



**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Michael Schwartz, Fire Chief  
**Date:** December 1, 2020  
**Subject:** Fire District Long-term Planning with North Tahoe Fire

**Background**

At the October meeting, the following items were discussed:

- LAFCO is receiving incentive from El Dorado County for smaller agencies to consolidate with larger agencies;
- El Dorado County LAFCO might be able to take the lead with the county's portion of any type of merger/consolidation/unification.
- Expense increases have been outpaced by revenue increases;
- Both districts are having difficulty filling board vacancies, and board compensation issues may become a large factor in filling those vacancies;
- The two districts are better together;
- All safety staff are trained to the same level;
- Following Office Manager Crawford's retirement in late 2021, there will no longer be any Meeks Bay Fire employees
- Concern of LAFCO process being led by Placer County;
- How would El Dorado County work with North Tahoe Fire being predominantly in a separate county?
- Counties have no responsibility to support fire districts;
- Consolidation/unification is inevitable and should be board-driven as opposed to staff-driven, although the board would rely heavily on staff input; and
- The county is encouraging consolidations, but Meeks Bay Fire is not in similar condition as those agencies on the west slope.

**Recommendation**

Direct staff to develop options for long-term planning with North Tahoe Fire staff and Boards including as one option the steps and timeline to merge/consolidate/unify Meeks Bay and North Tahoe fire agencies.