

VC-3

Valley Center Coordinating Council

February 28, 2020

The Honorable Dianne Jacob, Chair
San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission
9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92123

**Subject: Valley Center Area Municipal Service Review – Recommendation 4.2-3
(Page 23)**

Dear Chair Jacobs;

The Valley Center Coordination Council (VC-3) would like to like to make commentary on Recommendation 4.2 – 3 found on Page 23 of the Final **Valley Center Area Municipal Service Review (MSR)**.

Recommendation 4.2-3 states:

“Future opportunities to share and /or consolidate resources of the Valley Center FPD and the County of San Diego merit continued attention going forward. Exploring these future opportunities is consistent with the San Diego LAFCO’s standing policy objective to facilitate the orderly extension of the County Fire Authority in unincorporated San Diego County based upon timing with community preferences.”

While the **Unincorporated Community of Valley Center** appreciates the broader views and goals of LAFCO with respect to the County Fire Authority, it also very much values and appreciate the fire protection and emergency medical services provided by the locally based and controlled Valley Center Fire Protection District (VCFPD).

Formed in 1982, VCFPD evolved through several management/agency oversight iterations until it became a “stand-alone” agency in January of 2015. Today, the VCFPD cost effectively provides fire and contract paramedic service to an area of just over 84 square miles, covering 54,000+ acres with a population of over 21,000 citizens. Valley Center’s citizens are currently served out of two stations with a staff of 54 uniformed personnel with planning underway for a third station. VCFPD also has expanded its effectiveness by establishing automatic aid agreements with surrounding municipal and Tribal fire agencies.

In 2019, VCFPD personnel responded to 2100 incidents, ranging from structure fires, to traffic accidents, medical aids to several other incident types.

While the County Fire Authority has certainly provided improved levels of services in other portions of the county, it is hard to imagine how VCFPD sharing or consolidating resources could improve services and benefits which have been and are currently provided to Valley Center. Beyond the day to day fire and emergency medical response, VCFPD Board and staff led by Chief Joe Napier are an integral and involved part of the community, leading efforts to increase the dissemination of fire safety and prevention information through the schools, community groups and interactive public events. Moreover, the VCFPD is governed by locally elected Board Members and the community knows that all monies collected by the District are spent on the services fire protection and emergency medical services for people in Valley Center.

At the end of Recommendation 4.2-3, it states the future opportunities for sharing resources and consolidation with the County Fire Authority should be “**based upon timing with community preferences.**” It is clear that for now and the foreseeable future, Valley Center prefers to have its fire and emergency medical services provided by the **Valley Center Fire Protection District.**

Sincerely;

The Following VC-3 Members Supported Submission of this letter:

Valley Center Cemetery District

Valley Center Community Services District

Valley Center Municipal Water District

Valley Center Fire Protection District

Valley Center Coordination Counsel (VC-3) in an informal consortium of Special Districts, including Valley Center Fire, Community Services, Cemetery, Valley Center-Pauma Unified School and Valley Center Municipal Water, along with County and State law enforcement and the local Planning Group which meets on a quarterly basis to share information, coordinate activities among the various participating entities and discuss issues of importance to the Valley Center Community.

From: Joe Napier
To: [Simonds,Keene](#)
Cc: [Heckenkamp, Linda](#); [Phil Bell](#)
Subject: Re: Final VCFPD MSR Comments
Date: Thursday, February 27, 2020 2:24:13 PM

Thank you Keene,

We understand and agree that it is the commission's call however, we want to assure commission understands that the current MSR draft recommendations reflect "merit" . If we are using a "macro" executive summary from the early 2000's, there is no way to equate a clear understanding of the "merit" of consolidation comparing today's operational cost and the impact of the cost of a PERS Retirement System obligation. Until the Micro and Macro executive summaries are updated, there is no relevant measurable merit to consolidation. Through new and modern automatic and mutual aid agreements, the VCFPD and San Diego County Fire Authority are adequately sharing resources since the last MSR and micro and macro executive summaries. Lastly, we believe LAFCO's interests should reflect its objective mission to make new, relevant studies to furnish information to help shape and develop our local agency to provide for the present and future needs of our community.

Please forward to the commission for further consideration and Linda make a note for her presentation.

Sincerely with respect,

Joe

On Thu, Feb 27, 2020 at 1:05 PM Simonds,Keene <Keene.Simonds@sdcountry.ca.gov> wrote:

Hi Joe –

Thank you for the email.

The referenced determination was included in the draft MSR and reflects SD LAFCO's interest to encourage continued connectivity of fire services in the unincorporated area through – but not exclusively – the County Fire Authority. It does not presume any particular outcome other than lines of communication remaining open with respect to opportunities to share and/or consolidate resources and in doing so stay consistent with our earlier recommendations in the “macro” study on fire services in the early 2000s. We would (will) make the same statement for North County Fire, San Miguel, etc.

Ultimately it is the Commission's call to keep or remove any of the determinations. If you like, we can transmit a copy of your email below to the Commission and Linda can make note of it during the presentation. You can also address the item in more detail during the hearing. This work? Thx, Keene.

From: Joe Napier <napier@vcfpd.org>
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 12:45 PM
To: Simonds,Keene <Keene.Simonds@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Heckenkamp, Linda <Linda.Heckenkamp@sdcounty.ca.gov>; Phil Bell <pbell@vcfpd.org>
Subject: Final VCFPD MSR Comments

Linda and Keene,

The Valley Center Fire Protection District Board of Directors and I do not agree with this statement in the Final MSR given the improvement of services and deployment of emergency resources provided to our community since the last MSR.

"Opportunities to share and/or consolidate resources between Valley Center FPD and the County of San Diego merit continued attention. Exploring these opportunities is consistent with San Diego LAFCO's standing policy objective to facilitate the orderly extension of the County Fire Authority and its role to organize and provide fire protection services in unincorporated San Diego County."

Please remove it as it does not reflect public sentiment or any quantifiable measurement provided by San Diego LAFCO that the County Fire Authority can provide equal or better service to the Valley Center community for the same revenue during this Municipal Review Period.

"Among the purposes of the commission are discouraging urban sprawl, preserving open space and prime agricultural lands, efficiently providing governmental services, and encouraging the orderly formation and development of local agencies based upon

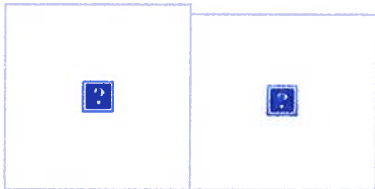
local conditions. One of the objects of the commission is to make studies and furnish information to contribute to the logical and reasonable development of local agencies in each county and to shape the development of local agencies so as to advantageously provide for the present and future needs of each county and its communities."

The above was taken directly from the San Diego LAFCO website which gives the background and purpose of the commission supporting local government.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joe

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Joe Napier

Fire Chief, Valley Center Fire Protection District

28234 Lilac Road

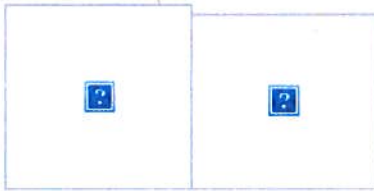
Valley Center, CA 92082

napier@vcfpd.org

760-751-7600 office

760-535-8505 cell

760-749-3892 FAX



Joe Napier
Fire Chief, Valley Center Fire Protection District
28234 Lilac Road
Valley Center, CA 92082
napier@vcfpd.org
760-751-7600 office
760-535-8505 cell
760-749-3892 FAX