

Invoice

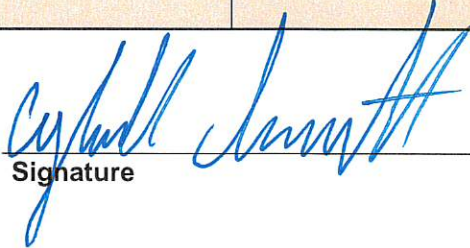
Date	Invoice #
10/31/2019	MZ-1 Planning

Bill To:

Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association
 Contact- Dale Unea
 533 C Street
 Eureka, CA 95501

Project	Time Period
Measure Z – Fire Chiefs Association (County Planning)	July 1, 2019 – September 30, 2019

Establishing Sustainable Revenue for Fire Services		
In recognition of the growing need to address the gap between local jurisdictional boundaries and where services are being demanded from fire related districts, as well as the lack of revenue to support increasing demand for fire a rescue services, the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association worked with Humboldt county and LAFCo staff to include a planning component in their FY 2019-20 Measure Z project. This technical team continues to support forward momentum on planning work, coordination, partner meetings, and analysis of annexation, merger, and revenue options.		
Description	Details	Total Amount Due
County Staff Time and Travel		
County Expense	County staff leadership, coordination, planning, and technical support from Humboldt County Planning and Building and Humboldt County Public Works, Natural Resources Planning.	\$7,097.51
LAFCo Expense	Technical and planning support from LAFCo staff.	\$7,824.00
TOTAL		\$14,921.51



Signature

10/31/2019

Date

Cybelle Immitt, Natural Resources Planning Manager

707 267-9542

Print Name and Title

Phone Number

Narrative:

Results and Outcomes:

1) Activities

Most of this quarter's work focused on moving forward with select annexation efforts to match service areas with jurisdictional boundaries. The tax exchange agreement policy approved by the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors on April 9, 2019 began to inform these annexations where applicable. Work continued to identify solutions to obstacles presented by California Health & Safety Code 13811. The following stakeholders continued to meet and work together on this effort through multiple emails, calls, and meetings throughout this reporting period:

- County of Humboldt
 - Board of Supervisors – Estelle Fennell and Mike Wilson
 - Planning and Building – John Miller
 - Public Works (Humboldt County Fire Safe Council) – Cybelle Immitt
 - County Administrative Office – Amy Nilsen and Elishia Hayes
- The Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) – Colette Metz and Sarah West
- The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs' Association (HCFCA) - Lon Winburn, Justin McDonald, Make Lake, and Sean Robertson.

In addition, meetings and working sessions continued to be planned and convened with fire departments in study areas. The following meetings were held during this reporting period:

- On July 24, 2019, a conference call was planned and convened with members of the HCFCA fire services committee and the Humboldt County Fire Safe Council (HCFSC) Fire Services Work Group to continue brainstorming a strategy related to California Health & Safety Code 13811 which exempts/prohibits “commercial forest lands which are timbered lands” from being included in fire protection districts. This is having a current and significant impact on the Fruitland Ridge FPD and has larger potential implications for other existing districts as well as the districts we are working with to annex their out of jurisdiction response areas. The HCFCA planned to reach out to their state associations and County representatives planned to consult with County Counsel to better understand the law.
- On July 29, 2019, members of the planning team met with Supervisor Estelle Fennell and County Counsel to discuss and evaluate the implications of Health & Safety Code 13811 for local fire services. A request will be made to add/clarify this issue as a priority in the County's legislative platform. The law may be inadvertently impacting local fire services and options for a fix are under evaluation.
- On July 30, 2019, members of the planning team had a meeting with the Redcrest fire company non-profit board of directors to explore the potential of a merger with the Rio Dell Fire Protection District. Several members of the Rio Del FPD Board attended the meeting and answered questions and brainstormed next steps.

- On August 7, 2019 members of the planning team met in Redway with Supervisor Estelle Fennel, representatives of the Garberville FPD, and the Sprowel Creek fire company to discuss the potential of a merger through annexation into the Garberville FPD.
- On August 12 and September 16 and 30, 2019, meetings took place to make progress on the Rio Dell FPD annexation and merger with Scotia, Redcrest and Shively fire. This effort took the largest amount of staff time during this reporting period. The LAFCo members of the planning team, in particular, invested a significant amount of time in research and coordination between meetings, agenda development, agreement development among the merging fire departments, and work on the beginnings of a LAFCo application.
- On August 15, 2019, county staff provided an update on project progress to the HCFSC.
- On September 6, 2019, members of the planning team met with Supervisor Estelle Fennel and representatives of the Garberville FPD to make progress on annexation plans.
- On September 26, 2019 members of the planning team met with the Board of Supervisor members of the fire services ad hoc to refine an approach to addressing the issues created by Health & Safety Code 13811 and to refine language for the legislative platform.

During this reporting period it was confirmed that the Redway Fire Protection District Board is not currently able to take on an annexation process of a scale that meets the expectations of the Board of Supervisors' tax exchange offers. The current understanding is that the District Board plans to annex only the areas that are proposed for development as the property owners go through the county permitting process. The technical team made themselves available to advise and research specific questions as they come up and will periodically reach out to the District and the Planning and Building Department to determine needs.

The technical team continued to sustain forward momentum on this planning project including the coordination of all of the above meetings and activities through weekly working calls and outreach to working group members. Multiple follow up calls with additional pre and post work were conducted to clarify points of view and prepare work products and meeting materials. Significant work was conducted between meetings to ensure forward momentum, particularly for the Rio Dell annexation which is getting close to submitting a LAFCO annexation application and a proposal to enter into a property tax exchange agreement with the county. This will be a significant milestone which will pave the way for the next round of annexations.

2) What difference was made in the community - outcomes

This work continues to make progress towards changes that will support the continued delivery and improvement of fire and rescue services to communities in need. Working together towards the common goal of establishing a system of sustainable fire services to protect all local communities/residents has built understanding and trust among members of the county staff, LAFCo, and the fire service ad hoc committee (including Board of Supervisors members and representatives of the Fire Chiefs' Association). This collaborative foundation will support positive outcomes for all mutually beneficial work such as the allocation of Measure Z funds and co-planning the best and most cost-effective dispatch services. The end result of all of these efforts will be continued service improvements that will benefit the communities and citizens of Humboldt county.

Lessons Learned:

The steps taken to better understand how participating FPDs are meeting the expectations outlined in the tax exchange agreement policy has helped build a framework that can be applied to the next round of annexations. This will save time and resources and serve as a model moving forward. The planning team has learned a lot from this first test of the new policy and is moving slow now to ensure that there are no surprises moving forward. The pace of work should pick up as these lessons are learned and applied.