

LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES STUDY GROUP REPORT

DATE: June 14, 2023

TO: Board of Directors –
Sierra Valley Fire, Beckwourth Fire, City of Portola, Gold Mountain Community Services District

FROM: Cary Curtis, Vice Chair, Local Emergency Services Study Group

SUBJECT: Status Update – Proposed Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District

The effort to successfully bring Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District to the November ballot is continuing with considerable milestones ahead and all within a very short timeframe. One of the more significant milestones has been negotiating a Tax Sharing Agreement with Plumas County to ensure the new fire district will have the needed revenue to sustain operations. In partnership with Planwest Partners, LESSG developed a proposed agreement that preserves all existing agreements while adding a 10% tax sharing increment on growth for those parcels currently not in a fire district but included within the boundary of Beckwourth Peak FPD. A meeting was held on June 12, 2023, with Plumas County officials and the acceptance of our proposal looks promising. It is anticipated that the Board of Supervisors will consider a Resolution to approve the suggested agreement at their June 20, 2023, meeting. Plumas LAFCo will then follow on June 26, with a Public Hearing related to the formation of Beckwourth Peak FPD and reorganization of the four agencies involved. It is anticipated that LAFCo will then consider a Resolution to approve the formation. Once these milestones are complete, Plumas County Elections will begin the process of including Beckwourth Peak FPD on the November 7, 2023, ballot.

June 20	Board of Supervisors Meeting	BoS will consider adoption of Tax Sharing Agreement and Resolution for BPFDP
June 26	LAFCo Public Hearing - Formation of BPFDP and Re-org of Agencies	LAFCo Commissioners will consider adoption of Resolution after Public Hearing
July 11	Board of Supervisors Meeting	BoS to call election
July 12	<i>Arguments For & Against Measures</i> Period	Runs for 10 calendar days. No more than 300 words
July 12	Ballot Measure Name Released	
July 17	Filing Period Opens – Declaration of Candidacy & Nomination for BPFDP	Filing period closes on Aug. 11.
July 21	Last day <i>Arguments For and Against</i> for Measures to be filed	
July 24	First day <i>Rebuttals to Arguments for Measures</i> to be filed	
Aug 2	Last day <i>Rebuttals to Arguments for Measures</i> can be filed	
Aug 11	Filing period closes for BPFDP board candidates	
Nov 7	Election Day	

Ballot Measure and Voting

There are three critical components that will be on the ballot that registered voters who reside within the new Beckwourth Peak FPD boundary will vote on:

- 1) Forming the new Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District,
- 2) Establishing a new special tax, and
- 3) electing the governing board of directors

One Will Not Work Without the Other: The approval of a new special tax by registered voters **AND** the approval of formation of Beckwourth Peak FPD are conditions for formation.

Two-Thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by registered voters need to be in favor of the new special tax for the new FPD formation to move forward.

New Board of Directors

A component of the ballot measure is an election of candidates to establish the new board for Beckwourth Peak FPD. Five board members will be elected with staggering terms of two to four years. Candidates should run with the intent of serving a four-year term.

It will be an exciting time for the new board with an opportunity to start anew with fresh perspectives, it will also require quite a bit of work and time committed. Paving the way is not always easy, however, it is always rewarding.

As referenced in the milestone schedule, the call for nominations and candidacy opens on **July 17 and closes on August 11**. Board members of Gold Mountain CSD and Council members of the City are eligible to be seated on the new fire board while retaining their current seat on their respective boards; in a nutshell, they can serve on both boards at the same time.

All current board members of Sierra Valley Fire and Beckwourth Fire are eligible as candidates for the new board. Additionally, any registered voter who resides within the boundary of the new fire district is eligible to run for the board. *In all cases, a candidate will need to file the necessary paperwork within the nomination period with County Elections to be included on the ballot.*

It is extremely important that the new board is seated with willing board members who are committed and engaged. If you or if you know of anyone who is interested in being on the first Beckwourth Peak FPD board, please contact *Cary Curtis at 916-747-6584* to have questions answered.

Public Outreach

LESSG acknowledges that a well planned and executed public outreach effort must be conducted. The group is developing a strategy that will target local events, venues, service clubs and door knocking. LESSG participants will host outreach events to educate the public on the facts and the reasons the formation of Beckwourth Peak FPD is a necessity. Outreach efforts will be supported by LESSG's communications consultant. Media, including social media, radio, newsprint and supporting materials will be targeted. The need for the new Special Tax will be the focus.

LESSG is hopeful of having great public support and that members of the public will be engaged in supporting both the formation and the new special tax.

Acknowledgement

The thoughtful and thorough process developed by LESSG could not have been achieved without the hard work and dedication from LESSG Chair, Tom Cooley. His vision has moved a concept to reality for each of the participating agencies and for other Plumas County fire departments to follow. He certainly is missed by the group. A "Celebration of Life" is being planned for Tom Cooley on **Saturday, August 5, 2023**, at White Sulphur Springs Ranch in Clio. Details will follow.