Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection

From: Cary Curtis <cary.curtis77@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 11:43 AM
To: Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection
Subject: RE: Update to Public Comment post Sept. 20,2021 EPRFPD Board Meeting

To the Board of Directors of Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District,

I apologize in advance for this second message. I've realized I made a typo error and would like to correct that Jeff Engel is the Supervisor for District 5.
Thank you,
Cary Curtis

From: Cary Curtis
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:30 PM
To: Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection
Subject: Public Comment post Sept. 20,2021 EPRFPD Board Meeting

To the Board of Directors of Eastern Plumas Rural Fire Protection District,

Thank you for allowing me to provide some clarifying information regarding agenda item *#6.7 – In-depth discussion on Fire Study group, our constituents' concerns, and determination of the Board's concerns.*

For those who do not know me, I am a resident of the Nakoma Community (the name of the community changed but the CSD name remains as Gold Mountain), and am currently serving my 8th year on the Gold Mountain CSD board as President of the Board. Additionally, I am the Vice Chair of the Local Emergency Services Study Group, (aka Group or LESSG).

1. At your meeting, Ms. Ashley Sims stated that she spoke with Jeff Engel regarding the work of the fire study group and that the Board of Supervisors are either unaware of the group's efforts and/or the BOS does not unanimously support the work underway.

A few months ago, I personally spoke with Mr. Jeff Engel, Board Supervisor for District 1 which covers the Nakoma community and asked for his time to meet and provide the details about the LESSG work underway. This was during the time that C-Road CSD was unsure if they would continue with the group. Mr. Engel and I talked about reaching out to the C-Road CSD Board President as there was evidence that C-Road was not fully aware or that they understood how the formation of a new fire district would impact their community. This was the reason the group made multiple contacts with C-Road; to ensure they had all the information they needed to make the best decision for their community. Additionally the group requested a formal letter of withdrawal from C-Road and there were questions related to that which engaged LESSG representatives further with C-Road. In no way was this a badgering of C-Road, it was a sincere outreach. As far as the BOS knowing the details of the work underway, they certainly do. In fact, Dwight Ceresola, Supervisor of District 1, has been very helpful and supportive of the group and he believes the effort underway is the right approach. District 1 covers a vast majority of the area being considered for the new fire district boundaries. Also, Sherrie Thrall of District 3, commented during a BOS meeting that she wants to stay close to the work of the group as this type of effort might be needed in her district, and of course Jeff Engel is aware, just maybe not at the detail level of Mr. Ceresola.

2. The discussion came up about information not being shared with the public and the perception that the group is meeting secretively. It was the unanimous decision of the representatives from each of the 5 fire agencies to share information with their constituents at their individual board meetings. LESSG has published an article in the Plumas News announcing the group and that more information would be shared at their District's board meeting This was an agreement made by the group. If there are concerns or a request to change this approach, then each representative can bring that to the group for discussion/decision. At this point, and until the feasibility study can be completed, there are just too many unknowns, so it was the collective decision of the representatives to handle inquiries from their respective constituents. As far as public outreach and communications to the public, we have partners who will ensure we are following all legal requirements. The chosen consultant, LAFCo and legal counsel are a few that come to mind.

3. I was happy to hear that during your board meeting you voiced that the LESSG is not subject to the Brown Act. There isn't a quorum of any participating board that would trigger a Brown meeting. This was verified with legal counsel from three of the five agencies. Also, the group does not have authority to make financial commitments, this is the role of each board of the five agencies. As far as other public members being at the group's meetings, I'd like to clarify that the representatives of the group unanimously agreed to each and everyone of them by either participating as a subject matter expert or taking on pieces of the work that needs to be done. Patricia Ryan is the web developer for the group, Rich McLaughlin has provided his expertise in co-authoring the Request for Proposal and assisting with vetting the two consultants who have responded with their proposal for

the feasibility study, this is in line with Rich's professional career. Bill Robinson is a representative of Gold Mountain CSD and was approved by the Gold Mountain CSD board as such, and Bill Seney is providing his expertise in strategy and communications. I almost forgot Robbie Cassou who also provides his expertise in fire related strategies.

4. The last item I'd like to bring to your attention is the EPRFPD's decision tonight to continue to participate "cautiously". The effort put out to develop the request for proposal, to gather data and details to help the group understand an appropriate approach, board meetings, resolutions and MOU's, and the list goes on, has been time consuming and tedious. We are now at the point of selecting a consultant for the feasibility study and it's important that your board understands the consequences to the other agencies if you decide to withdrawal after the feasibility study is completed. I totally understand that this is your rightful decision, but if you have overwhelming doubts about your continued participation, now is the time to make a decision. If a decision is made by EPRFPD to withdrawal after the study is complete, the remaining 4 agencies will incur additional expense to re-do the study and I know that is not what you want to happen. Tonight, I picked up on some language used by a few board members – a request was made to *"tell them",* meaning the Fire Study Group. This give me the thought that some board members are on the fence or not convinced in the group's efforts because it isn't about "Them", its about all of "Us".

Respectfully,
Cary Curtis