



**Sonoma County Fire District Board of Directors
Special Board Meeting Agenda
Monday January 10, 2022 3:00PM
Location: Fire Station 1 - 8200 Old Redwood Hwy. Windsor**

This meeting is being conducted via videoconference in compliance with AB 361, effective September 16, 2021
This meeting will be held via teleconference (information below)

1-301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 861 0689 6777
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86106896777>

Thank you for supporting our COVID-19 precautions

The Board meeting agenda and all supporting documents are available for public review at 8200 Old Redwood Highway, Windsor, CA, 24 hours in advance of a scheduled board meeting. Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Board after distribution of the agenda packet, and not otherwise exempt from disclosure, will be made available for public inspection at the District Office at 8200 Old Redwood Hwy, Windsor, during normal business hours and on the website at www.sonomacountyfd.org. Copies of supplemental materials distributed at the Board meeting will be available for public inspection at the meeting location.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, anyone needing special assistance to participate in this meeting should contact District Executive Assistant Kathy Washington at the District Office at 707-838-1170. Notification 48-hours before the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

President Klick		
Vice President Tognozzi	Secretary/Treasurer Weaver	Director Treanor
Director So	Director Hamann	Director Briare

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF VIDEOCONFERENCE OPTION UNDER AB 361

Board will consider approval of findings that there remains a State proclaimed COVID-19 health emergency and local official continue to impose or recommend measure to promote social distancing.

OPEN TIME FOR PUBLIC EXPRESSION

(Three-minute time limit)

This is an opportunity for any member of the public to briefly address the District Board on any matter that does not appear on this agenda. Items that appear to warrant a lengthier presentation or Board consideration may be placed on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting.

AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

An opportunity for the Board President to approve adjustments to the current agenda.



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DIRECTOR REPORTS

An opportunity for Directors to report on their individual activities related to District business.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Heine will report on District administration and operations.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION BETWEEN THE SONOMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT AND THE COUNTY OF SONOMA FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF TERRITORY LOCATED WITHIN COUNTY SERVICE AREA NO. 40**

The Board will consider approving property tax allocation agreement between the Sonoma County Fire District and the County of Sonoma for the reorganization of territory located within County Service Area No. 40.

2. **GLOBAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SONOMA, SONOMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT, NORTHERN SONOMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, AND KENWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT CONFIRMING THEIR COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO CONSOLIDATING THE NUMBER OF FIRE DISTRICTS WITHIN SONOMA COUNTY AND ENTERING INTO A COVENANT NOT TO SUE**

The Board will consider approving the global agreement between the County of Sonoma, Sonoma County Fire District, Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District, Gold Ridge Fire Protection District, and Kenwood Fire Protection District confirming their collective commitment to consolidation the number of fire districts within Sonoma County and entering into a covenant not to sue.

CLOSED SESSION

1. Anticipated Litigation (two cases) (Government Code Section 54956.9(b)).

ADJOURNMENT

**PROPERTY TAX ALLOCATION BETWEEN THE
SONOMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT
AND THE COUNTY OF SONOMA FOR THE REORGANIZATION OF TERRITORY
LOCATED WITHIN COUNTY SERVICE AREA NO. 40**

This Property Tax Allocation Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into and effective _____, 2022, between the Sonoma County Fire District (the "District"), a fire district organized and operated pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987, and the County of Sonoma (the "County"), a political subdivision of the State of California, with respect to the following Recitals, which are incorporated as a substantive part of this Agreement.

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of District and the County Board of Supervisors, (collectively referred to as "the Parties") desire to initiate proceedings pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, commencing with section 56000 of the California Government Code, with the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Sonoma ("Sonoma LAFCO") for the reorganization of Incident Response Plan (IRP) areas 51, 56, and non-Geysers area of IRP 61 (collectively referred to as the "Subject Territory"), which are all located within County Service Area No. 40 (CSA-40), in portions of the unincorporated area of the County and which boundaries are reflected and included in Exhibit "A", and

WHEREAS, the Parties provide fire suppression, prevention, rescue, emergency medical services and hazardous material emergency response and other services relating to the protection of lives and property ("Fire Protection Services"), and

WHEREAS, Fire Protection Services for the Subject Territory which is located within CSA-40 are a part of the services provided under the authority of the Board of Supervisors; and,

WHEREAS, a portion of property tax revenues allocated by law in CSA-40 for fire protection has supported Fire Protection Services for the Subject Territory, and

WHEREAS, the Parties agree to approve and adopt a Concurrent Resolution, jointly requesting Sonoma LAFCO to approve the proposed reorganization and annexation of the Subject Territory within 60 days after the execution of this Agreement, and

WHEREAS, District will submit its "Application for Reorganization and Annexation with the Sonoma County Fire District" to Sonoma LAFCO within 120 days of the Sonoma LAFCO completion of a Municipal Services Review and adoption of a Sphere of Influence Amendment, and

WHEREAS, should the reorganization and annexation be approved, District and County are desirous of facilitating successful Fire Protection Services in the Subject Territory, by entering into this Agreement relating to the real property tax revenue derived from the Subject Territory now allocated for fire protection in CSA-40, and

WHEREAS, this Agreement is intended to specifically implement the proposed reorganization and annexation for the Subject Territory only.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

1. Effect of Recitals. The foregoing Recitals are incorporated into and are a part of this Agreement.

2. Definitions. For purposes of this Agreement, except as otherwise provided or unless the context otherwise requires:

(a) "Reorganization" means the detachment of IRP areas 51, 56, and non-Geysers area of IRP 61 from CSA-40, and annexation of the territory in the detached area to the District.

(b) "ACTTC" means the Sonoma County Auditor-Controller Treasurer-Tax Collector.

(c) "Property Tax Assessed Values" means the taxable assessed values including homeowner's exemptions and excluding Aircraft as presented in the State Board of Equalization Final Utility Roll and the County Assessor's Certified Roll.

(d) "Effective Date" means the date of recordation of the LAFCO Executive Officer's Certificate of Completion for the Subject Territory Reorganization.

(e) "Subject Territory" means the IRP areas of 51, 56, and non-Geysers area of IRP 61 located within CSA-40.

3. Allocation and Payment of Property Taxes. As soon as permitted by state law after the Effective Date, including, but not limited to Government Code Section 54900 et. seq. and Government Code Section 57204, the property tax revenues of the Subject Territory currently allocated to CSA-40 for Fire Protection Services shall be permanently reallocated and transferred to District, subject to the following:

(a) The parties agree that the ACTTC shall make any adjustments to the gross allocations of property tax revenue to Subject Territory and the District as required by all applicable state law, which may cause the amount of the property tax revenue to be allocated to District to be different from that previously allocated to CSA-40. These adjustments include, but are not limited to, applicable Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund calculations or allocations, or any changes to withholdings the ACTTC may apply to property tax administration or property tax appeals. The ERAF shift computation will be based on the original ERAF factor(s) for fire services in the Subject Territory prior to the creation of CSA-40. Once the annexation is enrolled in the AB 8 allocation, the ERAF shift will be adjusted by the District's annual AB 8 allocation growth factor in accordance with Revenue and Taxation Code Section 97.4(a). Property tax allocations to the District will be processed in December and April based on actual collections to-date. In July, a fiscal year true-up allocation will be processed to include any subsequent collections and the Teeter buyout of delinquent secured

taxes. For Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21, the Subject Territory generated \$54,641 in current year secured property taxes for fire services.

(b) [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED.]

(c) [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED.]

(d) The Parties acknowledge and agree that any fixed assets of the annexed territory shall remain with the annexed territory and not revert back to the County.

4. Transfer of Property Taxes in Interim Period. The ACTTC shall allocate to the District the prorated property tax revenues of the Subject Territory currently allocated to CSA-40 as set forth in Section 3(a) for the period between the Effective Date and the date the District first receives a direct allocation of property taxes from the Subject Territory in accordance with state law.

5. Annual Revenue Sharing Payment. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED]

6. Local Debt Limit. Should a court determine that the payments under Sections 3 or 4 constitute County-issued debt made in violation of California Constitution Article XVI, section 18, then the Parties agree that such payments are made in satisfaction of their obligations under Revenue and Taxation Code Section 99. The payments will remain as annual lump sum payments made separately from the ACTTC's AB 8 allocation process.

7. Accounting. The designated representatives of County and District shall have the right to audit any records and supporting documentation pertaining to the performance of this Agreement. County and District shall maintain such records for a minimum of four (4) years from the Effective Date and to allow access to such records during normal business hours.

8. Termination.

(a) District Reorganization. This Agreement is contingent upon the final Reorganization. In the event the Parties do not submit a Concurrent Resolution jointly requesting Sonoma LAFCO to approve the proposed reorganization and annexation of the Subject Territory and District within 60 days following the execution of this Agreement, or the Application for Reorganization and Annexation with the District is denied by Sonoma LAFCO, or the Application for Reorganization does not occur within 120 days following the Sonoma LAFCO completion of a Municipal Services Review and adoption of a Sphere of Influence Amendment, the Parties agree that this Agreement shall be null and void and no transfers of revenues will occur without a new agreement to do so.

(b) Termination Due to Invalidity. Should any material portion of this Agreement be declared invalid or inoperative by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the Agreement shall remain in full force and effect, unless enforcement of this Agreement, as so invalidated, would be unreasonable or inequitable under all the circumstances or would frustrate the purposes of this Agreement and/or the rights and obligations of the Parties hereto.

(c) Termination Due to Change in Law. Should substantial changes occur in the statutory scheme or successor statutory schemes (whether by legislative or judicial action) governing this

Agreement, including but not limited to the Government Code and Revenue and Taxation Code, which negate or frustrate the fundamental tenets of this Agreement, the parties may discuss a termination or amendment of this Agreement.

(d) Termination of Enhanced Services Payment. [INTENTIONALLY OMITTED.]

9. Remedies for Breach of Agreement. The parties may exercise any remedy available to them at law or in equity for a material breach by the other party, including specific performance, injunctive relief, and writ of mandate.

10. Modification/Amendment. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by a writing duly authorized and executed by the parties to this Agreement. Except as expressly provided by this Agreement, none of the revenue provisions set forth in this Agreement may be modified except by a subsequent written instrument signed by all Parties hereto, or their respective successors in interest, and approved by formal action of Sonoma LAFCO.

11. Enforcement. District and County each acknowledge that this Agreement cannot bind or limit themselves or each other or their future governing bodies in the exercise of their discretionary legislative power except as the Agreement provides. However, each binds itself that it will insofar as is legally possible, fully carry out the intent and purposes hereof, if necessary, by administrative and ministerial action independent of that legislative power and that this Agreement may be enforced by injunction or mandate or other writ to the full extent allowed by law.

12. Integration. With respect to the subject matter hereof, this Agreement is intended to be an integrated agreement and supersedes any and all previous negotiations, proposals, commitments, writings and understandings of any nature whatsoever between the District and the County as to the subject matter of this Agreement.

13. Notice. All notices, requests, determinations or other correspondence required or allowed by law or this Agreement to be provided by the parties shall be in writing and shall be deemed given and received when delivered to the recipient by first-class mail (or an equal or better form of delivery including electronic mail) at the following addresses:

DISTRICT

Sonoma County Fire District
8200 Old Redwood Highway
Windsor, CA 95492

COUNTY

County of Sonoma
County Administrator's Office
575 Administration Drive, Suite 104A
Santa Rosa, Ca 95403

By giving notice, either party may change its address for these purposes.

14. Third Parties. This Agreement shall not be construed as or deemed an agreement for the benefit of any third party or parties. No other person shall have any right of action based upon any provision of this Agreement.

15. Attorney's Fees and Costs. In any action to enforce the provisions of this Agreement or for breach of the Agreement, the prevailing party shall recover from the other party, in addition to any damages, injunctive or other relief, all costs reasonably incurred at, before and after trial or on appeal, including without limitation attorneys' and witness (expert and otherwise) fees, deposition costs, copying charges and other expenses.

16. Approval. The parties represent that this Agreement was approved by their respective governing boards at a properly noticed meeting.

17. Choice of Law and Venue. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of California. Venue for actions and proceedings between the parties related to this Agreement shall be in the Northern District of California for any federal action and, unless otherwise agreed by the parties, in Sonoma County Superior Court for state actions.

18. Agreement Mutually Drafted. Each party has participated jointly in the drafting of this Agreement, which each party acknowledges is the result of negotiations between the parties, and the language used in this Agreement shall be deemed to be the language chosen by the parties to express their mutual intent. If an ambiguity or question of intent or interpretation arises, then this Agreement will accordingly be construed as drafted jointly by the parties, and no presumption or burden of proof will arise favoring or disfavoring any party to this Agreement by virtue of the authorship of any of the provisions of this Agreement. The captions, headings and table of contents contained in this Agreement are for reference purposes only and shall not affect in any way the meaning or interpretation of this Agreement.

19. Joint Defense. In the event of a third party challenge of any type to this Agreement, the Parties agree to jointly defend the validity and implementation of the Agreement.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into this Agreement in Sonoma County, California.

SONOMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT:

President, Board of Directors

Date

COUNTY OF SONOMA:

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Date

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

APPROVED AS TO FORM

General Counsel for Districts Date

Deputy County Counsel for COUNTY Date

Exhibit A
(Map of the Subject Territory to be added upon the Effective Date)

**GLOBAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF SONOMA,
SONOMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT, NORTHERN SONOMA COUNTY
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT, AND KENWOOD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
CONFIRMING THEIR COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO
CONSOLIDATING THE NUMBER OF FIRE DISTRICTS WITHIN
SONOMA COUNTY AND ENTERING INTO A COVENANT NOT TO SUE**

This Global Agreement (“Agreement”) is entered into and effective this ___ day of _____ 2022 (the “Effective Date”), by and between the County of Sonoma, a political subdivision of the State of California (“County”), and the Sonoma County Fire District, a fire district organized and operated pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (California Health and Safety Code Section 13800 *et seq.*) (“SCFD”), the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District, a fire district organized and operated pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (“NSCFPD”), the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District, a fire district organized and operated pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (“Gold Ridge”), and the Kenwood Fire Protection District, a fire district organized and operated pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (“Kenwood”). SCFD, NSCFPD, Gold Ridge, and Kenwood are sometimes collectively referred to herein as the “Partners.”

RECITALS

WHEREAS, over the past five years, Sonoma County has been ravaged by an unprecedented series of destructive wildfires which burned more than 277,000 acres of land and destroyed more than 8,250 structures; and

WHEREAS, these catastrophic wildfires have strained the resources of all fire districts and emergency responders throughout Sonoma County and have highlighted the need for consolidation of many of the smaller districts to more effectively and efficiently provide sustainable fire protection services countywide; and

WHEREAS, climate change and a prolonged drought are only expected to exacerbate the wildfires in Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 2018, the County Board of Supervisors (“Board”) directed its Fire Ad Hoc Committee to work on the implementation of the Fire Services Deployment Plan in order to improve Fire Protection Services in Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, County is working with the Partners to resolve various fiscal issues and facilitate the consolidation of the smaller districts and volunteer fire companies into larger fire districts to provide for more efficient, effective, and sustainable fire services for the Sonoma County and its residents; and

WHEREAS, each of the Partners is the primary provider of fire suppression, prevention, rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous material emergency response, and other services relating to the protection of lives and property (“Fire Protection Services”) within their respective jurisdictional territories in Sonoma County; and

WHEREAS, each of the Partners has agreed to annex various smaller fire districts and/or fire protection areas within Sonoma County in exchange for financial assistance from the County, as more fully described hereinafter; and

WHEREAS, the County is willing to invest supplemental funds in order to encourage the reduction in the number of fire agencies within the County with the purpose of improving efficiency and effectiveness and to address equity issues related to the funding of various fire agencies; and

WHEREAS, the County and the Partners agree that a global solution is necessary to ensure the continued viability of the newly consolidated fire districts; and

WHEREAS, the County and the Partners acknowledge and agree that it is their collective intent to affirm their respective commitment to the global solution described herein and to ensure the success of said global solution by entering into this covenant not to sue.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto agree as follows:

AGREEMENT

1. Effect of Recitals. The foregoing Recitals are incorporated into and form a material part of this Agreement.

2. Term. The term of this Agreement shall commence upon the Effective Date and shall continue in full force and effect for a period of ten (10) years.

3. Fire Consolidation Agreements. The Partners respectively acknowledge and agree that each is entering into agreements with the County to facilitate consolidations with smaller fire districts, as more fully described in this Section 3. The agreements identified in this Section 3 shall be collectively referred to as “the Fire Consolidation Agreements.”

3.1 SCFD. SCFD is entering into the following agreements:

- a. That certain “Revenue Sharing Agreement Between The Sonoma County Fire District and the County of Sonoma for the Reorganization of Sonoma County Fire District” to facilitate the annexation of Bodega Bay Fire Protection District by SCFD; and
- b. That certain “Property Tax Allocation Between the Sonoma County Fire District and the County of Sonoma for the Reorganization of Territory Located Within County Service Area No. 40” to facilitate the annexation of Incident Response Plan (“IRP”) areas 51, 56, and non-Geysers area of IRP 61 by SCFD.

3.2 NSCFPD. NSCFPD is entering into that certain “Property Tax Allocation Between the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District and the County of Sonoma for the Reorganization of Fire Districts in the Northern Portion of Sonoma County” to facilitate the annexation of IRP areas Geysers area of IRP 61 and 63 and the area serviced by Dry Creek/Sotoyome area (Fire Services area 64) by NSCFPD.

3.3 Gold Ridge. Gold Ridge is entering into that certain “Property Tax Allocation and Revenue Sharing Agreement Between the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District and the County Of Sonoma for the Reorganization Of Territory Located Within County Service Area No. 40” to facilitate the annexation of IRP area 81 and the areas service by the Volunteer Fire Companies of Ft. Ross, Camp Meeker, Bloomfield, Bodega, Valley Ford, Two Rock, San Antonio, Wilmar, and Lakeville.

3.4 Kenwood. Kenwood is entering into that certain “Revenue Sharing and Budget Stabilization Agreement Between the Kenwood Fire Protection District and the County of Sonoma” to stabilize Kenwood’s budget and to encourage consolidation with an adjacent fire protection district.

Additional Consideration: As additional consideration for the covenant not to sue contained hereinafter, the County agrees, on behalf of the Partners, to pay for all LAFCO application fees and mapping costs associated with the reorganizations through LAFCO contemplated by the agreements described in Section 3 of this Agreement. Prior to incurring any costs or fees, each Partner agency must obtain the County’s written approval of the costs and/or fees.

5. Commitment to Global Solution; Release, Waiver, and Covenant Not to Sue. The County and the Partners acknowledge the need to more effectively and efficiently provide sustainable Fire Protection Services through Sonoma County and have collectively negotiated a global solution to achieve that goal, including agreements and supplemental funding from the County to resolve various fiscal issues and facilitate the consolidation of the smaller districts and volunteer fire companies into larger fire districts. The County and the Partners further agree that a global solution is necessary to ensure the continued viability of the newly consolidated fire districts. To ensure that the viability of the consolidations implemented by the Fire Consolidation Agreements described in Section 3, the County and the Partners desire to enter this covenant not to sue in order to waive their respective rights to file a legal challenge to any of financial provisions of the respective Fire Consolidation Agreements, including, without limitation: the tax exchange provisions, any associated Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) shift, the base supplemental revenue payment amount as provided for in each respective fire consolidation agreement, and the acknowledgment that the CPI adjustment is the only growth factor for the applicable supplemental revenue payment , (collectively, the “Financial Provisions”). Accordingly, the County and the Partners do hereby completely release, waive and forever discharge one another, their predecessors and successors-in-interest, heirs, assigns, past, present, and future, elected and appointed officials, employees, staff, principals, agents, officers or directors, managers, attorneys, insurers and all other persons or entities in any manner related thereto or acting on their behalf, from any and all claims, demands, actions, proceedings and causes of action of any and every sort, whether known or unknown, arising out of or relating to the Financial Provisions. The County and the Partners further covenant not to sue one another for claims, damages or other relief arising from or in any manner connected with the financial provisions, and promise and agree that they will not file, participate in, or instigate the filing of any claims and/or causes of action in any state or federal court or any proceedings before any local, state, or federal agency, against the other arising out of the Financial Provisions. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing in this covenant not to sue shall be construed to prohibit the County or the Partners from suing to enforce the underlying Fire Consolidation Agreements described in Section 3 in the event of a breach by one of the parties to the applicable agreement.

5.1 Release and Waiver of Unknown Claims. The County and the Partners intend this Release and Waiver of Claims to be and constitute a full general release and to constitute a full and final accord and satisfaction extending to all claims arising out of or relating to the Financial Provisions, whether the same are known, unknown, suspected or anticipated, unsuspected or unanticipated. Accordingly, the County and the Partners, by initialing below and signing this Agreement, certify that they have read, understand and expressly release and waive the provisions of California Civil Code section 1542, which reads as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.

The County and the Partners understand and acknowledge that the significance and consequence of this release and waiver of California Civil Code Section 1542 is that even if the Parties should eventually suffer additional damages or losses arising out of or relating to the Financial Provisions, or should there exist other undisclosed obligations or liabilities arising out of or relating to the Financial Provisions, the Parties may not make any claim for those damages, losses or obligations.

County: _____ SCFD: _____ NSCFPD: _____ Gold Ridge: _____ Kenwood: _____

5.2 No Filings. The parties represent that none have filed any lawsuit, claim, charge, or complaint against any of the others with any local, state, or federal agency or court related to the Financial Provisions.

5.3 Legal Advice on Waiver and Release. Each party warrants and represents that prior to executing this Agreement, said party has relied upon the advice of legal counsel of said party's choice with respect to the substance of the waiver and release of claims embodied in this Section 4. The Waiver and Release of Claims set forth in this Section 4, its text and other consequences and risks have been completely explained to the parties by their respective counsel and the parties warrant and represent that they understand and accept the terms of this Agreement and intend, by their initials below and their signatures on this Agreement, to enter into and be bound hereby.

County: _____ SCFD: _____ NSCFPD: _____ Gold Ridge: _____ Kenwood: _____

6. General Provisions.

6.1 Notices. All notices, consents, requests, demands, or other communications to or upon the respective Parties shall be in writing and shall be effective for all purposes: (A) upon receipt on any District business day before 5:00 PM local time and on the next District business day if received after 5:00 PM or on other than a District business day, including without limitation, in the case of (i) personal delivery or (ii) delivery by messenger, express or air courier or similar courier, or (B) three (3) business days after being duly mailed to the principal offices of the intended party via certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, all addressed as follows:

If to County: County of Sonoma
Attention: County Administrator's Office
575 Administration Drive, Room 104-A
Santa Rosa, California 95403

If to SCFD: Sonoma County Fire District
8200 Old Redwood Highway
Windsor, California 95492

If to NSCFD: Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District
20975 Geyserville Avenue—P.O. Box 217
Geyserville, California 95441

If to Gold Ridge: Gold Ridge Fire Protection District
4500 Hessel Road
Sebastopol, California 95472

If to Kenwood: Kenwood Fire Protection District
9045 Sonoma Highway
Kenwood, California 95452

Any party may change its address by providing five (5) business days' prior written notice to the other parties in the manner set forth above.

6.2 Authority to Enter into Agreement. By executing this Agreement, the signatory for each party hereto warrants and represents that he/she has the authority and/or has obtained all necessary approvals to enter into this Agreement on behalf of and bind the party on whose behalf he/she has executed this Agreement.

6.3 Other Necessary Acts. Each party shall execute and deliver to the other all such other further instruments and documents as may be reasonably necessary to carry out this Agreement and to provide and secure to the other parties the full and complete enjoyment of their respective rights and privileges under this Agreement.

6.4 Modification or Amendment of Agreement. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by a written instrument duly authorized and executed by all parties to this Agreement.

6.5 Waiver of Provisions. No waiver of any provision of this Agreement shall be effective unless in writing and signed by a duly authorized representative of the party against whom enforcement of a waiver is sought. No waiver of any right or remedy in respect of any occurrence or event shall be deemed a waiver of any right of remedy in respect of any other occurrence or event.

6.6 No Third Party Beneficiaries. This Agreement shall not be construed as or deemed an agreement for the benefit of any third party or parties. No other person shall have any right of action based upon any provision of this Agreement.

6.7 Successors. This Agreement shall be binding upon, and inures to the benefit of the County, the Partners, and their respective successors and assigns

6.8 Headings. Headings at the beginning of each paragraph and subparagraph are solely for the convenience of the parties and are not a part of the Agreement. Whenever required by the context of this Agreement, the singular shall include the plural and the masculine shall include the feminine and vice versa. Unless otherwise indicated, all references to paragraphs, sections, subparagraphs and subsections are to this Agreement.

6.9 Advice of Legal Counsel. Each party represents and warrants to the other the following: they have carefully read this Agreement, including the waiver and release embodied in Article 5, and in signing this Agreement, they do so with full knowledge of any right which they may have; they have received independent legal advice from their respective legal counsel as to the matters set forth in this Agreement, or have knowingly chosen not to consult legal counsel as to the matters set forth in this Agreement; and, they have freely signed this Agreement without any reliance upon any agreement, promise, statement or representation by or on behalf of the other party, or their respective agents, employees, or attorneys, except as specifically set forth in this Agreement, and without duress or coercion, whether economic or otherwise.

6.10 No Inducement. With the exception of the agreements described in Section 3 of this Agreement, the parties acknowledge, warrant and represent that no promises, inducements or agreements not expressly contained herein have been made to enter into this Agreement and that this Agreement, including the Waiver and Release of Claims herein, constitute the entire agreement between the parties, are contractual and binding and are not merely recitals.

6.11 Attorneys' Fees and Costs. In any action to enforce the provisions of this Agreement or for breach of the Agreement, the prevailing party shall recover from the other party (or parties), in addition to any damages, injunctive or other relief its reasonable attorney's fees, and costs, as determined by a court of competent jurisdiction.

6.12 Severability. If any term, provision, condition or covenant of this Agreement or its application to any party or circumstances shall be held, to any extent, invalid or unenforceable, the remainder of this Agreement, or the application of the term, provision, condition, or covenant to persons or circumstances other than those as to whom or which it is held invalid or unenforceable, shall not be affected, and shall be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

6.13 Counterparts. This Agreement may be executed in any number of identical counterparts and each counterpart shall be deemed to be an original document. All executed counterparts together shall constitute one and the same document, and any counterpart signature pages may be detached and assembled to form a single original document. This Agreement may be executed by signatures transmitted by facsimile, adobe acrobat or other electronic image files and these signatures shall be valid, binding and admissible as though they were ink originals.

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[SIGNATURES BEGIN ON NEXT PAGE]

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have entered into this Agreement in Sonoma County, California.

COUNTY OF SONOMA:

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Date

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR COUNTY:

Robert H. Pittman, County Counsel Date

SONOMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT:

President, Board of Directors

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR SCFD:

District Counsel, SCFD Date

**NORTHERN SONOMA COUNTY
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT:**

President, Board of Directors

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR NSCFPD:

Special Counsel, NSCFPD Date

**GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT:**

President, Board of Directors

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR GOLD
RIDGE:

District Counsel, Gold Ridge FPD Date

**KENWOOD FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT:**

President, Board of Directors

Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM FOR
KENWOOD:

District Counsel, Kenwood FPD Date