

**MEMORANDUM
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

TO: Local Agency Formation Commission
FROM: Stephen Lucas, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: **General Discussion of Local Agencies Impacted by the Camp Fire**
DATE: December 26, 2018 for the meeting of January 3, 2019

The Camp Fire has been the most destructive fire in state history and has had - *and will continue to have* - a profound impact on the governmental services provided on the Paradise ridge and neighboring communities. As the affected communities work through the recovery process, there will need to be much discussion and coordination among local agencies in order to maximize the limited resources available.

At the request of the Commission Chair, the Commission will discuss what assistance can be provided to the local agencies that were decimated by the Camp Fire and what is the appropriate role for LAFCO moving forward.

It is important to recognize that while LAFCO may play an important role in the recovery process, it cannot and should not, encroach on the independent actions of each impacted agency nor presume that the Commission's efforts have any more value than the goals of the impacted agencies. Any LAFCO actions must be collaborative, transparent and fully involve each impacted local agency.

Impacted Agencies

Staff prepared a map of the affected/impacted agencies (Attachment 1) which include:

County of Butte	Kimshew Cemetery District
Town of Paradise	CSA 4 - Sierra Del Oro Drainage
Paradise Irrigation District	CSA 12 Stirling City Lighting
Paradise Park and Recreation District	CSA 82 - Stirling City Sewer
City of Chico	CSA 21 - Oak Ridge Sewer
Paradise Cemetery District	CSA 98 - Oro Montes Drainage
Buzztail Community Service District	CSA 141 - Mountain Oaks Sewer

Each of these agencies will face significant issues related to financial resources, service capabilities, and in some cases, the ability to maintain constituents, customers, staff and elected officials given the almost total relocation of the pre-fire population.

LAFCO Role

A large part of the Commission's responsibilities is to evaluate the boundaries, services and governance of each local agency under its charge. To accomplish this mission, LAFCOs prepare municipal service reviews (MSR) and sphere of influence plans (SOI) that provide guidance to the growth and development affecting each agency. It is clear that the impacted agencies will ultimately require these fundamental LAFCO planning documents to be revised.

In order to accomplish the task of updating MSR/SOI plans, LAFCO will need updated information from each impacted agency which will require these agencies to revisit their core planning documents such general plans, zoning ordinances, master plans, capital improvement plans and perhaps most importantly agency budgets. It can be expected that the review and update of these core documents will take considerable time and effort, at a time when resources are scarce. This scenario would delay the ability of the Commission to prepare meaningful MSR/SOI plans.

Aside from the familiar documents discussed above, LAFCOs are also empowered to prepare wide ranging special studies as authorized by Government Code Section 56378 as described below.

Special Studies - Grants-in-aid

56378(a) - *In addition to its other powers, the commission shall initiate and make studies of existing governmental agencies. Those studies shall include, but shall not be limited to, **inventorying those agencies and determining their maximum service area and service capacities**. In conducting those studies, the commission may request land use information, studies, joint powers agreements, and plans of cities, counties, districts, including school districts, community college districts, joint powers agencies and joint powers authorities, regional agencies and state agencies and departments. Cities, counties, districts, including school districts, community college districts, joint powers agencies and joint powers authorities, regional agencies, and state agencies and departments, shall comply with the request of the commission for that information and the commission shall make its studies available to public agencies and any interested person. In making these studies, the commission may cooperate with the county planning commissions.*

56378(b) - *The commission, or the board of supervisors on behalf of the commission, may apply for or accept, or both, any **financial assistance and grants-in-aid** from public or private agencies or from the state or federal government or from a local government.*

Under this provision of law, it may be prudent and helpful to the affected agencies and the public for the Commission to undertake a preliminary analysis of each agencies service capabilities post Camp Fire. Such a review may assist the affected agencies:

- To understand what challenges each other must address,
- Assist the public with an improved picture of what can reasonably be expected from affected agencies; and
- Provide the building blocks for eventual updated MSR/SOI plans.

Given the scale of such a review, the Commission would need to determine a funding source and engage consultants with disaster recovery experience.

Direction

As the community and impacted local agencies approach two months since the start of the Camp Fire there are many unknowns related to the recovery efforts and final figures and other data are just now becoming more clear. It may be appropriate at this time for the Commission to direct its staff to:

- 1) Reach out to impacted local agencies and offer of assistance in addressing critical needs;
- 2) to solicit initial feedback on future planning objectives.

Attachments: 1. Camp Fire Perimeter - Impacted Agencies

