywide so as to assure adequate funding for those services, especially with respect

- to loss of revenue to fire protection districts and to emphasize that fire and life safety services are a necessary and ongoing component of public safety; and
2. The County elected officials, officers and employees formally take the necessary actions to adequately fund fire and life safety services countywide, which could include implementation of an effective fire authority, with adequate, permanent funding to implement fire and life safety standards countywide to assure uniform facilities, equipment and apparatus, training, operational standards, and most importantly firefighter safety; and,
  3. That the fire service has representation on the issues impacting them, including but not limited to, sufficient equitable funding, planning and development decisions, and governmental boundary determinations.

**SIGNATORIES:**

Director Ron Brouhard

[Signature]

Director Scott Cole

[Signature]

Director Kristine Costa

Kristine Costa

Director Mike Lucas

Michael E. Lucas

Director Thomas Waterson

\_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on this 8th day of May 2007

On motion of Director RON BROUHARD, Seconded by Director MIKE LUCAS  
And approved by the following vote:

Ayes:	Directors:	<u>4</u>
Noes:	Directors:	<u>0</u>
Excused or Absent:	Directors:	<u>1</u>
Abstaining:	Directors:	<u>0</u>

**CHAIRMAN:**

[Signature]  
Scott Cole

**ATTEST:**

[Signature]  
Clerk

RECEIVED

APR 28 2007

STANISLAUS CO.

April 25, 2007

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors  
1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 6500  
Modesto, CA. 95354

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Dear Members of the Board,

Throughout the past several decades fire protection has been provided to Stanislaus County through a number of different delivery platforms. Although this has proven successful in the past, we must all recognize times are changing. The fire service today experiences the sharing of resources more frequently than ever before. Realizing the importance of such, several agencies are seeking a more formal partnership.

Recently, the Board of Directors of the Salida Fire Protection District, Oakdale Rural Fire Protection District, Westport Fire Protection District, Woodland Avenue Fire Protection District, and West Stanislaus Fire Protection District formally adopted resolutions to;

- 1. Collectively address fire and life safety services;
- 2. Take necessary actions to adequately fund fire and life safety services, and;
- 3. Seek representation on issues that impact them.

It is imperative that the fire service collaborate in planning for the future in an effort to meet challenges.

Public Safety is defined as the prevention and protection of the general population. It is further stated that the protection is usually provided by those traditional organizations known as Emergency Services, which is law and fire. Stanislaus County has identified their number one priority as "A Safe Community". The Fire Agencies listed above are requesting an opportunity to partner with the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors to meet their stated goals and support the Board priorities. We believe that the County's responsibility to effectively manage public resources, encourage innovation and continuously improve business efficiencies can best be accomplished through collaboration.

There are a number of efforts underway by cities and the County to identify a vision, establish a plan, and develop a strategy to meet projected growth within the community. Since public safety is the Board's first priority; the noted Fire Agencies would like to work together on this endeavor. Those agencies together provide fire and life safety to approximately 987 square miles within Stanislaus County. Not only is that 60% of the County, but several growing communities are included in the area as well.

We respectfully request your consideration and immediate attention; it is extremely important to the citizens we serve. Specifically, we request that members of the Board of Supervisors and County staff be part of an ad-hoc committee to develop a detailed approach to meeting the County's priority of a "Fire and Life" Safe Community. Each Fire Agency that has taken formal board action to participate has committed to serving as a member of the ad-hoc committee. Our intent is to provide a public report of the findings and developed action plan by July 1, 2007. By identifying current service platforms and organizations, defining current service levels, and acknowledging mandates and future challenges, an action plan will be developed and set into place for all to work towards.

It has been suggested that Stanislaus County made a decision to get out of the fire service back in 1995. However, there are many functions impacting the fire service which the County continues to be involved in, such as: fire suppression service contracts, administration of the County Fire Service Fund, regional fire prevention coordination, emergency planning, and by acting as the Fire and Rescue Operational Area Coordinator. These activities indicate that the County is not completely out of the business. If we continue our efforts to avoid partnerships today, we will be faced with the much larger task of repairing a collapsing system in the future. Ultimately, the citizens will be better served with an action plan that includes the strength of the County.

We encourage other fire agencies to participate and become a part of the solution as well. This effort is focused on developing solutions that best serve the citizens of Stanislaus County with effective, efficient, and reliable fire and emergency services now and into the future.

In conclusion, members of the fire service plan to be present at the May 15, 2007 Board of Supervisors meeting. Your attention to this request would be greatly appreciated.

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Sincerely,

Oakdale Rural Fire Protection District  
Salida Fire Protection District  
Woodland Avenue Fire Protection District  
Westport Fire Protection District  
West Stanislaus Fire Protection District

Cc: Rick Robinson, County CEO  
Chief Gary Hinshaw, County Fire Warden

**OAKDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**  
**Resolution No. 2007-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
OAKDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REQUESTING FORMAL COUNTY OF STANISLAUS INVOLVEMENT TO ACHIEVE  
EQUITABLE AND STABLE FUNDING FOR FIRE SERVICES COUNTYWIDE AND TO  
FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**

- WHEREAS;** the Oakdale Fire Protection District is a Fire Protection District organized and existing under provisions of the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, Health and Safety Code section 13800 *et seq.* and the Fire Protection District Law of 1961 (former Health and Safety Code section 13801 *et seq.*); and,
- WHEREAS;** it would be in the best interest of all local government – the County, Cities and Fire Protection Districts to approach fire service on a regional basis; and,
- WHEREAS;** there have been initial efforts to address significant issues, such as fire prevention, training, investigation, communications, administrative and financial support, as well as special operations, which need to be supplemented with a uniform standard for fire suppression and funding fire services through the existing fire authority; and,
- WHEREAS;** the District has expressed its concern with respect to the continuing practice countywide of annexation of territory to adjacent cities, along with detachment of affected territory from the fire protection districts resulting in a loss of property tax revenues to the involved fire protection district; and,
- WHEREAS;** this loss of property tax funding, and in some instances voter-approved special taxes for district fire services and voter approved fire benefit assessments resulting from detachment of district territory with annexation to cities has created an inequitable distribution of public funds for fire and life safety services countywide between the annexing cities and districts from whom territory is detached; and,
- WHEREAS;** the District has participated in meetings and/or in public hearings where County elected officials and officers have indicated that the critical issue of adequate funding for fire service will be addressed; and,
- WHEREAS;** although some actions have been taken in the implementation of a regional approach to fire and life safety services, critical and essential steps to address the loss of revenue issue, adequate countywide funding and the effective delivery of fire services can best be fulfilled with involvement of the County decision-makers, both elected and appointed.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the District Board of Directors finds:

1. That there is a present and immediate need to address fire and life safety services countywide so as to assure adequate funding for those services, especially with respect to loss of revenue to fire protection districts and to emphasize that fire and life safety services are a necessary and ongoing component of public safety; and
2. The County elected officials, officers and employees formally take the necessary actions to adequately fund fire and life safety services countywide, which could include implementation of an effective fire authority, with adequate, permanent funding to implement fire and life safety standards countywide to assure uniform facilities, equipment and apparatus, training, operational standards, and most importantly firefighter safety; and,
3. If sufficient equitable and stable funding for fire and life safety services Countywide is implemented numerous benefits beside the obvious public safety benefits would result to business residents and property owners; and,
4. That the fire service has representation on the issues impacting them, including but not limited to, sufficient equitable funding, planning and development decisions, and governmental boundary determinations.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED the 20th day of February, 2007 by the following vote:

AYES:

Brichetto, Amario, Beard, Lick

NOES:

ABSTAIN:

ABSTENT:

Gilton

Elizabeth M Brichetto

Elizabeth M. Brichetto, Chairperson

Attest:

Christi Toman  
Clerk of the Board

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
SALIDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REQUESTING FORMAL COUNTY OF STANISLAUS INVOLVEMENT TO ACHIEVE  
EQUITABLE AND STABLE FUNDING FOR FIRE SERVICES COUNTYWIDE AND TO  
FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**

- WHEREAS;** the Salida Fire Protection District is a Fire Protection District organized and existing under provisions of the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, Health and Safety Code section 13800 *et seq.* and the Fire Protection District Law of 1961 (former Health and Safety Code section 13801 *et seq.*); and,
- WHEREAS;** it would be in the best interest of all local government – the County, Cities and Fire Protection Districts to approach fire service on a regional basis; and,
- WHEREAS;** there have been initial efforts to address significant issues, such as fire prevention, training, investigation, communications, administrative and financial support, as well as special operations, which need to be supplemented with a uniform standard for fire suppression and funding fire services through the existing fire authority; and,
- WHEREAS;** the District has expressed its concern with respect to the continuing practice countywide of annexation of territory to adjacent cities, along with detachment of affected territory from the fire protection districts resulting in a loss of property tax revenues to the involved fire protection district; and,
- WHEREAS;** this loss of property tax funding, and in some instances voter-approved special taxes for district fire services and voter approved fire benefit assessments resulting from detachment of district territory with annexation to cities has created an inequitable distribution of public funds for fire and life safety services countywide between the annexing cities and districts from whom territory is detached; and,
- WHEREAS;** the District has participated in meetings and/or in public hearings where County elected officials and officers have indicated that the critical issue of adequate funding for fire service will be addressed; and,
- WHEREAS;** although some actions have been taken in the implementation of a regional approach to fire and life safety services, critical and essential steps to address the loss of revenue issue, adequate countywide funding and the effective delivery of fire services can best be fulfilled with involvement of the County decision-makers, both elected and appointed.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the District Board of Directors finds:

1. That there is a present and immediate need to address fire and life safety services countywide so as to assure adequate funding for those services, especially with respect

- to loss of revenue to fire protection districts and to emphasize that fire and life safety services are a necessary and ongoing component of public safety; and
2. The County elected officials, officers and employees formally take the necessary actions to adequately fund fire and life safety services countywide, which could include implementation of an effective fire authority, with adequate, permanent funding to implement fire and life safety standards countywide to assure uniform facilities, equipment and apparatus, training, operational standards, and most importantly firefighter safety; and,
  3. That the fire service has representation on the issues impacting them, including but not limited to, sufficient equitable funding, planning and development decisions, and governmental boundary determinations.

**SIGNATORIES:**

Director Thomas Burns

Director Ralph Becker

Director Dwaine Heinrich

Director Emil Rusca

Director Mark Brubaker

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Ralph Becker*  
*Dwaine Heinrich*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*M. Brubaker*

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of February 2007

On motion of Director Heinrich, Seconded by Director Brubaker

And approved by the following vote:

Ayes: 3	Directors: Heinrich, Brubaker & Becker
Noes: 0	Directors:
Excused or Absent:	Directors: Burns, Rusca
Abstaining:	Directors:

**CHAIRMAN:**

*Thomas J. Burns*  
 Thomas J. Burns

**ATTEST:**

*Gaune Wester*  
 Clerk

**WESTPORT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION 2007 – 01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE WESTPORT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT REQUESTING FORMAL COUNTY OF STANISLAUS INVOLVEMENT TO ACHIEVE EQUITABLE AND STABLE FUNDING FOR FIRE SERVICES COUNTYWIDE AND TO FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**

**WHEREAS;** the Westport Fire Protection District a Fire Protection District organized and existing under provisions of the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, Health and Safety Code section 13800 *et seq.* and the Fire Protection District Law of 1961 (former Health and Safety Code section 13801 *et seq.*); and,

**WHEREAS;** it would be in the best interest of all local government – the County, Cities and Fire Protection Districts to approach fire service on a regional basis; and,

**WHEREAS;** there have been initial efforts to address significant issues, such as fire prevention, training, investigation, communications, administrative and financial support, as well as special operations, which need to be supplemented with a uniform standard for fire suppression and funding fire services through the existing fire authority; and,

**WHEREAS;** the District has expressed its concern with respect to the continuing practice countywide of annexation of territory to adjacent cities, along with detachment of affected territory from the fire protection districts resulting in a loss of property tax revenues to the involved fire protection district; and,

**WHEREAS;** this loss of property tax funding, and in some instances voter-approved special taxes for district fire services and voter approved fire benefit assessments resulting from detachment of district territory with annexation to cities has created an inequitable distribution of public funds for fire and life safety services countywide between the annexing cities and districts from whom territory is detached; and,

**WHEREAS;** the District has participated in meetings and/or in public hearings where County elected officials and officers have indicated that the critical issue of adequate funding for fire service will be addressed; and,

**WHEREAS;** although some actions have been taken in the implementation of a regional approach to fire and life safety services, critical and essential steps to address the loss of revenue issue, adequate countywide funding and the effective delivery of fire services can best be fulfilled with involvement of the County decision-makers, both elected and appointed.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the District Board of Directors finds:

1. That there is a present and immediate need to address fire and life safety services countywide so as to assure adequate funding for those services, especially with respect to loss of revenue to fire protection districts and to emphasize that fire and life safety services are a necessary and ongoing component of public safety; and
2. The County elected officials, officers and employees formally take the necessary actions to adequately fund fire and life safety services countywide, which could include implementation of an effective fire authority, with adequate, permanent funding to implement fire and life safety standards countywide to assure uniform facilities, equipment and apparatus, training, operational standards, and most importantly firefighter safety; and,
3. That the fire service has representation on the issues impacting them, including but not limited to, sufficient equitable funding, planning and development decisions, and governmental boundary determinations.

**SIGNATORIES:**

Director Ed Amador	<u>Ed Amador</u>
Director Martin Avila	<u>Martin Avila</u>
Director Mike Evans	<u>Mike Evans</u>
Director Greg Nunes	<u>Greg Nunes</u>
Director Norval Pimentel	<u>Norval Pimentel</u>

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007

On motion of Director Greg Nunes, Seconded by Director Mike Evans

And approved by the following vote:

Ayes:	Directors:	<u>3</u>
Noes:	Directors:	<u>0</u>
Chairman:		<u>Ed Amador</u>
Secretary:		<u>Greg Nunes</u>

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE  
WOODLAND AVENUE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REQUESTING FORMAL COUNTY OF STANISLAUS INVOLVEMENT TO ACHIEVE  
EQUITABLE AND STABLE FUNDING FOR FIRE SERVICES COUNTYWIDE AND TO  
FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**

**WHEREAS;** the Woodland Avenue Fire Protection District is a Fire Protection District organized and existing under provisions of the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, Health and Safety Code section 13800 *et seq.* and the Fire Protection District Law of 1961 (former Health and Safety Code section 13801 *et seq.*); and,

**WHEREAS;** it would be in the best interest of all local government – the County, Cities and Fire Protection Districts to approach fire service on a regional basis; and,

**WHEREAS;** there have been initial efforts to address significant issues, such as fire prevention, training, investigation, communications, administrative and financial support, as well as special operations, which need to be supplemented with a uniform standard for fire suppression and funding fire services through the existing fire authority; and,

**WHEREAS;** the District has expressed its concern with respect to the continuing practice countywide of annexation of territory to adjacent cities, along with detachment of affected territory from the fire protection districts resulting in a loss of property tax revenues to the involved fire protection district; and,

**WHEREAS;** this loss of property tax funding, and in some instances voter-approved special taxes for district fire services and voter approved fire benefit assessments resulting from detachment of district territory with annexation to cities has created an inequitable distribution of public funds for fire and life safety services countywide between the annexing cities and districts from whom territory is detached; and,

**WHEREAS;** the District has participated in meetings and/or in public hearings where County elected officials and officers have indicated that the critical issue of adequate funding for fire service will be addressed; and,

**WHEREAS;** although some actions have been taken in the implementation of a regional approach to fire and life safety services, critical and essential steps to address the loss of revenue issue, adequate countywide funding and the effective delivery of fire services can best be fulfilled with involvement of the County decision-makers, both elected and appointed.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that the District Board of Directors finds:

1. That there is a present and immediate need to address fire and life safety services countywide so as to assure adequate funding for those services, especially with respect

- to loss of revenue to fire protection districts and to emphasize that fire and life safety services are a necessary and ongoing component of public safety; and
2. The County elected officials, officers and employees formally take the necessary actions to adequately fund fire and life safety services countywide, which could include implementation of an effective fire authority, with adequate, permanent funding to implement fire and life safety standards countywide to assure uniform facilities, equipment and apparatus, training, operational standards, and most importantly firefighter safety; and,
  3. That the fire service has representation on the issues impacting them, including but not limited to, sufficient equitable funding, planning and development decisions, and governmental boundary determinations.

**SIGNATORIES:**

Director Nick Blom \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Gary Stanfield Gary Stanfield  
 Director Tom Ott Tom Ott  
 Director Doug Flora Doug Flora  
 Director Bob Ott Bob Ott

**APPROVED AND ADOPTED** on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2007

On motion of Director Doug Flora Seconded by Director Bob Ott

And approved by the following vote:  
 Ayes: 4 Directors: Stanfield, Flora, B. Ott, T. Ott  
 Noes: 0 Directors: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Excused or Absent: 1 Directors: N. Blom  
 Abstaining: 0 Directors: \_\_\_\_\_

CHAIRMAN: Nick Blom  
 Nick Blom

ATTEST: Karen VanKloven  
 Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-02

**A RESOLUTION OF THE WEST STANISLAUS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT REQUESTING FORMAL COUNTY OF STANISLAUS INVOLVEMENT TO ACHIEVE EQUITABLE AND STABLE FUNDING FOR FIRE SERVICES COUNTYWIDE AND TO FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF REGIONAL FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, the West Stanislaus County Fire Protection District is a Fire Protection District organized and existing under provisions of the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, Health and Safety Code section 13800 *et seq.* and the Fire Protection District Law of 1961 (former Health and Safety Code section 13801 *et seq.*); and,

**WHEREAS**, it would be in the best interests of all local government - the County, Cities and Fire Protection Districts to approach fire services on a regional basis; and,

- **WHEREAS**, there have been initial adequate efforts to address significant achievements directly related to the furnish of more effective, such as fire prevention, training and investigation and hazardous materials assessment which need to be supplemented with a uniform standard for fire suppression and funding fire services through the existing fire authority; and,

**WHEREAS**, the District has expressed its concerns with respect to the continuing practice Countywide of annexation of affected territory to adjacent cities with detachment of territory to adjacent fire protection districts resulting in a loss of property tax funds to the involved fire protection district; and,

**WHEREAS**, this loss of property tax funding, and in some instances voter-approved special taxes for district fire services and voter approved fire benefit assessments resulting from detachment of district territory with annexation to cities from has created an inequitable distribution of public funds for fire and life safety services Countywide between the annexing cities and districts from whom territory is detached; and,

**WHEREAS**, the District has participated in meetings and/or in public hearings where County elected officials and officers have indicated that the critical issue of adequate funding for fire service will be addressed; and,

**Resolution 2007-02**

**WHEREAS**, although some actions have been taken in the implementation of a regional approach to fire and life safety services critical and essential steps to address the loss of revenue issue and adequate Countywide funding of fire services – cannot be addressed without involvement of the County decision-makers, both elected and appointed.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the District Board of Directors finds:

1. That there is a present and immediate need to address fire and life safety services Countywide so as to assure adequate funding for those services, especially with respect to loss of revenue to fire protection districts and to emphasize that fire and life safety services are a necessary and ongoing component of public safety; and,
2. That County elected officials, officers and employees formally take the necessary actions to adequate by fund fire and life safety services Countywide, which could include implementation of an effective fire authority, with adequate permanent funding to implement fire and life safety standards Countywide to assure uniform facilities, equipment and apparatus, training and operational standards; and,
3. If sufficient equitable and stable funding for fire and life safety services Countywide is implemented numerous benefits beside the obvious public safety benefits would result to business residents and property owners; and,
4. That the fire service have representation on the impact issue of fire services issues, including but not limited to, sufficient equitable funding, hazardous materials mitigation, emergency medical services, planning and development decisions and governmental boundary determinations.

Passed and adopted this 12th day of March, 2007 by the following vote.

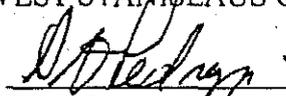
**AYES:** Steve Pedrazzi, Robert Kimball, Diana Haile, Manuel Vierra and Jon Maring

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

WEST STANISLAUS COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



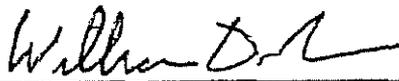
Steve Pedrazzi, Chairman of Board  
West Stanislaus County Fire Protection District

ATTEST:

  
Elizabeth Lawwill

Clerk of the Board of Directors  
West Stanislaus County Fire Protection District

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

  
William D. Ross

District Counsel, for the West Stanislaus County Fire Protection District