



# Strategy Leadership Group

*Fire Service Unification  
Planning for a Sustainable Future*

# Supervisors' Fire Project Mandate



**Efficient**

**Effective**

**Sustainable**

# Board of Supervisors' Priorities

Priorities established on August 14, 2018:

- ▶ Ensure the viability of the County's Volunteer Fire Companies (VFCs)
- ▶ Maintain existing staffing levels
- ▶ Develop and implement an apparatus replacement plan

# Ensure Viability of Volunteer Fire Companies

Wilmar  
Two Rock  
Bodega  
San Antonio  
Ft. Ross  
Mayacamas

Mountain  
Knights Valley  
Camp Meeker  
Valley Ford  
Lakeville



- Administration
- Financial Mgmt
- Logistics Support
- Safety
- Volunteer Coordinator

# Proactive Solutioners

## North Bay Fire

- VFCs acting as one
- Cohesive Leadership
- Willing to adapt

## Gold Ridge

- Contracted to provide supervision and volunteer coordination

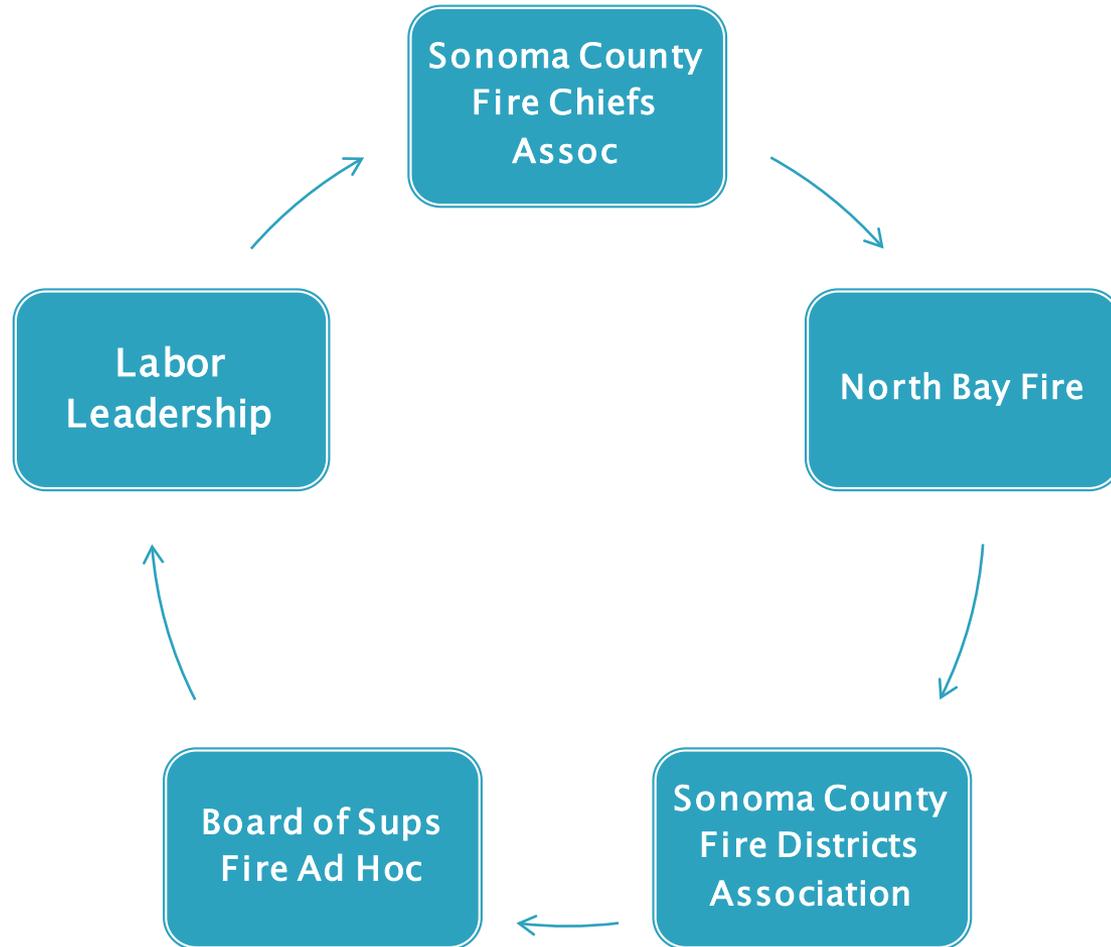
# January 29<sup>th</sup> Action Steps

- Directed staff to coordinate with SLG and stakeholders to provide recommendations for potential tax measure
- Accepted SLG's recommendation to analyze feasibility of consolidating into a single Fire Protection District
- Provided \$1.6m to support the consolidation and development of the Sonoma County Fire District

# Forging a Stronger Agreement

- Revisiting the funding allocations
- Considering a range of alternative proposals for VFC support
- Compromising and crafting a more acceptable set of recommended actions
- Laying the foundation for enhanced collaboration going forward

# Stakeholder Collaboration



# North Bay Fire Plan

- ▶ Reflects support of Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association, Fire Districts Association, North Bay Fire, and labor.
- ▶ Meets immediate administrative, operational, logistical, and financial management needs for CSA40 VFCs
- ▶ Two year term allows for study of consolidation/annexation of VFCs
- ▶ Transitional approach allows for dissolution of County Fire and Emergency Services

# 3 Essential Elements for Success

- ▶ Details of the plan succinctly outlined
- ▶ North Bay Fire's responsibilities clearly defined
- ▶ Alignment with a special district
  - Gold Ridge FPD contract for service

# North Bay Fire Plan Details

- ▶ Total annual contract for North Bay Fire=\$2,451,500
- ▶ Services start FY2018/2019 at a pro-rated amount upon execution
- ▶ Term extends through FY2020/2021
- ▶ North Bay Fire supports pursuit of consolidation
- ▶ CSA40 assets will be assigned to North Bay Fire with County retaining ownership under contract

# North Bay Fire Responsibilities

- ▶ \$1.1 million per year
  - Equipment, training, vehicle fuel and maintenance, rents, other VFC priorities
- ▶ \$400,000 per year
  - to Camp Meeker, Fort Ross, Knights Valley, and Mayacamas in support of consolidation efforts
- ▶ \$325,000 per year
  - to service Incident Response Areas (IRP) and Fitch Mountain
- ▶ \$18,850 per year
  - Camp Meeker debt service payments.

# Contract with Gold Ridge FPD

- ▶ North Bay Fire contracts with Gold Ridge FPD=\$650,000 per year
  - Shared Fire Chief
  - Shared Battalion Chiefs
  - Training
  - Volunteer coordination and logistics
  - Administrative and financial management

# Service Enhancements

- ▶ Stipend funding for Bodega, Lakeville, Wilmar
- ▶ CalFire Petaluma Amador Station
- ▶ Bodega Bay FPD additional Paramedic
- ▶ Enhanced 2 person staffing
  - Gold Ridge
  - Cloverdale
  - Geyserville

# Recommended Actions

- ▶ Two year agreement with North Bay Fire to provide VFC support.
- ▶ North Bay Fire to provide VFC stipends
- ▶ Continue CalFire Petaluma Amador Station
- ▶ Enhanced staffing:
  - Cloverdale FPD
  - Bodega Bay FPD
  - Geyserville FPD
  - Gold Ridge FPD
- ▶ Formation of Fire Service Unification Group

# Shared Vision and Collaboration

- ▶ All parties agree to undertake activities in support of the Supervisors' desire to achieve sustainable fire service reorganizations
- ▶ Ad Hoc and Strategy Leadership Group mutually agree to support the addition of one labor seat and one seat for Sonoma County Fire Districts Association to form a new Fire Service Unification Group
- ▶ First meeting of the newly expanded group with Ad Hoc to clarify direction and goals

# Next Steps

- ▶ Meeting of new group with Ad Hoc to clarify direction and goals:
  - Redefine reporting relationships and expectations
  - Engage stakeholders to build support of a sales tax measure to fund the Silver Plan
  - Develop a strategic plan for implementation of the Silver Plan providing significant enhancement of fire and EMS service across the County.

# Final Points

- ▶ Focus on a shared vision results in unification
- ▶ Renews our focus on a sales tax and Silver Plan
- ▶ Provides pathway for significant enhancements in the delivery of fire and emergency medical services
- ▶ Provides a pathway for further regionalization and consolidation

# Our Thanks

- ▶ Interim Director of Fire and Emergency Services Jim Colangelo
- ▶ Consultant to Fire and Emergency Services and the Strategy Leadership Group Taya Levine