

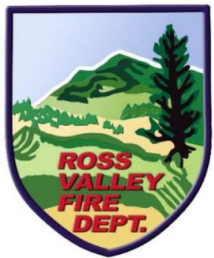
**LMS**

Local Motion Solutions

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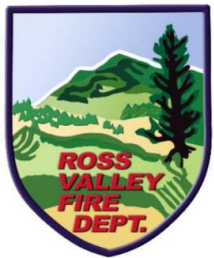
# **Ross Valley Fire Authority Future Governance Leadership Project Update – Listening Sessions**

**Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022**



# Overview of Options

- ▶ **District - Independent and Dependent, subsections of both**
  - ▶ **Independent District** – Financially and politically separate  
Tax transfer from towns to fire district – approximate to current cost.  
Towns would no longer be responsible for fire protection.  
District board could be elected at Large or Elected by Geographical Areas.  
Examples: Kentfield, Novato, Southern Marin
  
  - ▶ **Dependent District** – Financially separate – Politically subservient  
Tax transfer from towns to fire district – approximate to current cost.  
District board would be appointed by the individual agencies.  
Local Examples: Marin/Sonoma Mosquito, GG Bridge District, Marin County Open Space  
Fire examples: Contra Costa County Fire, Santa Clara County Fire, South Santa Clara County Fire..



# Overview of Options

## ▶ **JPA – Joint Powers Agreement, Joint Powers Agency, or Joint Powers Authority**

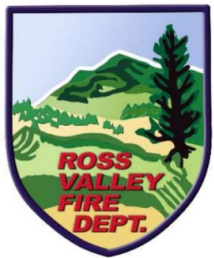
**Joint Powers agreement** – Two or more agencies sharing services.

Each agency maintains independence for provision of service.

Examples: Mill Valley/Southern Marin Fire, Central Marin/Kentfield Fire

**Joint Powers Agency or Authority** – Two or more agencies creating a legally separate agency to provide a service.

Examples: Ross Valley Fire, Central Marin Police.



# Overview of Options

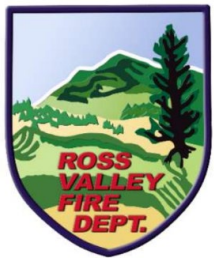
## ▶ **Contract for Service**

One agency paying another to provide a service or a portion of service.

Examples: RVFA/MCFD, Tiburon/Belvedere, San Rafael Marinwood.

## ▶ **Standalone model – Hire Chief and Management Team**

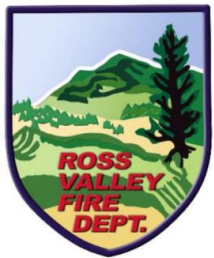
▶ Return to a standalone fire chief model. Fire chief would need support staff to manage the complexities of the agency. It's more than just hiring a Chief.



# Phase Two

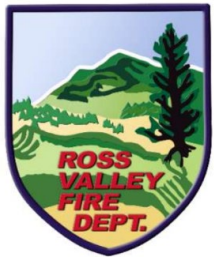
## Summary of Listening Sessions

- ▶ **Held over 30 listening sessions**
  - ▶ Including 17 elected officials
- ▶ **Feedback on current County agreement, Leadership, Operational and Financial**
  - ▶ Universally, Chief Weber is respected and seen as a great leader
  - ▶ Operationally, the agreement is working well
  - ▶ It's recognized that the Management Team is stretched thin
  - ▶ Perception of finances are positive. Better understanding of the mechanics would be helpful as discussion continues.
- ▶ **Overall support for the current model, but open to learning more about a District model**
  - ▶ More information is needed to understand the pros and cons and process.
  - ▶ The District model will take time, and there will need to be a bridge between the County's contract and a District if that's the option the Board selects.
- ▶ **Most like the idea of starting small within the existing RVFA footprint but are open to exploring the option of moving toward a valley-wide model.**
  - ▶ More information is needed but open to a Valley Wide District.



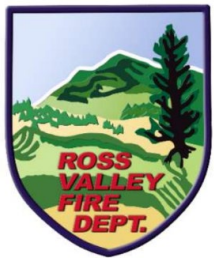
# Contract For Service Joint Powers Authority

- ▶ **Strong support to explore a contract for service with Central Marin Fire**
  - ▶ Value in keeping options open related to the short-range goals.
  - ▶ San Rafael and Kentfield options make sense based on proximity to the Ross Valley.
- ▶ **More information is needed to understand the benefits of expanding the JPA**
  - ▶ Central Marin or San Rafael would be good options to explore.
  - ▶ Need more information on how the governance structures would work.
  - ▶ Understanding the cost associated with this option is an essential factor in the decision process.
  - ▶ Confirming the “small town” culture is maintained.
  - ▶ Operational effectiveness cannot be compromised.
  - ▶ Discussion needed to understand how to expand the Board of Directors so there is equal representation while maintaining an effective Board.



# Standalone Fire Authority

- ▶ ***The Standalone model was the least favorite of the options.***
  - ▶ Explore option to hire a retired Chief to serve as bridge.
  - ▶ 2-year option if the Chief comes from a Marin agency.
  - ▶ This option will require additional personnel, such as a Deputy Chief, Fire Marshal, and Admin support. Some of which could be shared.



# Next Steps

- ▶ Complete Listening Sessions
- ▶ Meet with Finance Manager(s)
- ▶ Move Forward to Phase 3
  - In-depth description of potential options
  - Pros and cons of each option
  - High-level cost analysis
  - Identify service gaps and potential improvements
  - Identify potential fiscal or operational impacts
- ▶ Next Board meeting October 12
  - Potential workshop late October/early November



## Interviews as of Board Meeting 9/14/2022

<b>Town of Ross</b>	
Christa Johnson	Town Manager
Julie McMillan	Council Member
Beach Khul	Mayor
Elizabeth Brekhus	Mayor Pro Tem
Elizabeth Robbins	Council Member
William Kircher	Council Member
<b>Town of Fairfax</b>	
Heather Abrams	Town Manager
Stephanie Hellman	Mayor
Chance Cutrano	Vice Mayor
Barbara Coler	Council Member
Bruce Ackerman	Council Member
Renee Goddard	Council Member
<b>Town of San Anselmo</b>	
Dave Donery	Town Manager
Alexis Fineman	Mayor
Steve Burdo	Vice Mayor
Eileen Burke	Council Member
Ford Greene	Council Member
Brian Colbert	Council Member
<b>Sleepy Hollow FPD</b>	
Rich Shortall	Board President
Thomas Finn	Board Member

<b>Ross Valley Firefighter's Ass'n</b>	
Oscar Arenas	Union President
Sid Jamont	Past Union President
<b>Marin County Fire</b>	
Jason Weber	Fire Chief
Chris Martinelli	Deputy Fire Chief
<b>Ross Valley Fire</b>	
Dan Mahoney	Battalion Chief
Tim Glasser	Battalion Chief
Gavin Illingworth	Battalion Chief
<b>LAFCO</b>	
Jason Fried	Director
<b>Kentfield Fire</b>	
Chief Mark Pomi	Fire Chief
<b>Central Marin Fire</b>	
Chief Ruben Martin	Fire Chief
Dan Schwartz	City Manager - Larkspur
Adam Wolfe	Town Manager - Corte Madera
<b>Marin Professional Firefighters</b>	
John Bagala	Union President