

Garden Valley Fire Protection District



P.O. Box 408, 4860 Marshall Rd. • Garden Valley, CA 95633 • Phone: (530) 333-1240 • Fax: (530) 333-2023
E-Mail: csavacool@gardenvalley.org Web: www.gardenvalley.org

February 24, 2020

El Dorado County Supervisors
El Dorado County Chief Administrative Office
330 Fair Lane
Placerville, California 95667

El Dorado County Supervisors/Chief Administrative Office:

The Garden Valley Fire Protection District is in the process of laying off personnel in an effort to achieve a fiscally sustainable budget. In addition to staffing reductions, the District is identifying other areas of savings through elimination of non-essential services.

One area that has been identified is the Paramedic program that the District currently provides to the communities of the Georgetown-Divide. With the employee salary stipends and the elimination of funding from the Service Area Seven JPA for supplies, Advanced Life Support (ALS) services are no longer financially feasible with a combined annual cost of \$44,162. Without external funding sources, Paramedic services may be eliminated.

Given the budgetary state of the District, the Board of Directors is requesting financial assistance from the County in the amount of \$25,351 for Fiscal-Year 2020/2021 to provide supplies associated with Advanced Life Support Services. A goal of financial independence for future budgets will be achieved through austerity based fiscal policies. However, to avoid interruption in services to the public, the Board is requesting financial assistance during this process.

Sincerely,

Francis Edwards
Board Chairman
Garden Valley Fire Protection District



Clive Savacool
Fire Chief
Garden Valley Fire Protection District

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The Garden Valley Fire Protection District is in the process of laying off personnel in an effort to achieve a fiscally sustainable budget. With the staffing reductions, levels of service to the community and adjacent communities will be impacted.

However, through a partnership with Cal FIRE the Garden Valley Fire Protection District is exploring options to fund the staffing of the State fire station located in Garden Valley. Through an "Amador-Plan" contract with Cal FIRE, Station 50 in Garden Valley can be staffed throughout the year and provide emergency services to the local communities. Additionally, due to the centralized location of Cal FIRE Station 50, an Amador-Plan contract would serve all of the citizens of the Divide.

Although our District is fortunate to have both a local Cal FIRE station and a history of collaborative working relationships with the State's fire agency, the District's FY20/21 budget does not allow for the potential cost of the Amador-Plan contract. The Amador-Plan model is based on local funding to provide coverage in non-fire season months of the year. With a minimum of five months of the year designated as fire season, seven months of coverage must be budgeted under the contract. However, the costs of the contract are reduced proportionately for each of the seven months that are covered by the State for fire season or other needs. Historically, Cal FIRE Station 50 has been staffed for the majority of the year, indicating a potentially reduced contract cost for an Amador-Plan.

Given the staffing challenges of emergency services for the Divide communities, the Garden Valley Fire Protection District Board of Directors is requesting the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors allocate the funds for a Cal FIRE Station 50 Amador-Plan contract for Fiscal Year 20/21. All communities and citizens of the Divide will benefit from this contract and given the historical staffing of Cal FIRE Station 50, the final costs of the contract may be minimal.

Respectfully,

Francis Edwards
Board Chairman
Garden Valley Fire Protection District



Clive Savacool
Fire Chief
Garden Valley Fire Protection District

CC:
Cal FIRE Amador/El Dorado Unit, Chief Scott Lindgren
El Dorado County Fire Protection District
Georgetown Fire Protection District
Mosquito Fire Protection District
El Dorado County Fire Safe Council