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Transparent Update regarding MFPD Challenges and LAFCO Engagement

Our District is facing hard truths that must be acknowledged and addressed.

This upcoming series of transparent posts is intended to provide clear, factual information about our current conditions, challenges, and long-term considerations. We hope this helps shine a light on where we are today and what lies ahead.

Our Current Situation

El Dorado LAFCO continues to engage with Mosquito Fire Protection District (MFPD) and is paying close attention to our District's challenges and its future outlook.

For those of you that do not know, LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) is a state-mandated independent agency responsible for overseeing the formation, expansion, reorganization, consolidation or dissolution of local governments and special districts. Under California law, LAFCO's role is to promote efficient delivery of services, orderly growth, fiscal sustainability, and the long-term viability of local agencies, including fire districts.

At LAFCO's most recent monthly meeting on January 28, 2026, officials reviewed MFPD's situation, including the outcome of the initial meeting held at MFPD's Special Meeting on December 4, 2025. Observations from LAFCO leadership, El Dorado County District IV Supervisor and El Dorado County Chief Administrative Office, indicate that the MFPD Board is deeply involved in the District's day-to-day operations; this involvement does not stem from a lack of commitment, but rather from long-standing practices. While this approach may have worked in the past, it now limits the District's ability to operate under a modern governance model that clearly separates policy oversight from operational management. Continued reliance on these practices highlights structural challenges within the organization and underscores the need for change to ensure long-term stability, accountability, and effective leadership.

At the December meetings, it also became clear that MFPD remains financially and operationally constrained. Our revenue from property taxes and assessments does not meet long-term needs, reserves are not being built, and our staffing levels remain very low, particularly relating to entering structure fires without delay. According to LAFCO's earlier recommendations, these ongoing challenges further validate the reason to explore potential reorganization or consolidation options with neighboring fire districts. This is a topic that has been discussed before but has not been as significantly and directly applicable as it is now.

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Additionally, MFPD has continued to experience significant turnover of both its board members and employees. The El Dorado County Civil Grand Jury in 2016 identified leadership turnover and governance instability as ongoing challenges for the District. Considering the announcement of Fire Chief Ed Dwyer's target retirement date of August 1, 2026, the Board of Directors has begun to develop recruitment efforts for a permanent Fire Chief. During this interim period, Scott Bravo has been appointed as Acting Fire Chief to maintain operational continuity while Chief Dwyer is on medical leave.

Bottom Line

MFPD faces ongoing sustainability challenges driven by geographic isolation, limited infrastructure, funding constraints, and the realities of serving an at-risk population located within a high fire hazard severity zone. These challenges are not new, but they have become increasingly difficult to manage over time.

Historically, limited capital funding has restricted our District's ability to replace aging infrastructure, engines, and equipment. As reported in June 2025, Fire Station 75, our District's only fire station, no longer meets many current standards for equipment housing, OSHA safety, and workplace privacy. Addressing these deficiencies is estimated to require significant investment, including exterior repairs, plumbing upgrades, and modifications to meet workplace safety and privacy requirements.

Taken together, these factors have reinforced LAFCO's need for an honest evaluation of the District's long-term viability and service delivery model.

Transparency means acknowledging both the dedication to service and the structural limitations, while also sharing the full picture, not just what is comfortable. These challenges must be addressed to ensure reliable and safe fire protection, and difficult but necessary conversations lie ahead.

If you want to read more about the meeting, please follow this link for a deeper dive: [26 Jan 28 Agenda](#)

Item 6: [26 Jan 28 Item 6 Final Targeted Fire Services MSR Addendum](#)

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact mqt.pio@mfpd.us