



**SAN BENITO COUNTY  
AGENDA ITEM  
TRANSMITTAL FORM**

Dom Zanger  
District No. 1  
Vice-Chair

Kollin Kosmicki  
District No. 2  
Chair

Mindy Sotelo  
District No. 3

Angela Curro  
District No. 4

Ignacio Velazquez  
District No. 5

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**Item Number: 3.4**

**MEETING DATE:** 08/12/2025

**DEPARTMENT:** COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE

**AGENDA ITEM PREPARER:** Henie Ring

**DEPT HEAD/DIRECTOR:** Esperanza Colio Warren

**SUBJECT:**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE - E. COLIO WARREN**

Discuss and provide direction to proceed with the Fire Protection and Life Safety Services District Formation Study, authorize the County Administrative Officer to continue participating with the feasibility study and approve quarterly Fire Department operational updates by the City of Hollister and Fire Chief Jonathan Goulding to the Board of Supervisors.

SBC FILE NUMBER: 119

**AGENDA SECTION:**

REGULAR AGENDA

**BACKGROUND/SUMMARY:**

In early 2024, the City of Hollister announced it was terminating its fire agreements with the County and the City of San Juan Bautista due to the challenges of providing services under the current agreement. The three entities, under the San Benito Fire Protection Advisory Committee, began a new study to assess the current fire services being provided to the three jurisdictions, identify opportunities to expand and/or strengthen services provided, and determine potential costs and service benefits to the taxpayers if the two cities and the County consolidate under a Fire Protection District.

Around the beginning of FY 24/25 the County and the City of Hollister were in negotiations for potential contract amendments to the existing Fire services provided by the City. During the next several months the County and the City met to discuss changes to the contract, however, negotiations did not yield amended changes and negotiations ceased. The County took the position of creating a new fire department with the City of San Juan Bautista as a partner.

On February 25, 2025 the Board approved a contract with Baker Tilly for the Fire Feasibility study

recommended by the Fire Advisory Committee to continue examination of a fire district. The cost for the study was for an amount not to exceed \$99,000.00. The contract would be a shared cost split among the three (3) agencies as follows: 45% by San Benito County, 45% by the City of Hollister, and 10% by the City of San Juan Bautista.

On April 22, 2025, the Board agreed to pause San Benito County's participation in the Fire Feasibility until a later date, as the fire negotiations with the City of Hollister had ceased and the County began preparations for developing a new fire department with the City of San Juan Bautista.

On June 6, the City of Hollister scheduled a special meeting to consider adopting a resolution to approve amendments to the Fire Protection Agreements for San Benito County and San Juan Bautista. On June 10, 2025, the Board of Supervisors approved the amended contract with the City of Hollister.

Since the County and the City of Hollister agreed to a new term with the existing fire services contract, County Administration is requesting to restart participation with the feasibility study; however, Administration is recommending the Fire Protection Advisory Committee bring the following items to be included in the scope of work for the study.

- Language that LAFCO will receive an application entailing the feasibility study and concurrently provide the required plan for services for funding, staffing, infrastructure and equipment to ensure that the current level of services are maintained;
- And the Feasibility Study will include a review and recommendation if a Special District is created, that it will provide a recommendation for the future location of OES and EOC and how it will operate under a Special District model.

In addition, County Administration is requesting the Board to approve the recommendation to set up quarterly presentations by City of Hollister Fire Chief Jonathan Goulding to the Board of Supervisors with the Fire Department operational updates.

**RESOLUTION OR ORDINANCE NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:**

N/A

**CONTRACT NEEDED FOR THIS ITEM:**

N/A

**RFP AND BID HISTORY:**

N/A

**LAST CONTRACT AMOUNT OR N/A:**

N/A

**CONTRACT HISTORY (Describe all amendments and previous contracts):**

N/A

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 1. Operational Development & Excellence**

No

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 2. Planning And Sustainable Growth**

No

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 3. Technology**

No

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 4. Community Engagement**

No

**STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS: 5. Health & Safe Community**

Yes

**BUDGETED:**

N/A

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENT NEEDED:**

N/A

**SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

N/A

**UNFUNDED MANDATE:**

N/A

**SBC BUDGET LINE ITEM NUMBER:**

N/A

**CURRENT FY COST:**

N/A

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff respectfully recommends the Board:

1. Discuss and provide direction to proceed with the Fire Protection and Life Safety Services District Formation Study, authorize the County Administrative Officer to continue participating with the feasibility study; and
2. Approve quarterly Fire Department operational updates by the City of Hollister Fire Chief Jonathan Goulding to the Board of Supervisors.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Baker Tilly - SBCO Fire Protection & Life safety services special district formation](#)  
[SBCO Board Agenda Item 2.1, 4-22-25](#)

SBCO Board Agenda Item 10.6, 2-25-25

SBCO Board Agenda Item 3.3, 6-10-25