



Yolo County Fire Protection Sustainability Board Ad Hoc Committee: Progress Update

February 9, 2021

Background

In 2019 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 Angel Barajas. 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:

Angel Barajas, Yolo County Supervisor

Curtis Lawrence, Esparto FPD

Patrick Blacklock, Yolo County

Becky Ramirez, Yoche Dehe FD

Wyatt Cline, Capay Valley FPD

Gary Sandy, Yolo County Supervisor

Gary Fredericksen, Yolo County

Dave Stiles, West Plainfield FPD

Paul Green, Madison FPD

Eric Zane, Woodland FD

Carolyn Jhajj, Yolo County

Status

The committee met on February 8, 2021 to review and provide feedback on draft long term sustainability options for fire protection services in Yolo County. Four options were presented and included an estimation of costs, potential funding sources, and the prospective benefits and challenges of each. The options presented are initial concepts only. It is intended that these options will be further developed and refined in discussions with the Fire Protection Districts and the committee over the coming months. The committee expressed interest in sharing the draft report with the fire protection districts at an upcoming meeting to gather input and feedback. The

draft report and resource materials, including data, are also publicly available on the County website at www.yolocounty.org/fire-protection-sustainability-committee. Additional information will be added to the webpage, such as access to a data GIS map, as it becomes available.

Next Steps

Over the coming months the committee plans to work with the fire protection districts to refine options for long-term sustainability. This includes sharing the draft report and conducting a presentation at an upcoming fire chiefs meeting. Once the draft options are finalized, the options will be shared with the Board of Supervisors, anticipated to occur this Spring.