



October 6, 2020

Supervisor and President Cindy Chavez, District 2
Supervisor and Vice President Mike Wasserman, District 1
Supervisor Dave Cortese, District 3
Supervisor Susan Ellenberg, District 4
Supervisor S. Joseph Simitian, District 5
70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110

Honorable Members of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing on behalf of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD or District) to respond to the upcoming actions before you on October 6, 2020 related to the LAHCFD Management Audit Report (Report).

The two-year audit resulted in release of the Report on May 22, 2020 that included a sixty-eight-page District response followed by a LAHCFD Post-Audit Report Plan and Supplement Letter. These documents resulted in LAHCFD agreement with six out of seven audit recommendations. The remaining recommendation, suspension of the delegation of authority, remains contested and is before you today.

The District is working in a collaborative manner with the County. To demonstrate its commitment the District requested assignment of and is now working with County Counsel effective August 19, 2020 and is complying with County procurement policies and procedures. All recommendations in the audit report are achieved except for the suspension of the delegation of authority. This final recommendation is no longer necessary to achieve the recommendations of the audit.

The LAHCFD Board of Commissioners at its September 15, 2020 Regular Commission meeting unanimously approved the motion to:

Oppose Action by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors to Suspend or Remove the Delegation of Authority to the Los Altos Hills County Fire District and to Oppose Consolidation of the Los Altos Hills County Fire District and to Direct the Board President to send a letter to the County Board of Supervisors stating this action.

The LAHCFD Board of Commissions also opposes consolidation. Consolidation was not mentioned or recommended to the Board of Supervisors in the LAHCFD audit report. Consolidation was not recommended to the Board of Supervisors for action in the South County Fire District audit report, but rather was listed as one of a number of options to be discussed.

LAHCFD does seek to be involved in regional discussions for fire protection and collaborate in positive solutions for fire and disaster protection and prevention in the County.

Respectfully, 

Mark Warren, President LAHCFD

cc: LAHCFD Board of Commissioners
Jeffrey Smith, County Executive
James Williams, County Counsel
Rob Coelho, Assistant County Counsel
Cheryl Solov, Contract Management Audit Manager
Megan Doyle, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors