

TO: GOLD MOUNTAIN COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM: GEORGE A. SIPEL

SUBJECT: FIRE SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

DATE: November 11, 2008

The objective of this report is to supply the Board with initial ideas regarding the types and levels of fire related services in order to make the optimum decision on a fire service provider. This assignment is an outgrowth of a discussion held by the Fire Safe Committee at its last meeting.

In August 2005 a number of residents began a process to develop a strategic plan for fire service in the District. The group met several times, developing a mission statement and a list of strategic issues (attached). Substantial work has been accomplished on most of these issues.

The District has chosen to continue its relationship with the City of Portola for another year. During the renewal process the Local Agency Formation Commission Executive Director pressed the District to make a long term decision on a fire service provider. Two alternatives are apparent—a joint powers arrangement with the City of Portola or annexation to an existing district.

A logical first step in this decision-making process is to determine what services the District wishes to have and at what levels. The following basic questions were posed to the Fire Safe Committee:

1. What services do we want?
2. At what level?
3. Who can best provide them?

Answers to these and other questions will provide a common measuring stick to assess what each agency has to offer. In addition, it will give homeowners and lot owners information on the direction the District is taking in this important area.

In my judgment this effort is a Board responsibility. Below are some suggestions for your consideration.

Potential services to be provided:

1. Structural fire protection
2. Emergency medical care
3. Administration of the District's hazardous fuel reduction program
4. Administration of the District's emergency evacuation and callout plans
5. Hydrant and standpipe maintenance
6. Review of proposed commercial, multiple residential and single family development plans for fire protection purposes
7. Representation of the District to other public and private entities
8. Pursue grant/loan funding

Standards:

Structural fire protection:

Response time: Engine arrival within ___ minutes ___% of time;
Tanker within ___ minutes

Equipment: Engines; tankers; quick attack; etc.

Personnel: Number; type (fire fighters, emergency medical technicians, clerical); availability (daytime, nights, weekends)

Training

Emergency medical service:

Response time: Arrival within ___ minutes ___% of time;

Equipment: Vehicles

Personnel: Number and availability

Training

Another part of this effort is data collection which can proceed as the Board makes decisions on services and standards. Much of this data is readily available. A partial list of data collection areas is attached.