

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW UPDATE AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE PLAN FOR THE EL MEDIO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



ADOPTED DECEMBER 5, 2013

PREPARED FOR:

BUTTE LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION



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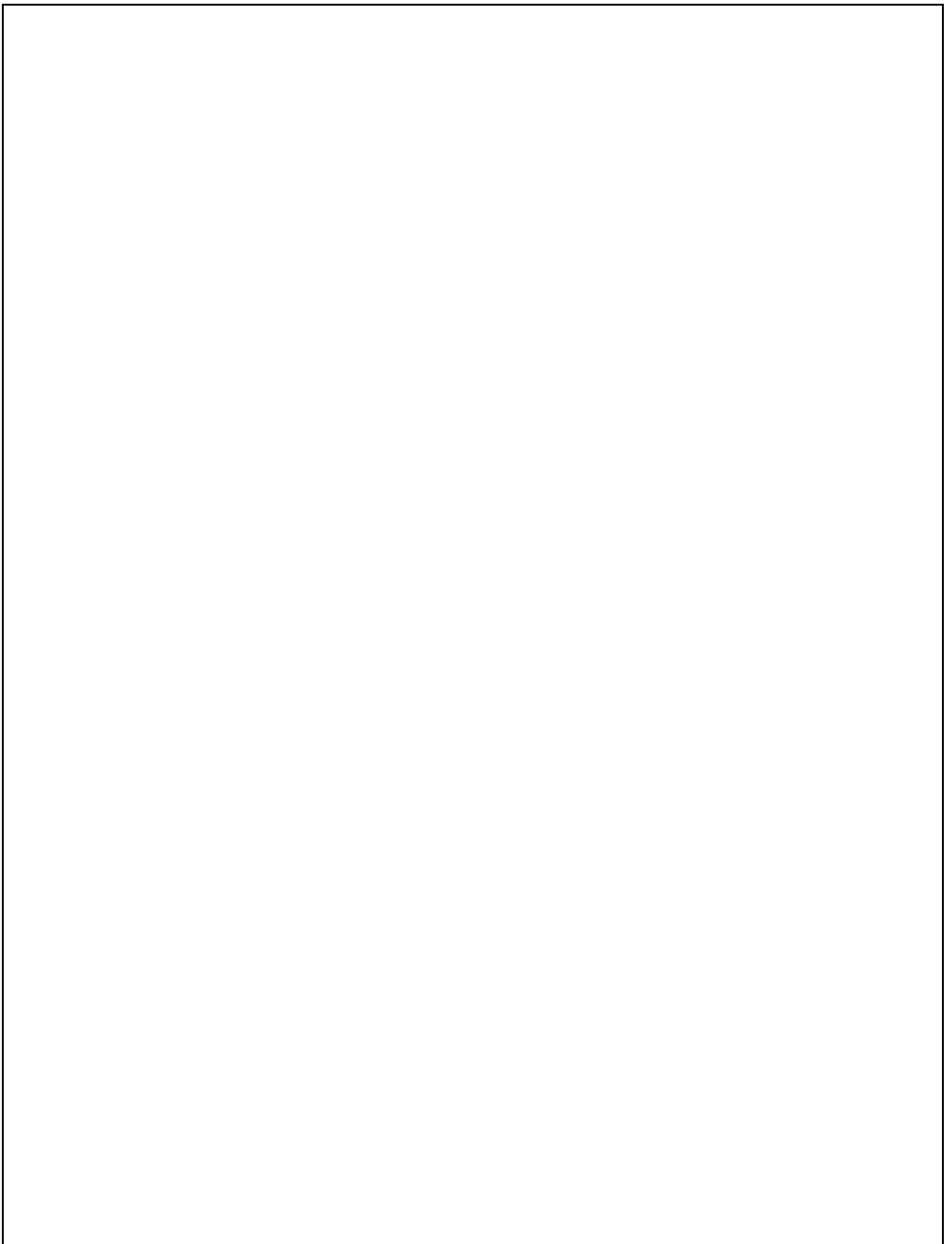
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AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE PLAN
FOR THE
EL MEDIO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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**BUTTE LAFCO
1453 DOWNER STREET, SUITE C
OROVILLE, CA 95965
(530) 538-7784
www.buttelafo.org**



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AND SPHERE OF INFLUENCE PLAN
FOR
EL MEDIO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

DECEMBER 2013

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 LAFCo

Established in 1963, Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCo) are responsible for administering California Government Code Section 56000 *et seq.*, now known as the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg (CKH) Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000. CKH charges LAFCos with encouraging the orderly formation and development of all local governmental agencies in their respective counties in a manner that preserves agricultural and open-space lands, promotes the efficient extension of municipal services, and prevents urban sprawl. Principle duties include regulating boundary changes through annexations or detachments, approving or disapproving city incorporations; and forming, consolidating, or dissolving special districts. There is a LAFCo located in each of California's 58 counties.

1.2 BUTTE LAFCO SPHERE OF INFLUENCE PLAN POLICIES AND CRITERIA

Under the CKH Act, LAFCos are required to “develop and determine the sphere of influence of each local governmental agency within the county and enact policies designed to promote logical and orderly development of areas within the sphere” (Section 56425, CKH). A sphere of influence (SOI) is generally considered a 20-year, long-range planning tool, and is defined by Government Code Section 56425 as “. . . a plan for the probable physical boundary and service area of a local agency or municipality” According to the CKH Act, LAFCos are required to review and update SOIs every five years as necessary.

Pursuant to Butte LAFCo's Operations Manual Policies and Procedures (Revised May 6, 2010), the Sphere of Influence Plans for all government agencies within LAFCo's jurisdiction shall contain the following:

1. A map defining the sphere boundary not to exceed the probable 20-year boundary of its service area and identifying a near term development horizon for lands likely to be annexed prior to the next review of its the municipal service review and sphere (typically a five year period, put not to exceed 10 years).
2. Maps and explanatory text delineating the present land uses in the area, including, without limitation, improved and unimproved parcels; actual commercial, industrial, and residential uses; agricultural and open space lands; and the proposed future land uses in the area.
3. The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the sphere area. The discussion should include consideration of the need for all types of major facilities, not just those provided by the agency.
4. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services which the agency provides or is authorized to provide.
5. Identification of any relevant social or economic communities of interest in the area.
6. Existing population and projected population at build-out of the agency's proposed sphere.
7. A Municipal Service Review.

1.3 MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEWS

The Cortese-Knox-Herzberg Act requires that a Municipal Service Review (MSR) be conducted prior to, or in conjunction with, the update of an SOI. An MSR is a comprehensive analysis of service provision by each of the special districts, cities, and the unincorporated county service areas within the legislative authority of the LAFCo. It essentially evaluates the capability of a jurisdiction to serve its existing residents and future development in its SOI. The legislative authority for conducting MSRs is provided in Section 56430 of the CKH Act, which states “. . . in order to prepare and to update Spheres of Influence in accordance with Section 56425, LAFCOs are required to conduct a MSR of the municipal services provided in the County or other appropriate designated area”

To assist in conducting an MSR, the State Office of Planning and Research developed guidelines that advise on information gathering, analysis, and organization of the study. In order to update an SOI, the associated MSR must have written determinations addressing the following factors:

1. Growth and population projections for the affected area.
2. The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence.
3. Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies.
4. Financial ability of agencies to provide services.
5. Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities.
6. Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies.
7. Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy.

These determinations, which range from infrastructure needs or deficiencies to government structure options, must be adopted by the Commission before, or concurrently with, the sphere review of the subject agency.

In June 2004 Butte LAFCo adopted a MSR and Analysis of Alternatives for Service for the El Medio Fire Protection District (FPD). That MSR determined that the District “cannot provide an adequate and reliable level of service” and evaluated service alternatives. In order to consider the proposed SOI Plan, a MSR update is provided. This MSR examines the services provided by the District, includes reorganization option recommendations and provides baseline information for the SOI Plan. This MSR considers District documentation of how certain less than favorable determinations from the prior MSR have been addressed and corrected.

1.4 SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATE PROCESS

This document addresses the District’s proposed SOI update. The District currently has been assigned a zero SOI, meaning LAFCo has determined that the District does not meet the minimum service capability for which it is authorized. The District has proposed to expand its SOI boundary to include the District and approximately 2,700 acres. The SOI Plan in Section 3 considers the District’s proposed SOI expansion.

1.5 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

Municipal Service Reviews and Sphere of Influence Plans are subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and a CEQA Exemption has been prepared for the EMFPD MSR and SOI Plan. The MSR is categorically exempt from the preparation of environmental documentation under a classification related to information gathering (Class 6 - Regulation section 15306), which states: "Class 6 consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded." This MSR collects data for the purpose of evaluating municipal services provided by the agency. There is no land use change or environmental impact created by such a study.

An SOI is a long-range planning tool that analyzes the physical boundary of a local agency or jurisdiction, and the present and probable need for services within that area. As such, it does not give property inside the sphere any more development rights than already exist or offer fire services where none currently exist. Ultimately, an SOI study assists LAFCo in making decisions about a jurisdiction's future boundary. The sphere indicates the logical area in which the District anticipates services will be utilized.

The El Medio FPD SOI Plan qualifies for a general exemption from environmental review based upon CEQA Regulation section 15061(b)(3), which states: "The activity is covered by the general rule that CEQA applies only to projects with the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have such an effect, the activity is not subject to CEQA."

2.0 MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW

2.1 DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS

The El Medio FPD, formed in 1925, is the only fire protection district within Butte County and serves a population of approximately 6,000 persons within a geographic area of approximately 1,500 acres (approximately two square miles) of mostly urbanized unincorporated territory immediately south of, and adjacent to, the City of Oroville. The District boundaries are currently within the City of Oroville SOI and the northeast corner of the District is within city limits. The District has proposed to increase its SOI by 2,745 acres to the east, south and southwest; an area within the City of Oroville's SOI and currently served by Butte County Fire/ CALFIRE.

According to District records they provide a variety of emergency response services including:

- fire suppression;
- first response emergency medical service;
- hazardous materials emergency first response;
- initial extrication and rescue; and
- public assistance.

The prior MSR prepared for the El Medio FPD’s identified aspects of operations needing attention. In response the District has adopted the following mission, vision and value statements to better define their roles and responsibilities:

Mission The El Medio Fire Protection District will provide the highest quality service to the community accomplished by fire prevention, timely emergency response, stringent training standards, and community involvement.

Vision The El Medio Fire Protection District will position itself securely (operationally, financially and politically) through and beyond current economic uncertainty, while creating a predictable and sustainable future. The District will grow, improve its ISO rating by 2 points and will develop itself into a premier fire agency becoming a leader in training, public education and service delivery within Butte County.

Values Integrity - Honest in words, deeds, and actions. Proper use of revenues and funding. Make the extra effort.

Customer Service - Being courteous to everyone. Empathy. Responsiveness.

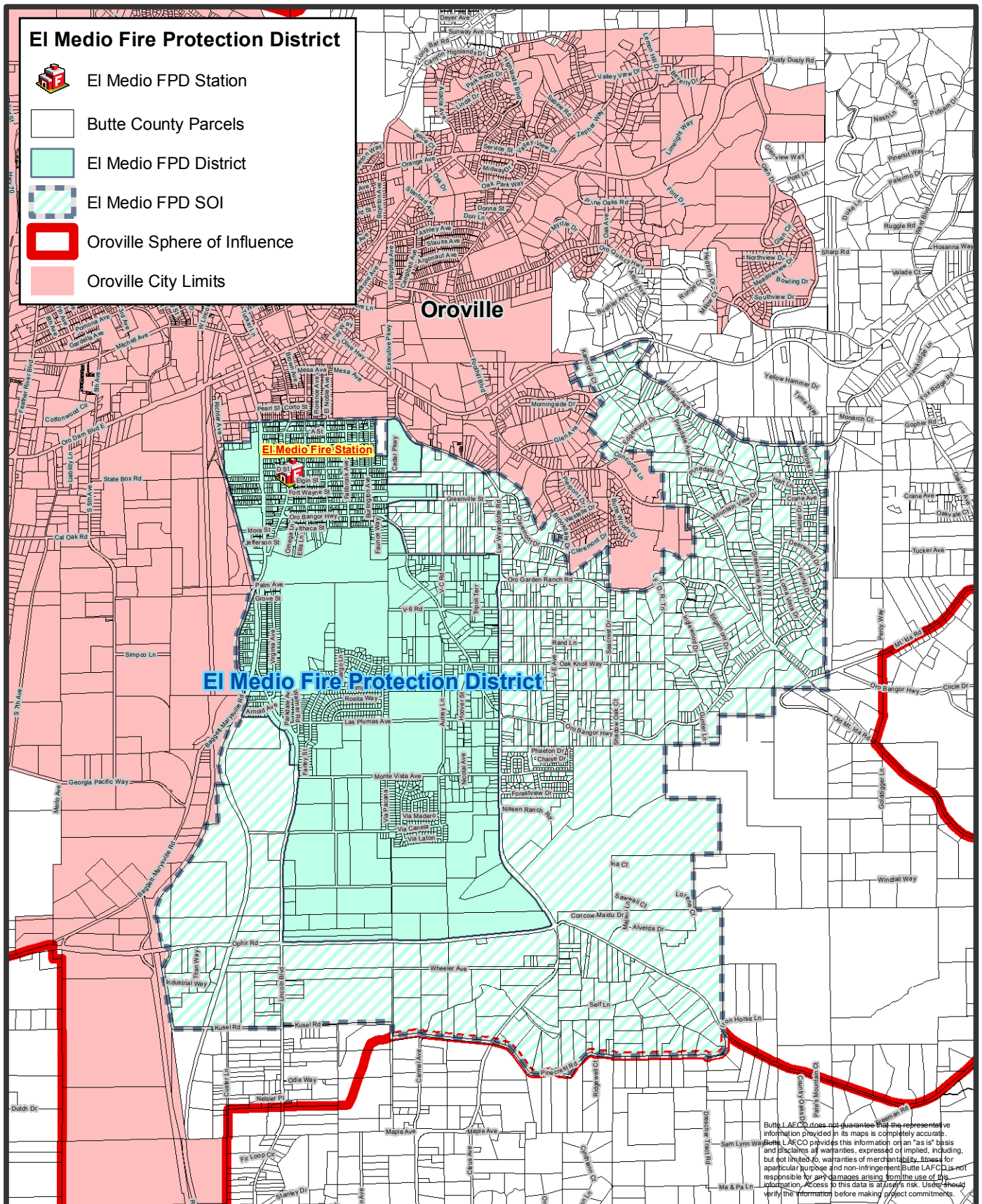
Training - Compliance. Training.

Leadership - Leadership by example-practice what you preach. The ability to guide, direct, or influence people and organizations in a positive manner. Team builder. Motivator. Decisive. Communicator. Confidence. Positive attitude.

Competence - Well trained, skilled personnel who are capable of performing emergency and support functions.

DISTRICT SIZE:	1,500 acres (approximately 2 square miles)
LOCATION:	Immediately south of and adjacent to the City of Oroville.
OFFICE LOCATION:	At the El Medio FPD fire station 3515 Myers Street Oroville CA.
EMPLOYEES:	11 paid personnel including 1 administrator and a total of 20 volunteer and intern firefighters.
SERVICES:	The District provides fire suppression; first response emergency medical service; hazardous materials emergency first response; initial extrication and rescue; and public assistance.
POPULATION SERVED:	6,000
FORMATION DATE:	1925
ENABLING LEGISLATION:	CA Fire Protection Law of 1971.

Figure 1: El Medio FPD Boundary and SOI



Butte Local Agency Formation Commission

El Medio Fire Protection District and Sphere of Influence

Applicant: El Medio FPD

Date: December 5, 2014 @ 9:00 a.m.

File: 13-05 MS



El Medio Fire Protection District



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Data: Butte County & LAFCO

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2.2 GROWTH AND POPULATION PROJECTIONS

In recent years a nationwide economic downturn has resulted in a general slowing of development and growth in California. Butte County has experienced the effects of the slowing economy and, as a result, the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) has since revised the population growth rate estimates to better reflect the current growth rate in Butte County.

In early 2011, BCAG published updated housing, population, and employment forecasts for the cities and the unincorporated area of Butte County for the years 2010-2035. BCAG developed a low, medium, and high scenario for each forecast of housing, population, and employment. The use of these scenarios provides for increased flexibility when utilizing the forecast for long-term planning and alleviates some of the uncertainty inherent in long range projections.

In comparison to the regional forecasts prepared by BCAG in 2006, the 2010 forecasts capture the downward trend in regional growth associated with the dramatic economic downturn. This is most evident in the short term periods (2010-2020) of the forecasts in which the overall growth of the region has been most affected. Less variation is seen with the longer range (2020-2035) forecasts, suggesting that future growth patterns are likely to stay intact following an economic recovery. As identified in BCAG’s 2006 growth forecasts, jurisdictions in the southern portions of the region are projected to absorb a greater percentage of the regional growth than achieved in past growth trends. The cities of Biggs, Gridley, and Oroville are forecasted to, at a minimum, double in population by the year 2035. ¹

The following table shows BCAG’s growth rate scenarios for the unincorporated area of Butte County and the City of Oroville:

Table 2-1 Annual Population Growth Rates for Unincorporated Areas of Butte County and the City of Oroville

Growth Scenario	Unincorporated Area Annual Growth Rate	City of Oroville Annual Growth Rate
Low	1.1%	2.5%
Medium	1.3%	2.9%
High	1.5%	3.2%

Source: BCAG, Butte County Long-Term Regional Growth Forecasts 2010-2035, January 26, 2011.

The City of Oroville had a 2010 population of 15,529 and a 2000 population of 12,650²; for an average annual growth rate of approximately 2.3%. A portion of this growth was augmented by several large annexation proposals and the corresponding inclusion of additional residents. BCAG’s low growth scenario projects the 2030 City population to be approximately 25,000; under the high growth scenario the City population is projected to be over 28,000.³

¹ Butte County Association of Governments, Butte County Long-Term Regional Growth Forecasts 2010-2035, January 26, 2011.

² State of California, DOF, E-4 Population Estimates for Cities, Counties and the State, 2001-2010, with 2000 & 2010 Census Counts. Sacramento, California, August 2011.

³ Reflect anticipated new growth within the anticipated boundaries of each jurisdiction and do not reflect future annexation of existing units or as-yet-unbuilt new units in unincorporated areas. (BCAG, 2011)

El Medio FPD is located in unincorporated Butte County immediately south of, and adjacent to, the City of Oroville. The District is located within the U.S. Census Bureau’s South Oroville census designated place (CDP), which has a total area of approximately three square miles. Although the South Oroville CDP covers a larger area than the District, population characteristics and growth patterns are expected to be similar. Therefore, the South Oroville CDP population data is used as a basis for the population projections below.

The South Oroville CDP population was 5,742 at the 2010 census, down approximately 25% from 7,695 at the 2000 census.⁴ Based on this data, although the City of Oroville has over a 2% annual growth rate, the population of South Oroville decreased by an average of 2.5% per year from 2000-2010. BCAG growth forecasts do not project growth specifically for the area covered by the District. Despite the District’s decrease in population from 2000-2010, the unincorporated Butte County low growth scenario of 1.1% per year is used to estimate District population through the year 2030 (Table 2-2). This is due to a general improvement in economic conditions, and existing entitlements within the District boundaries for several thousand new residential units to be built. Even if only a portion of those units are built, it could be consistent with the County low growth scenario of 1.1%.

Table 2-2 El Medio FPD Population Projections 2015-2030

	2010 (Census)	2015	2020	2025	2030
Population Projection (1.1% annual growth rate)	5,742	6,065	6,406	6,766	7,146

It is anticipated that the District population will grow at an average of approximately 1.1% based on the most recent BCAG growth forecasts.

DETERMINATION 2-1: GROWTH AND POPULATION FOR THE AFFECTED AREA

The population within the current El Medio FPD and proposed SOI is projected to grow at the low forecast rate of approximately 1.1% annually over the next twenty years.

2.3 REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF SERVICE

2.3.1 Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities, Adequacy of Public Services, and Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

The District operates out of a single station located at 3515 Myers Street in the unincorporated area immediately south of the Oroville city limits. The fire station is an aging metal building on a concrete slab, requiring persistent maintenance and updating. District fundraising efforts paid for the station roof to be replaced in 2011.

⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 census.

In response to a proposed SOI expansion proposal submitted by El Medio FPD, an Administrative Draft Municipal Service Review Update/ SOI Plan was prepared and submitted to Butte LAFCo Staff for review. During admin draft review it was noted that more information on serving the proposed SOI area was needed to fully evaluate the proposal. In response, El Medio FPD prepared a Master Plan 2012-2013 to “convey information regarding the present status of the District, and to identify programs necessary to improve the District over the next twenty years.”

The Master Plan contains the following:

- District Vision, Mission, History, and Current Condition
- Goals related to Funding, Staffing, Equipment, Infrastructure, and Administration
- Overview of Response Times and Infrastructure
- Improving Response Times including a comprehensive station location analysis
- Staffing History
- Equipment Replacement Process and Timeframe
- Funding Options including discussion of Annexation, Impact Fees, Property Tax Share, Gants, Casinos, Measure Increase/Bonds, Cost Recovery, and Strike Teams

Emergency Communications System

The first line of contact for persons experiencing and reporting emergencies in any response system is generally the Dispatch Center. Up until 2012, Butte County Fire/ CALFIRE provided dispatch for Oroville Fire Department and El Medio FPD. In early 2012 El Medio FPD joined Oroville Fire Department to change dispatch to the Oroville Police Department. This has resulted in cost savings for both the OFD and EMFPD. El Medio FPD most recent annual call volume numbers were stated as 1,533 (2011) with structure fires representing about 1% of that call volume. Table 2-3 shows number of calls by call type for 2010 and 2011. According to the El Medio FPD Master Plan 2012-2032 the District responded to over 1,600 calls in 2012; approximately 900 of these calls were within District boundaries and 700 were automatic or mutual aid calls. Many of the out of District calls were generated from the area included in the proposed sphere of influence.

Table 2-3 El Medio FPD Calls for Service 2010 & 2011

CALL TYPE	2010 ¹		2011 ¹	
	Calls	%	Calls	%
Structure Fire	3	0.3	15	1.0
Vegetation Fire	7	0.8	12	0.8
Other Fires	15	1.6	17	1.1
Medical	769	83.6	794	51.4
Vehicle Accident	23	2.5	24	1.6
Public Assist/Other	26	2.8	48	3.1
Hazard Condition	18	2.0	20	1.3
False Alarms	--	--	86 ²	5.6
Auto-Aid (CALFIRE)	--	--	220 ²	14.2
Auto-Aid (City of Oroville)	--	--	310 ²	20.0
All Other	59	6.4	--	--
TOTAL CALLS	920	100.0	1546	100.0

¹ EMFPD Information Request Responses - does not include Haz Mat or false alarms.

² EMFPD 2011 Annual Report to the Board of Directors.

The standard of adequacy for fire and emergency medical service can be measured by response times, ISO (Insurance Service Office) ratings, and coverage adequacy and training. Response times are documented in this report. Training is also addressed, with updated District training and certificate programs for paid staff, volunteers and interns provided for this MSR.

Apparatus/Vehicles

A list of District apparatus and condition appears in Appendix A. In general, the District has two Type II response engines which were acquired new in 2006 (E-313) and 1996 (E-312). The District has also purchased a new 2013 Smeal Type 1 Structural Firefighting engine. Engine E-313 is the only engine permanently staffed with career personnel. This engine is in generally good condition and should last another 10 years or so.⁵ Engine E-312 is starting to show signs of age and with the new emission standards being enacted should be replaced in the next few years.

The remaining fleet includes a 1995 Ford Bronco utility pick-up used for hauling and field work, a Type 1 Water Tender and an Air/Light Support Trailer. According to the 2011 Annual Report to the Board of Directors the chief recommends selling the pick-up and purchasing a newer one. The water tender is old (1982); however it is still usable.

The El Medio FPD received a Department of Homeland Security grant for structure fire turnouts and wild land clothing. With the grant the District purchased new Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) including 19 sets of turnout gear and 24 sets of complete wildland gear. The District was also able to supply every member of the department with new wild land and structure fire boots. The District also had 15 new wild land helmets, 15 new sets of web gear, and 10 new generation fire shelters donated to them by the Cal Chiefs Association.⁶

According to the 2011 Annual Report to the Board of Directors the current equipment needs include: a set of Rescue 42 Struts for vehicle extrication and stabilization, a newer utility vehicle, 10 NFPA approved rescue jackets, 9 individual breathing apparatus face masks, expand the District office, put wooden walls along the bottom portion of the east wall of the engine room, repaint engine room ceiling and floor.

The District's Master Plan addresses a number of facility, equipment, and technology needs identified in the Strategic Plan including a fire station location methodology and plan that guides the location of fire stations, and a vehicle replacement process and timeline. The following strategies are outline in the Strategic Plan:

1. Create a fire station location methodology and plan that guides the location of fire stations based on objective criteria.
2. Create and assess a ten-year plan for facilities other fire stations (including training facilities and administration) to meet the needs of the department.

⁵ El Medio Fire Protection District 2011 Annual Report to the Board of Directors.

⁶ Ibid.

3. Create and implement a ten-year equipment and apparatus replacement schedule that considers all relevant factors (e.g. maintenance costs, replacement costs, reliability and funding sources).
4. Create and implement an electronic system to accurately track repairs, preventative maintenance and conditions of apparatus and equipment in order to comply with state requirements, improve cost effectiveness of the fleet and serve as the basis for determining the cost effective ways of maintaining the fleet.
5. Assess current and future technology and data center needs of the department for the next five years and create a plan to meet those needs (including funding needs).
6. Evaluate and obtain an electronic tracking system for the receipt, tracking, storage and approvals of fire prevention plan checks, inspections and hazardous occupancy inspections to increase the service level provided to the customer and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of fire protection planning.

The District has purchased a new 2013 Smeal Type 1 Structural Firefighting engine to replace the 2007 Smeal, which will move to a reserve spot and remain in service fully equipped.⁷ The District will also be receiving a used ladder truck from Phoenix Arizona in the coming year. The financing for the new engine will be rolled into existing finance package for the existing engine. The District will incur transportation and maintenance responsibilities for both apparatus that must be budgeted for. This is a concern given District budget shortfalls.

Training Program

Providing quality and safe fire and emergency services requires a well-trained response force. Training and education of department personnel are critical functions for the District. Without a quality, comprehensive training program, emergency outcomes are compromised and department personnel are at risk. In order to ensure quality training is provided, it should be based on established standards of good practice. There are a variety of sources for training standards. The District has selected the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA) as its main sources of standards and materials, which is widely used as an industry standard.

According to District documents, hazardous materials training is delivered at the “Operations” level. The Operations level of training is appropriate for the District’s personnel who function in the first responder role on hazardous materials responses. For advanced hazardous materials response capability, the District relies on the mutual aid response from the regional interagency hazardous materials response team managed by the BCFD.

Available training facilities include Openshaw, Gridley and Butte College. The District also uses local schools and businesses to support ladder skills and multi-floor operations training. This is not an uncommon practice in the industry.

Live fire training is limited to only those times a structure intended for demolition is provided to the District or another of the area departments. The area departments seek opportunities to train together in these settings and the District makes an effort to participate. El Medio FPD staff built

⁷ El Medio Fire Protection District Master Plan 2012-2032.

a training prop behind the fire station that includes three different types of roofs, a confidence course, and can be used for a multitude of structure fire training evolutions. In addition, the Oroville Union School District donated a 65 passenger bus (type D bus) to the District for training purposes.⁸

El Medio FPD Policy & Procedures Policy #9000 states responsibility for developing employee training is shared jointly by the employee, Fire Chief, and Training Officer; according to the EMFPD organization chart the Station Captain is in charge of training. According to Policy #9000, on duty training may be required, and off duty training may be reimbursable with prior approval of the Fire Chief and Training Officer. Policy #9300 provides brief in-house training procedures.

According to the Master Plan, the District's Training Division imposed monthly training standards that exceed National Fire Protection Association recommendations and also requires specialty training for those involved in the Butte Interagency Rescue Group. This Division also ensures each position continues education in its respective field and the District maintains certification records for all firefighters. It is important that training be provided on an ongoing basis to paid, intern, and volunteer firefighters and that it be appropriately documented and recorded. Chief Officer training and succession planning is also needed. The Strategic Plan provides the following staffing, training, and development goals:

1. Create an analysis and report to establish the proper staffing levels required to meet current and projected operational needs.
2. Develop and implement a training and certification program for new sworn hires, interns, volunteer and existing personnel and to ensure that all required certifications are completed on a timely basis.
3. Continue to develop and maintain a training tracking system to ensure that all training provided to department members is consistently recorded and required training certificates remain current (e.g., confined space, hazmat, driver-operator, EMT, paramedic and other certification mandates).
4. Develop and implement a mentoring, career development and succession plan that ensures the department has individuals who are motivated and eligible for higher level positions, with particular focus on company officer and chief officer ranks.
5. Establish an on-going supervisory training program which includes training in policy implementation, departmental business practices, pre-planning, prevention and operational supervision; methods of identifying and managing risks and strategies and tactics for firefighting.
6. Create an effective means of recruiting and retaining personnel.
7. Establish policies and standard operational procedures for hiring training, supervising and utilizing intern and volunteer firefighters to ensure they are providing services consistent with expectations and needs and to ensure risks are managed related to their role in operations.

⁸ El Medio Fire Protection District 2011 Annual Report to the Board of Directors.

8. Establish and develop a prevention department within the fire department.

ISO Rating & Response Time

One standard measure of service is the Public Protection Classification (PPC) rating assigned to each district by Insurance Services Office (ISO), Inc., a national supplier of information used by insurance companies in calculating premiums. ISO fire ratings range from 1 to 10, with 1 being the best. They are based on a combination of factors. Ten percent of overall grading is based on how well a fire department receives alarms and dispatches its firefighting resources; this component takes into account communications systems and dispatch circuits. Fifty percent is based on the number of engine companies and the amount of water that a department needs in order to fight a fire. Quality of equipment maintenance and staff training also affect this portion of the rating. The remaining 40 percent of ISO rating is based on a given community's water supply and availability, including the distribution of hydrants and other components of the water supply system.

In some communities, ISO develops a split classification, in which the first, better class applies to properties within five road miles of a fire station and with access to public water (generally defined as being within a thousand feet of a fire hydrant). The second class—a 9 in most cases—applies to properties within 5 road miles of a fire station but beyond 1,000 feet of a hydrant. According to the Butte County General Plan 2030 those areas of Butte County that are within 5 miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant or “recognized water system” have an ISO rating of 4. Areas within 5 miles of a fire station but not within 1,000 feet of a recognized water system have an ISO rating of 8B. Areas that are not near a fire station or water system have an ISO rating of 10⁹. El Medio FPD's most recent ISO ratings report was done in November 2005. The resulting classification was a Class 4/9. According to the El Medio FPD District Chief, the District is expecting an updated ISO study and rating by the end of 2013.

The District has adopted response time goals that are consistent with National Fire Protection Association Standard 1710. These standards include:

1. Turnout time shall be 60 seconds or less, 90% of the time.
2. First unit arrival shall be within 4 minutes or less (travel time), 90% of the time.
3. The full assignment shall arrive within 8 minutes or less, 90% of the time.

A majority of the FPD is within a four-minute travel time from the District Station. The eight-minute travel time area expands well beyond District boundaries. The Myers Street station is at the north end of the District and relatively close to Oroville Station #1 compared to other stations in the County and region. While it serves the District at its current size, it is not ideally located to serve the District's proposed SOI.

DETERMINATION 2-2: PRESENT AND PLANNED CAPACITY OF FACILITIES, ADEQUACY OF PUBLIC SERVICES, AND INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS AND DEFICIENCIES

Due to the size of the existing lot, there is limited capacity to expand the Myers Street Station. Given the proximity of this station to Oroville Station # 1 there is not much

⁹ Butte County General Plan 2030. Setting and Trends, Chapter 7 Public Services.

justification for increased capacity, even if space was available. The most recent District ballot initiative, to provide additional funding to increase capacity, proposed an additional facility for the District; which based on the District's desire to expand its SOI, would ideally require either a relocation of the station or the development of an additional station further to the east of the current District Boundaries.

2.3.2 Financial Ability to Provide Services

The District operates on a 12-month fiscal year that begins July 1 and ends June 30. The District submits to the County Auditor a budget of estimated revenues and expenses approved by the Board of Directors each year prior to June 30 that address the forthcoming fiscal year. The final budget is legally enacted by the Board of Directors prior to August 10 after any changes, if necessary, are made. The Board of Directors is responsible for adopting an annual budget and maintaining financial records for the District. The Administrator tracks all expenditures and produces a monthly line item accounting of expenditures against budgeted amounts for the Fire Chief and Board of Directors. The District has an accounting firm prepare annual basic financial statements with independent auditors' report; the most recent report is for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2012. The auditor's report concluded that the basic financial statements of the El Medio FPD present fairly the respective financial position of the District and are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. According to the auditor's report the District did not present management's discussion and analysis as part of the basic financial statements.

Revenues and Expenses

The District is funded primarily through a combination of secured property tax and a special tax assessment passed by District voters in 1980. The special tax assessment was passed due to the increasing cost of providing services exceeding the revenue available through property taxes. That first special assessment tax was established at \$60.00 per single family dwelling, \$125.00 per improved commercial property, and \$300.00 per commercial property classified as having a significantly higher fire risk. The most recent voter approved tax assessment for the district was in 2008 and added \$58.00 to the prior amounts bringing the total residential lot assessment to \$118.00 per parcel. Vacant land has a \$50.00 per acre special tax assessment.

El Medio FPD received a 2011 grant for staffing through the Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund. The grant request was to maintain staffing a level of 3/0 on the first engine out and to fund the Fire Chief position. The \$220,890 grant allowed the District to hire 4 firefighters for a full year including all benefits. In 2012 a special tax assessment was proposed that would have allowed the district to build a new station/training facility. The average annual tax under this assessment was estimated to be \$50.30 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation or approximately \$36.41 for the median assessed value single family home in the District. The District received support from a simple majority of the registered voters, but was unsuccessful in receiving the 2/3 vote required.

District revenues total approximately \$759,636.81 in FY2012/13 and \$638,396.00 in the FY 2013/14 adopted budget. The difference is largely due to Indian Gaming revenues. District expenditures are mostly comprised of salaries/ benefits, services/ supplies, and debt payments.

Table 2-4 details a summary of District revenues and expenditures for the past three years and the FY 2013/14 budget.

District Assets, Liabilities, and Reserves

Assets, liabilities and reserves are detailed in the District’s independent auditor’s report for FY ended June 30, 2012. The District has entered into several lease agreements for financing the acquisition of fire engines, a command vehicle, fire equipment and turnout gear. The lease balance as of June 30, 2012 was \$149,492. The District’s fund balance as of June 30, 2012 was \$157,868. ¹⁰

Table 2-4 El Medio FPD Revenues and Expenditures Summary

	Actual FY 2010/11	Actual FY 2011/12	Actual FY 2012/13	Adopted FY 2013/14
REVENUES				
Current Secured	142,340.85	137,849.71	122,119.54	122,100.00
Current Supplemental	490.63	323.12	414.17	-
Current Unsecured	6,803.96	6,757.71	6,156.80	6,150.00
Prior Unsecured	319.42	238.64	219.39	-
Misc. Taxes/CSA/Special District	326,621.66	342,314.92	353,939.24	348,000.00
Interest - County	1,909.06	3,330.67	2,204.59	2,800.00
Homeowners' Property Tax	2,413.88	2,346.94	2,073.14	2,000.00
State Indian Gaming Revenue	220,890.00	90,000.00	74,303.00	-
Special District -Federal Revenue	22,294.00	60,582.00	118,670.72	102,346.00
Misc. Revenue/CSA/Special District	5,352.37	17,033.97	77,992.39	55,000.00
Reimbursement of P/Y Expenditures	165.00	3,040.16	292.83	-
Contributions-Private Parties	2,176.25	150.00	1,251.00	-
Special Districts - Transfers In	227.43	-	-	-
Total Revenues	732,004.51	663,967.84	759,636.81	638,396.00
EXPENDITURES				
Salaries & Benefits	341,689.25	410,737.55	483,910.88	456,660.00
Services & Supplies	155,109.10	231,710.37	235,610.54	198,700.00
Debt Payment	43,817.88	59,892.44	33,693.40	50,000.00
Interest Expense	12,970.21	10,030.09	21,119.37	12,000.00
Fixed Assets	4,600.00	7,280.00	21,113.65	10,000.00
Appropriation for Contingencies	-	-	-	5,000.00
Total Expenditures	558,186.44	719,650.45	795,447.84	732,360.00
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues				
Over Expenditures	173,818.07	(55,682.61)	(35,811.03)	(93,964.00)
Available Fund Balance	58,552.85	263,134.49	174,618.82	134,887.85

Maintaining fiscal sustainability is critical to the District’s ability to deliver services to the public and is a goal identified in the District’s Strategic Plan. Utilizing the fund balance is not a reliable

¹⁰ El Medio FPD Financial Statements Together with Independent Auditors’ Report, Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2012.

source of revenue. The Master Plan outlines funding objectives and potential funding sources to meet those objectives including annexation, impact fees, property tax share, grants, casino contributions, measure increase/ bonds, cost recovery, and strike teams. The following Strategic Plan strategies were developed to improve financial conditions:

1. Update and continue to capture the full cost of the services provided, through cost recovery. Both for District services and for services provided to the County or State.
2. Develop and implement annual revenue and expenditure projections for the next five years to forecast future budgets so necessary corrective actions can be taken as early as possible.
3. Establish a process to examine costs and the causes of cost increases in all areas of department to identify new ways to contain costs and increase cost efficiency.
4. Establish a program where purchases, facilities maintenance and communications programs can be managed internally.

Annexation

The Master Plan discusses annexation as one of the District's primary goals. The District currently provides a significant level of service to the majority of the proposed SOI area through participation in automatic aid agreements and often they are the first to respond. Since this service is outside of District boundaries the associated costs are absorbed by the District; they do not receive funding to serve this area. Expanding the District's SOI and subsequent annexation of the area would help fund services the District is currently providing. Almost half (700) of the 1,600 calls the District received in 2012 were requests for aid from surrounding agencies with a large portion of these calls located in the proposed SOI area. If these currently served parcels which are outside of the District boundaries were annexed and generated revenue, this would be a significant increase in overall revenue to the District.

Rate Restructuring, Development Impact Fee & Benefit Assessments

The District receives a majority of its funding from property and special assessment taxes. A proposed 2012 ballot measure for a special assessment tax to help fund a training facility and second fire station did not receive sufficient votes for approval; as discussed under *Revenues and Expenses* above. Another option the District could pursue to increase revenues is a development impact fee for new development. Butte County collects no impact fees for development within the District.

In 2004 the El Medio FPD submitted the "El Medio Fire Protection District Development Impact Fee Nexus Study" prepared by LandWorks (September 2004) and requested that a development impact fee be collected by the County. The County raised concerns about the Nexus Study methodology and contracted with TischlerBise to review and provide comments on the Nexus Study. The TischlerBise report recommended that the County not authorize the collection of development impact fees for the District at that time (2005). The County stated that in order for the impact fee to move forward their concerns would need to be addressed and the Nexus Study revised. The District has declared a moratorium on new development, which is not observed by the County.

Fire protection impact fees provide one time capital contributions towards improvements and fixed assets needed to provide fire protection services to future new development projects. California Government Code (§66000), gives cities and counties authority to impose fire facilities impact fees on behalf of the districts within their city limits or, in the case of counties, within the unincorporated areas. To impose a fee, a city or county must justify the fees as an offset to the impact of future development on facilities.

The fee must be committed within five years and the city or county must keep separate funds for each development fee. This fee does provide the opportunity to augment the district's budget particularly where additional development is planned. Accounting for these fees must be identified in the agency's capital outlay account and must be used for a capital expenditure (e.g., fire station or equipment) and cannot be transferred to augment operating expenses. The impact fee would not replace any current fire protection assessment. The tasks necessary for research, review, development and implementation of an impact fee for El Medio FPD are described in the Appendix B.

Benefit Assessments are used to pay the costs of providing services, such as fire protection or other services, to a particular community. These charges are based on the concept of assessing only those properties that directly benefit from the services or improvements financed. The necessary steps to research, review, develop and implement a benefit assessment election are described in Appendix C.

DETERMINATION 2-3: FINANCIAL ABILITY TO PROVIDE SERVICES

The continued budget deficit is a significant concern for the District's financial ability to provide services. While adjustments have been made to minimize expenses, there needs to be continuing efforts to increase revenues related to securing development impact fees, additional property tax share and increased parcel assessments, as this is essential for continued independent District operations.

2.3.3 Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

The El Medio FPD is an active participant in an automatic aid agreement with the City of Oroville and Butte County. El Medio FPD coordinates service and shares resources primarily with Oroville Fire Department. The District also has an agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and Butte EMS and they coordinate with ambulance service providers. The department is also active in the statewide mutual aid system making firefighting resources available throughout the County and State.

City of Oroville Fire Department

The City of Oroville Fire Department (OFD) was established in 1856, and consists of 13 full time sworn officers, one full-time administrative assistant and 10 part-time fire interns. The OFD provides all emergency services and customer services for Oroville.¹¹ The City Fire Department participates in the Butte County Fire Chiefs Association which provides a wide range of interagency specialty response capabilities. The City participates in these interagency response

¹¹ City of Oroville 2030 General Plan. Adopted June 2009.

teams contributing staffing and in some cases, funding through separate agreements. Examples of these specialty interagency response capabilities are hazardous materials response, technical and high angle rescue, water rescue, and a variety of other special operations. The OFD is funded through the City's general fund.

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection/Butte County Fire Department

Butte County Fire Department (BCFD) is made up of a combination of career and citizen volunteer firefighters. Butte County Fire Department serves the District and its surroundings through an automatic and mutual aid agreement. The BCFD provides services to approximately 1,550 square miles of Butte County from 42 fire stations. BCFD directly serves approximately 102,000 unincorporated residents of Butte County and 2,700 in the City of Biggs and 5,000 in the City of Gridley.¹² Through automatic and mutual aid agreements, BCFD also provides resources to the cities of Oroville, and Chico and the Town of Paradise.

The Butte County Fire Department (BCFD) contracts for staff with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). Under this contract the County pays CAL FIRE salaries and benefits, as well as other related costs, to staff County-owned fire stations and apparatus. CAL FIRE/BCFD services include fire control; emergency medical service, technical rescue response; hazardous materials response; flood control assistance; fire prevention and public safety education; fire law enforcement/arson investigation; and vegetation management. In addition, the CAL FIRE/BCFD operates county-wide dispatch services, coordinates major emergency response within the county as the mutual aid coordinator, and provides training for career and volunteer fire fighters.

CAL FIRE/BCFD has 42 fire stations, 64 fire engines, one ladder truck, two heavy rescues, 16 water tenders and two bulldozers. The CAL FIRE/BCFD also has a range of other apparatus including air tankers, fire suppression plane, rescue squads, breathing support units and hazardous materials units.¹³

DETERMINATION 2-4: STATUS OF, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR, SHARED FACILITIES

The most significant opportunity for shared resources are with the City of Oroville. The current status is a shared dispatch initiated in 2012, through the City Police Department. Other opportunities include joint training, mutual aid and auto response agreements and staffing coverage between the Districts station and Oroville Fire Station # 1. The District also has arrangements for sharing resources with CALFIRE / BCFD and US Forest Service.

2.3.4 Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

The District is an independent special district governed by a five member Board of Directors which are elected from within the District and serve for a period of four years. The Board of Directors is responsible for budgetary oversight, and establishing Department policies, and has

¹² Butte County Fire Department website. www.buttecounty.net/fire, accessed on December 27, 2012.

¹³ Ibid.

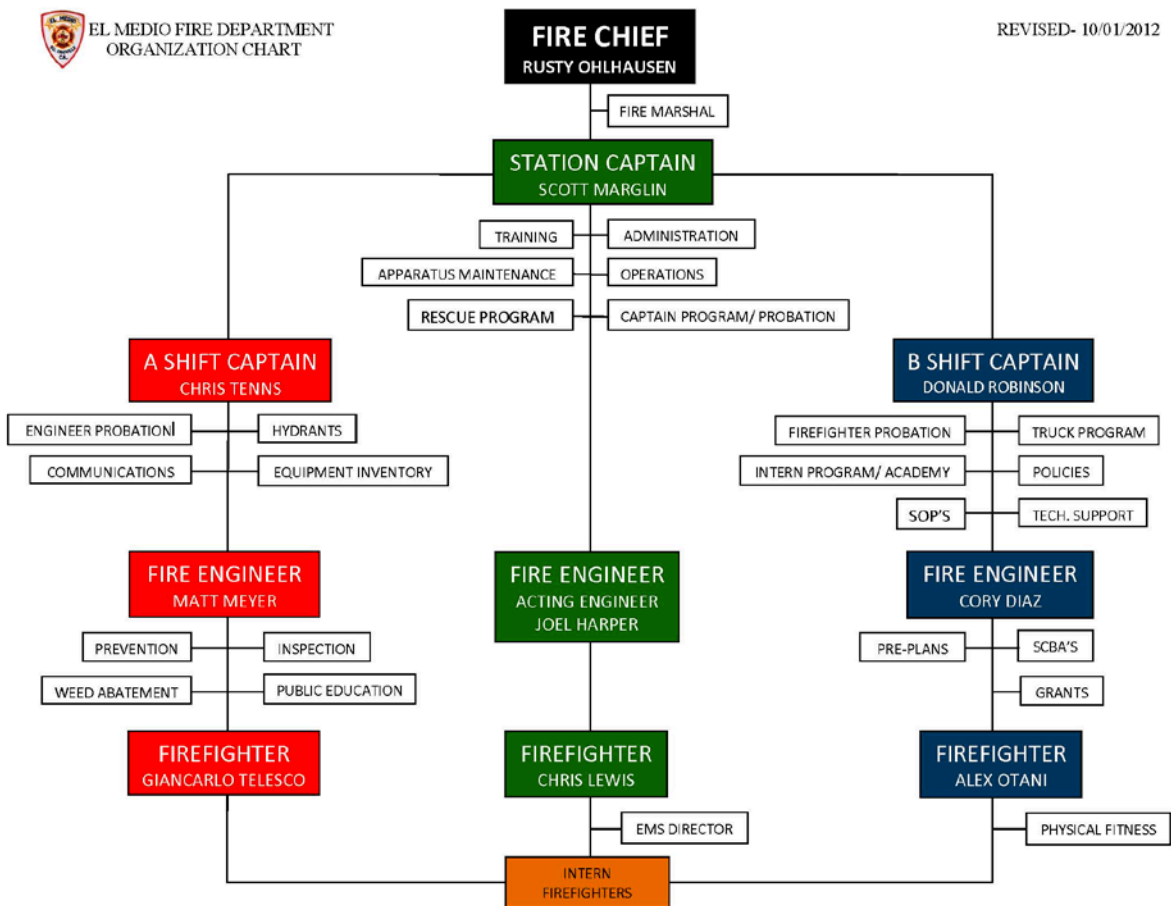
the authority to appoint the fire chief. Board Meetings for the El Medio Fire Protection District take place two times per month, every second and fourth Wednesday, at 6:30pm at 2133 Monte Vista Ave, Oroville CA 95966. Special Meetings may take place at the El Medio Fire Department, 3515 Myers Street, Oroville CA 95966.

El Medio Fire Protection District Board of Directors

- Gary Nystuen, Chairman
- Dan Tiedemann, Director
- Colene Davis, Director
- Lorelei Carr, Director
- Jim Sisco, Director

All Board meetings are open to the public and the District Board of Directors encourages all citizens of the District to attend. Agendas and minutes are available on the District website, meeting locations will be posted at the top of the agendas.

The current District organization chart is shown below; the Fire Chief reports to the Board of Directors. In addition to the positions shown below the District also employs an administrator.



Personnel Management

Position descriptions including typical duties, minimum qualifications, knowledge, skills, abilities, certifications, and additional requirements are included in the El Medio FPD Policy &

Procedures (updated January 2008). District rules and regulations related to personnel duties, administration, management, basic operations, safety, and training are also in the Policy & Procedures document. Although these updated policies and procedures address some of the personnel related shortcomings identified in the 2004 MSR, the District does not currently require background checks for new employees, which can increase risk to the department. The District's Strategic Plan identifies a need for risk management tracking, review, and analysis and the following support services strategies:

1. Conduct an assessment of the department's staffing (sworn/non-sworn employees) and organizational structure of administrative functions to identify improvements that will ensure efficient and proper administration of departmental responsibilities.
2. Establish new policies and procedures for purchasing and dispensing materials and supplies. Provide training to department employees; enforce the new policies and procedures and conduct regular audits to control costs and minimize risk of loss.
3. Implement consistent hiring practices for both sworn and non-sworn employees throughout the department to ensure that all employees have the minimum required certification and to include back ground checks.
4. Implement cost effective means of seeking out and applying for grants in order to increase funding to the district.
5. Create and implement a new tracking, inventory control, reporting and auditing system to ensure that all operational and EMS purchases and supplies are disbursed appropriately, accounted for and that risks of loss are minimized.

District Operations

The District maintains written standard operating procedures for fire scene operations, engine company personnel assignments, 2nd and 3rd in engine operations, and single story residential structure fires. The District also has a Master Plan and Strategic Plan including goals and strategies for the future related to fiscal sustainability, staffing, training and development, operational effectiveness, support services, and facilities, equipment, and technology. The Strategic Plan concludes by stating that an annual review of progress in accomplishing the strategies is an important way for the EMFPD to keep the Plan current. It also discusses the importance of communicating progress to stakeholders to ensure goals and strategies meeting needs of the area served.

The District's Strategic Plan includes policies and procedures for their emergency medical service (EMS) program, equipment tracking, program management coordination, clear roles and expectations for volunteer firefighters, and disaster response planning. The District operational effectiveness strategies to address their operational needs are to:

1. Create and implement a consistent procedure for investigating and reporting customer service complaints and ensuring appropriate follow up to improve quality, standard operational procedures, EMS protocols and minimize risks associated with the services.
2. Evaluate the EMS protocols and policies and procedures.

3. Update all of the administrative policies and procedures throughout the department and provide training to all department staff about the updated policies.
4. Update and maintain disaster plans.
5. Establish and implement department wide expectations and responsibilities for all department members to ensure that services are delivered and policies are followed on a consistent basis.
6. Develop a volunteer operating manual to ensure it contains appropriate hiring practices, operational policies and expectations for volunteers so that they are operating within department expectations.

DETERMINATION 2-5: ACCOUNTABILITY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE NEEDS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

The five member board meets regularly and meetings are noticed and held at a consistent location within the District. The website is used to publicize meetings and notices are posted at the fire hall. The District would benefit from having a designated manager or administrative officer whose role would be to manage the administrative functions of the District.

2.3.5 Location and Characteristics of any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

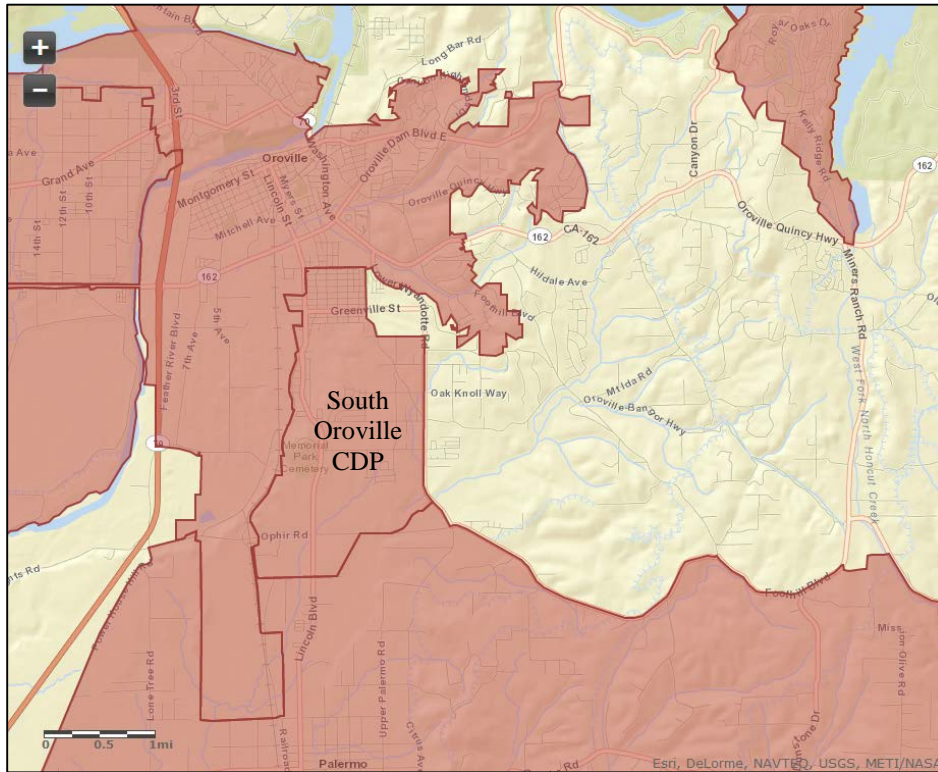
The CKH Act defines a "disadvantaged unincorporated community" as inhabited territory (12 or more registered voters), or as determined by commission policy, that constitutes all or a portion of a "disadvantaged community" as defined by Water Code Section 79505.5. The Water Code Section 79505.5 defines a "disadvantaged community" as a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income.

The State Department of Water Resources (DWR) has mapped for each county those communities that are at or below 80 percent of the annual median household income by using Census Designated Places (CDP)¹⁴. The U.S. Census Bureau defines CDPs as:

“The statistical counterparts of incorporated places, and are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state in which they are located.”

The DWR map below shows the South Oroville CDP (center of map), which meets the disadvantaged unincorporated community median household income definition. The City of Oroville to the north and Palermo CDP to the south are also identified as disadvantaged unincorporated communities. The majority of the El Medio FPD District is within the South Oroville CDP boundary. The portion of the proposed SOI west of Wyandotte Road and south of Highway 162 is not identified as a disadvantaged unincorporated community.

¹⁴ State Department of Water Resources (DWR). Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) Mapping Tool. <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/resourceslinks.cfm>



Source: DWR DAC Mapping Tool, <http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/resourceslinks.cfm>

DETERMINATION 2-6: LOCATION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ANY DISADVANTAGED UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES WITHIN OR CONTIGUOUS TO THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

While the South Oroville Census Designated Place (CDP) meets the disadvantaged unincorporated community definition, there exists no disadvantaged unincorporated communities that are not already receiving some level of fire protection services.

DETERMINATION 2-7: ANY OTHER MATTER RELATED TO EFFECTIVE OR EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY, AS REQUIRED BY COMMISSION POLICY

The key factor affecting organizational efficiency is lack of revenues which are described in this MSR.

2.4 MSR DETERMINATIONS SUMMARY

DETERMINATION 2-1: GROWTH AND POPULATION FOR THE AFFECTED AREA

The population within the current El Medio FPD and proposed SOI is projected to grow at the low forecast rate of approximately 1.1% annually over the next twenty years.

<p>DETERMINATION 2-2: PRESENT AND PLANNED CAPACITY OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AND ADEQUACY OF PUBLIC SERVICES, INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS & DEFICIENCIES</p>
<p><i>Due to the size of the existing lot, there is limited capacity to expand the Myers Street Station. Given the proximity of this station to Oroville Station # 1 there is not much justification for increased capacity, even if space was available. The most recent District ballot initiative, to provide additional funding to increase capacity, proposed an additional facility for the District; which based on the District's desire to expand its SOI, would ideally require either a relocation of the station or the development of an additional station further to the east of the current District Boundaries.</i></p>
<p>DETERMINATION 2-3: FINANCIAL ABILITY OF AGENCY TO PROVIDE SERVICES</p>
<p><i>The continued budget deficit is a significant concern for the District's financial ability to provide services. While adjustments have been made to minimize expenses, there needs to be continuing efforts to increase revenues related to securing development impact fees, additional property tax share and increased parcel assessments, as this is essential for continued independent District operations.</i></p>
<p>DETERMINATION 2-4: STATUS OF, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR, SHARED FACILITIES</p>
<p><i>The most significant opportunity for shared resources are with the City of Oroville. The current status is a shared dispatch initiated in 2012, through the City Police Department. Other opportunities include joint training, mutual aid and auto response agreements and staffing coverage between the Districts station and Oroville Fire Station # 1. The District also has arrangements for sharing resources with CALFIRE / BCFD and US Forest Service.</i></p>
<p>DETERMINATION 2-5: ACCOUNTABILITY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE NEEDS, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES</p>
<p><i>The five member board meets regularly and meetings are noticed and held at a consistent location within the District. The website is used to publicize meetings and notices are posted at the fire hall. The District would benefit from having a designated manager or administrative officer whose role would be to manage the administrative functions of the District.</i></p>
<p>DETERMINATION 2-6: LOCATION AND CHARACTERISTICS OF ANY DISADVANTAGED UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITIES WITHIN OR CONTIGUOUS TO THE SPHERE OF INFLUENCE</p>
<p><i>While the South Oroville Census Designated Place (CDP) meets the disadvantaged unincorporated community definition, there exists no disadvantaged unincorporated communities that are not already receiving some level of fire protection services.</i></p>
<p>DETERMINATION 2-7: ANY OTHER MATTER RELATED TO EFFECTIVE OR EFFICIENT SERVICE DELIVERY, AS REQUIRED BY COMMISSION POLICY</p>
<p><i>The key factor affecting organizational efficiency is lack of revenues which are described in this MSR.</i></p>

3.0 SPHERE OF INFLUENCE ANALYSIS: EL MEDIO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

As described in Section 1.4, LAFCo is required to consider and prepare written statements addressing factors enumerated under California Government Code Section 56425(e), including present and probable land uses in the area, present and probable need for public facilities and services, the present capacity of facilities and adequacy of services, the existence of social or economic communities of interest, and the present and probable need for facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere of influence. These factors are considered in the following section.

The El Medio FPD has applied for an SOI expansion of 2,784 acres outside existing District boundaries. Their current SOI was reduced to zero as part of the LAFCo action on the 2004 MSR Update. This was based, in part, on the following determinations:

“The District cannot provide an adequate and reliable level of service to its citizens and this inadequacy presents an urgent public safety concern. Within the context of its funding both current and anticipated, it is unable to consistently train and maintain the staffing necessary for safe effective fire and medical aid responses;” and

“Both the Oroville and Butte County Fire Department are capable of providing fire and emergency satisfactory services to the District.”

As part of the SOI Expansion review the District provided documentation showing the progress they felt has been made on addressing the level of service, training and staffing deficiencies noted in the 2004 MSR. Meetings with the Oroville Fire Chief and CALFIRE staff also yielded useful information. The following range of findings are being considered as part of the SOI expansion application review:

1. If the finding is made that the District has made no discernible progress in addressing deficiencies documented in the 2004 MSR Update, the SOI expansion application should not be approved and the SOI should remain at zero.
2. If the finding is made that the District has shown discernible and documented progress in addressing some deficiencies documented in the 2004 MSR Update, but that other deficiencies remain, the SOI expansion application should not be approved but the SOI may be restored to the current district boundary.
3. If the finding is made that the District has made clear and documented progress in addressing all deficiencies documented in the 2004 MSR Update, and has demonstrated the ability to start some limited planning outside their boundaries, a limited SOI expansion should be approved; or
4. If the finding is made that the District has made clear and documented progress in addressing all deficiencies documented in the 2004 MSR Update, and has demonstrated the ability to fully start planning outside their boundaries, a SOI expansion as applied for should be approved.

None of these would preclude the District from restructuring the existing District and the possible reorganization of fire service responsibilities within the larger geographic area to

include the contiguous fire service agencies operated by the City of Oroville and CALFIRE/Butte County Fire.

Since the last MSR, the City of Oroville conducted a Feasibility Study of annexation of lands served by the District. The study found that annexing the District area was not fiscally advisable and there has been no reconsideration of that finding since then (Redevelopment/Annexation Study Community of South Oroville). Also, CALFIRE has increased their service in the County, by extending services to the City of Paradise. While Oroville extending services seems less likely in light of the annexation study, CALFIRE extending similar services to the area covered by the District continues to be an option.

There are numerous factors to consider in reviewing an SOI, including current and anticipated land uses, facilities, and services, as well as any relevant communities of interest. Updates generally involve a comprehensive review of the entire SOI Plan, including boundary and SOI maps and the District's MSR. In reviewing an agency's sphere, the Commission is required to consider and prepare written statements addressing five factors enumerated under California Government Code Section 56425(e). These factors are identified below.

- The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands;
- The present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area;
- The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide;
- The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency; and
- If the agency provides water, sewer, or fire protection, present and probable need for these services for any disadvantaged unincorporated communities.

In addition, when reviewing a sphere for an existing special district, the Commission must also do the following:

- Require the existing district to file a written statement with the Commission specifying the functions or classes of services it provides.
- Establish the nature, location, and extent of any functions or classes of services provided by the existing district.

Findings are offered for evaluating the preceding factors along with incorporating the policies of the Commission in administering LAFCO law in Butte County. This includes, in particular, considering the merits of any proposed changes relative to the Commission's four basic policies for determining the appropriate functions of a special district sphere are:

- The location of a special district's sphere shall serve to promote appropriate urban uses as independently determined by the Commission with limited exceptions.
- A special district's sphere should reflect existing and planned service capacities based on information independently analyzed by the Commission.

- Lands designated for agricultural or open-space uses shall not be included in a special district’s sphere for purposes of facilitating urban development unless special and merited circumstances exists as determined by the Commission.
- A special district’s sphere shall guide annexations.

Inclusion of land within a sphere shall not indicate automatic approval of a subsequent annexation application, as annexations will be considered on their own merits.

3.1 PRESENT AND PLANNED LAND USE

In order to achieve an accurate overview of the growth and development potential within the proposed SOI, a number of factors need to be considered. The following factors, when considered together, reflect the existing development within the proposed SOI as well as provide a picture of existing development potential:

- Land use designations, including existing and any proposed changes
- Special land use limitations, including Williamson Act and designated open spaces
- Improved and unimproved parcels

State law requires every city and county in California to adopt and maintain a comprehensive and long-term General Plan that is to serve as a “blueprint” for land use and development. The entirety of the proposed SOI is within the City of Oroville’s SOI and consists of unincorporated lands within the County of Butte. Since the proposed SOI area is within unincorporated lands, development is guided by the Butte County General Plan 2030, which establishes the growth patterns and guides future development of lands within the unincorporated areas. More specifically, the County’s Zoning Code provides regulatory oversight for future land uses.

Although Butte County land use designations guide development and are used for the analysis below, it should also be noted that the City of Oroville General Plan has assigned land use designations and zoning to the lands within the proposed SOI. The City land use designations vary slightly from the County’s, however they are generally similar in the distribution of residential, industrial, commercial, etc. lands.

Land Use Designations

The existing land uses within the proposed SOI are predominantly residential; the County has established rural residential, very low, low, medium, medium high, and high density and foothill residential zones. The majority of the residential designated lands within the proposed SOI are medium density residential. A relatively large area in the southwestern portion of proposed SOI is a mix of industrial, mixed use and public designated lands. Butte County General Plan 2030 land use designations and zoning within the proposed SOI are identified in Table 3-1, below.

TABLE 3-1: BUTTE COUNTY LAND USE DESIGNATIONS / ZONING WITHIN PROPOSED SOI

GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATION	ACREAGE	ZONING	ACREAGE
Rural Residential (RR)	125	Rural Residential - 5 (up to 1 du/ 5 acres)	125
Very Low Density Residential (VLDR)	63	Very Low Density Residential (VLDR)	63
Low Density Residential (LDR)	304	Low Density Residential (LDR)	304
Medium Density Residential (MDR)	1,315	Medium Density Residential (MDR)	1,315
Medium High Density Residential (MHDR)	4	Medium High Density Residential (MHDR)	4
Mixed Use (MU)	169	Mixed Use 1 (MU-1)	125
Retail and Office (RTL)	62	Mixed Use 2 (MU-2)	25
Recreation Commercial (RC)	77	Mixed Use 3 (MU-3)	19
Industrial (I)	255	Commercial (C)	62
Public (P)	95	Recreation Commercial (RC)	77
Other (right of way/roads)	315	General Industrial (GI)	117
		Heavy Industrial (HI)	138
		Public (P)	95
		Other (right of way/roads)	315
Total	2,784	Total	2,784

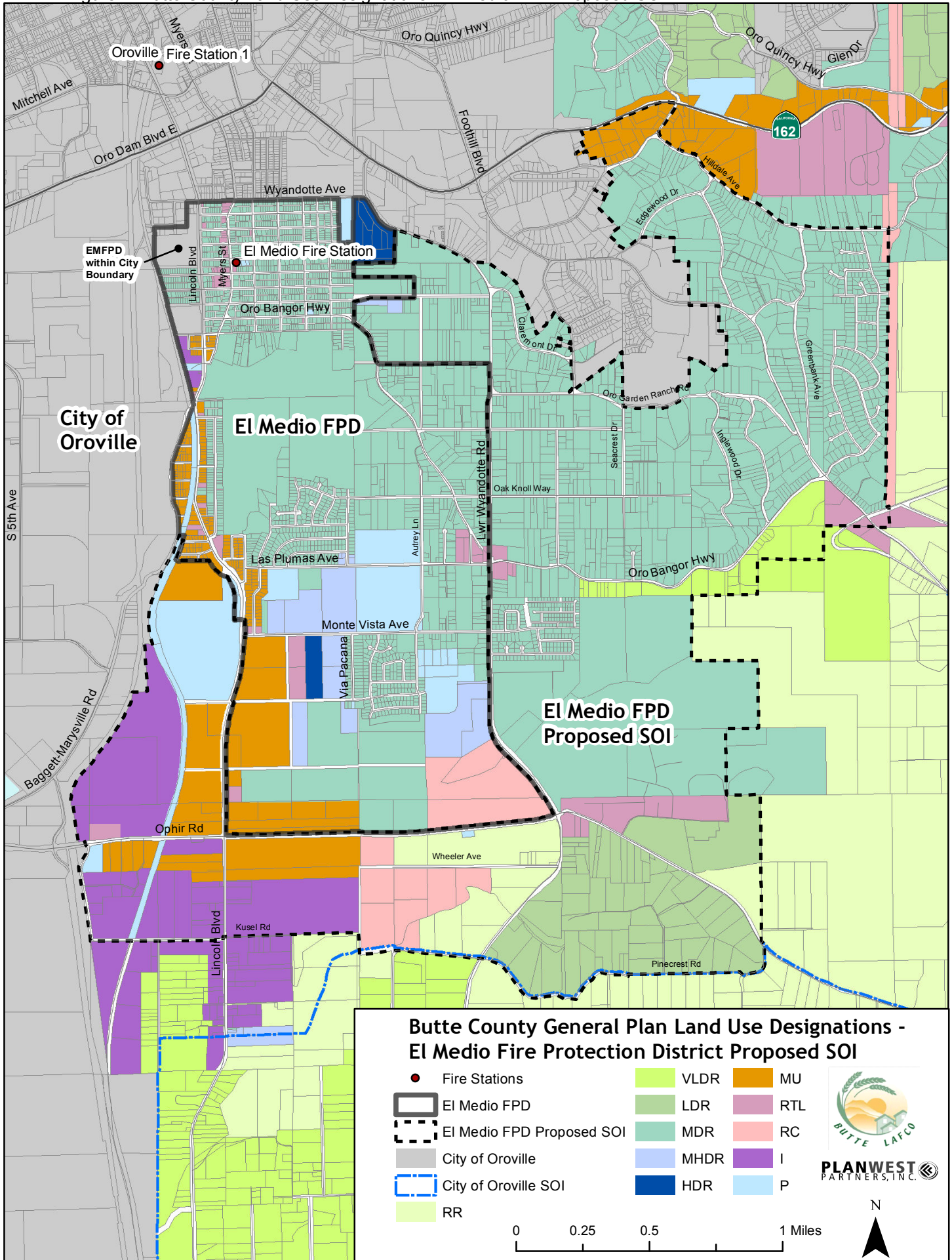
Source: Butte LAFCO GIS

Williamson Act

The Williamson Act, or the California Land Conservation Act of 1965, enables local governments, in this case Butte County, to enter into contracts with private landowners to preserve specific parcels of land for agricultural or related open space use. Williamson Act contracts are a type of tax incentive that limits the uses of the lands to agriculture, although single-family residences remain an allowed use. Once the Williamson Act contract has been established, land remains under contract for a minimum of 10 years, and in perpetuity thereafter unless application for cancellation is made and approved by the County Board of Supervisors. The proposed SOI contains no parcels that are currently under Williamson Act contract with the County.

Butte LAFCO Policy 3.1.8 provides guidance relative to the inclusion of lands that are subject to Williamson Act contract in SOIs. The Policy states that LAFCo shall not approve changes to SOIs to include Williamson Act lands if the annexing agency has the ability to provide infrastructure sufficient to promote development of those properties. There are exceptions to this policy, provided specified conditions are met. However, as a District is a fire protection service provider, its services do not influence new growth or development.

Figure 2: Butte County Land Use Designations - El Medio FPD Proposed SOI



Data Source: Boundaries, roads, parcels, fire stations - Butte Local Agency Formation Commission

Map compiled January 29, 2013

Improved and Unimproved Parcels

Approximately 221 of the proposed SOI's 1,474 parcels overall are unimproved. The majority of lands within the proposed SOI are residential designated lands, many of which have been developed at or below planned densities in the County general plan. Approximately 7 parcels totaling 128 acres are unimproved industrial designated lands in the southwestern portion of the proposed SOI. Improved parcels within the proposed SOI total 1,253 and consist primarily of residential, industrial, and mixed use parcels, for approximately 70 % of the proposed SOI's lands.

Future development in the proposed SOI is anticipated to be consistent with BCAG projections. Build out of unimproved parcels within the District and proposed SOI is anticipated to occur at a growth rate of approximately 1.1% annually.

DETERMINATION 3-1: PRESENT AND PLANNED LAND USE
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<i>With the recent 2010 Butte County General Plan Update, little change in actual or designated land uses within the District is anticipated over the next 20 years. Residential uses account for the primary land uses within the proposed SOI.</i>
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3.2 PRESENT AND PROBABLE NEED FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Population projections are based on the zoning and land use of the proposed SOI predict moderate population growth overall, with relatively small changes from year to year. U.S. Census population estimates for 2010 indicate a District population of approximately 5,742, and a 2030 population of 7,146 has been projected based on approximately 1% annual growth rate.

The District provides a variety of emergency response services including: fire suppression, first response emergency medical service, hazardous materials emergency first response, initial extrication and rescue, and public assistance. The District operates out of a single station located at 3515 Myers Street in the unincorporated area immediately south of the Oroville city limits. The FPD feels they can serve the proposed SOI from their current station but have noted that as development increases in these areas, establishment of a new station in the future will be necessary to reduce response times.

In general, the District has two Type II response engines which were acquired new in 2006 (E-313) and 1996 (E-312). The District has also purchased a new 2013 Smeal Type 1 Structural Firefighting engine. The District's Strategic Plan and Master Plan address a number of facility, equipment, and technology needs related to facility planning, equipment tracking and maintenance, and vehicle replacement needs.

The El Medio FPD is an active participant in an automatic aid agreement with the City of Oroville and Butte County. El Medio FPD coordinates service and shares resources primarily with Oroville Fire Department. The District also has an agreement with U.S. Forest Service and Butte EMS and they coordinate with ambulance service providers. The department is also active in the statewide mutual aid system making firefighting resources available throughout the County and State.

According to the El Medio FPD Master Plan 2012-2032 the District responded to over 1,600 calls in 2012; approximately 900 of these calls were within District boundaries and 700 were automatic or mutual aid calls. Many of the out of District calls were generated from the area included in the proposed sphere of influence.

DETERMINATION 3-2: PRESENT AND PROBABLE NEED FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

Currently there is a limited need for additional service capacity within the proposed SOI due to relatively low level of development which is currently served by Butte County/ CALFIRE. This need will increase as the planned land uses are developed and corresponding residential population and the commercial industrial workforce grows. To provide adequate services for future growth within the proposed SOI, additional staffing will be needed and a new station should be developed.

3.3 PRESENT SERVICE CAPACITY

The District's follows adopted standards as guidance in determining facilities necessary for fire and emergency response service. According to District records, they do respond to the proposed SOI area under mutual aid agreements. In addition, as the population grows over the next 20 years, additional facilities, staffing and equipment will be needed to meet the anticipated increase in demand for services. Given current revenue shortfalls there is concern that broadening services to respond to planned growth, at current funding levels might create larger deficits for the District.

The municipal service review includes information as to how the El Medio FPD has developed and implemented administrative controls and service training practices to provide an upgraded fire protection services levels within its existing jurisdiction beyond what was found during the 2004 MSR. The FPD has provided information, including their strategic plan and more recent Master Plan describing desired future conditions. However, more needs to be done to implement the actions described in these plans. Specifically, how El Medio FPD could extend services to the proposed SOI to serve the substantial planned development projected in the Butte County 2030 General Plan, without significant increases in funding levels.

The District's Master Plan provides information about location and type of facilities to serve the expanded area and potential funding sources. The easterly area of the proposed SOI currently receives response to emergency calls from the Kelly Ridge Station operated by Butte County Fire Department / CALFIRE. The southerly portion of the proposed SOI currently receives response to emergency calls from the Palermo Station operated by Butte County Fire Department/ CALFIRE. The District currently provides service to the majority of the proposed SOI area through participation in automatic aid agreements and that often they are the first to respond. Since this service is outside of District boundaries the associated costs are absorbed by the District; they do not receive funding to serve this area. Expanding the District's SOI and subsequent annexation of the area would help fund services the District is currently providing. Almost half (700) of the 1,600 calls the District received in 2012 were requests for aid from surrounding agencies a large portion of these calls were located in the proposed SOI area.

The present capacity of facilities provided by El Medio FPD has been improved to better serve the District as reported on in the MSR, but it has not been shown how this capacity could service the projected development and increased population planned for the proposed SOI. As the population grows over the next 20 years, additional emergency response capabilities and facilities will be needed to meet the anticipated increase in services demand.

The El Medio FPD Strategic Plan and Master Plan should be expanded to include implementation measures specifically addressing how the needs of areas within the proposed SOI planned for future development would be met. The Master Plan provides a list of potential funding sources and projected revenue from each source. The El Medio FPD should consider implementing the revenue sources outlined in the Master Plan and this MSR to demonstrate facility development and improvement necessary to serve the SOI. To assist in this effort, Steps for Developing and Implementing a Development Impact Fee and, Steps for Developing and Implementing a Benefit Assessment by Mailed Ballot have been prepared and are included as Appendices B and C of this MSR document by the preparers.

DETERMINATION 3-3: PRESENT CAPACITY OF FACILITIES
<i>The District provides adequate services to meet current needs; however, there are revenue shortfalls that must be addressed. The present capacity of facilities utilized appears to be sufficient for the current population. The District has identified the need for additional facilities needed to meet the anticipated increase in demand for services, however a confirmed revenue source(s) has not been determined to fund such improvements.</i>

3.4 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

The current fire station serves as a community center for a number of community activities and functions. The mixed use designations along Ophir Road and Lincoln Boulevard at the southwest corner of the existing district also offer the opportunity to develop as a community center. There is also future commercial uses planned along Ophir Road at the southeast corner of the existing district. The majority of the proposed SOI consists of mid to low density residential areas, with some businesses, schools, churches, public facilities, with proportionately small community service programs that serve residents. The remainder of the proposed SOI, to the east and southeast is agricultural with a very low-density residential component.

DETERMINATION 3-4: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST
<i>The proposed SOI still has planned development capacity and does not have a clearly identifiable social and economic center. Some areas of mixed use and commercial land uses may emerge as a community center, however it is premature to make this determination at this time. The existing El Medio FPD Station does serve as a community center for a number of community activities and functions, however it is located at the northwestern corner of the existing district boundary and would not</i>

appear to be able to serve the same function to the residents in the proposed SOI due to distance and other locations that could accomplish the same function.

3.5 FOR AGENCIES PROVIDING WATER, SEWER, OR FIRE PROTECTION, THE PRESENT AND PROBABLE NEED FOR THE SERVICES FOR ANY DISADVANTAGED UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY WITHIN THE AREA

The majority of the El Medio FPD District is within the South Oroville CDP which is identified as a disadvantage unincorporated community. The portion of the proposed SOI west of Wyandotte Road and south of Highway 162 is not identified as a disadvantaged unincorporated community.

DETERMINATION 3-5: IF THE AGENCY PROVIDES WATER, SEWER, OR FIRE PROTECTION, THE PRESENT AND PROBABLE NEED FOR THE SERVICES FOR ANY DISADVANTAGED UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY WITHIN THE AREA

While the South Oroville Census Designated Place (CDP) meets the disadvantaged unincorporated community definition, the portion of the proposed SOI west of Wyandotte Road and south of Highway 162 is not identified as a disadvantaged unincorporated community. There exists no disadvantaged unincorporated communities that are not already receiving some level of fire protection services.

3.6 SUMMARY OF SOI DETERMINATIONS

The finding is made that the District has shown discernible and documented progress in addressing deficiencies documented in the 2004 MSR Update. Remaining deficiencies would be addressed by actions to increase revenue, primarily by developing and implementing a development impact fee and an increased benefit assessment, as described in the appendices.

An SOI expansion has been requested by the EMFPD as a part of their strategic growth planning process which includes the recent adoption of their 2012-2032 Master Plan. The EMFPD is proposing to add approximately 1,419 parcels totaling approximately 2,577 acres to the District's current jurisdictional boundaries of approximately 1,500 acres. The proposed SOI expansion would allow the District to seek the future annexation of these areas in order to 1) recognize the District's current primary service to these areas as first responder pursuant to mutual aid agreements; and 2) receive revenue from these already served areas. To support the SOI update, EMFPD's existing Municipal Service Review (MSR), which was approved by the Commission in 2004, is also being updated.

After review and consideration of applicable factors it is recommended that the Commission approve the MSR Update/SOI Plan, subject to any changes that the Commission may direct. The Final MSR/SOI Plan reflects this recommended expansion.

<p>DETERMINATION 3-1: PRESENT AND PLANNED LAND USE</p>
<p><i>With the recent 2010 Butte County General Plan Update, little change in actual or designated land uses within the District is anticipated over the next 20 years. Residential uses account for the primary land uses within the proposed SOI.</i></p>
<p>DETERMINATION 3-2: PRESENT AND PROBABLE NEED FOR PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES</p>
<p><i>Currently there is a need for additional service capacity within the proposed SOI due to relatively low level of development which is currently served by Butte County/ CALFIRE. This need will increase as the planned land uses are developed and corresponding residential population and the commercial industrial workforce grows. To provide adequate services for future growth within the proposed SOI, additional staffing will be needed and a new station should be developed.</i></p>
<p>DETERMINATION 3-3: PRESENT CAPACITY OF FACILITIES</p>
<p><i>The District provides adequate services to meet current needs; however, there are revenue shortfalls that must be addressed. The present capacity of facilities utilized appears to be sufficient for the current population. The District has identified the need for additional facilities needed to meet the anticipated increase in demand for services, however a confirmed revenue source(s) are needed to fund such improvements.</i></p>
<p>DETERMINATION 3-4: SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST</p>
<p><i>The proposed SOI still has planned development capacity and does not have a clearly identifiable social and economic center. Some areas of mixed use and commercial land uses may emerge as a community center, however it is premature to make this determination at this time. The existing El Medio FPD Station does serve as a community center for a number of community activities and functions, however it is located at the northwestern corner of the existing district boundary and would not appear to be able to serve the same function to the residents in the proposed SOI due to distance and other locations that could accomplish the same function. The EMFPD 2012-2032 Master Plan includes provision to address serving the SOI.</i></p>
<p>DETERMINATION 3-5: IF THE AGENCY PROVIDES WATER, SEWER, OR FIRE PROTECTION, THE PRESENT AND PROBABLE NEED FOR THE SERVICES FOR ANY DISADVANTAGED UNINCORPORATED COMMUNITY WITHIN THE AREA</p>
<p><i>While the South Oroville Census Designated Place (CDP) meets the disadvantaged unincorporated community definition, the portion of the proposed SOI west of Wyandotte Road and south of Highway 162 is not identified as a disadvantaged unincorporated community. There exists no disadvantaged unincorporated communities that are not already receiving some level of fire protection services.</i></p>

4.0 FINAL SPHERE OF INFLUENCE ACTIONS

This Section includes Resolution No. 20 2013/14 which states Butte LAFCO's actions on this SOI Plan for the El Medio Fire Protection District including that MSR and SOI determinations.

RESOLUTION NO. 20 2013/14

ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW UPDATE DETERMINATIONS AND ADOPTION OF A SPHERE OF INFLUENCE PLAN/UPDATE FOR THE EL MEDIO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

WHEREAS, a service review mandated by Government Code Section 56430 and a sphere of influence update mandated by Government Code Section 56425 have been conducted by the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Butte (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission") for the El Medio Fire Protection District in accordance with the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (Government Code Sections 56000 *et seq.*); and

WHEREAS, at the times and in the form and manner provided by law, the Executive Officer has given notice of the public hearing by the Commission on this matter; and,

WHEREAS, the Executive Officer, pursuant to Government Code Section 56428, has reviewed this proposal and prepared a report, including his recommendations thereon, and has furnished a copy of this report to each person entitled to a copy; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing by this Commission was called for November 7, 2013, and at the time and place specified in the notice of public hearing at which time the Commission accepted public comment and continued the hearing open until December 5, 2013 at which time it accepted additional public comment;

WHEREAS, at the hearings, this Commission heard and received all oral and written protests; the Commission considered all plans and proposed changes of organization, objections and evidence which were made, presented, or filed; and all persons present were given an opportunity to hear and be heard in respect to any matter relating to the proposal, in evidence presented at the hearing; and

WHEREAS, a statutory exemption has been issued pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) indicating that the Municipal Service Review Update for the El Medio Fire Protection District is statutorily exempt from CEQA and such exemption was adopted by this Commission on December 5, 2013; and.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Sphere of Influence Plan for the El Medio Fire Protection District will not influence land use designations and therefore will not encourage or facilitate new development thus it can be seen with certainty that SOI Plan will have no significant effect on the environment which qualifies for a general exemption from environmental review based upon CEQA Regulation section 15061(b)(3) as well as CEQA Regulation section 15320 as the SOI will not directly or indirectly result in any new or significantly different services to the proposed SOI area.

WHEREAS, the following Municipal Service Review determinations are made in conformance with Government Code Section 56430 and local Commission policy:

MSR Determination 2-1: Population Growth

The population within the current El Medio FPD and proposed SOI is projected to grow at the low forecast rate of approximately 1.1% annually over the next twenty years.

RESOLUTION NO. 20 2013/14

MSR Determination 2-2: Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services.

Due to the size of the existing lot, there is limited capacity to expand the Myers Street Station. Given the proximity of this station to Oroville Station # 1 there is not much justification for increased capacity, even if space was available. The most recent District ballot initiative, to provide additional funding to increase capacity, proposed an additional facility for the District; which based on the District's desire to expand its SOI, would ideally require either a relocation of the station or the development of an additional station further to the east of the current District Boundaries.

MSR Determination 2-3: Financial Ability of Agency to Provide Services

The continued budget deficit is a significant concern for the District's financial ability to provide services. While adjustments have been made to minimize expenses, there needs to be continuing efforts to increase revenues as this is essential for continued independent District operations.

MSR Determination 2-4: Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

The most significant opportunity for shared resources are with the City of Oroville. The current status is a shared dispatch initiated in 2012, through the City Police Department. Other opportunities include joint training, mutual aid and auto response agreements and staffing coverage between the Districts station and Oroville Fire Station # 1. The District also has arrangements for sharing resources with CALFIRE / BCFD and US Forest Service.

MSR Determination 2-5: Government Structure and Local Accountability

The five member board meets regularly and meetings are noticed and held at a consistent location within the District. The website is used to publicize meetings and notices are posted at the fire hall.

MSR Determination 2-7: Location and Characteristics of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

While the South Oroville Census Designated Place (CDP) meets the disadvantaged unincorporated community definition, there exists no disadvantaged unincorporated communities that are not already receiving some level of fire protection services.

MSR Determination 2-7: Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery.

The key factor affecting organizational efficiency is lack of revenues which are described in this MSR.

RESOLUTION NO. 20 2013/14

WHEREAS, the following Sphere of Influence Plan determinations are made in conformance with Government Code Section 56425 and local Commission policy:

SOI Determination 3-1: Present and Planned Land Use

With the recent 2010 Butte County General Plan Update, little change in actual or designated land uses within the District is anticipated over the next 20 years. Residential uses account for the primary land uses within the proposed SOI.

SOI Determination 3-2: Present and Probable Need for Public Services and Facilities

Currently there is a limited need for additional service capacity within the proposed SOI due to relatively low level of development which is currently served by Butte County/ CALFIRE. This need will increase as the planned land uses are developed and corresponding residential population and the commercial industrial workforce grows. To provide adequate services for future growth within the proposed SOI, additional staffing will be needed and a new station should be developed.

SOI Determination 3-3: Present and Future Capacity of Facilities

The District provides adequate services to meet current needs; however, there are revenue shortfalls that must be addressed. The present capacity of facilities utilized appears to be sufficient for the current population. The District has identified the need for additional facilities needed to meet the anticipated increase in demand for services, however a confirmed revenue source(s) has not been determined to fund such improvements.

SOI Determination 3-4: Social and Economic Communities of Interest

The proposed SOI still has planned development capacity and does not have a clearly identifiable social and economic center. Some areas of mixed use and commercial land uses may emerge as a community center, however it is premature to make this determination at this time. The existing El Medio FPD Station does serve as a community center for a number of community activities and functions, however it is located at the northwestern corner of the existing district boundary and would not appear to be able to serve the same function to the residents in the proposed SOI due to distance and other locations that could accomplish the same function.

SOI Determination 3-5: The Present and Probable Need for the Services for Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community Within the Area

While the South Oroville Census Designated Place (CDP) meets the disadvantaged unincorporated community definition, the portion of the proposed SOI west of Wyandotte Road and south of Highway 162 is not identified as a disadvantaged unincorporated community. There exists no disadvantaged unincorporated communities that are not already receiving some level of fire protection services.

RESOLUTION NO. 20 2013/14

WHEREAS, based on presently existing evidence, facts, and circumstances considered by this Commission, including the findings as outlined above, the Commission adopts written determinations as set forth. The Commission updates the existing sphere of influence for the El Medio Fire Protection District by adding approximately 1,419 parcels totaling approximately 2,577 acres, as depicted on Figure 1 of the Municipal Service Review Update/SOI Plan for the El Medio Fire Protection District, adopted by the Commission on December 5, 2010; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to powers provided in §56430 of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Butte adopts written determinations as set forth in the Municipal Service Review Update for the El Medio Fire Protection District, dated December 5, 2013, and adopts the Municipal Service Review Update for the El Medio Fire Protection District. Furthermore, pursuant to powers provided in §56425, the Commission updates the existing sphere of influence for the El Medio Fire Protection District by adding 1,419 parcels totaling approximately 2,577 acres, as depicted on Figure 1 of the Municipal Service Review Update/SOI Plan for the El Medio Fire Protection District, adopted by the Commission on December 5, 2013.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by this Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Butte, on the 5th day of December 2013 by the following vote:

AYES: Lotter, Duncan, Lando, Fichter, Steele, Lambert

NOES: None

ABSENT: Leverenz

ABSTAINS: Connelly

ATTEST:


Clerk of the Commission



SCOTT LOTTER, Vice Chair
Butte Local Agency Formation Commission

5.0 ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

BCAG	Butte County Association of Governments
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CKH	Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000
CSA	County Service Area
DUC	Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community
FPD	Fire Protection District
LAFCO	Local Agency Formation Commission
MSR	Municipal Service Review
SOI	Sphere of Influence

ANNEXATION The inclusion, attachment, or addition of a territory to a city or district.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS The legislative body or governing board of a district.

CEQA The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is intended to inform governmental decision-makers and the public about potential environmental effects of a project, identify ways to reduce adverse impacts, offer alternatives to the project, and disclose to the public why a project was approved. CEQA applied to projects undertaken, funded, or requiring issuance of a permit by a public agency.

GENERAL PLAN A document containing a statement of development policies including a diagram and text setting forth the objectives of the plan. The general plan must include certain state mandated elements related to land use, circulation, housing, conservation, open-space, noise, and safety.

LAFCO A state mandated local agency that oversees boundary changes to cities and special districts, the formation of new agencies including incorporation of new cities, and the consolidation of existing agencies. The broad goals of the agency are to ensure the orderly

formation of local government agencies, to preserve agricultural and open space lands, and to discourage urban sprawl.

**MUNICIPAL SERVICE
REVIEW (MSR)**

A study designed to determine the adequacy of governmental services being provided in the region or sub-region. Performing service reviews for each city and special district within the county may be used by LAFCO, other governmental agencies, and the public to better understand and improve service conditions.

**SPHERE OF INFLUENCE
(SOI)**

A plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the LAFCO.

**SPHERE OF INFLUENCE
DETERMINATIONS**

In establishing a sphere of influence, the Commission must consider and prepare written determinations related to present and planned land uses, need and capacity of public facilities, and existence of social and economic communities of interest.

ZONING

The primary instrument for implementing the general plan. Zoning divides a community into districts or “zones” that specify the permitted/prohibited land uses.