Siskiyou LAFCo Commissioners

To: Chair and Siskiyou LAFCo Members

From: Rachel Jereb, Executive Officers

Subject: LAF-20-01 – Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the South Yreka Fire Protection District

Introduction:

This proposal was initiated by request from the South Yreka Fire Protection District to expand the District’s Sphere of Influence to better reflect the area they already serve. The existing sphere is proposed to change from a coterminous sphere to an annexable sphere. State mandates require that a municipal service review and sphere of influence be conducted every five years, as needed. The previous update for the district was from April 2006.

Discussion:

The South Yreka Fire Protection District (SYRFPD) was formed pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1961, California Health and Safety Code §13801 et seq. to provide fire protection services to residents south of the City of Yreka, an unincorporated area.

The Municipal Service Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence (SOI) Update process provides an opportunity for districts to share accurate and current data, accomplishments, and information regarding the services they provide. LAFCo Staff worked with the Fire Chief for the District, as well as local, state, and federal agencies gathering and researching information.

The previous Municipal Service Review was part of a county-wide review of Fire Protection Districts. The current Municipal Service Review is solely for the SYRFPD and has been extensively expanded to reflect additions to State law in the intervening years.

The proposed Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence document is attached to this report as Exhibit 1. The relevant factors as set for by the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act are discussed for the SYRFPD. A change to the District’s Sphere of Influence is being proposed as part of this update.
Sphere of Influence

The South Yreka Fire Protection District proposes to expand its currently coterminous Sphere of Influence by approximately 34,083± acres. The proposed SOI amendment is being requested to facilitate an annexation into the District at a future date. The current District and SOI Boundary includes approximately 4,969 acres.

Although there is no requirement that the territory served by a fire protection district be unified (with no islands within or without the territory), from an operation perspective a unified territory is clearly preferable. With that in mind, the proposed SOI would expand to the western mountain ridge, the Gazelle Fire Protection District Boundary to the south, the Grenada Fire Protection District Boundary to the east, and the Montague Fire Protection District Boundary to the northeast.
Staff evaluated the proposed Sphere to determine if it would “further the goals of orderly development and efficient and affordable service delivery.” (Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH Act), §56425(h)). Two areas of concern emerged from this evaluation.
The first area of concern is a group of four parcels in the southeast corner of the proposed SOI. The subject parcels are not currently developed with any structures. The closest road access to the four parcels is from the east or the south. Should these parcels be included within the South Yreka FPD boundary, responders from that district would have to drive through either Grenada Fire Protection District or Gazelle Fire Protection District to get to the parcels. The only other access would be on unmaintained off-highway vehicle trails through neighboring private property. Due to access issues, Staff does not feel it is appropriate for those four parcels to be included within the South Yreka FPD SOI at this time.
The second area of concern involves four parcels near Old Highway 99, again on the eastern side of the proposed SOI. One parcel is north of Interstate 5 (APN: 038-080-070) and is undeveloped with any structures. Two parcels are between Interstate 5 and Old Highway 99 (APNs: 038-080-060 and 038-090-090), one of which is developed with a large barn. South of Old Highway 99 is one parcel (APN: 038-090-080) that is developed with a single-family dwelling and multiple other structures accessory to the residential and agricultural uses on the property. The driveway to access the dwelling and accessory structures is approximately 450' from Grenada FPD’s existing boundary and approximately 1.9 miles from the Grenada FPD station. The distance from South Yreka FPD’s existing station is approximately 4.9 miles. As part of South Yreka FPD’s SOI proposal, they also have a location marked at the intersection of Guys Gulch and Cram Gulch Roads for a proposed fire station. The proposed fire station is approximately 2.9 miles away.
If proximity were the only criteria for determining which district should serve these parcels, Grenada FPD would be the obvious choice. However, the CKH Act has the purpose of “logical” development to “advantageously provide for the present and future needs of the county and its communities” (§56425). The Municipal Service Review for South Yreka FPD provides evidence that the District is in a very good position with equipment and volunteers, as well as financially, to provide service to these four parcels. The Grenada FPD has not had an MSR since 2006, making its ability to provide service unclear to staff at this time. Due to this uncertainty, Staff feels it is not logical and not advantageous to exclude these four parcels from the South Yreka FPD SOI at this time.

Environmental Review Recommendations

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the adoption of a municipal service review is considered to be categorically exempt from the preparation of environmental documentation under a classification related to information collection (CEQA Guidelines, §15306). Further, Siskiyou LAFCo’s concurrent revision of the existing sphere of influence qualifies for the “common sense exemption” as outlined in CEQA Guidelines, §15061, which states:

*The activity is covered by the common sense exemption that CEQA applies on to project, which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.*

As there are no land use changes or environmental impacts associated with the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update, LAFCo Staff recommends that this project be determined exempt from CEQA.

Alternatives for Commission Action

After consideration of this report and any testimony or additional materials that are submitted, the Commission should consider choosing one of the following options:

**Option 1:** Approve the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the South Yreka Fire Protection District as proposed by the South Yreka Fire Protection District.

**Option 2**

A. Approve the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the South Yreka Fire Protection District, with an amendment to the Sphere of Influence boundary to exclude four parcels (APNs: 022-590-480, 022-590-490, 022-590-370, and 022-221-010) in the southeast corner of the proposed Sphere of Influence.

B. Approve the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the South Yreka Fire Protection District, with an amendment to the Sphere of Influence boundary to exclude four parcels (APNs: 038-080-070, 038-080-060, 038-090-090, and 038-090-080) near Old Highway 99 along the eastern edge of the proposed Sphere of Influence.

C. Approve the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the South Yreka Fire Protection District, with an amendment to the Sphere of Influence boundary to exclude eight parcels (APNs: 022-590-480, 022-590-490, 022-590-370, 022-221-010, 038-080-070, 038-080-060, 038-090-090, 038-090-080) along the eastern boundary of the proposed Sphere of Influence.
D. Approve the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the South Yreka Fire Protection District, with amendment(s) to the Sphere of Influence boundary to include/exclude a parcel or parcels not specifically discussed in the Staff Report.

Option 3: Deny the update.

Option 4: If the Commission needs more information, it should continue this matter to a future meeting (maximum 70 days).

Recommended Action

Approve Option 2-A. Based on the information presented, Staff recommends approval of Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the South Yreka Fire Protection District with an amendment to the Sphere of Influence boundary to exclude four parcels (APNs: 022-590-480, 022-590-490, 022-590-370, and 022-221-010) in the southeast corner of the proposed Sphere of Influence. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission adopt Resolution No. 2020-02, which:

1. Finds that the Executive Officer set the MSR/SOI Study to be considered by the LAFCo Commission and provided notice thereof as provided in the CKH Act.
2. Determines that the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update qualifies for an Exemption from further California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review based on CEQA Regulations Sections 15306 and 15061(b)(3).
3. Makes determination related to the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update as required by Government Code Section 16425 and 56430.
4. Determines that the Sphere of Influence for South Yreka Fire Protection District should be expanded.
5. Directs Staff to circulate the subject resolution depicting the District’s adopted Sphere of Influence to all affected agencies.

Attachments:

Exhibit 1 – Draft Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update for the South Yreka Fire Protection District.

Exhibit 2 – Draft Resolution No. 2020-02 (South Yreka Fire Protection District)
Siskiyou Local Agency Formation Commission

Commissioners

Deborah Baird, City Member – City of Yreka (Chair)
Gary S. Peery, Public Member (Vice Chair)
Ed Valenzuela, County of Siskiyou
Lisa L. Nixon, County of Siskiyou
Paul Engstrom, City Member – City of Mt. Shasta

Alternate Commissioners

Michael Kobseff, Alternate County of Siskiyou
Henry Ebinger, Alternate City Member – City of Tulelake
Laurel Harkness, Alternate Public Member

Staff

Rachel Jereb, Executive Officer
Janine Rowe, Executive Secretary
William Carroll, Counsel
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Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Background

Role and Responsibility of LAFCo

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, as amended (“CKH Act") (California Government Code §§56000 et seq.), is LAFCo’s governing law and outlines the requirements for preparing Municipal Service Reviews (MSRs) for periodic Sphere of Influence (SOI) updates. MSRs and SOIs are tools created to empower LAFCo to satisfy its legislative charge of “discouraging urban sprawl, preserving open-space and prime agricultural lands, efficiently providing government services, and encouraging the orderly formation and development of local agencies based upon local conditions and circumstances (§56301). CKH Act Section 56301 further establishes that “one of the objects of the commission is to make studies and to obtain and furnish information which will contribute to the logical and reasonable development of local agencies in each county and to shape the development of local agencies so as to advantageously provide for the present and future needs of each county and its communities.”

Based on that legislative charge, LAFCo serves as an arm of the State; preparing and reviewing studies and analyzing independent data to make informed, quasi-legislative decisions that guide the physical and economic development of the state (including agricultural uses) and the efficient, cost-effective, and reliable delivery of services to residents, landowners, and businesses. While SOIs are required to be updated every five years, they are not time-bound as planning tools by the statute but are meant to address the “probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency” (§56076). SOIs therefore guide both the near-term and long-term physical and economic development of local agencies their broader county area, and MSRs provide the near-term and long-term time-relevant data to inform LAFCo’s SOI determinations.

Purpose of a Municipal Service Review

As described above, MSRs are designed to equip LAFCo with relevant information and data necessary for the Commission to make informed decisions on SOIs. The CKH Act, however, gives LAFCo broad discretion in decided how to conduct MSRs, including geographic focus, scope of study, and the identification of alternatives for improving the efficiency, cost-effectiveness, accountability, and reliability of public services.

The purpose of a Municipal Services Review (MSR) in general is to provide a comprehensive inventory and analysis of the services provided by local municipalities, services area, and special districts. An MSR evaluates the structure and operation of the local municipalities, service area, and special districts and discusses possible areas for improvement and coordination. The MSR is intended to provide information and analysis to support a sphere of influence update.

A written statement of the study’s determinations must be made in the following areas:

1. Growth and population projections for the affected area;
2. The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence;
3. Present and planned capacity of public facilities, adequacy of public services and infrastructure needs or deficiencies including needs or deficiencies related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, and structural fire protection in any disadvantaged, unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence;
4. Financial ability of agencies to provide services;
5. Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities;
6. Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies; and
7. Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy.

The MSR is organized according to these determinations listed above. Information regarding each of the above issue areas is provided in this document.

**Purpose of a Sphere of Influence**

**Sphere of Influence Background**

In 1972, LAFCos were given the power to establish SOIs for all local agencies under their jurisdiction. As defined by the CKH Act, “sphere of influence’ means a plan for the probably physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the commission” (§56076). SOIs are designed to both proactively guide and respond to the need for the extension of infrastructure and delivery of municipal services to areas of emerging growth and development. Likewise, they are also designed to discourage urban sprawl and the premature conversion of agricultural and open space resources to urbanized uses.

The role of SOIs in guiding the State’s growth and development was validated and strengthened in 2000 when the Legislature passed Assembly Bill (“AB”) 2838 (Chapter 761, Statutes of 2000), which was the result of two years of labor by the Commission on Local Governance for the 21st Century, which traveled up and down the State taking testimony from a variety of local government stakeholders and assembled an extensive set of recommendations to the Legislature to strengthen the powers and tools of LAFCos to promote logical and orderly growth and development, and the efficient, cost-effective, and reliable delivery of public services to California’s residents, businesses, landowners, and visitors.

The requirement for LAFCos to conduct MSRS was established by AB 2838 as an acknowledgment of the importance of SOIs and recognition that regular periodic updates of SOIs should be conducted on a five-year basis (§56425(g)) with the benefit of better information and data through MSRs (§56430(a)). An MSR is conducted prior to, or in conjunction with, the update of a SOI and provides the foundation for updating it.

LAFCo is required to make five written determinations when establishing, amending, or updating an SOI for any local agency that addresses the following (California Government Code §56425(c)):

1. The present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands.
2. The present and probably need for public facilities and services in the area.
3. The present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that the agency provides or is authorized to provide.
4. The existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.
5. For an update of an SOI of a city or special district that provides public facilities or services related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, or structural fire protection, the present and probably need for those public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere of influence.

**Possible Approaches to the Sphere of Influence**
LAFCo may recommend government reorganization to particular agencies in the county, using the SOIs as the basis for those recommendations. Based on review of the guidelines of Calaveras LAFCo as well as other LAFCOs in the State, various conceptual approaches have been identified from which to choose in designating an SOI. These seven approaches are explained below:

1. Coterminous Sphere:
   A Coterminous Sphere is a sphere for a city or special district that is the same as its existing boundaries.

2. Annexable Sphere:
   A sphere larger than the agency’s boundaries identifies areas the agency is expected to annex. The annexable area is outside its boundaries and inside the sphere.

3. Detachable Sphere:
   A sphere that is smaller than the agency’s boundaries identifies areas the agency is expected to detach. The detachable area is the area within the agency bounds but not within its sphere.

4. Zero Sphere:
   A zero sphere indicates the affected agency’s public service functions should be reassigned to another agency and the agency should be dissolved or combined with one or more other agencies.

5. Consolidated Sphere:
   A consolidated sphere includes two or more local agencies and indicates the agencies should be consolidated into one agency.

6. Limited Service Sphere:
   A limited service sphere is the territory included within the SOI of a multi-service provider agency that is also within the boundary of a limited purpose district which provides the same service (e.g., fire protection), but not all needed services. Territory designated as a limited service SOI may be considered for annexation to the limited purpose agency without detachment from the multi-service provider.

   This type of SOI is generally adopted when the following conditions exist:
   a. The limited service provider is providing adequate cost effective and efficient services.
   b. The multi-service agency is the most logical provider of the other services.
   c. There is no feasible or logical SOI alternative.
   d. Inclusion of the territory is in the best interests of local government organization and structure in the area.

   Government Code §56001 specifically recognizes that in rural areas it may be appropriate to establish limited purpose agencies to serve an area rather than a single service provider, if multiple limited purpose agencies are better able to provide efficient services to an area rather than one service district.

   Moreover, Government Code Section §56425(i), governing sphere determinations, also authorizes a sphere for less than all of the services provided by a district by requiring a district affected by a sphere action to “establish the nature, location, and extent of any functions of classes of services provided by existing districts” recognizing that more than one district may serve an area and that a given district may provide less than its full range of services in an area.

7. Sphere Planning Area
LAFCo may choose to designate a sphere planning area to signal that it anticipates expanding an agency’s SOI in the future to include territory not yet within its official SOI.

**SOI Update Process**
LAFCo is required to establish SOIs for all local agencies and enact policies to promote the logical and orderly development of areas within the SOIs. Furthermore, LAFCo must update those SOIs every five years. In updating the SOI, LAFCo is required to conduct a municipal service review (MSR) and adopt related determinations.

LAFCo must notify affected agencies 21 days before holding a public hearing to consider the SOI and may not update the SOI until after that hearing. The Siskiyou LAFCo Executive Officer must issue a report including recommendations on the SOI amendments and updates under consideration at least five days before the public hearing.

**SOI Amendments and CEQA**
LAFCo has the discretion to limit SOI updates to those that it may process without unnecessarily delaying the SOI update process or without requiring its funding agencies to bear the costs of environmental studies associated with SOI expansions. Any local agency or individual may file a written request for an SOI amendment. The request must state the nature of and reasons for the proposed amendment, and provide a map depicting the proposal.

LAFCo may require the requester to pay a fee to cover LAFCo costs, including the costs of appropriate environmental review under CEQA. LAFCo may elect to serve as lead agency for such a review, may designate the proposing agency as lead agency, or both the local agency and LAFCo may serve as co-lead agencies for purposes of an SOI amendment. Local agencies are encouraged to consult with LAFCo staff early in the process regarding the most appropriate approach for the particular SOI amendment under consideration.

Certain types of SOI amendments are usually exempt from CEQA review. Examples are SOI expansions that include territory already within the bounds or service area of an agency, SOI reductions, and zero SOIs.

SOI expansions for limited purpose agencies that provide services (e.g., fire protection, levee protection, cemetery, and resource conservation) needed by both rural and urban areas are typically not considered growth-inducing and are likely exempt from CEQA. Similarly, SOI expansions for districts serving rural areas (e.g., irrigation water) are typically not considered growth-inducing.
Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs)

SB 244 requires LAFCos to consider disadvantaged unincorporated communities when developing spheres of influence. The Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community status is determined by whether the Median Household Income is lower than 80% of the State of California Median Household Income (MHI). Upon the next update of a sphere of influence on or after July 1, 2012, SB 244 requires LAFCo to include in an MSR (in preparation of a sphere of influence update):

1) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere; and

2) The present and planned capacity of public facilities, adequacy of public services and infrastructure needs or deficiencies including needs or deficiencies related to sewers, municipal and industrial water, and structural fire protection in any disadvantaged unincorporated community within or contiguous to the sphere of influence.

In determining spheres of influence, SB 244 authorizes LAFCo to assess the feasibility of and recommend reorganization and consolidation of local agencies to further orderly development and improve the efficiency and affordability of infrastructure and service delivery.
Siskiyou County Community

Community Background and Demographics

As of the 2010 Census, the population of Siskiyou County was 44,900, with a 2019 Population Estimates Program (PEP) estimate of 43,539, a 3% decrease. Siskiyou County is the 5th largest county in California by area but ranks 45th in population with approximately seven people per square mile. It was formed from parts of Shasta and Klamath Counties on March 22, 1852 and is named after the Siskiyou Mountains. The county seat is Yreka, which is one of the nine incorporated cities in the county.

The population is composed primarily of permanent adult residents with 79.9% of the population over 18 years of age and a 65.6% owner-occupied housing rate. As of 2018, there were 24,214 housing units reported. Population densities strongly correlate to the major transportation corridors of Interstate 5, Highway 3, Highway 89, Highway 96, and Highway 97.

Greater than 60% of the land within the County is currently managed by State and Federal agencies, including: U.S. Forest Service; Bureau of Land Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Population Data1, 2

The following table shows that the population of Siskiyou County has declined since the 2010 Census. The State of California has increased in population at the same time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Decline in Siskiyou County</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>Siskiyou County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population, Census, April 1, 2010</td>
<td>37,253,956</td>
<td>44,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population estimates, July 1, 2019</td>
<td>39,512,223</td>
<td>43,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population, percent change – April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019</td>
<td>6.06%</td>
<td>-3.03%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following table shows that the population age of Siskiyou County is substantially different than that of the State of California and skews heavily towards an older population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population Age Groups in Siskiyou County</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>Siskiyou County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Persons under 5 years, percent</td>
<td>6.2%</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons under 18 years, percent</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons 65 years and over, percent</td>
<td>14.3%</td>
<td>25.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 US Census Bureau, https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/CA, April 22, 2020
The following table shows that the median household and per capita income in Siskiyou County is significantly less than that for the State of California. Persons in poverty is 4.1% more in Siskiyou County than the State of California.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income and Poverty in Siskiyou County</th>
<th>California</th>
<th>Siskiyou County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median household income (in 2018 dollars), 2014-2018</td>
<td>$71,228</td>
<td>$44,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2018 dollars), 2014-2018</td>
<td>$35,021</td>
<td>$28,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Persons in poverty, percent</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
South Yreka Fire Protection District

South Yreka FPD Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Bernie Paul, Chief</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mailing Address</td>
<td>3420 Easy St., Yreka, CA 96097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone Number</td>
<td>530-842-1477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Email</td>
<td><a href="mailto:syrfd@nctv.com">syrfd@nctv.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>southyrekafire.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Media</td>
<td>facebook.com/SYRFD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population Served</td>
<td>1800 residents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of Service Area</td>
<td>7 square miles (4,969 acres) in District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Staff</td>
<td>15 volunteers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Background
The South Yreka Fire Protection District is in the north-central portion of Siskiyou County, immediately south of the City of Yreka and predominately west of Interstate 5. A municipal service review (MSR) was previously conducted in 2006 as part of a county-wide MSR for all fire protection districts. The District is responsible for all improvements and rescue responses within the District boundaries. All Wildland fires within the District are the responsibility of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire).

Formation
The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors formed the South Yreka Fire Protection District by Resolution Number 401, Book 5, on March 12, 1974. The Certificate of Completion for the formation was filed on March 25, 1974 with the State of California. The Board of Supervisors at the time appointed five Board of Directors.

Board of Directors
The South Yreka FPD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. Currently there are no vacancies on the board. Vacancies on the board are filled when the board selects an individual among those who have declared their interest. There is routinely only one interested individual. They meet at 7:00pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the fire hall. Meeting notices are posted at the fire station on Easy Street and on the South Yreka FPD website.

District Boundary
The South Yreka FPD provides services southwest of Yreka to the Wicklow Woods neighborhoods, southeast of Yreka to the Rolling Hills and Juniper Creek neighborhoods, immediately south of Yreka to the Schumeyer Gulch and Pines neighborhoods, and further south of Yreka to the Easy Street and Shamrock neighborhoods. The District boundary generally follows parcel boundaries, although there are some minor mapping errors from when the parcels and district were converted to the Geographic Information System database.
**Sphere of Influence**

Although the District’s boundaries and Sphere of Influence are currently coterminous, the Department provides service to unserved areas outside the District boundaries and through mutual aid and automatic aid agreements. There are frequent requests for service to areas not served by any District/Department.

The District has formally requested that Siskiyou LAFCo amend the South Yreka FPD Sphere of Influence to include areas not part of an adjacent district’s boundary or sphere of influence. A proposed boundary map was submitted as part of the request. The proposed SOI boundary, if approved, would facilitate annexation plans of the same area. Response time and call volume is not expected to change, as South Yreka FPD already responds to all calls within the proposed SOI area.

**Calls for Service**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>In District</th>
<th>Proposed SOI Area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The proposed annexable sphere would add approximately 34,083 acres (53 square miles) and more than 100 dwellings to the District’s currently coterminous sphere.
New Boundary Proposal: South Yreka Fire Protection District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Station</th>
<th>Proposed Fire Station</th>
<th>Address Points in SYFPD (544)</th>
<th>Address Points in Proposed Area (108)</th>
<th>Address Points</th>
<th>SYFPD Current Boundary</th>
<th>SYFPD Proposed Boundary</th>
<th>City of Yreka</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fire Districts</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GAZELLE</td>
<td>GRENADA</td>
<td>MONTAGUE</td>
<td>SCOTT VALLEY</td>
<td>SOUTH YREKA</td>
<td>Montague Proposed</td>
<td>Land Parcels</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approx.</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acres:</td>
<td>4,969</td>
<td>34,083</td>
<td>39,068</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sq. Mi.:</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Growth and Population
Siskiyou County’s population was 44,900 in 2010 and has declined by 3.03% to 43,539 in 2019. Long range population forecasts for Siskiyou County predict that the downward population trend will continue due to an aging population where the number of deaths will exceed the number of births.3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Siskiyou County Predicted Population (2010-2050)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2040</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2050</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The South Yreka Fire Protection District currently serves 716 parcels, with an estimated population of 1800 residents, and 544 housing units. The downward population trend is not expected to be different for the District, which results in an estimated population of 1653 residents by 2050.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities
LAFCo is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) as part of this MSR, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. Per Senate Bill 244, a DUC is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the median household income (MHI) is less than 80% of the statewide MHI.

Siskiyou County qualifies as a Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community (DUC) with a 2019 Median Household Income (MHI) of $44,200, which is 62% of California’s for the same year. The District’s boundary encompasses four Census block groups, with 2019 MHIs that range from $28,661 to $62,966. One of the four block groups, Block Group 060930007022, is identified by the California Department of Water Resources as a Severely Disadvantaged Community with an MHI level ($28,661) that is approximately 40% of the State’s MHI ($71,228). The average MHI for the District is $52,015, which is 73% of California’s.

Within a DUC, three basic services are evaluated: water, sewage, and fire protection. South Yreka FPD provides one of these services, fire protection, and is therefore responsible for assuring that this service is adequately provided to the community. Three private water systems (Oak Valley Property Owners Association, Juniper Creek Estates, and Siskiyou County Rolling Hills Mutual Water Company) have approximately 174 connections and serve approximately 510 persons within the District boundary. Two additional parcels have an out of area water service agreement with the City of Yreka. All other properties within the district boundaries use on-site water. There are no public or private agencies that provide sewage treatment services within the District.

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2020 South Yreka Fire Protection District
Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Update
Personnel
The South Yreka Fire Protection District currently has 15 active volunteer personnel. The District is always looking for more recruits.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training Qualification</th>
<th># of Members Trained</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fire Fighter I or above</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildland (CICCS)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Responder (Medical)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMT</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paramedic</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HazMat First Responder Ops.</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rope Rescue</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swift Water Rescue</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Investigation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Type I Incident Commander</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fire Stations
The South Yreka FPD has one Fire Station that was built in 1976 along with a garage that was built in 1990. The station is located on Easy Street south of its intersection with Walters Lane at 3420 Easy Street on APN: 014-600-250. The site also contains a cell tower that is on a leased 20’ by 20’ area. An inspection of the station on May 7, 2020 determined that the station and garage are in good conditions with only a few minor repairs that are needed. A replacement of exterior waterlines is planned to be completed by the Deadwood Conservation Camp in the near future to abate excessive hardwater build-up.

The Districts plans to build a new station at the intersection of Cram Gulch and Guy’s Gulch Roads in the future, should that area be annexed. They plan to have a Type I Engine with a 1500 GPM pump and 2000-gallon tank and a Type III Engine at the new station. There are current volunteers that live near the proposed station location.

The following table describes the apparatuses utilized by the South Yreka FPD. All equipment is installed with a 500+ channel two-way radio. The FPD equipment also includes a generator, water pump, smoke ejector, automatic external defibrillator (AED), jaws of life equipment, and hand-held radios.

South Yreka FPD Apparatus

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Apparatus</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Brand</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Pump (GPM)</th>
<th>Tank (Gal)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WT630</td>
<td>Water Tender</td>
<td>Peterbuilt</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>4000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R641</td>
<td>Rescue</td>
<td>Ford 4x4</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E615</td>
<td>Engine</td>
<td>International 4x4</td>
<td>1998</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E612</td>
<td>Engine</td>
<td>KME</td>
<td>1996</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E610</td>
<td>Engine</td>
<td>E-One</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>I</td>
<td>1500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E614*</td>
<td>Engine</td>
<td>International 4x4</td>
<td>1988</td>
<td>III</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Planned to be located at the intersection of Cram Gulch and Guy’s Gulch Roads.
Response Time and Call Volume
All district responses are dispatched through the Siskiyou Cal Fire dispatch center, which is a 24-hour staffed center. All structures within the district are less than 5 miles from the station, including commercial structures that are required to meet the California Fire Marshal fire flow. South Yreka FPD meets the rural level of service (MSR2004). This level is arrival to a fire incident within 15 minutes, and water flow of 500 gpm.

South Yreka FPD Department Numbers (2016-2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Incident Responses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation Fires</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Structure Fires</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Fires</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicle Accidents</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicals</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual Aid</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Responses</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>184</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>221</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incident</td>
<td>342</td>
<td>392</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Training</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>652</td>
<td>691</td>
<td>618</td>
<td>617</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteer</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auxiliary</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Personnel</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Insurance Services Office (ISO) Rating
The Insurance Service Office (ISO) is an independent organization that serves insurance companies, fire departments, insurance regulators, and others by providing information about fire risk. ISO staff collects information about fire protection efforts in communities throughout the United States. ISO assigns a Public Protection Classification (PPC number from 1 to 10. Class 1 represents exemplary fire protection and Class 10 indicates that the area’s fire suppression program does not meet ISO’s minimum criteria. There are three primary factors considered in the development of the rating: the fire alarm and communications systems (10%); the fire department (50%); and the water supply system (40%). A community’s risk reduction efforts can allow for extra credit of up to 5.5 points for a potential total of 105.5. That considers fire prevention code adoption and enforcement, public fire safety education and fire investigation. The South Yreka FPD has an ISO rating of 8b.

Budget
The amount of tax revenue currently collected cannot keep pace with rising costs of insurance, audits, reporting requirements, and equipment repairs. The District rents space on the fire station property to a cellular company and continues to fundraise and pursue grants to stabilize finances and to upgrade equipment and apparatus.

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4 ISO Mitigation website, https://www.isomitigation.com/, April 29, 2020
South Yreka FPD Budget

### Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax Revenue</td>
<td>59,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>3,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rent and Concessions</td>
<td>8,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish and Game In Lieu</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeowner’s Property Tax Relief</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Other</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Other</td>
<td>9,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenue</strong></td>
<td>80,515</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workers’ Compensation</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Departmental Expense</td>
<td>65,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equipment – Special Districts</td>
<td>115,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriation for Contingencies</td>
<td>278,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>468,905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>-398,390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

South Yreka FPD Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for FY 2018/2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tax Revenue</td>
<td>58,756.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>5,124.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rents and Concessions</td>
<td>6,389.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish and Game In Lieu</td>
<td>62.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeowner’s Property Tax Relief</td>
<td>439.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Other</td>
<td>17,111.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Other</td>
<td>9,815.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>97,698.93</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workers’ Compensation</td>
<td>7,492.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Departmental Expense</td>
<td>67,404.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriation for Contingencies</td>
<td>88,298.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>163,194.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>-65,796.06</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial records submitted by the Siskiyou County Auditor-Controller indicate that, while expenses were significantly higher than revenues for the 2018/2019 fiscal year, the average revenues and expenditures for the District for the past five years resulted in an average positive balance of $18,862.56.

**Challenges and Needs**

Like many small rural departments, South Yreka FPD is challenged with aging equipment and facilities, and member recruitment and retention. The District noted that it needs a business office with a meeting room.
Municipal Service Review

As set forth in Section 56430(a) of the CKH Act – In order to prepare and to update the SOI in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the county the region, the sub-region, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be review, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

Growth and Population Projections for the Affected Area

- The population of Siskiyou County is expected to decline in the future due to an ageing population.
- The South Yreka FPD area does not have any special circumstances that would potentially change the population prediction from that of the County as a whole.

The Location and Characteristics of any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Sphere of Influence

- The South Yreka FPD area qualifies as a disadvantaged unincorporated community.
- There are currently three private water systems with 174 connections serving approximately 510 individuals.
- There are currently two parcels served with water by the City of Yreka.
- No local agency service providers in the South Yreka FPD area provide sewage services.
- Should territory in the surrounding area be evaluated for annexation in the future, disadvantaged communities in the area should be considered further.

Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies

- The District provides fire protection, emergency medical response, and rescue services to the citizens in the District.
- The District provides fire protection, emergency medical response, and rescue services to the citizens outside of the District.
- The District’s facilities, infrastructure, and services are sufficient to provide quality services to its residents.
- The District should continue to program repairs to existing facilities in order to meet the needs of staff to provide a level of service acceptable to residents.
- The District should continue mutual and automatic aid agreements with adjacent agencies in order to provide overlapping and supplemental service within the District boundaries and SOI.

Financial Ability for South Yreka Fire Protection District to Provide Services

- The District supplements its income through fundraising, grants, rent, and assisting Cal Fire with wildland fires.
- The District maintains a budget and has resources to meet the obligations of the District.
- The District uses the services of an outside auditor to prepare an audit as required by State Law.
• The District has received grants and loans from State and Federal Agencies for equipment.
• The District should make financial information available on the District website.

Status Of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

• All District responses are dispatched through Siskiyou Cal Fire dispatch center.
• The District coordinates with the County for the collection of taxes.

Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

• The South Yreka FPD has a full Board of Directors.
• The District Board holds regular meetings.
• The District prepares an annual Budget and manages the finances within the Budget.
• The District has been successful at obtaining grants and loans from State and Federal agencies to upgrade equipment and equip those apparatus with tools, hose, and safety gear.
• The District maintains appropriate insurance for facilities and personnel.
• The District maintains a webpage and a Facebook page.

Any Other Matter Related to Effective or Efficient Service Delivery, As Required by Commission Policy

• The District’s SOI is coterminous with their current boundaries.
• An amendment to the SOI is being proposed as part of this MSR and SOI update to include areas not already served by any other District or Department for structure protection.
Sphere of Influence

Government Code Section 56076 defines a sphere of influence as “a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the commission”. Government Code Section 56425 gives purpose to the determination of sphere by charging the Commission with the responsibility of “planning and shaping the logical and orderly development of local governmental agencies” through spheres of influence. This section also presents factors that the Commission must consider when making a sphere determination.

LAFCO creates, amends, and updates spheres of influence (SOI) to indicate to local agencies and property owners that, at some future date, a particular area is anticipated to require the level of municipal services offered by the subject agency. It is a key component of the planning process, as it indicates to land use authorities and interested parties whether LAFCO expects a need for a jurisdictional change. It also indicates to other potential service providers which agency LAFCO believes to be best situated to offer the services in question. The time horizon for evaluating this anticipated need has changed with each reform of the LAFCO law.

The South Yreka Fire Protection District boundary and the Sphere of Influence is currently coterminous. The District should have an annexable sphere which includes the areas already served by the District but not contained within the South Yreka FPD boundaries or any other District’s Boundaries. The adoption of an annexable sphere does not automatically mean that the additional area is annexed to the District. The District must still apply for annexation and the annexation must be approved by the Siskiyou Local Agency Formation Commission after all the requirements are met.

Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, Including Agricultural and Open-Space Lands

- Land uses are primarily residential, agricultural, and timber production.
- Since Siskiyou County has a negative growth rate, significant changes in land use are not anticipated.

Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services in the Area

- Fire protection services continue to be needed at the current demand.
- Fire protection services are needed east, west, and south of the existing coterminous District/SOI boundary.

Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services That Provides or is Authorized to Provide

- The South Yreka FPD has adequate capacity to serve the District.
- The South Yreka FPD has adequate capacity to serve areas outside the District.
- There are current volunteers who live outside of the District’s boundary, but within the area proposed to be within the Sphere of Influence.

Existence of Any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines That They are Relevant to the Agency

- The area east of Interstate 5 and north of Kilgore Hills Road is part of a census tract that is identified as a Severely Disadvantaged Community.
Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services of Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within the Existing Sphere of Influence

- The District qualifies as a Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community.
- The existing SOI is coterminous with the District's boundary.
- Properties within the District's boundary are served with on-site septic systems.
- Properties within the District's boundary are served with on-site water or are served from private water systems.
Resolution No. 2020-02

Resolution of the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Siskiyou, State of California, Making Findings and Determinations Related to Information Contained in the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study for the South Yreka Fire Protection District, Determining Exemption from the California Environmental Quality Act, Adopting the Determinations of the Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence Study, and Amending the Sphere of Influence of the South Yreka Fire Protection District. (LAF-20-01)

Resolved, that the Local Agency Formation Commission of the County of Siskiyou (“the Commission”) hereby finds and determines as follows:

1. Procedural History

1.1 The South Yreka Fire Protection District requested that the Commission expand the Sphere of Influence for the District pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, Government Code section 56000 et seq. (“the CKH Act”).

1.2 The Executive Officer considered the request and prepared a municipal service review and sphere of influence study (“the MSR/SOI Study”).

1.3 The Executive Officer determined that the Commission would comply with California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and the State CEQA Guidelines by acting as the lead agency in its consideration of the MSR/SOI and proposed an amendment to the sphere of influence of the South Yreka Fire Protection District. The Executive Officer further determined that the MSR/SOI Study and Sphere of Influence Amendment is exempt pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15306 and 15061(b)(3).

1.4 Following the preparation of the MSR/SOI Study, the Executive Officer set the matter for consideration by the Commission and provided notice thereof as provided in the CKH Act.

1.5 The Executive Officer considered comments received on the MSR/SOI Study and prepared a staff report which included a recommendation for the MSR/SOI Study and Sphere of Influence Amendment. The Executive Officer furnished copies of the staff report to all persons entitled to copies under the CKH Act.

1.6 The Commission conducted a noticed public hearing to consider the MSR/SOI Study and Sphere of Influence Amendment on May 12, 2020. At the hearing, the Commission heard and received all relevant oral and written testimony and evidence presented or filed and considered the staff report and the MSR/SOI Study and Sphere of Influence Amendment. All interested persons were given the opportunity to hear and be heard. At the conclusion of public testimony, the Commission closed the public hearing and adopted the determination in the MSR/SOI Study and voted to amend the sphere of influence of the South Yreka Fire Protection District.

1.7 The Commission has reviewed and considered this resolution and hereby finds that it accurately sets forth the intentions of the Commission regarding the determinations of the MSR/SOI Study and Sphere of Influence Amendment.

2. CEQA Compliance

2.1 The Commission concurs with the Executive Officer and finds that the Commission is the lead agency for the preparation of the MSR/SOI Study and Sphere of Influence, pursuant to CEQA and the state CEQA Guidelines.
2.2 The Commission finds and determines that preparation of a Municipal Service Review consists largely of the collection of data and research through reports and/or interviews with those knowledgeable about the agencies studied, resulting in conclusions and recommendations. When such activities “do no result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource,” pursuant to Section 15306 of the State CEQA Guidelines, is exempt from CEQA.

2.3 The Commission finds and determines that amendment to the Sphere of Influence of the South Yreka Fire Protection District is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15061(b)(3), which states that CEQA applies only to projects that have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment. Where it can be seen with certainty that there is not a possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activity is not subject to CEQA.

2.4 Amendment to the Sphere of Influence of the South Yreka Fire Protection District will not result in a physical change to the environment in and of itself. Any future actions for change of organization would be further subject to separate environmental determination.

2.5 The Commission has considered the potential environmental effects of the MSR/SOI Study and Sphere of Influence Amendment prior to reaching its decision. The Commission finds that, in doing so, it has fully discharged its responsibilities under CEQA.

3. CKH Act Compliance – Municipal Service Review

3.1 The CKH Act directs LAFCOs to review and update agencies’ spheres of influence, as necessary, every five years and further to conducts municipal service reviews prior to, or in conjunction with such updates. With regard to the South Yreka Fire Protection District’s request, the Commission makes the following determinations:

3.2 Growth and population projections for the affected area:
   a. The population of Siskiyou County is expected to decline in the future due to an ageing population.
   b. The South Yreka Fire Protection District area does not have any special circumstance that would potentially change the population prediction from the of the County as a whole.

3.3 The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence:
   a. The South Yreka Fire Protection District area qualifies as a disadvantaged unincorporated community.
   b. There are currently three private water systems with 174 connections serving approximately 510 individuals.
   c. There are currently two parcels served with water by the City of Yreka.
   d. No local agency services providers in the South Yreka Fire Protection District area provide sewage services.
   e. Should territory in the surrounding area be evaluated for annexation in the future, disadvantaged communities in the area should be considered further.

3.4 Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies.
a. The District provides fire protection, emergency medical response, and rescue services to the citizens in the District.

b. The District provides fire protection, emergency medical response, and rescue services to citizens outside of the District.

c. The District’s facilities, infrastructure, and services are sufficient to provide quality services to its residents.

d. The District should continue to program repairs to existing facilities in order to meet the needs of staff to provide a level of service acceptable to residents.

e. The District should continue mutual and automatic aid agreements with adjacent agencies in order to provide overlapping and supplemental service within the District boundaries and SOI.

3.5 Financial ability for South Yreka Fire Protection District to provide services.

a. The District supplements its income through fundraising, grants, rent, and assisting Cal Fire with wildland fires.

b. The District maintains a budget and has resources to meet the obligations of the District.

c. The District uses the services of an outside auditor to prepare an audit as required by State Law.

d. The District has received grants and loans from State and Federal Agencies for equipment.

e. The District should make financial information available on the District website.

3.6 Status of, and opportunities for shared facilities.

a. All District responses are dispatched through Siskiyou Cal Fire dispatch center.

b. The District coordinates with the County for the collection of taxes.

3.7 Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

a. The South Yreka FPD has a full Board of Directors.

b. The District Board holds regular meetings.

c. The District prepares an annual Budget and manages the finances within the Budget.

d. The District has been successful at obtaining grants and loans from State and Federal agencies to upgrade equipment and equip those apparatus with tools, hose, and safety gear.

e. The District maintains appropriate insurance for facilities and personnel.

f. The District maintains a webpage and a Facebook page.

3.8 Any other matter related to effective or efficient service deliver, as required by commission policy.

a. The District’s SOI is coterminous with their current boundaries.

b. An amendment to the SOI is being proposed as part of this MSR and SOI update to include areas not already served by any other District or Department for structure protection.
4. CKH Act Compliance – Sphere of Influence

4.1 With regard to the CKH Act for amendments of the Sphere of Influence of the South Yreka Fire Protection District, the Commission makes the following determinations:

4.2 Present and planned land uses in the area, including agricultural and open-space lands
   a. Land uses are primarily residential, agricultural, and timber production.
   b. Since Siskiyou County has a negative growth rate, significant changes in land use are not anticipated.

4.3 Present and probable need for public facilities and services in the area.
   a. Fire protection services continue to be needed at the current demand.
   b. Fire protection services are needed east, west, and south of the existing coterminous District/SOI boundary.

4.4 Present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services that provides or is authorized to provide.
   a. The South Yreka FPD has adequate capacity to serve the District.
   b. The South Yreka FPD has adequate capacity to serve areas outside the District.
   c. There are current volunteers who live outside of the District’s boundary, but within the area proposed to be within the Sphere of Influence.

4.5 Existence of any social or economic communities of interest in the area if the commission determines that they are relevant to the agency.
   a. The area east of Interstate 5 and north of Kilgore Hills Road is part of a census tract that is identified as a Severely Disadvantaged Community.

4.6 Present and probable need for public facilities and services of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the existing sphere of influence.
   a. The District qualifies as a Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community.
   b. The existing SOI is coterminous with the District’s boundary.
   c. Properties within the District’s boundary are served with on-site septic systems.
   d. Properties within the District’s boundary are served with on-site water or are served from private water systems.
Now, Therefore, based on the foregoing findings and determinations and the record of these proceedings, and pursuant to the CKH Act, the Commission hereby declares and orders as follows:

1. The foregoing findings and determinations are true and correct, are supported by evidence in the record, and are adopted as hereinabove set forth.

2. The Commission has reviewed and considered the information contained in the MSR/SOI Study for the South Yreka Fire Protection District.

3. The Commission adopts the determinations made in the MSR/SOI Study for the South Yreka Fire Protection District and approves the amendment to the Sphere of Influence as set forth in the South Yreka Fire Protection exhibit map dated February 2019 and as modified by excluding parcels 022-590-480, 022-590-490, 022-590-370, and 022-221-010 as recommended in the MSR/SOI Study staff report.

4. The Executive Officer is directed to file a Notice of Exemption, in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

It is hereby certified that the foregoing Resolution LAF-2020-02 was duly adopted on a motion by Commissioner __________________________ and seconded by Commissioner __________________________, at a regular meeting of the Siskiyou Local Area Formation Commission held on the 12th day of May, 2020, by the following voice vote:

Commissioners:

Ayes:

Noes:

Abstentions:

Absent:

Siskiyou Local Area Formation Commission

_____________________________________
Deborah Baird, Chairperson

Attest:
Janine Rowe, Clerk to the Commission

By: ________________________________________