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Nevada County
Local
Agency
Formation
Commission

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September 27, 2024

The Honorable S. Robert Tice-Raskin
Presiding Judge of the Nevada County Grand Jury
Nevada County Courthouse
201 Church Street
Nevada City, CA 95959

RE: Nevada LAFCo's Response to the 2023-2024 Nevada County Civil Grand Jury Report: "FIRE! – Challenges of a Small Rural Fire District"

Dear Judge Tice-Raskin:

As required by California Penal Code Section 933, Nevada County's Local Agency Formation Commission (Nevada LAFCo) hereby submits its response to the subject Grand Jury Report, dated June 7, 2024. The response was approved by the Commission on September 26, 2024.

On behalf of Nevada LAFCo, I would like to thank the 2023-2024 Grand Jury panel for their participation and effort in preparing their report, and for participating in the Grand Jury process.

Sincerely,



Josh Susman, Chair
Nevada LAFCo

Cc: Foreman, Grand Jury
SR Jones, Nevada LAFCo Executive Officer

NEVADA LAFCO RESPONSES TO
2023-2024 Nevada County Civil Grand Jury Report
“FIRE! – Challenges of a Small, Rural Fire District”
Report Release Date: June 7, 2024

This response to the Grand Jury’s Recommendation #5 was approved by Nevada LAFCo at their September 26, 2024, meeting.

Response to Recommendation #5:

R.5. *The Local Agency Formation Commission should conduct a thorough review of the issues this report presents and strongly consider consolidating Ophir Hill Fire Protection District with other districts by June 30, 2025.*

- **This recommendation has been implemented.**

Recommendation #5 suggests LAFCo conduct a thorough review of multiple issues outlined in the June 7, 2024, Grand Jury Report. The issues in the report are addressed in the most recent Municipal Services Review (MSR) conducted to analyze fire district operations – countywide – and therefore, includes the Ophir Hill Fire District.

The Public Review Draft of the MSR is available at:

<https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/54468/MSR-Public-Review-Draftseptember-2024>

Additionally, the Ophir Hill Fire District Board voted at its May 13, 2024 board meeting to engage with three other Nevada County fire districts in a reorganization effort which may result in a consolidation of Nevada County Consolidated Fire Protection District, Penn Valley Fire Protection District and the Rough & Ready Fire District.