

# LASSEN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION STUDY

Revised July 1, 1983

Prepared for

The Lassen County Local Agency Formation Commission

By

Raymond Berettini, Fire Chief, City of Susanville

Lloyd Keefer, Chairman, State Forest Ranger, California Department of Forestry

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I	Introduction . . . . .	1
II	Current General Status of Structure Fire Protection . . . . .	2
III	Local Fire Protection Organizations - General Recommendations . . . . .	5
IV	Local Fire Protection Organizations - Specific Recommendations . . . . .	15
V	Planning Options for the Unprotected Communities . . . . .	31
VI	Recommendations for the Unprotected Communities . . . . .	37

## APPENDICES

- A. Letter of Authorization
- B. Fire Department Sizes and Insurance Service Office  
(I. S. O.) Ratings
- C. Fire Department Assessed Valuations
- D. Sample Mutual Aid Agreement
- E. Big Valley and Adin Fire District Boundary Map

## INTRODUCTION

Purpose

The purpose of this effort is to conduct a cursory study of the degree of structure fire protection currently available to the unincorporated communities and the developing rural areas of Lassen County: to enumerate alternate methods of providing fire protection in these areas; and to recommend courses of action to improve the general level of fire protection throughout the county according to the will of the people and their ability to pay.

Authority

Authorization to conduct the original study is contained in a letter dated January 28, 1974, from the Lassen County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (See Appendix A).

Authorization to revise the original study was received verbally from the Chairman of LAFCo in January of 1981.

The committee recommends this study be updated at least every five (5) years.

Study Procedure

The committee interviewed every fire chief in the county to explain why and how the study was being conducted and to discuss local problems, critical needs and considerations related to jurisdictional boundaries. The committee did not attempt to evaluate the fire fighting effectiveness of any fire protection organization since this would require a lengthy in-depth study.

The committee also investigated the needs for fire protection in the developed communities which at this time have no form of year-long structural fire protection. Possible solutions to these problems are included in the study.

The committee was well received during its travel and wishes to extend thanks to the fire chiefs of Lassen, Modoc, and Shasta counties for their kind cooperation.

## II

### CURRENT GENERAL STATUS OF STRUCTURE FIRE PROTECTION

#### Existing Fire Protection Organizations

Fire protection in Lassen County is provided by the following organizations. Each organization is discussed in more detail in Chapter IV.

#### Local Fire Departments

1. Adin Fire District\*
2. Big Valley Fire District
3. Clear Creek Community Services District
4. Doyle Fire District
5. Eagle Lake Community Association
6. Eagleville Fire District\*
7. Janesville Fire District
8. Lake Forest Community Association
9. Little Valley Community Services District
10. Madeline Fire District
11. Northwest Lassen County Fire District
12. Standish-Litchfield Fire District
13. Susan River Fire District
14. Westwood Community Services District

\*Multi-county fire districts based in Modoc County

#### City Fire Departments

1. City of Susanville

#### State and Federal Agencies

1. California Correctional Center (California Department of Corrections)
2. California Department of Forestry (CDF)
3. Sierra Army Depot - Herlong (U. S. Army)
4. United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
5. United States Forest Service (USFS)

The State and Federal agencies listed above provide mutual aid to nearby residents, neighboring fire departments, and to each other, however, the Correctional Center and the Sierra Army Depot are the only agencies in this group which are fully activated on a year long basis; the other three (3) (BLM, USFS, and CDF) are forest and wildland fire protection agencies. These latter organizations are fully operational for five or six months during the summer season and are not available on a continuous basis for fire protection services during the winter period. They do, when available, respond to structure, vehicle and other fires in the rural and more remote areas throughout the summer as a "good neighbor" policy and because such fires constitute a threat to timber and range lands.

The CDF is authorized by state law (Sections 4142, 4143 and 4144 - Public Resources Code) to enter into contractual agreements with any county, city, or district for fire protection services in accordance with the needs that exist and the ability of the people to pay. The CDF currently has cooperative agreements with 33 local government entities in 29 counties. Senate Bill 227 (1976), known as the Amador Plan, added Section 4143 and 4144 to the Public Resources Code which directs the CDF to enter into a cooperative agreement with any county for the purpose of preventing and suppressing forest fires or other fires within the county. The legislation provides for the utilization of necessary CDF fire prevention and suppression related equipment, personnel, and buildings located in the county during the winter period commonly designated as the "non-fire season".

The CDF is given the responsibility by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to administer the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. Prior to 1978, the CDF administered Title IV of the Rural Development Act of 1972. Both Acts provide for financial assistance to organize, train, and equip local forces in rural areas and communities to prevent, control, and suppress fires threatening life, resources, and other improvements. Since 1975, \$10,584 in matching funds and 13 vehicles have been received by fire departments in Lassen County through this program.

In the event of large scale disaster type fires or catastrophies such as earthquake, bombing, or flood, the fire and rescue activities are coordinated under procedures which have been established for many years by the State Office

of Emergency Services (OES). Under this Disaster Plan the fire chiefs of the county have selected the following to serve as the Lassen County Area Fire and Rescue Coordinators:

California Department of Forestry - Lloyd Keefer, Coordinator

Susanville City Fire Department - Raymond Berettini, Alternate Coordinator

Both offices maintain current records of all the fire and rescue resources in the county and through established procedures will dispatch the necessary forces to the stricken area to cope with disasters. The system also provides for assistance from other areas of the state if needed.

#### Developing Communities Which Provide No Protection

The following areas have developed to the point where fire protection should be considered. Some of these communities presently receive varying degrees of protection from nearby fire departments only as a moral obligation.

1. Eagles Nest
2. Herlong - Herlong Junction
3. Milford
4. Silver Lake
5. Termo - Ravendale
6. Wendel

Each area is discussed separately in Chapter VI.

### III

#### LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS - GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

##### General Observations

The local departments providing fire protection in Lassen County cover an area of approximately 531,700 acres with the Madeline district being the largest (see Appendix B). The approximate size of Lassen County is 2,910,000 acres. The majority of departments are plagued with long travel distances from the fire station to their boundaries. This is aggravated further during the winter when roads become nearly impassable from ice and snow conditions.

With the exception of Westwood, Janesville, and Susan River, all fire departments operating in the county are staffed completely with volunteers, a practice which saves the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars each year. These personnel, particularly the hard-working chiefs, are to be commended for their good work and their unselfish devotion to a difficult task in order to aid their neighbors in times of urgent need. Westwood, Janesville, and Susan River also have strong volunteer forces which augment their full-time paid personnel.

Some departments have excellent late model apparatus but a few are using very old engines which are becoming increasingly difficult to maintain because of parts availability problems and should be replaced as soon as time and funds permit.

Fire insurance ratings obtained from the Insurance Services Office (ISO) of San Francisco establish that the departments range from a "Class 6" to a "Class 10" this latter being identified as "unprotected". (See Appendix B). It is important to note here that, for the most part, the seven (7) departments in "Class 10" are doing a good job from the committee's observation. These ratings are based upon many factors: apparatus, manpower availability, alarm systems, mutual aid arrangements and, of vital importance, the adequacy of water systems.

There are great variations between fire district assessed valuations. Comparisons of these figures are set forth in Appendix C.



## Common Problems and Recommendations

### Proposition 13

With the passage of Proposition 13, special districts have become financially dependent on counties. Proposition 13 has severely limited the ability of special districts to generate additional revenues within the district. A maximum tax rate has now been established for all services within the County and special districts must compete with each other and with other county services for available revenues.

AB 2753 authorizes districts, counties, and county service areas and cities to levy an assessment for fire suppression services and provides the procedures for determining the assessment, including notice, hearing, and protests. This legislation would permit the legislative body of a district, etc., to abandon the proposed assessment if the protests equal at least 5 percent, but less than 50 percent of the expected revenue and would require the legislative body to abandon the proceedings if the protests equal 50 percent or more of the total amount of expected revenue; would require the legislative body to either submit the proposed assessment to approval by two-thirds of the voters voting on the proposition or abandon the proceedings if the protests equal one-third or more of the total amount of expected revenue. The assessment may be made for the purpose of obtaining, furnishing, operating, and maintaining fire suppression equipment or for the payment of salaries and benefits of fire fighting personnel. Zones or areas of benefit can be established. The assessment can be levied on a parcel, class of improvement to property, or on a use of property basis. The County Counsel should be contacted so that proper procedures are followed if a district, etc., desires to utilize this legislation.

### Recommendation

Districts should use AB 2753 provisions for generating additional revenues.

### Alternative

Remain status quo and continue funding fire protection within relatively fixed revenues.

### Fire Coordinator

There is a need for an individual who can coordinate the fire service activities of Lassen County. The fire coordinator would have the authority and responsibility for upgrading structural fire protection through the county. He would assist the Board of Supervisors in countywide fire protection planning and budget allocations, direct or actually present standardized training programs to the fire departments, obtain training aids and materials, assist in matters of supply and equipment specifications and their acquisition and work closely with each department to improve effectiveness and thereby lower fire insurance ratings. As an example, the County of Modoc has a part-time County Fire Coordinator who receives \$132.00 per month for his many hours of service plus travel expenses for meetings and training sessions. He represents both the Board of Supervisors as well as the fire departments at these meetings. Many counties in California have full-time coordinators.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that a County Fire Coordinator be appointed for Lassen County. The position could be funded from the County General Fund or from a prorated charge against each of the fire departments.

### Alternatives

1. A County Fire Coordinator be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. It could be an individual in County government who would assist the departments as outlined above in addition to his regular assigned duties. Some counties have appointed the local State Forest Ranger (CDF) to fulfill this need for coordination. Authority for this is found in Section 24008 of the Government Code. There is no cost to the county for the CDF Ranger to perform these duties.
2. That no action be taken in which case the departments will continue to operate without the best coordination and, perhaps, cooperation.

### Purchasing

Presently most fire departments purchase their own supplies and equipment independently on the open market. This is costly as price discounts for wholesale or volume purchases are not realized. A few departments utilize the bulk purchase power of the County Purchasing Agent.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that the departments utilize a consolidated purchasing program to obtain price reductions from fire equipment vendors. This would require coordination of purchases into one large group for special fire equipment needs such as fire hose, nozzles, safety equipment, etc. The fire coordinator position could be utilized to assist the departments with coordinating their purchases.

### Alternative

There is no alternative except to remain status quo, in which case the departments will continue to spend far more than necessary for their operations.

### Unity

The Lassen County Fire Officer's Association was officially formed in November, 1978, as a result of a recommendation in the initial 1975 Fire Protection Study prepared for LAFCo. This association meets on a quarterly basis to discuss mutual problems and ways and means for the betterment of fire service; to develop a bond of friendship and understanding among members of the fire service, exchange ideas on all questions affecting the safety of life and property; to promote legislation to accomplish these objectives.

### Recommendation

The Board of Supervisors designate one member of the Board to attend these meetings so that communications can be improved between the Board and the fire service and the Board can become more familiar with local fire protection problems.

### Alternative

The matter remain status quo, in which case communications would not be improved and the Board would not be fully appraised of local fire protection problems.

### Consolidations

The purpose of consolidation is generally to reduce costs, i.e., duplicate services, overhead, stations, equipment, etc., resulting in a savings to local taxpayers and to improve the efficiency of the fire protection service. It appears that little or nothing can be gained from consolidation at this time. None of the districts have significant overhead costs. The fire stations are not located close enough so that stations and equipment can be eliminated.

Countywide consolidation is not feasible due to present tax limitations (See Proposition 13, Part III) and remoteness of the many ranches and residences throughout the County.

### Recommendation

Consolidation of individual fire districts is not recommended at this time.

### Mutual Aid

Mutual aid occurs when a neighboring department is requested to assist the responsible department whenever the latter needs, or foresees the need for

additional forces to combat a given fire or other type of emergency. An example of a written "Mutual Aid Agreement" can be found in Appendix D. Mutual aid among departments appears to be quite satisfactory at this time.

However, mutual aid is provided in some cases through verbal agreements between departments. Written mutual aid agreements should be initiated in these situations so there is a clear understanding of the number and type of resources departments can provide for assistance.

#### Recommendation

Departments initiate written mutual aid agreements where verbal agreements are currently in existence.

#### Alternative

Continue with verbal agreements in which case there is no clear mutual understanding of the amount and type of mutual aid that can be provided between departments.

#### Automatic Aid

Automatic aid occurs when two or more departments agree to a written prearranged plan wherein each will respond immediately and automatically to an emergency which occurs beyond their respective jurisdictional boundaries and where they are the closest department. This insures that fire apparatus nearest to the scene will respond and be the first to arrive irrespective of boundary lines. This provides the best fire protection to the public. Many California departments are currently enjoying this cooperative system.

Care must be taken to insure that a reasonably fair exchange of aid prevails between the cooperating departments. For example, some neighboring departments have widespread difference in levels of protection provided and the pitfalls of one-sided agreements must be avoided.

### Recommendation

Departments initiate automatic aid agreements along common boundaries where the public will benefit from the closest available resources.

### Alternatives

1. Continue status quo, in which case fire losses which might have been precluded by such arrangements will continue as in the past.
2. Revise the jurisdictional boundaries of neighboring departments to eliminate unrealistic travel time situations.

### Telephone Communications

The nationwide emergency number "911" is in operation throughout Lassen County. The Public Service Answering Point (PSAP) at the Lassen County Sheriff's Office receives emergency calls from the Westwood, Eagle Lake, and Honey Lake Valley areas. Emergency calls from Big Valley are received in the PSAP at the Modoc County Sheriff's Office. The PSAP at the Shasta County Sheriff's Office Substation in Burney receives emergency calls from Little Valley.

The "911" system should expedite the early reporting of fires to the correct jurisdiction, however, good arrangements for receiving reports of fires at the fire department level are vital.

Some departments are using the Carlson-Stromberg system which provides for emergency calls to be received simultaneously at a number of volunteer residences. This eliminates the need for the "911" dispatcher to relay the emergency call individually to a number of residences until the dispatcher finds someone at home.

### Recommendation

All departments strive to improve the efficiency of their own communication systems in order to realize the maximum benefit from "911". The Carlson-Stromberg system or a similar system should be considered by departments who presently do not have such a system.

### Alternative

Remain status quo, in which case emergency calls will not be received in the most effective and efficient manner.

### Radio Communications

Several of the departments enjoy the added effectiveness provided by two-way radios. Additional equipment or mutual aid apparatus can be summoned immediately. Conversely, surplus or unneeded engines can often be returned or re-routed elsewhere thereby saving fuel and valuable time. Several of the departments with radios can communicate via the Lassen County Fire Net radios located in the Susanville City Fire Department and the California Department of Forestry.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that all fire departments strive towards the goal of providing two-way radio communications so that the following ideal capabilities can be met:

1. Each engine can communicate with its own headquarters station either directly or indirectly through a third party. (For example a radio message from a fire engine is received by the Susanville Fire Department and relayed to the parent fire department dispatch office).

2. Each engine can talk with other apparatus from its own department.
3. For maximum effectiveness all engines and headquarters base stations should be capable of intercommunicating with each other over a common fire frequency - the Lassen County Fire Net.

#### Alternatives

1. Remain status quo using slower obsolete methods which inhibit the fire departments from reaching their maximum potential.
2. Seek financial assistance from the Board of Supervisors to provide radio communications for all fire department stations (base station radio) and fire engines (mobile radios).
3. Distribute CDF surplus radios as they become available to department stations and engines that presently have no radios. There is a small cost for converting these radios to the County Fire Net. To date, the CDF has distributed seven (7) base station and twenty-five (25) mobile radios to local departments. It will take approximately two (2) years to provide radios to all departments using this approach.

#### Central Fire Dispatch Center

A central fire dispatch center is needed for all fire departments in Lassen County. This system would complement the existing "911" system in that all fire related emergency calls would be transferred from a "911" PSAP directly to the fire dispatch center. A central fire dispatch center would provide the following benefits:

1. Better coordination and utilization of resources between fire departments resulting in reduced operating costs to individual fire departments.



2. Improved mutual aid between departments since mutual aid requests will be handled more efficiently than presently being handled.
3. Better communication and coordination between fire departments and wildland fire fighting agencies on fires in joint responsibility areas.
4. Fire damage to life, property, and natural resource values in Lassen County will be reduced by a more efficient fire protection system.
5. A better fire insurance rating from Insurance Service Office for a central fire dispatch center.

#### Recommendation

The Lassen County Fire Officer's Association explore the alternatives for providing a central fire dispatch center and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

#### Alternatives

1. Remain status quo and not achieve the benefits that a central fire dispatch center would provide to both the fire departments and the public.
2. Expand the dispatch capabilities of the Susanville Fire Department. The Susanville Fire Department is currently providing dispatch service for the Susan River Fire District.
3. Contract with the CDF under the "Amador Plan" to provide a central fire dispatch center.

#### IV

### LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION ORGANIZATIONS - SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Adin Fire District

This multi-county fire district based in Modoc County is ideally located to protect many homes and ranches in Lassen County. The district utilizes three (3) pieces of fire apparatus plus a 2600 gallon and 2000 gallon water tank truck - all operated by 34 volunteer firefighters. An ambulance is operated by Med-Com and housed at the fire station.

Water supplies are not consistently adequate throughout the District. The two (2) water tankers offset some of the inadequate water systems within the district.

Adin has mutual aid with the following:

- Big Valley Fire District - Lassen County
- Lookout Fire District - Modoc County
- California Department of Forestry
- U. S. Forest Service

Mutual aid between Adin, Big Valley, and Lookout has been handled through a verbal agreement.

#### Recommendations

1. A written mutual aid agreement should be developed between Adin, Lookout, and Big Valley Fire Districts. A written agreement will provide each district with a clear understanding of the number and type of resources they can expect to receive from their neighbors when mutual aid is requested.
2. A strip varying from a mile to two miles or so along the Big Valley District's east border should be annexed by the Adin Fire District. This border is now common to both and, of

course, should remain so after this westward readjustment. Generally, the Adin District should at least consider annexing the areas approximately as follows (See Appendix E):

Entire Section 34 of T. 39N, R. 8E  
Portions of Sections 2, 11, 14, 23 of T. 38N  
R. 8E (See map in Appendix E)

The chiefs of each district should confer and decide exactly where the greatest benefit to all concerned can be derived from adjusting this boundary. For the most part the travel time from Adin will allow apparatus to arrive earlier from Adin than from Bieber to the area in question.

#### Big Valley Fire District

This is one of the larger and older fire districts in Lassen County with stations located in Bieber and Nubieber. The district has five (5) pieces of fire apparatus with two (2) of these apparatus located in Nubieber. The apparatus are manned by 24 volunteer firefighters.

The community of Bieber has a fairly adequate water supply including mains and hydrants, however, water outside of town is very limited.

Big Valley has mutual aid with the following:

Adin Fire District - Modoc County  
Lookout Fire District - Modoc County  
California Department of Forestry

Mutual aid between Big Valley, Adin, and Lookout has been handled through verbal agreement.

The 1975 study recommended that an island of "no-mans-land" existing along the northern boundary of the district (Sec. 36, T. 39N, R. 7E and Sections 31, 32, and N $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 33, T. 39N, R. 8E) be annexed into this district (See Appendix E).

There are no residences located within this area. As a result of Proposition 13, the district probably would not receive additional revenues for providing fire protection to this area. Therefore the committee did not include the 1975 recommendation in this revision. The decision as to whether annexation of this area should be pursued rests solely with the Big Valley Board of Commissioners.

#### Recommendations

1. A written mutual aid agreement should be developed between Adin, Lookout, and Big Valley Fire Districts (See Adin Fire District). The Big Valley District would benefit from having one of Adin's water tank trucks included in the mutual aid response. This would offset some of the inadequate water supplies outside the community of Bieber.
2. Adjust the Adin-Big Valley boundaries (See Adin Fire District).

#### Clear Creek Community Services District

This is one of the smaller districts providing fire protection services with two pieces of fire apparatus and ten (10) volunteer firefighters. The district has recently acquired a second fire engine. An addition to the existing fire station has been provided for this second engine.

A reasonably adequate water supply system including pumps and 19 fire hydrants exists within the district. The water is supplied from a spring which heads Clear Creek.

Clear Creek shares mutual aid with:

Westwood Fire District  
Hamilton Branch Fire District  
California Department of Forestry

Mutual aid with Westwood and Hamilton Branch has been handled through verbal agreement.

## Recommendations

1. A written mutual aid agreement should be developed between the Clear Creek, Westwood and Hamilton Branch districts. A written agreement will provide each district with a clear understanding of the number and type of resources they can expect to receive from their neighbor when mutual aid is requested.
2. The committee recommends that Clear Creek consider consolidation with or obtain contract protection from Westwood. The stations are only three miles apart and for many years Westwood has automatically responded to assist Clear Creek on most fires.

The advantages of the merger are that Westwood has the expertise and experience of a paid chief and several full-time paid personnel plus a larger group of volunteers available on a 24 hour basis. A careful study might show that this paid force could normally arrive in Clear Creek before the local volunteers could man the Clear Creek apparatus. Westwood also has more apparatus including an ambulance service.

The disadvantage is that Clear Creek would no longer enjoy the prestige of having its very own fire department, but it does appear that Clear Creek would have improved fire protection from such a consolidation.

## Doyle Fire District

This district operates four (4) pieces of fire apparatus manned by fifteen (15) volunteer firefighters. The structures are widely dispersed and water supplies are not adequate for fire protection. A 15,000 gallon tank for refilling fire engines has been installed at the fire station. However, no water system exists within the community of Doyle.

Mutual aid is available from the following:

Sierra Army Depot (Herlong)  
U. S. Forest Service  
Bureau of Land Management

### Recommendations

1. Water availability for fire protection should be improved within the district. Several alternatives should be explored to accomplish this. One would be to acquire a water tank truck with a minimum capacity of 2500 gallons. Existing water sources i.e., lakes, ponds, streams, etc., could be inventoried and, if necessary, made available. Fire hydrants should be required for new subdivisions.

### Eagle Lake Community Association

The Eagle Lake Community Association provides fire protection to year round residential and summer recreational areas along the west and north shores of Eagle Lake. This includes the communities of Spaulding Tract, Bucks Bay and Stone Tract. Funding for fire protection is received through subscriptions and donations from the homeowners.

The association operates three (3) fire apparatus, one 2600 gallon water tank truck, an ambulance and a wrecker manned by twenty nine (29) volunteer firefighters. One of these engines has been placed at Stone Tract.

The Association has completed construction of a new fire station at Spaulding Tract. This will provide a heated facility for fire engines during wintertime so that year-round structure fire protection is available. A 4000 gallon water tank for refilling fire engines and the water tank truck has been installed at the fire station. The Association also intends to acquire land at Stone Tract for an additional fire station. This station is tentatively being planned for construction during the fall of 1983.

Water for fire fighting purposes is generally inadequate. Most of the residences are supplied from individual wells except for the northern portion of Spaulding Tract which is supplied by a water district. The water company has installed one (1) standpipe for refilling fire engines. The 2600 gallon water tanker will offset some of the inadequate water systems.

The Association has completed signing of all streets.

Mutual aid is available from the U. S. Forest Service and the California Department of Forestry.

### Recommendations

1. The area protected by the Eagle Lake Community Association should eventually form a community services district which could provide services other than fire should they be desired.
2. The Community Association should encourage the water company to install additional standpipes for firefighting in the area served by the water company.
3. The Community Association should continue in their efforts to construct a fire station at Stone Tract so that an adequate fire-fighting capability can be maintained during the winter. An alternative would be to contract with CDF for wintertime fire protection for Buck's Bay and Stone Tract from the Grasshopper Forest Fire Station.

### Eagleville Fire District

This multi-county fire district is based in Modoc County and extends about two miles south of the county line to cover an area of nearly 14 square miles inside Lassen County. The assessed valuation protected in Lassen is relatively small and consists of primarily of one very large ranch operation plus a few smaller ones. The department operates three (3) pieces of fire apparatus, including a 1900 gallon water tank truck manned by twelve (12) volunteer firefighters.

The water systems (wells, irrigation ditches, and reservoirs) are not adequate throughout the district. The water tank truck will offset some of the inadequate water systems within the district.

Eagleville receives mutual aid from:

Cedarville Fire District  
Bureau of Land Management  
U. S. Forest Service

There are no recommendations for boundary revisions or other changes at this time.

### Janesville Fire District

This district operates four (4) pieces of fire apparatus manned by one full-time paid fire chief and twenty-seven (27) volunteer firefighters. About half of the district lies in an extreme fire hazard area wherein there is a great potential for losses to life and property values from forest fires.

The water systems are generally inadequate, consisting of wells, storage tanks and reservoirs, some of which have access problems. The Tri-District Association (Janesville, Susan River, and Standish-Litchfield) has purchased a 4000 gallon water tank truck which is located in Janesville. The water tanker is available for fire emergency responses within all three (3) districts. This water tanker offsets some of the inadequate water systems within each of the districts and will help improve their Insurance Service Office rating.

Mutual aid is available from the following:

- Susanville City
- Susan River Fire District
- Standish-Litchfield Fire District
- California Correctional Center
- California Department of Forestry
- U. S. Forest Service

The area along Sunnyside Road and County Road A-3 in the north and east portions of the district has received considerable residential development in the last several years. Response time from the existing fire station exceeds ten minutes for much of this area. The Janesville Fire District has acquired a parcel of land from the County at the intersections of Sunnyside Road and County Road A-3 for a second fire station. This will improve fire protection to these developing areas by lowering the response time. Janesville intends to relocate an existing engine to this second station.

### Recommendations

1. Janesville should continue with their plan to establish a second fire station at the intersection of Sunnyside Road and County Road A-3.



2. Janesville and Standish-Litchfield Fire District should enter into an automatic aid agreement along their common boundary. Travel times to the boundary are about the same for both departments, however, Janesville can arrive sooner during the daytime due to a full-time position. An automatic aid agreement will improve fire protection along this boundary.
3. Janesville should also examine the mutual benefits of an automatic aid agreement with Susan River Fire District.

#### Lake Forest Community Association

The Lake Forest Community Association provides fire protection to Lake Forest Estates. Lake Forest Estates is located in a high fire hazard area wherein there is a great potential for losses to life and property from forest fires.

The Association operates one (1) fire apparatus with fourteen (14) volunteer firefighters. The community has a water system consisting of a storage tank capacity of 406,000 gallons and 6 inch mains with the fire hydrants. Hydrants are located within 800 feet of every residence. However, homes near the storage tank suffer from low water pressure and many require individual pressure pumps for domestic use. These are generally inadequate for fire fighting purposes.

Thos homes located in the lower elevations of the tract do have fairly adequate water for fire fighting with the following exceptions: the storage tank can be depleted and there is no automatic switch to control the water level in the tank or the refilling from the well source; this must be done manually. This problem plus the lack of pressure need correction to ensure a continuous and adequate water supply for fire emergencies.

The community has a fuel-break along the south and west sides. This fuel-break differs from a fire-break insofar that the latter is denuded of all vegetation whereas the former will have some scattered trees remaining in addition to some cleared area. To protect the area from the encroachment of a forest fire this fuel-break should be widened and maintained to at least 100 feet in width. It should encircle the community and connect with the main highway on the south and on the north sides. An easement from the adjacent land owner would be required.

Lake Forest receives mutual aid from the California Department of Forestry. LakeForest's ability to participate in mutual aid agreements with local fire departments is limited since they have only one (1) engine.

#### Recommendations

1. The area protected by the Lake Forest Community Association should eventually form a community services district which could provide services other than fire should they be desired.
2. The Association should acquire a second fire engine to improve fire protection within the community and to enable them to participate in mutual aid agreements with local departments.
3. A fuel-break, at least 100 feet wide, should be established along the south and west boundaries of the community and connect with the main highway on the south and north. This fuel-break will reduce the threat of large forest fires causing damage to life and property values.

#### Little Valley Community Services District

This district has two (2) fire apparatus operated by fifteen (15) volunteer firefighters.

The water system is very adequate with 6" mains, fire hydrants and a storage capacity of 180,000 gallons. Almost all of the residences are located within 300 feet of a hydrant.

Little Valley has mutual aid with the following:

McArthur Fire District - Shasta County  
California Department of Forestry  
U. S. Forest Service

Mutual aid with McArthur has been handled through verbal agreement.

### Recommendations

1. A written mutual aid agreement should be developed between Little Valley and McArthur Fire District.

### Madeline Fire District

This is the largest district in the county, embracing about 450,000 acres. This district has three (3) fire apparatus, one with a 1000 gallon tank capacity, operated by six (6) volunteer firefighters.

The water system in the community consists of a 100,000 gallon elevated tank formerly used by the railroad. There is need for a few fire hydrants in the townsite to take full advantage of this water. Water in the outlying areas is scarce.

Outside of Madeline proper there are very few telephones and the majority of ranchers must drive to obtain aid. Some use of "CB" (Citizen's Band) radio has been made and expansion of this method is encouraged as a means to report fires. The district recently acquired a siren for alerting the volunteers.

The only mutual aid available is from the Bureau of Land Management stations at Dry Creek and Ravendale. These have long travel distances and are manned in summer only.

### Recommendations

1. The district should be reduced in acreage by approximately 50 percent by de-annexing areas in the east and southeast portion of the district. Most of this area is owned by the BLM. The district is not able to provide effective fire protection to the few improvements located in these remote areas because of the long travel times involved.
2. The District should explore alternatives for improving communication within the district.

### Northwest Lassen County Fire District

This is a recently formed district and includes the communities of Pittville and Day Bench. This new district has one fire apparatus which has been placed in Pittville. The district has contracted with the McArthur Fire District for fire protection. The McArthur Fire District is located in Shasta County.

McArthur has three (3) fire apparatus, one (1) rescue van and a 4000 gallon water tank truck operated by thirty-five (35) volunteer firefighters.

McArthur has mutual aid with the following:

Fall River Fire District - Shasta County  
California Department of Forestry

#### Recommendations

1. The Northwest Lassen County Fire District should eventually acquire a second engine for the Day Bench area. This will reduce the travel time required for engines to respond from McArthur. The McArthur engines provide valuable back-up for these local engines.

### Standish-Litchfield Fire District

This district operates three (3) fire apparatus with twenty-three (23) volunteer firefighters. Year-round water supplies for fire protection are inadequate. There is a fairly adequate supply of water during the summer from wells, ponds, and irrigation ditches. Most of the area is within 1/2 mile of irrigation ditches. These water sources are not available during the winter because of freezing. Water is only available from three (3) domestic wells during the winter. The Tri District Associations water tank truck offsets some of these inadequate water systems (See Janesville).

Mutual aid is available from the following:

Janesville Fire District  
Susan River Fire District  
Susanville City  
Bureau of Land Management  
California Correctional Center  
California Department of Corrections

#### Recommendations

1. Standish-Litchfield should acquire a larger facility to house the fire engines.
2. This district should consider an automatic aid agreement with Janesville Fire District (See Janesville).
3. The mutual benefits of an automatic aid agreement should also be explored with Susan River Fire District.
4. Water availability for fire protection should be improved within the district. Several alternatives should be explored to accomplish this. One would be to acquire a water tank truck with a minimum capacity of 1500 gallons. Fire hydrants should be required for new subdivisions.

#### Susan River Fire District

This is the most complicated district in the county and the one with the largest assessed valuation. There are several exclusions of private property within its boundaries, however, annexations and boundary adjustments have eliminated many exclusions that existed when this study was made in 1975.

A portion of its taxpayers live in the unincorporated areas around the City of Susanville. Within this area, the Susanville Fire Department can respond more quickly with paid full-time personnel and can arrive much sooner than Susan River.

This situation has been somewhat alleviated with the construction of a new fire station near the intersection of Gold Run and Richmond Roads. The station and fire engine are manned by volunteers. This will greatly improve fire protection for developing areas in the western portion of the district and solve a portion of the fringe area problem.

An additional fire station is being planned for Leavitt Lake. This station will also be manned by volunteers and will provide an increased level of fire protection to citizens in the eastern portion of the district.

The district operates three (3) fire apparatus that are manned by one (1) full-time paid firefighter and seventeen (17) volunteer firefighters. Being such a large and diversified district, the water systems range from inadequate to adequate. For example, many rural residences do not have water supplies available for fire protection. The Indian Hills, Leavitt Lake, and Susan Hills subdivisions have water systems with hydrants and 6" mains.

The Tri District water tank truck located in Janesville is available for response to fire emergencies within the Susan River District. In addition, the district has acquired a 2500 gallon water tanker that will be assigned to the Gold Run Station. This tanker is being prepared for service sometime during the summer of 1983. This will alleviate some of the fire protection problems with areas that have inadequate water systems (See Janesville).

The District has mutual aid with the following:

- Susanville City Fire Department
- Standish-Litchfield Fire District
- Janesville Fire District
- Bureau of Land Management
- California Correctional Center
- California Department of Forestry

#### Recommendation 1

The district and the City of Susanville arrive at an agreeable solution to provide fire protection to the Paul Bunyan properties. The committee recommends this area be protected by the City since it can provide better service due to their proximity to the area. Eagle Lake Lumber Company and the Indian Rancheria are currently contracting with the City for fire protection.

### Alternatives

1. Annex to the City of Susanville.
2. Annex to the Susan River Fire Protection District. However, travel time to this area from the Susan River Station is longer.
3. Remain status quo. This will allow continuation of the present confusion that exists when an alarm is received and no fire department legally has the fire protection responsibility.

### Recommendation 2

The District should take advantage of the alternatives listed below for providing fire protection to current district residents living in the fringe area around Susanville City. A brief examination of this fringe area discloses the following are located just outside the city limits:

Dwellings	151
Commercial Buildings	45
Churches and other large buildings	26
Mobile Home Parks	4

At present, all of the above buildings can be reached in less time from the Susanville Fire Department. The committee recommends that the city and the district negotiate an automatic aid agreement that will enable the city to assist with fire protection to these areas.

### Alternatives

1. Take no action which denies the district taxpayers from receiving the closest available fire protection.
2. Negotiate an automatic aid agreement enabling the city to provide fire protection to the fringe areas. The agreement should include a reciprocal service from the district so that services provided between the city and district are balanced.

3. Annex the fringe areas to the city. Some city residents may claim that the strength of the city fire department will be diluted by their having to reach out into the fringe area. City government may not be able to provide full city services such as streets, police, etc., to new annexations.
4. The district could contract with the Department of Forestry (CDF) to provide fire protection for the fringe areas in the western portion of the district. However, the construction of the new Susan River station near Gold Run and Richmond Roads reduces the number of structures CDF could provide fire protection to. For the CDF to provide protection on a year long basis would require either the assignment of one (1) additional engine at the CDF station or providing one (1) engine under the Amador Plan for the winter period only. The cost of this alternative would be prohibitive to the district at this time.

#### Recommendation 3

The district should explore the mutual benefits of automatic aid agreements with Janesville and Standish-Litchfield Fire Districts.

#### Recommendation 4

The district should continue with their efforts in establishing an additional fire station near Leavitt Lake.



### Westwood Community Services District

The district employs a fire chief and three (3) full-time firefighters with a back-up of thirty-five (35) volunteer firefighters. The district operates four (4) pieces of fire apparatus plus an ambulance. The ambulance service is a great asset to Westwood and the surrounding areas.

The water system is excellent consisting of a 1/2 million gallon reservoir, 12" mains, 6" to 8" laterals and a hydrant network, which greatly enhances fire protection in this district.

Mutual aid is enjoyed with the following:

Clear Creek Community Services District  
Susanville City Fire Department  
Chester Fire District  
Hamilton Branch Fire District  
California Department of Forestry

Mutual aid with Clear Creek, Susanville, Chester, and Hamilton Branch has been handled through verbal agreement.

### Recommendations

1. A written mutual aid agreement should be developed between Clear Creek, Chester, and Hamilton Branch. Mutual aid should also be pursued with Peninsula Fire District.
2. The committee recommends that Clear Creek consolidate with or obtain contract protection from Westwood (See Clear Creek).

## PLANNING OPTIONS FOR THE UNPROTECTED COMMUNITIES

There are a number of rural residents, ranches, and buildings outside of developed communities and fire districts which are impractical to protect. Travel distances are excessive and communications to quickly report fires are often non-existent. The wildland fire fighting agencies (CDF, BLM, and USFS) will respond to most of these areas during the summertime, however, travel distances are so great that effective structure fire protection can not be provided. This would include areas such as Willow Creek Valley, Ash Valley, Secret Valley, etc. There is no choice at this time other than to recommend that no action be taken in respect to these remote areas.

The following developed communities at the present have no fire protection and either rely upon sporadic help from neighboring departments or remain totally unprotected:

1. Eagles Nest
2. Herlong - Herlong Junction
3. Milford
4. Silver Lake
5. Termo - Ravendale
6. Wendel

Below we have outlined the various alternate methods for providing protection to the communities listed above. Chapter VI sets forth the specific committee recommendations for each individual community.

Option 1

Formation of a volunteer fire department (non-taxing district): By following legal procedures, a currently established community may choose to form their own volunteer fire company or department. Funds for

apparatus, equipment, and supplies, maintenance and operation and the necessary insurance, such as workmen's compensation and public liability would have to be derived from:

1. Subscription
2. Donations
3. Community fund raising activities
4. Home owners or community associations

The advantage of a volunteer group, obviously, is the fact that no salaries are paid. This system is used satisfactorily in many rural areas throughout the state. The committee endorses the volunteer principle from an economic standpoint because of today's high salary costs for paid personnel.

Community associations (home owners or land owners associations) generally provide the best arrangement short of actually forming a special tax district. Legal counsel should be obtained prior to the incorporation of such groups in order that the maximum capability for obtaining funds and for entering into contracts can be arranged.

#### Option 2

Formation of a special tax district (i.e., Community Services District, County Service Area or Fire Protection District, etc.) Prior to Proposition 13, the formation of a tax district had the advantage of ensuring a definite amount of annual revenue.

This is no longer true since Proposition 13 established a maximum tax rate of \$4 per \$100 assessed valuation. Special districts must compete with each other and with other county services for available revenues (See Proposition 13, Part III). Proposition 13 prohibits newly formed districts from collecting any portion of the tax revenues approved by Proposition 13.

AB 2573 is the only mechanism by which a newly formed district can obtain funding (See Proposition 13, Part III). The risk is that, first, a district must be formed without having a definite amount of annual revenue.

After the district is formed, funding can only be established through AB 2573. If successful, a district will then be able to depend upon a definite amount of annual revenue. If not successful, a district will not have a definite amount of annual revenue to provide the desired services. Funding would then have to be obtained in the same manner as for a volunteer fire department (See Option 1).

Even though there is a certain amount of risk involved in obtaining funding for new districts, the committee still believes this is a viable option for providing fire protection.

### Option 3

Annex to an existing fire district. Most of the unprotected communities are located just outside the boundaries of an existing district. In some cases the local district will respond into the unprotected community with one fire engine as a good neighbor. However, travel times are usually so long that responding engines arrive after the buildings are fully involved with fire. Their only value in this situation is to protect nearby buildings. In some cases, unprotected communities can benefit by annexing to an adjacent district if the district will agree to place an engine within the community. The unprotected community will also benefit from the expertise and experience of an established fire department with trained firefighters and available fire apparatus.

The disadvantages to consider are:

1. The possibility of not having a local representative on the district board of directors. Although this can be remedied, the people of the new community may not have as much control over their fire protection as they may desire and as much as they would have by forming a new independent district.
2. The taxpayers of the community may find themselves considering annexation to a Community Services District, in which case they may not desire all the other non-fire protection services provided. However, there are procedures wherein taxpayer groups can be "zoned out" of unwanted services.

The additional revenues a district would receive for annexing adjacent communities would be determined by the Board of Supervisors (See Proposition 13, Part III). The district would probably receive an increase in revenue based upon the increase in assessed valuation protected by the District. However, the additional amount received will depend entirely upon the economic situation within the County. A district may not receive additional revenues for annexing small parcels. Before annexing, a district should research this issue thoroughly within county officials to determine if it would be feasible to proceed with annexation.

#### Option 4

Contract with an existing fire district. A community would first have to form its own special legal entity. Contracting may be necessary in the event annexation was somehow found unacceptable. Contract charges could be based upon an annual flat rate or lump sum, by a prearranged response (i.e., set rate for a given number of personnel and pieces of apparatus for each alarm) or by paying pre-established hourly rates for personnel and equipment. Some contracts set forth a yearly fixed "Standby rate" plus a charge for the approximate cost of each response into the contract area. The City of Susanville presently contracts to protect Lassen College in this manner.

The advantage of contracting with an established fire department would be similar for annexing (See Option 3). In addition, the new community would have more control over the type of fire protection they receive than by annexing, even though they would not be represented on the Board of Directors.

The disadvantage of contracting is the uncertainty of the contract longevity. This could be a disadvantage for both parties involved. The new community must be prepared to consider other options if the contract is terminated.

## Option 5

Contract with the California Department of Forestry (CDF). By law the Director of Forestry may enter into cooperative agreements with other public entities for providing structural fire protection to the extent desired by the people involved and in accordance with their ability to pay. The CDF currently contracts with thirty-three (33) local government entities in twenty-nine (29) counties, covering special tax districts, cities, and entire counties.

A local entity may contract for full year-round coverage in which all costs are fully reimbursed to the State or for wintertime coverage under the Amador Plan in which only a portion of the costs are reimbursible to the State. Contracting under the Amador Plan would be the most feasible for Lassen County at this time. Under this plan the local entity would be required to pay rental of a fire engine, utilities, 15% of personnel salaries, and an administrative charge. The approximate cost of contracting for one CDF engine, with personnel and facility costs, for a six (6) month period during the winter is approximately \$10,800 (81/82 costs).

Advantages of Option 5 are as follows:

1. A fire chief with trained and experienced personnel, fire apparatus, fire station and equipment is provided.
2. Contracting communities in the wildland areas under state protection would not normally need to contract during the summer fire season as the CDF will automatically respond to any structure fire because of the immediate threat to the forest. Thus, there is no cost for protection during the six (6) month summer period.
3. Ample reinforcements or "back-up" are provided (i.e., readily available additional fire engines to supplement those on contract in the event of need).

#### Disadvantages of Option 5:

1. During the summer fire season - May through October - the CDF forces may not be available on a full-time basis because they are subject to dispatch to large and distant fires and they may be off base for days at a time. The CDF attempts to "cover-up" their vacant fire stations with other apparatus, however, this is not always possible. The only way to positively offset this questionable or sporadic availability is by the local community providing its own fire apparatus which could be operated by CDF contract personnel on a year-long basis.
2. Some CDF fire stations are not situated in the most ideal location for the community to be served, therefore, long travel distances may be involved.

#### Option 6

Remain status quo. The advantage is no additional funds will be required. The obvious disadvantage is that adequate fire protection may not be provided. People in this unfortunate situation must follow good fire prevention practices and maintain first-aid fire appliances - extinguishers, pumps, and garden hoses.

## VI

### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE UNPROTECTED COMMUNITIES

#### Eagles Nest

##### General Observations

Eagles Nest is a small "summer only" recreational settlement on the east shore of Eagle Lake. Fire protection is provided during the summer fire season from CDF's Eagle Lake Station. However, travel time into this area is too long for effective structural protection. The roads are impassable during the winter.

##### Feasible Options

Either remain status quo or form a volunteer fire department during the summer using simple and inexpensive equipment. Funds could be raised by subscription and donations.

##### Recommendation

Remain status quo as it appears this area could not support the cost of maintaining a volunteer department.

#### Herlong

##### General Observations

This area comprises an estimated 549 structures (homes, garages, and barns, excluding small out-buildings) and is located on the west side and adjacent to the Sierra Army Depot. Four (4) residential areas are included.

1. West Patton Village: All of the single family dwellings are privately owned. This is called "Title 9" by the military and is located outside the Depot boundary.



2. A privately owned trailer park located slightly north and west of West Patton Village and north of Lassen County Road A-26.
3. Sage Valley: This area consists of scattered homes south of County Road A-26.
4. Herlong Junction: This area stretches along both sides of Highway 395 for approximately three (3) miles. The Doyle Fire Protection District is adjacent to Herlong Junction on the South. During the summer residents receive fire protection from the U. S. Forest Service and BLM. However, travel times are too long for effective structure fire protection.

There is only a domestic water supply at the trailer park. West Patton Village has fire hydrants and water mains with water supplied by the Depot. Sage Valley and Herlong Junction water is supplied by single family domestic wells.

For more than twenty-five (25) years the Sierra Army Depot Fire Department, with authority from the Commanding Officer, has provided fire protection on a "call by call basis" for the above described areas which have no other form of fire protection. However, a major fire on the Depot would preclude any response to these areas.

The Depot also provides mutual aid to the Doyle Fire District and to the wildland fire agencies - BLM, U. S. Forest Service, and CDF.

The Depot maintains an excellent paid fire department with good apparatus including large water tankers which they also dispatch to off Depot fires as needed.

#### Feasible Options

All options in Chapter V, except condition 5 (CDF contract) are available to this community. A contract with CDF is not possible since a CDF station is not located near these communities.

### Recommendation

1. Herlong should form a fire district or be annexed to the Doyle Fire District. This area should not continue depending upon a response from the Depot Fire Department for the following reasons:
  - a. A change in Military Commanders could result in a restricted response or no response from the Depot outside the Depot boundary.
  - b. A major fire within the Depot would preclude any response to these areas.

### Milford

#### General Observations

This area comprises an estimated 200 structures (homes, garages, and barns, excluding small out-buildings) and stretches along both sides of Highway 395 for approximately seven (7) miles. The Janesville Fire District is adjacent to Milford on the North.

During the summer, residents receive fire protection from the U. S. Forest Service. Year round assistance is received from the Janesville Fire District with a one engine response. However, the travel time from Janesville is 20-25 minutes and a major fire in Janesville would preclude a response by the one engine.

A variety of water sources are available in the form of ranch supplies, wells, ponds, and irrigation ditches. However, these water supplies are really not adequate to meet the fire protection needs of the area.

#### Feasible Options

All options in Chapter V, except option 5 (CDF contract) are available to this community. A contract with CDF is not possible since a CDF station is not located near this community.

### Recommendation

1. The community of Milford should be annexed to the Janesville Fire District. If this occurs, Janesville should relocate one of their fire engines to Milford or acquire an additional engine. This community should not continue to depend upon Janesville for providing fire protection due to the long travel time involved and the fact that a major fire in Janesville would preclude the response of the one engine from Janesville.

### Silver Lake

#### General Observations

Silver Lake is a small "summer only" lake-orientated recreational settlement. The U. S. Forest Service provides the only fire protection during the summer. The roads are impassable during the winter months.

#### Feasible Options

Either remain status quo or form a volunteer fire department in the summer using simple and inexpensive equipment. Funds could be raised by subscription and donations.

#### Recommendations

Remain status quo as it appears this area could not support the cost of maintaining a volunteer department.

### Termo - Ravendale

#### General Observations

The small community of Termo lies about fourteen (14) miles south of the Madeline Fire Station and Ravendale is another six (6) miles south,

both along Highway 395. The BLM provides fire protection to these communities during the summer. However, due to long travel time there is no effective structure fire protection. Water systems are inadequate for fire fighting.

#### Feasible Options

Options 1, 3, 4, and 6 are available to these communities. It does not appear these communities could afford to form a special tax district. A contract with CDF is not possible since a CDF station is not located near these communities.

#### Recommendation

The communities of Termo and Ravendale should be annexed to the Madeline Fire District. If this occurs, Madeline should relocate one of their fire engines to Termo or Ravendale or acquire an additional engine.

#### Wendel

#### General Observations

This is a small railroad oriented community with approximately 70 structures (homes, garages, and barns, excluding small out-buildings). There is a reasonably adequate water supply from the railroad elevated tank (estimated 50,000 gallons) and a manually operated pumping system with a single outlet near the restaurant that will accommodate a 1-1/2" fire hose.

Water systems within the community for firefighting are inadequate.

#### Feasible Options

Options 1, 3, 4, and 6 are available to this community. This community could not afford to form a special tax district. A contract is not possible with CDF since a CDF station is not located near this community.

#### Recommendations

The community of Wendel should be annexed to the Standish-Litchfield Fire District. If this occurs, Standish-Litchfield should relocate one of their fire engines to Wendel or acquire another engine.



**LASSEN COUNTY  
LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION**

74 North Lassen Street  
Susanville, California 96130

P. O. Box 1088  
(916) 257-4653

January 28, 1974

Mr. Jack Burke, Forest Ranger  
California Division of Forestry  
P. O. Box 910  
Susanville, California 96130

Dear Mr. Burke:

As you are aware, there has been shown considerable concern by various groups of people and individuals over the need for year around structural fire protection in developing areas of Lassen County which are not now within the boundaries of a local fire protection district nor within the city limits of Susanville.

The Commission has authorized a preliminary study be made to find possible solutions to this problem. Since the California Division of Forestry is responsible for the protection of the wild lands where much of this development is taking place and with its expertise in all phases of fire protection, it would seem the Division is the logical agency to make a cursory study of the problem. We understand you do make such studies upon request and manpower available. With this in mind, the Lassen LAFCo would like to request the CDF to make a preliminary or cursory study of structural fire protection needs in the unincorporated areas of the county with particular attention to the unprotected developing areas. The study should contain optional solutions and recommendations with emphasis on utilizing existing fire protection districts.

It is suggested you meet with the Fire Chiefs of the districts and the City for their expertise and input. With their knowledge combined with the CDF's, the study should give a good picture of possible courses of action to pursue to make available structural fire protection to more people.

Your undertaking of this study would be greatly appreciated. Any help I can give for the study, just let me know.

Yours sincerely,

Alice T. Dresel  
Executive Officer

ATD/mr

cc: Fire Chiefs  
Adin F.P.D.  
Big Valley F.P.D.  
Doyle F.P.D.  
Janesville F.P.D.

Madeline F.P.D.  
Standish-Litchfield F.P.D.  
Susan River F.P.D.  
Clear Creek C.S.D.

Westwood C.S.D  
City of Susanville

# APPENDIX B

## FIRE DEPARTMENT SIZES

### AND

## INSURANCE SERVICE OFFICE (I.S.O.) RATINGS

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>SIZE IN ACRES</u>	<u>I.S.O. RATING*</u>
Janesville Fire District	32,200	10
Big Valley Fire District	61,300	Zone 1: 8 Zone 2: 9
Doyle Fire District	27,700	10
Madeline Fire District	243,800	10
Standish-Litchfield Fire District	50,600	9
Susan River Fire District	35,000	10
Clear Creek Community Services District	120	7
Little Valley Community Services District	320	9
Westwood Community Services District	2,900	Zone 1: 6 Zone 2: 9
Adin Fire District	42,100**	9
Eagleville Fire District	10,400**	9
Northwest Lassen County Fire District	19,200	10
Lake Forest Community Association	160	10
Eagle Lake Community Association	<u>5,900</u>	10
Total	531,700	

Information obtained from I.S.O. San Francisco June 14, 1982

\*A rating of 10 is classified as unprotected by the Insurance Service Office

\*\*That portion inside Lassen County

## APPENDIX C

### FIRE DEPARTMENT ASSESSED VALUATIONS

	<u>Assessed Valuation 81/82</u>
Adin Fire District	\$ 7,943,195
Big Valley Fire District	\$ 24,315,556
Clear Creek Community Services District*	\$ 5,367,209
Doyle Fire District	\$ 9,979,758
Eagleville Fire District	\$ 1,572,824
Janesville Fire District	\$ 36,542,531
Little Valley Community Services District*	\$ 700,961
Madeline Fire District	\$ 14,511,105
Northwest Lassen County Fire District	\$ 12,455,799
Standish-Litchfield Fire District	\$ 22,084,008
Susan River Fire District	\$ 71,332,949
Westwood Community Services District*	\$ 19,003,843

\*These are community service districts and the assessed valuation is for the complete district and all services provided.

APPENDIX D

SAMPLE MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT FOR MUTUAL FIRE PROTECTION AID

This agreement made and entered into effective as of the 18th day of March, 1974 by and between the CITY OF SUSANVILLE, hereinafter called First Party, SUSAN RIVER FIRE DISTRICT, hereinafter called Second Party, JANESVILLE FIRE DISTRICT, hereinafter called Third Party, STANDISH-LITCHFIELD FIRE DISTRICT, hereinafter called Fourth Party, and CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION CENTER, hereinafter called Fifth Party, and all of whom are hereinafter referred to collectively as Agencies,

W I T N E S S E T H :

THAT WHEREAS, the Agencies above named maintain and operate fire protection organizations and equipment for the purpose of protecting their respective responsibility areas, which are adjacent or proximate to each other, against damage and loss by fire; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the parties hereto to render aid each to the other to combat the effect of fire and such aid is necessary as hereinafter set forth;

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties hereto mutually agree as follows:

1. To furnish fire protection personnel, equipment, materials and supplies and to render such fire protection services to each other as may be necessary to suppress a fire or fires of a magnitude that are, or appear likely to become, beyond the control of any one party and require, for proper control, the combined forces of two or more of the parties hereto.
2. Such mutual aid shall be provided within the limits of the County of Lassen, upon request as hereinafter provided but further provided that no party shall be required to deplete its own fire protection resources, personnel, services and facilities to the extent that it is unable to fulfill its normal fire protection responsibilities within its own particular area.
3. No party hereto shall respond to a mutual aid request made in pursuance of this agreement unless such request is received through established communication channels common to all parties and made by a responsible fire official of the party requesting such aid.
4. Any mutual aid extended under this agreement shall be extended only upon the express understanding that the responsible local fire official (in whose jurisdiction the incident or incidents requiring mutual aid has occurred) shall remain in charge at such incident or incidents and shall direct the use and employment of the personnel and equipment provided under the terms of this mutual aid agreement.



APPENDIX D (Continued)

5. Except as may be provided by separate agreement between parties hereto, the assurance of mutual aid set forth in this agreement shall constitute the sole consideration for the performance and furnishing thereof and no party shall be obligated to reimburse any other party on account of any action taken or aid rendered hereunder or for any use of materiel, damage to equipment, or liability incurred which may occur or arise in the course of rendering the fire fighting assistance provided for herein.
6. This agreement shall remain in full force and effect for a period of five (5) years from the date hereinabove specified and from year to year thereafter until one or more of the parties shall give thirty days notice in writing to each of the other parties that this agreement is terminated, providing however, that any party may withdraw from this agreement by giving all other parties fifteen days written notice of its intention so to do but such withdrawal of one or more parties shall not in and of itself terminate this agreement as between the remaining parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this agreement to be executed by their responsible fire protection officials as of the day and year first above written.

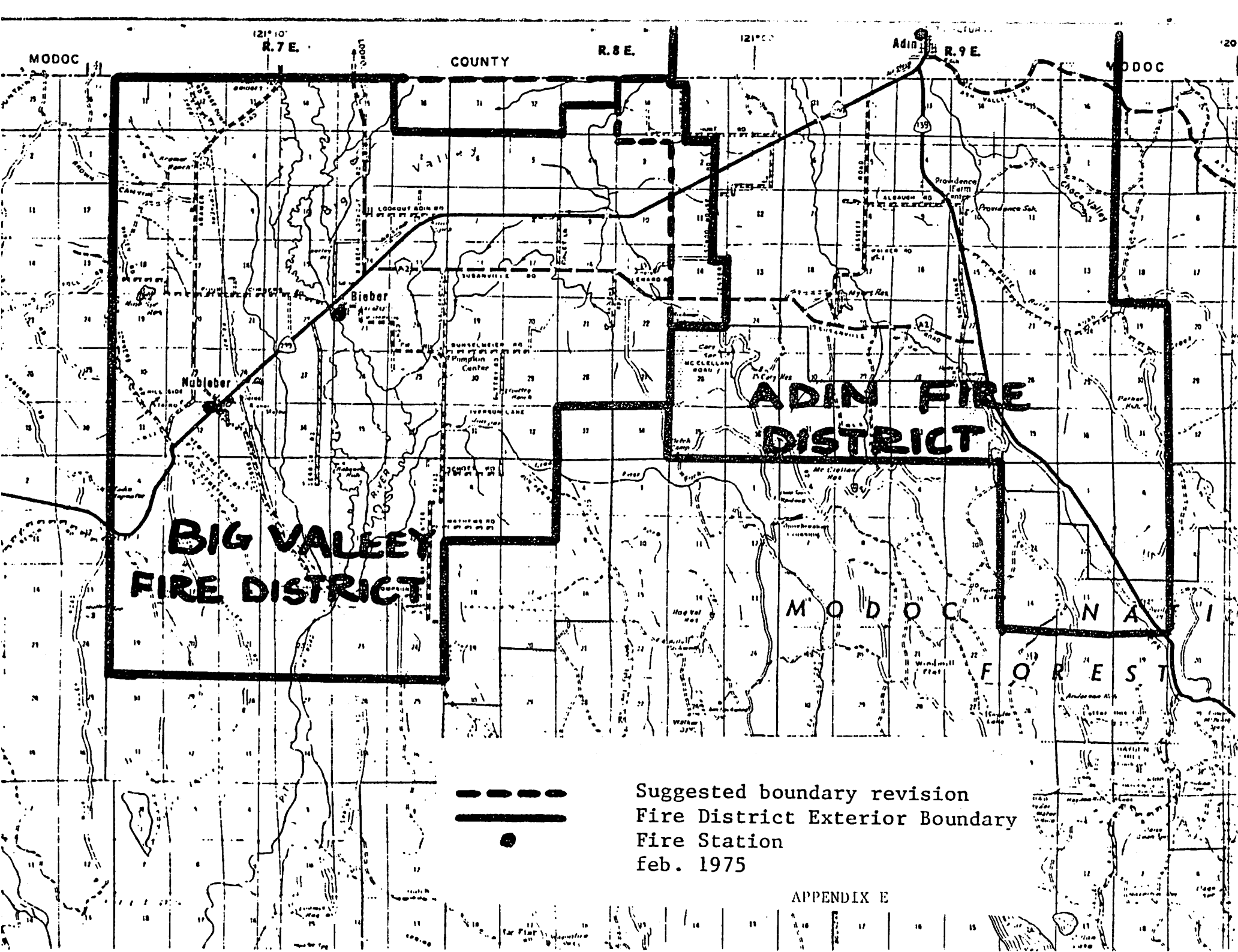
/S/ Raymond A. Berettini  
City of Susanville

/S/ Harry F. Reuck  
Susan River Fire District

/S/ Eugene I. Emerson  
California Conservation Center

/S/ Jerry R. Rainey  
Janesville Fire District

/S/ Edward Brabham  
Standish-Litchfield Fire District



Suggested boundary revision  
Fire District Exterior Boundary  
Fire Station  
feb. 1975