

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Response to
El Dorado County 2018-2019 Grand Jury Final Report

#18-01: Moving Forward in
El Dorado County Fire Service Sustainability

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The Grand Jury has requested a response from the Board of Supervisors to all Findings and Recommendations. The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors is the only named respondent to this report.

FINDINGS

F1. Fire service sustainability is an issue confronting many rural counties in California.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

F2. AB 8 did not account for future fire district demographic changes. It also did not account for the additional financial burden of using salaried firefighters in lieu of volunteers in rural fire districts.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

F3. There are significant on-going discussions regarding County fire services sustainability encouraged by the County Board of Supervisors and LAFCO.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

F4. There is significant interest among elected County Fire Protection District Board members to address and identify solutions to fire services sustainability in the County.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

F5. Meaningful change to fire service sustainability in the County is challenging and will require continued and open dialog among fire professionals, elected fire board members, the Board of Supervisors and other County officials.

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1. The Board of Supervisors, in conjunction with LAFCO and elected fire protection district board members, should continue to explore options and models for County-wide fire service sustainability.

The recommendation has been implemented, and will continue to be implemented. The Chief Administrative Office and the Board of Supervisors ad hoc committee on fire and emergency medical services have met with fire district board members and chiefs to encourage exploration of options for sustainability. CAO staff is in communication with the districts and is available to assist with formulation of proposals for district reorganization or other ideas for long-term sustainability.

- R2. The Board of Supervisors should solicit assistance from the State to develop a solution to this issue.

The recommendation will be implemented within the next three months.

The County participates with the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Rural County Representatives of California (RCRC) in monitoring fire service and sustainability issues, and in advocating for fire services funding through the State Budget.

Within the coming weeks, County staff will bring a recommendation before the Board of Supervisors to approve sending a letter to State representatives, as well as CSAC and RCRC, requesting assistance with addressing the fire sustainability issue.