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Yolo County Fire Protection Sustainability Board Ad Hoc Committee:  
Progress Update  
*October 10, 2019*

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**Background**

Earlier this year Yolo County staff researched and prepared a report regarding the challenges facing the Yolo County Fire Protection Districts. These challenges are occurring nationwide and include a declining volunteer base coupled with increasing call volumes and the increasing cost of apparatus replacement. The report was presented in July 2019 to the Yolo County Fire Chiefs Association and to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. As a result, the Board directed staff to work with the fire districts to develop a long-term sustainability plan and formed an ad hoc committee for this purpose, consisting of District 3 Supervisor Gary Sandy and District 5 Supervisor Duane Chamberlain. The Yolo County Fire Chiefs Association also designated a subset of fire chiefs to meet and work with the County committee on this plan.

**Scope**

The charge of the committee is to work collaboratively with the Yolo County Fire Chiefs Association to develop and implement a long-term sustainability plan for unincorporated fire protection services. The committee plans to develop a suite of options and implementation strategies to share with the Fire Districts and Yolo County Board of Supervisors for consideration.

**Committee Members:**

Duane Chamberlain, Yolo County  
Supervisor

Patrick Blacklock, Yolo County

Carolyn Jhajj, Yolo County

Gary Sandy, Yolo County Supervisor

Barry Burns, Esparto FPD

Gary Fredericksen, Yocha Dehe FD

Marcus Klinkhammer, Willow Oak FPD

Becky Ramirez, Woodland Fire

**Status**

Staff began meeting in August and have continued to meet regularly (approximately every three weeks) with meetings scheduled through the end of this calendar year. Initial meetings have involved discussion regarding the scope of work, the gathering and evaluation of data using GIS, and the assessment of baseline operational standards. To assist in these discussions response data for the 2018 calendar year was gathered from each fire district. Additionally, a survey was provided at a meeting of the Yolo County Fire Chiefs Association to gather input from each fire district regarding the operational standards utilized for response times, response personnel, and apparatus replacement. The results of the survey displayed the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1720 and 1911 standards as the baseline operational standards utilized by the vast majority of the fire districts. The committee is currently in the process of refining the GIS map and reviewing response data.

**Next Steps**

Over the coming months the committee plans to review the refined data and begin evaluating different sustainability options. This evaluation will utilize gathered data, consider NFPA standards, and involve meeting with other counties to learn from their experiences in sustaining fire protection. The committee will provide additional written updates on progress and verbal updates at the Yolo County Fire Chiefs Association meetings. Staff anticipate providing an update to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors in January 2020 with a draft implementation plan estimated to be developed and shared with the fire districts in late Spring to gather feedback and a final plan shared with the Board of Supervisors in early Summer.