

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF:

October 1, 2024

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**To:** Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
**From:** Fire Ad Hoc Committee  
**Subject:** Concurrent Joint Resolution of the City of Sebastopol and Gold Ridge Fire Protection District Endorsing the Proposed reorganization of the City of Sebastopol’s Fire and Emergency Services into the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item requests that the City Council approve the attached Resolution between the City of Sebastopol and the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District consenting to the annexation of City fire and emergency medical services.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

After thoroughly reviewing available data and extensive discussion, the best option for sustaining quality fire services in Sebastopol is to reorganize with the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District (GRFPD).

**BACKGROUND:**

On April 16, 2024, the City Council approved initiating the merger or reorganization of the Sebastopol Fire Department with the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District (GRFPD).

On Wednesday, September 11, 2024, the GRFPD Board of Directors approved and signed the attached resolution. A copy of the Concurrent Resolution between the City and GRFPD, which will be included in the LAFCO application submitted by GRFPD, is provided to the Council for reference on the terms and conditions of GRFPD's reorganization of the City’s fire and EMS services.

This resolution is a requirement from GRFPD, as part of the LAFCO application, to obtain the City of Sebastopol’s consent for reorganizing the Sebastopol Fire Department with GRFPD. It signifies the City’s support for the reorganization process. The City’s Fire Ad Hoc Committee has reviewed the resolution and supports this action.

**ANALYSIS:**

To meet LAFCO deadlines, the Council must approve two documents for inclusion in the LAFCO application that GRFPD will submit in December. The first is a Concurrent Resolution, and the second is a Revenue Sharing Agreement outlining additional funding for the services GRFPD will provide to the City. The Revenue Sharing Agreement will be presented to the City Council later and is not part of this agenda item.

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**

This item has been noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours before the scheduled meeting date.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no cost associated with the adoption of this resolution. To support this process, the FY24-25 budget has allocated \$30,000 for the LAFCO in account 100-31-02-4210 under the Professional Contract Services line item.

**ATTACHMENTS:** 1. Joint Resolution, No. 24/25-05 dated September 11, 2024

APPROVALS:

Department Head Approval: Approval Date: 9-24-2024

CEQA Determination (Planning): Approval Date: 9-25-2024

The proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

If it is a project – Planning will need to include language

Administrative Services (Financial) Approval Date: 9-25-2024

Costs authorized in City Approved Budget:  Yes  No N/A

Account Code (if applicable) 100-3102-4210

City Attorney Approval: Approval Date: NA

City Manager Approval: Approval Date: 9-24-2024

**Resolution No. 24/25-05  
September 11, 2024**

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL AND GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ENDORSING THE PROPOSED ANNEXATION OF THE CITY OF SEBASTOPOL'S FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES INTO THE GOLD RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**WHEREAS**, in May 2024, the City of Sebastopol ("City") and Gold Ridge Fire Protection District ("District") (collectively the "Parties") entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for Shared Services which resulted in greater fire and emergency medical services ("EMS") management and coordination between the two agencies and responses to emergency incidents; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties have initiated assessing the sharing of resources via an annexation of City fire and EMS into the District which will then be considered for approval by the Sonoma County Local Agency Formation Commission ("Sonoma LAFCO") pursuant to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (California Government Code section 56000 et seq.) (the "LAFCO Act") in order to best serve the residents of both jurisdictions, and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to California Government Code section 56855, the Parties are preparing separate contracts regarding the terms and conditions of annexation of the City's fire and EMS services into the District for a minimum of 20 years, and which Sonoma LAFCO is requested to approve; and

**WHEREAS**, the Proposed Reorganization is subject to Sonoma LAFCO approval of the amended spheres of influence of the Parties to include the entirety of the reorganized District; and

**WHEREAS**, the boundaries of the territory included in the reorganized District will be the are shown in Exhibit "A", the map attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference; and

**WHEREAS**, the territory included in the Reorganized District is inhabited, as defined in the Cortese-Knox- Hertzberg Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties desire that the Proposed Reorganization be subject to the following terms and conditions as set forth herein:

- a. The name of the reorganized District shall remain the "Gold Ridge Fire Protection District."
- b. The reorganized District is intended to achieve greater economy and efficiency in providing fire protection and emergency services. The Parties have determined that the Proposed Reorganization is in the best interest of the Parties in order to provide better services to the residents of the reorganized District.

- c. Pursuant to the provisions of California Health and Safety Code §13842 and Government Code section 56866(n), reorganized District shall continue to be governed by a seven (7) member Board of Directors, subject to District-wide election.
- d. With the exception of the City's fire station, which will be subject to a separate agreement; all fire and EMS assets, unrestricted, restricted or fiduciary, held by the Parties may be transferred to and become assets of the reorganized District. The reorganized District shall be the successor agency to the Parties for fire and EMS services.
- e. The Parties shall enter into a revenue transfer agreement to City payment for the costs of enhanced fire and EMS services by reorganized District, as well as transfer of the City's allocation of Measure H sales tax revenue pursuant to Sonoma County Code section 12-60 et seq.
- f. All fire and EMS services liabilities of the Parties shall be transferred to and become liabilities of the reorganized District.
- g. The effective date of the Proposed Reorganization shall be the date of recordation of the certificate of completion of reorganization pursuant to Government Code section 57200 et seq.
- h. Distribution of Services: The Board of Directors of the reorganized District will authorize an annual work plan for services throughout the reorganized District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties hereby consent to the annexation of City fire and EMS into the District without election by the registered voters within the City and District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Parties' find that the annexation of City fire and EMS into the District appears to be categorically exempt on the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA") by virtue of section 15320 of the State CEQA Guidelines ("Class 20 Exemption") because this annexation is a reorganization of a local government agencies where the changes do not change the geographical area in which previously existing powers are exercised.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that (1) the Sebastopol City Council and the Board of Directors of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District are satisfied with the proposed terms and conditions of the annexation of the City to the District and (2) the District Fire Chief is authorized to transmit this resolution to Sonoma LAFCO.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sebastopol City Council and the Board of Directors of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District hereby find, determine, declare, and order as follows:

1. The foregoing recitals are true and correct and are adopted as herein for set forth above.

2. Sonoma LAFCO is requested to undertake proceedings for the proposed annexation of City fire and EMS into the District according to the terms and conditions stated above, the Parties separate agreements, and in the manner provided in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act.
3. The Mayor of the City and President of the District Board of Directors are authorized and directed to execute this Concurrent Resolution and any other documents as Sonoma LAFCO may reasonably request to accomplish the proposed annexation of City fire and EMS into the District.
4. The Fire Chief of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District, and/or his designee, shall be, and is hereby, authorized and directed to perform any and all acts required to complete the proposed annexation of City fire and EMS into the District, including, but not limited to, preparation and coordination of the application to Sonoma LAFCO, and preparation and filing of Notice of Exemption with the County Clerk in accordance with the provisions of CEQA and the State CEQA guidelines.

This Joint Resolution may be executed in counterparts and is effective from the latest date of execution shown below.

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Sebastopol City Council this \_\_\_\_\_ by the following vote:

**VOTE:**

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Gold Ridge Fire Protection District this September 11, 2024 by the following vote:

**VOTE:**

**AYES:**

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:**

**ABSTAIN:**

**ATTEST:** Karen Johnson  
Clerk of the Board

Robert E. Gleason  
Board President

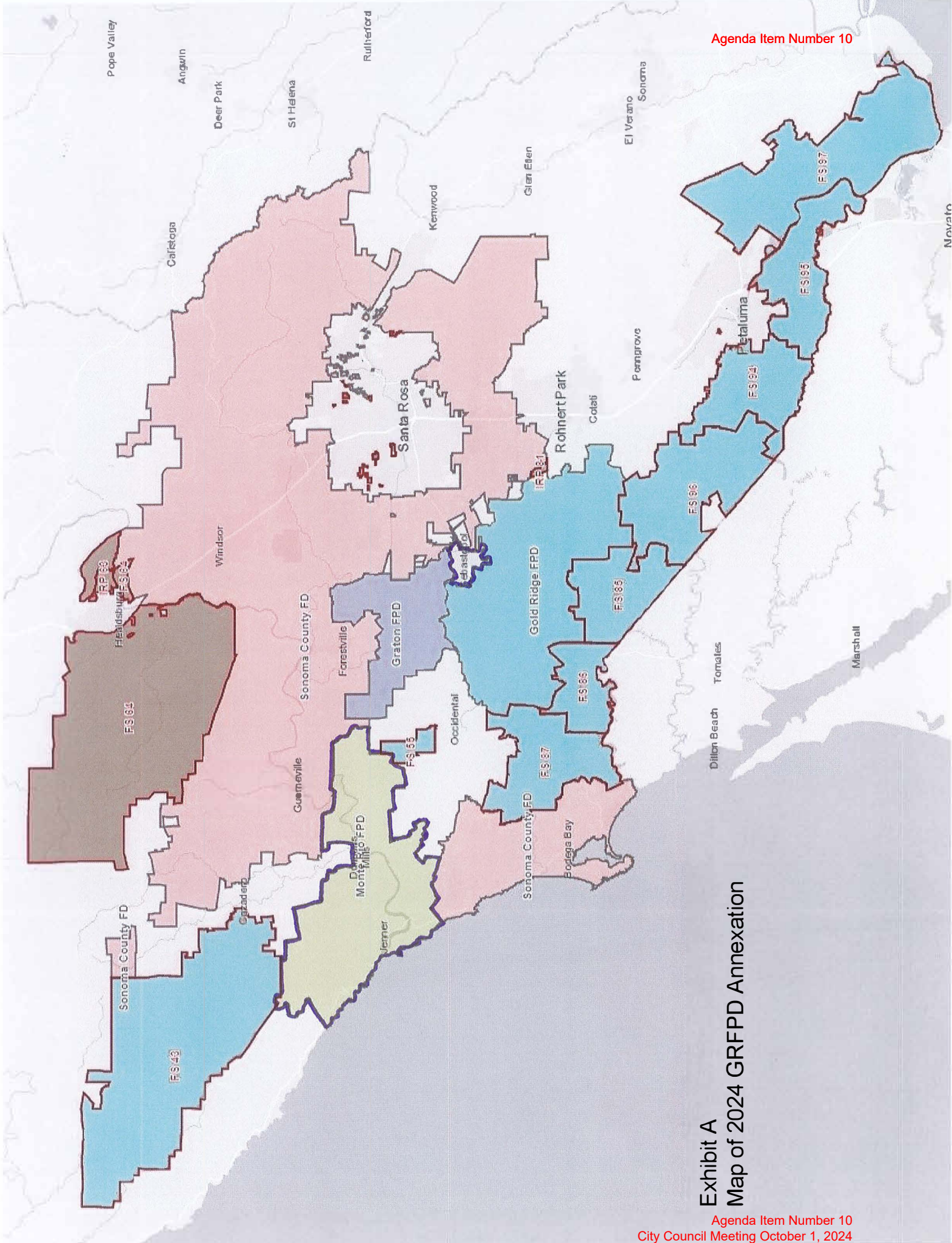


Exhibit A  
Map of 2024 GRFPD Annexation