

## **7. LA PORTE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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La Porte Fire Protection District (LPFPD) provides structural fire, emergency medical in the form of basic life support, fire prevention, minimal rescue and hazardous material services. This review is the first municipal review (MSR) for the District.

### **AGENCY OVERVIEW**

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#### **Background**

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LPFPD was formed on June 18, 1962 as an independent special district and confirmed by the Secretary of State in January 1963. The District's purpose is to provide fire protection to the residents of the District.

The principal act that governs the District is the Fire Protection District Law of 1987.<sup>76</sup> The principal act empowers fire districts to provide fire protection, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous material response, ambulance, and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property.<sup>77</sup> Districts must apply and obtain LAFCo approval to exercise services authorized by the principal act but not already provided (i.e., latent powers) by the district at the end of 2000.<sup>78</sup>

There have not been any changes to services provided since the District's formation; however, in 1970, LAFCo heard a request for the formation of a cemetery district and a community services district, which was to take on fire services provided by LPFPD. LAFCo approved the formation of both the cemetery and community services districts. The cemetery district was declared formed. The community services district was to be formed under certain conditions and the provision of an election; however, the election never took place. In 1977, LAFCo reheard the request for formation of a community services district and again approved the request. Again, the election never took place. LPFPD indicated that Proposition 13 adversely affected the decision to form the new district and dissolve the fire protection district. As a result, the community services district was not formed in either attempt, and LPFPD was never dissolved and continues to perform the functions it was authorized to perform when it was formed.<sup>79</sup>

LPFPD is located in the southwest portion of Plumas County. There are no other fire protection districts with boundaries that abut the District, due to the remote location of the community.

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<sup>76</sup> Health and Safety Code §13800-13970.

<sup>77</sup> Health and Safety Code §13862.

<sup>78</sup> Government Code §56824.10.

<sup>79</sup> LAFCo resolution83-29, Exhibit A.

### Boundaries

LPFPD's boundary is entirely within Plumas County. The present bounds encompass approximately 0.4 square miles.

Since the formation of the District, there have been two boundary changes. The area of Levy 3 in Plumas County was annexed into LPFPD in 1963. The most recent annexation occurred in 1985, when LPFPD added the territory of Bradley Estates #1, La Porte Pines Country Club and Territory (APN 003-34-03).

### Sphere of Influence

The Sphere of Influence for the District was first adopted on August 26, 1976.<sup>80</sup> The SOI was further revised on March 24, 1983, in order to insure the orderly growth of the area.<sup>81</sup> The current SOI is 2.1 square miles compared to about 0.4 square miles of boundary area, and extends outside of the District's boundaries along Quincy La Porte Road to the northeast, curving around to the west. Figure 7-1 depicts LPFPD's boundaries and SOI.

### Extra-territorial Services

LPFPD provides services outside of its bounds through an automatic aid agreement with Foothill Fire Protection District (FFPD). LPFPD responds most frequently to Strawberry Valley in FFPD, because geographically LPFPD is approximately one mile closer to the area than FFPD.

LPFPD has mutual aid agreements with members of the Plumas County Chiefs Association, The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), United States Forest Service (USFS), and FFPD.

Additionally, each fire provider in Plumas County has informally agreed to a service area that extends outside of their LAFCo-approved boundaries, in order to minimize those areas without a defined first responder. In the case of LPFPD, the District's service area extends to Middlefork Feather River in the north, Sierra County to the east, Yuba County to the South and Butte County to the west. LPFPD's service area is 151 square miles. LPFPD, similar to other fire districts in the County, does not receive property tax revenue in the territory that lies outside of its bounds, and in effect is providing free services to these areas without reimbursement. Fire districts have the option to charge for service outside of their district.

### Areas of Interest

Of particular interest to the District are four subdivisions around the lake that have indicated an interest in receiving service from LPFPD. LPFPD was approached by the four subdivisions—Pancake, Burbon and Water, Answering Meadows, and Silvertip Springs—proposing to be annexed into the District. The proposed annexation includes approximately 100 structures requiring seasonal services. Previously, the District adopted a resolution to move forward with annexation of these subdivisions; however, nothing further has occurred since then.

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<sup>80</sup> LAFCo Resolution 83-29.

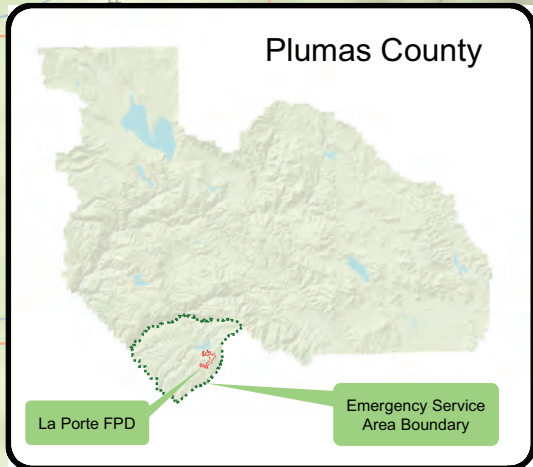
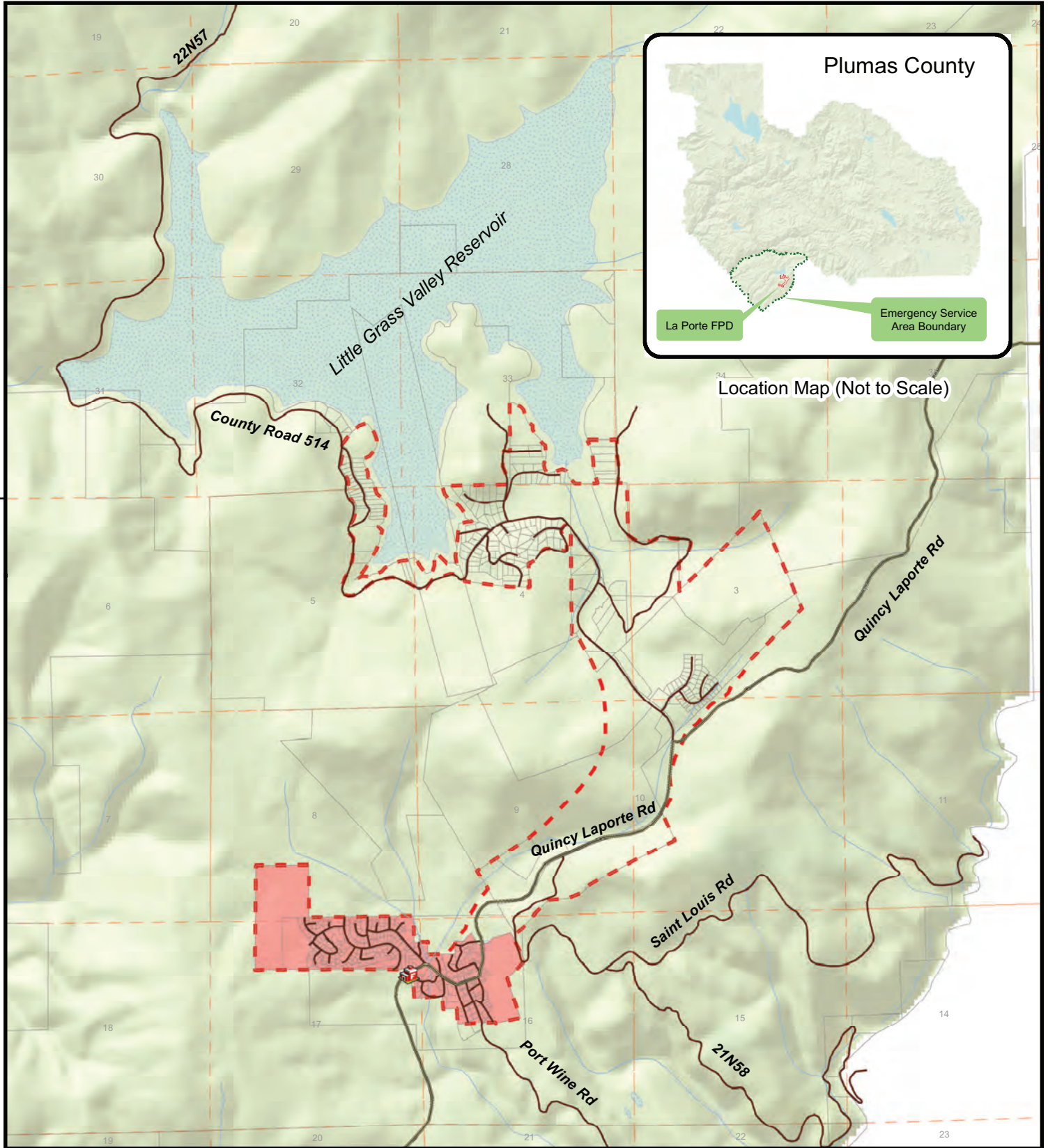
<sup>81</sup> LAFCo Resolution 83-29.

# LA Porte Fire Protection District

Range 9 East

Township 22 North

Township 21 North



Location Map (Not to Scale)

## Legend

- Highways
- Major Roads
- Stream / River
- Waterbodies
- Parcels
- Sectional Grid (MDB&M)
- Fire Station
- La Porte FPD
- La Porte FPD Sphere of Influence (Current)
- Emergency Service Area (CDF Grass Valley Dispatch)



La Porte FPD  
Resolution:  
Formed: 6/18/1962

La Porte FPD (SOI)  
Resolution: 83-29  
Adopted: 3/24/1983

Source: Plumas LAFCo Map Created 6/7/2013

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## Accountability and Governance

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The principal act orders that the board of directors of a fire protection district must have an odd number of members, with a minimum of three and a maximum of 11 members. Directors may be appointed or elected.<sup>82</sup> LPFPD is governed by a three-member board of directors elected at large. Board members are elected to staggered four-year terms. Currently, two board members were elected and one was appointed; there are no vacancies. The District reported that there has not been a contested election in the recent memorable history of the District. Current board member names, positions, and term expiration dates are shown in Figure 7-2.

The Board meets the second Wednesday of every month at 5pm at the District's fire station. The District advertises meetings of the Board in the local post office and in the general store. Board meeting minutes are disseminated upon request.

**Figure 7-2: La Porte FPD Governing Body**

<b>La Porte Fire Protection District</b>				
<b><i>District Contact Information</i></b>				
<b>Contact:</b>	Steve Burroughs, Chair			
<b>Address:</b>	2181 Cedar Lane, La Porte, CA 95981			
<b>Telephone:</b>	(530) 675-2557			
<b>Fax:</b>	N/A			
<b>Email/website:</b>	laportefire@yahoo.com			
<b><i>Board of Directors</i></b>				
<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Term Expiration</b>	<b>Manner of Selection</b>	<b>Length of Term</b>
Steve Burroughs	Chair	December 2015	Elected	Four years
Don Skaggs*	Director	December 2015	Elected	Four years
Lynda Griffith	Director	December 2013	Appointed	Two years
<b><i>Meetings</i></b>				
<b>Date:</b>	Second Wednesday of every month at 5pm.			
<b>Location:</b>	District's fire station.			
<b>Agenda Distribution:</b>	Board meetings are advertised in the local post office and general store.			
<b>Minutes Distribution:</b>	Board meeting minutes are available upon request.			
<b>Notes:</b>	*Don Skaggs is currently acting Chief and will be resigning from the Board.			

In addition to the required agendas and minutes, the District itself does not conduct further outreach; however, the La Porte Fire Department Auxiliary tries to reach residents by way of fundraisers and community events such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Tri Tip Dinner and the Pancake Breakfast. Additionally, the Auxiliary keeps residents apprised of local agency activities through a newsletter in late spring, as well as a safety message.

If a customer is dissatisfied with the District's services, complaints may be submitted verbally and are handled at Board meetings. Depending on the nature of the complaint, either the chief or the Board would be responsible for handing the complaint to resolution. The District reported that there were no complaints in 2012.

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<sup>82</sup> Health and Safety Code §13842.

LPFPD demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Plumas LAFCo during the MSR process. The District responded to the questionnaires and cooperated with interview and document requests.

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## Planning and Management Practices

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The District has one acting fire Chief, one fire captain, three firefighters and one training officer. The position of assistant chief is currently vacant. The fire chief manages daily operations and an office assistant handles the bills and paperwork. The firefighters report to the chief, and the chief is accountable to the Board. All of the positions at the District are filled by volunteers who receive no financial compensation.

Staff workload is monitored via tracking of calls and tracking of the individuals who responded to those calls. Maintenance and training logs are kept as well; however, the District does not track response times.

The District does not conduct employee evaluations. The fire chief reports to the Board at monthly board meetings. As well, at the end of every calendar year, the fire chief reports to the Board the number of calls and achievements of that year. LPFPD reported that it did not conduct evaluations for the District as a whole, such as benchmarking or annual reports.

Objectives and goals for the District are set annually at a predetermined training session.

The District's financial planning efforts include an annually adopted budget. The District's financial statements are audited every five years. The most recent audit took place in 2009. LPFPD does not adopt any other planning documents. The District conducts capital improvement planning informally at Board meetings.

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## Existing Demand and Growth Projections

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Land uses within LPFPD include recreation, forest and watershed, and suburban residential uses.<sup>83</sup>

### Population

There are approximately 26 residents within the District, based on the population of the census-designated place of La Porte in the 2010 Census and GIS estimate. The District's population density is 65.

### Existing Demand

The District reported that it had observed a decrease in service demand in the last five years. The District reported that it receives 17-18 calls per year; most of the calls are for emergency medical services.

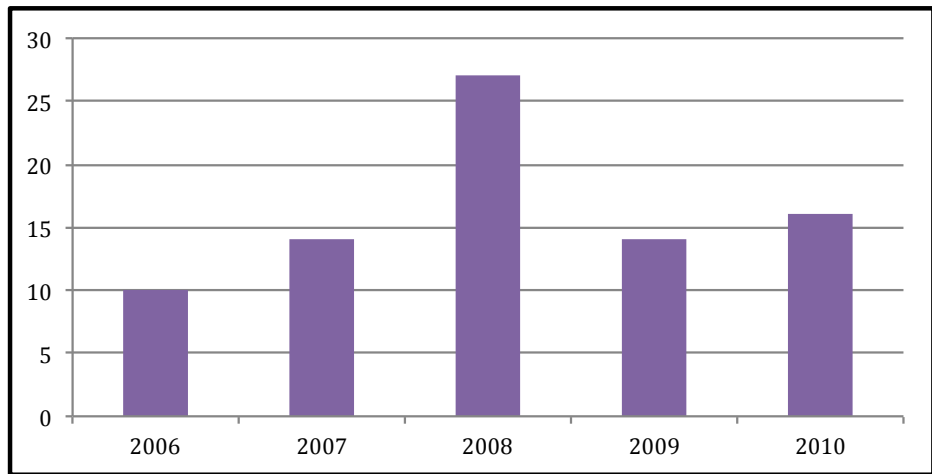
The number of calls peaked in 2008 at 27 calls and subsequently returned to previous levels in 2009 and 2010, as shown in Figure 7-3. The District reported that service demand is always higher in the summer months.

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<sup>83</sup> LAFCo resolution 83-29, Exhibit A.

**Figure 7-3: La Porte FPD Number of Calls by Year, 2006-2010**

Growth in the area has been minimal. There have been approximately six new structures in the last few years in the La Porte area; however, these new buildings have all been outside of the District's boundaries but within its sphere of influence. This minimal growth appears to not have had an impact on demand for the District's services.



Projected Growth and Development

The District reported that within LPFPD's boundaries, La Porte Pines Division has the greatest potential for growth. Although there are a number of lots available, only one to two houses on average are being built per year.

At one point in time, there was a development proposed outside of the District's bounds near Little Grass Valley Reservoir; however, currently there is no active interest in pursuing the development.

The State Department of Finance (DOF) projects that the population of Plumas County will grow by four percent in the next 10 years. Thus, the average annual population growth in the County is anticipated to be approximately 0.4 percent. Based on these projections, the District's population would increase from 26 in 2010 to approximately 27 in 2020. It is anticipated that demand for service within the District will increase minimally based on the DOF population growth projections through 2020.

The District reported that it has the capacity to provide services in the current service area. The District reported further that it has the capacity to provide service to planned development in the future growth area provided that growth continued at the current rate. However, if a large subdivision was to be built, the District may not have adequate service capacity.

Growth Strategies

The District is not a land use authority, and does not hold primary responsibility for implementing growth strategies. The land use authority for unincorporated areas is the County.

The County enforces the codes that it has enforcement power over, which does not encompass all State fire codes. The County ensures that new construction meets the requirements of the latest adopted edition of the California Building Standards. The County enforces the County codes that have been adopted in lieu of the California Fire Safe regulations. The County does not have authority to enforce PRC 4291, which requires

defensible space around structures; however, the County does have some enforcement authority over vegetation removal around buildings that was adopted prior to PRC 4291. In addition, the Board of Supervisors, through the adoption of the General Plan and county codes, regulates development standards to be followed in processing subdivisions, including fire protection.

The proposals for new developments are sent for review to the appropriate fire provider, if a development is within district's boundaries. The County reported that as SOI maps have not been digitized, it has been challenging to ensure that proposals go to the appropriate district if a proposed development was within that district's SOI but outside its boundaries. The County and Plumas LAFCO are working on a process to ensure that all appropriate districts are contacted for review of proposed developments.

The County has several policies in the existing general plan, which impacts the fire providers of new developments.

- 1) Turnouts are now required in every new development.<sup>84</sup>
- 2) The County encourages development to be located adjacent to or within areas where fire services already exist or can be efficiently provided.<sup>85</sup>
- 3) The County requires new developments within areas not currently served by a fire provider to be annexed into an existing fire district or create a funding mechanism, such as a CSD, to cover the costs of fire service provision.<sup>86</sup>
- 4) Sustainable timber and biomass production and harvesting as well as intensive forest management practices are encouraged to reduce the danger of catastrophic wildfires.<sup>87</sup>
- 5) There is a minimum requirement of two roadway access points, which are maintained on a year-round basis by the County or the State.<sup>88</sup>
- 6) Minimum public and private road standards: roads providing access to two or more lots have to conform to a two-lane standard of no less than 16-foot traveled way.<sup>89</sup>
- 7) Bridges are required to be designed for an 80,000 pound vehicle load.<sup>90</sup>
- 8) All access roads must be marked with an approved sign; and all lots must be identified by an address.<sup>91</sup>
- 9) All developments within boundaries of a structural fire service provider may be required to contribute to the maintenance of the structural service proportionate to the increase in demand for fire service resulting from the development.<sup>92</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 9 Section 9-4.604 (k).

<sup>85</sup> Plumas County, *General Plan*, 1984, pp. 28 & 29.

<sup>86</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 28.

<sup>87</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 32.

<sup>88</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 16.

<sup>89</sup> *Ibid.*,

<sup>90</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>91</sup> *Ibid.*

10) As a condition of development it is required to provide long-term maintenance of private roads to the standards of original improvements, including roadside vegetation management.<sup>93</sup>

11)The County encourages biomass thinning programs in high fire risk areas.<sup>94</sup>

The County is in the final stages of updating its general plan. The suggested new policies in the General Plan update that would impact fire service providers, but had not yet been adopted as of the drafting of this report, include:

12)The County shall review and update its Fire Safe ordinance to attain and maintain defensible space though conditioning of tentative maps and in new development at the final map or building permit stage.

13)The County will consult Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps during the review of all projects. The County will work with fire protection agencies to develop community fire plans and require appropriate building setbacks and fuel modification requirements within fire hazard zones.

14)In order for the new development to be approved, the County must conclude that adequate emergency water flow, fire access and firefighters and equipment are available.

15)New developments have to show that they have adequate access for emergency vehicles to access the site and for private vehicles to evacuate the area.

16)New developments within high and very high fire hazard areas are required to designate fuel break zones that comply with fire safe requirements.

17)The County will work with Forest Service and fire districts in developing fire prevention programs, identifying opportunities for fuel breaks in zones of high and very high fire hazard and educating public.

18)Fire, law enforcement, EMS, resource management, and public health response partners are encouraged to conduct joint training exercises.<sup>95</sup>

The County has not adopted the new standards for development yet. The revised General Plan may be adopted in 2013. County zoning code will then go through a revision process in order for the zoning code to implement the General Plan.

Not all private property in Plumas County is located within a local structural fire protection district. This issue has been well-documented in Board of Supervisor reports and correspondence, newspaper articles, and former Grand Jury reports. Identifying and reducing the number of such parcels has been the task of local fire districts, county staff, the feasibility study group and volunteer groups who collectively have spent countless hours quantifying the problem, educating the public, and encouraging solutions.

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<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 9 Section 9-4.601.

<sup>94</sup> Plumas County Code of Ordinances, Title 4 Section 4-2.101.

<sup>95</sup> Plumas County General Plan, Draft Goals, Policies and Implementation Measures, 2010.



Over the past few years, these efforts have been very successful. A summary of the activities and their impacts are listed to help solve this important problem:

- ❖ Updated General Plan Policies: The updated General Plan will require fire protection for any new development, preventing the number of parcels outside a fire district from increasing and encouraging annexations.
- ❖ Building Permit Review: Applications for new construction are reviewed by County staff to determine if the property is outside a district. Permit applicants are provided a resources and a handout on what it means to be outside a district.
- ❖ GIS Website Update: The Planning Department's GIS data on fire district boundaries is now available on the County's website, making it easy for fire districts and the public to determine whether a parcel is within a district.
- ❖ District Sphere of Influence Updates: The Local Agency Formation Commission continues work on updating fire districts' spheres of influence. These spheres indicate areas of likely district growth and serve as a blue print for possible future district annexations.
- ❖ Fire Protection Communication Plan: Completed in August 2012, the Fire Protection Communication Plan is a comprehensive tool to guide fire districts through the process of educating the public and gaining support for service agreements or annexations.
- ❖ Close-of-Escrow Notification on Fire District Status: As directed at the October 2, 2012 Board of Supervisors meeting, County staff is investigating options for escrow notification of property buyers regarding fire district status.
- ❖ Firewise and Fire Safe Communities Development: The Plumas County Fire Prevention Specialist continues working throughout the County to encourage firewise and fire safe activities to reduce the risk and consequences from wildfire.

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## Financing

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The District's primary financing sources are property taxes and fundraisers. The District noted that relying solely on tax dollars does not provide sufficient financing to provide adequate service to LPFPD residents; therefore, supplementary financing in the form of fundraisers is necessary. To date, adequate funds have been raised; however, this is not a guaranteed revenue stream in the future. The District also noted that one of the financing challenges they face is the decrease in property values in the area. Another challenge of note for LPFPD is that they provide services to La Porte Pines subdivision, which is located in the District; however, LPFPD does not receive property tax revenue from the territory, due to the lack of a tax sharing agreement with the County when the area was annexed in 1983.

The District is looking into grant funding as a way to supplement its current financing sources. The District applied for a grant from FEMA, which it did not receive because of insufficient call volume. The District reported it was looking into other types of grants.

The District's total revenue for FY 11-12 was \$21,459. Of this amount, 79 percent came from property tax revenue, 20 percent came from state and federal aid and one percent was from interest invested funds and other revenue.

The District's principal source of funds is derived from ad valorem property taxes levied by Plumas County. LPFPD does not receive any special tax or benefit assessment revenue. The District does not charge fees for its services.

LPFPD's expenditures in FY 11-12 amounted to \$20,831. Of this amount, 53 percent was spent on services and supplies, 39 percent was spent on fixed assets, including the purchase of a fire truck and other fire equipment, and the remaining amount was spent on compensation insurance.

The District performs capital improvement planning as needed. Needs are assessed through equipment and facility maintenance. Capital improvements are financed through a pay-as-you-go approach. Additionally, the District relies heavily on donations for equipment from the auxiliary fundraising group.

The District has a totally debt outstanding of \$26,237, which is the balance remaining on the 2006 GMC Pumper. The balance will be paid off in February 2017.

LPFPD does not have a formal financial reserve. There District reported a cash balance of approximately \$23,031 with no funds identified for reserve.

The District participates in in a joint powers agreement (JPA) with Golden State for workers compensation insurance.

## **FIRE AND EMS SERVICES**

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### **Service Overview**

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LPFPD provides structural fire, wildfires, and emergency medical in the form of basic life support, fire prevention, minimal rescue and hazardous material services.

#### **Collaboration**

In addition to the mutual and automatic aid agreements already identified, the District conducts joint training sessions with Foothill Fire Protection District in Yuba County.

The District also expressed interest in the potential opportunity to share facilities with the substation for the Sheriff Department.

#### **Dispatch and communications**

The County Sheriff is the Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP); consequently, most land line emergency calls (9-1-1 calls) are directed to the Sheriff. Most cell phone emergency calls (9-1-1 calls) are answered by the Sheriff's Office; however, some are answered by CHP and redirected to the Sheriff. The Sheriff provides dispatching for most fire providers in the County except for those in the northern part of the County, which are served by the Susanville Interagency Fire Center (SIFC). The Forest Service also has its own dispatch. LPFPD is an exception within Plumas County in that it is the only district dispatched by Grass Valley CAL FIRE in Nevada County. CAL FIRE has a first responder map, which it uses to identify what provider to dispatch to an incident. All territory within

the County has a determined first responder; although, many areas lie outside the LAFCO-approved boundaries of the districts and lack an officially designated fire provider.

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## Staffing

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LPFPD has six personnel—one fire chief, one fire captain, three firefighters and one training officer. All of the positions at the District are filled by volunteers who receive no financial compensation. The median age of the firefighters is 59, with a range from 45 to 63.

The District reports that its staffing levels have not changed significantly in the last few years. LPFPD reported it has initiated a support volunteer position in an effort to recruit more volunteers to the District. The goal is to recruit seasonal residents to join the District. These volunteers will be used for non-hot zone assignments.

Currently, there are three certifications in the California firefighter series; Volunteer Firefighter, Firefighter I, and Firefighter II. While the Volunteer Firefighter focuses on skills and tasks necessary to assure safety on the fire ground, Firefighter I & II prepares the fire fighter to perform essential and advanced fireground tasks as well as allowing entry into all tracks of the certification system. According to the California State Fire Marshal, all paid, volunteer and call firefighters must acquire Firefighter I certification; however, there is no time limit as to how long they may work before attaining certification. Firefighter I certification requires completion of the 259-hour Firefighter I course, which includes training on various fireground tasks, rescue operations, fire prevention and investigation techniques, and inspection and maintenance of equipment. In addition to this course, Firefighter I certification also requires that the applicant have a minimum of six months of volunteer or call experience in a California fire department as a firefighter performing suppression duties.<sup>96</sup> LPFPD has two Firefighter I certified personnel and four Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) I certified personnel. In addition to Firefighter I and EMT certifications, LPFPD has two firefighters certified in Emergency Medical Responder (EMR), seven certified in Incident Command System (ICS) 100, 200 and 7000, two certified in low angle rope rescue operational (LARRO), two certified in hazmat first responder and three certified as Wildland Firefighters.

The District's requirement for volunteer fire fighters is to have training in First Aid and CPR. The District offers six to eight hours per month of in house First Aid and CPR training, based on the Firefighter I textbook. Volunteers are also offered the opportunity to train with FFPD in Yuba County. In addition, USFS also provides wildland training. The remote location and minimal budget of the District is a particular challenge for District, as it is difficult for volunteers to attend training sessions offered by larger agencies. The District also noted that not all volunteers are comfortable in hot zones, and therefore volunteers are trained according to individual abilities.

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<sup>96</sup> State Fire Marshal, Course Information and Required Materials, 2007, p. 44

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## Facilities and Capacity

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LPFPD operates one fire station. La Porte Volunteer Fire Station, which was reported to be in good condition, is located at 2181 Cedar Lane in La Porte and was built in 1996. The station is not regularly staffed.

La Porte Volunteer Fire Station is used as a fire station and space to conduct training and administrative services. The station houses two type II engines, one type II water tender and one snow cat. La Porte Volunteer Fire Station is also used by the organizations in the District to host occasional events and meetings.

The District's water reserves are represented by 200,000 gallons in storage in La Porte Water District, 80,000 gallons in storage in La Porte Pines and 3,800 gallons on wheels.

Currently, the District reported it has no need for new facilities or facility upgrades. In addition the District reported that there is a general consensus that LPFPD's equipment is sufficient in terms of capacity and providing adequate services.

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## Infrastructure Needs

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Although the District does not formally plan for future capital improvement needs, LPFPD reported that it would like to purchase a new pumper/tanker to replace its current 1976 type II engine. The District reported they have not purchased this vehicle due to financing constraints, noting that the District only receives about \$20,000 annually in revenues. As previously noted, LPFPD reported that the equipment is sufficient for service provision; however, the District will take advantage of an opportunity to purchase new equipment if an economical prospect arose.

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## Challenges

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The District reported that its primary challenge is accessibility during the winter months, when the roads are snow covered and difficult to traverse. The District acquired a snow cat and is working on a sled mounted water pump (100-gallon tank) in order to respond to structure fires more efficiently in the winter months. Another challenge the District reported was that of ensuring firefighter safety when providing services. The District is currently looking at an assessment to provide new equipment and training that will allow better service provision and increased firefighter safety.

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## Service Adequacy

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While there are several benchmarks that may define the level of fire service provided by an agency, indicators of service adequacy discussed here include ISO ratings, response times, and level of staffing and station resources for the service area.

Fire services in the communities are classified by the Insurance Service Office (ISO), an advisory organization. This classification indicates the general adequacy of coverage, with classes ranking from 1 to 10. Communities with the best fire department facilities, systems for water distribution, fire alarms and communications, and equipment and personnel receive a rating of 1. LPFPD has an ISO rating of seven in town and nine in rural areas. The District was last evaluated in 2010.

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has issued a performance standard for volunteer and combination fire departments (NFPA 1720). This standard, among other guidelines, identifies target response time performance for structure fires. The response time is measured from the completion of the dispatch notification to the arrival time of the first-responder at the scene. Though not a legal mandate, NFPA 1720 does provide a useful benchmark against which to measure fire department performance. NFPA 1720 recommends that the response times for structure fire be nine minutes in urban demand zones at least 90 percent of the time, 10 minutes in suburban zones at least 80 percent of the time and 14 minutes in rural zones at least 80 percent of the time. Response times in remote zones are directly dependent on travel distances.<sup>97</sup> LPFPD falls under the definition of a rural demand zone.

Emergency response time standards vary by level of urbanization of an area: the more urban an area, the faster a response has to be. The California EMS Agency established the following response time guidelines: five minutes in urban areas, 15 minutes in suburban or rural areas, and as quickly as possible in wilderness areas. The District's response zones include rural and wilderness classifications. The District does not track its response times for each incident.

The service area size<sup>98</sup> for each fire station varies between fire districts. The median fire station in Plumas County serves approximately eight square miles. A station in La Porte FPD services the most expansive area of 151 square miles. Densely populated areas tend to have smaller service areas. For example, the average service area for Quincy FPD's fire station is six square miles.

The number of firefighters serving within a particular jurisdiction is another indicator of level of service; however, it is approximate. The providers' call firefighters may have differing availability and reliability. A district with more firefighters could have fewer resources if scheduling availability is restricted. Staffing levels in Plumas County vary from nine call firefighters per 1,000 residents in Quincy FPD service area to 231 in La Porte FPD.

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<sup>97</sup> Urban demand zone has population density of more than 1,000 people per square mile; suburban zone—between 500 and 1,000 people per square mile, rural zone—less than 500 people per square mile, and remote zone is identified by eight or more miles of travel distance to an incident.

<sup>98</sup> Service area refers to the area that the agency will respond to, based on a first responder map used by the Sherriff's office.

**Figure 7-4: La Porte FPD Fire Service Profile**

Fire Service					
<b>Facilities</b>					
<b>Firestation</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Condition</b>	<b>Staff per Shift</b>	<b>Vehicles</b>	
LPPFD	2181 Cedar Lane, La Porte, CA, 95981	Good	Unstaffed	2 type II engines, 1 type II water tender and 1 snow cat	
<b>Facility Sharing</b>					
<b>Current Practices:</b> The District's fire station is available for community events and meetings.					
<b>Future opportunities:</b> The District reported the potential opportunity to share facilities with the substation for the Sheriff Department.					
<b>Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies</b>					
The District's fire station does not need any upgrades. LPPFD would like to replace the 1976 type I engines but will only do so when the economics					
<b>District Resource Statistics</b>		<b>Service Configuration</b>		<b>Service Demand</b>	
Staffing Base Year	2013	Configuration Base Year	2013	Statistical Base Year	2011
Fire Stations in District	1	Fire Suppression	Direct	Total Service Calls	17
Stations Serving District	1	EMS	Direct	% EMS	65%
Sq. Miles Served per Station <sup>1</sup>	0.4	Ambulance Transport	Yuba/Sutter County	% Fire/Hazardous Mater	0%
Total Staff <sup>2</sup>	6	Hazardous Materials	Direct	% False	6%
Total Volunteer Firefighters	6	Air Rescue/Ambulance Helicopter	Enloe Flight Care	% Misc. emergency	29%
Total Call Firefighters	6	Fire Suppression Helicopter	N/A	% Non-emergency	0%
Total Sworn Staff per Station <sup>3</sup>	6	Public Safety Answering Point	Sheriff	% Mutual Aid Calls	35%
Total Sworn Staff per 1,000	231	Fire/EMS Dispatch	SIFC	Calls per 1,000 people	654
<b>Service Adequacy</b>			<b>Service Challenges</b>		
Response Time Base Year	N/A		LPPFD reported that there are areas in its service area which are hard to serve in the winter because of snow covered roads that are difficult to traverse.		
Median Response Time (min)	N/A		<b>Training</b>		
90th Percentile Response Time (min)	N/A		LPPFD firefighters must be trained in First Aid and CPR. The District offers 6-8 hours a month of in house training. Training is also available in Brownsville via a mutual aid agreement.		
ISO Rating	In town 7 (2010), Rural 9 (2010)				
<b>Mutual &amp; Automatic Aid Agreements</b>					
LPPFD has a mutual aid agreement with Plumas County Chiefs Association, CAL FIRE, United States Forest Service (USFS) and Foothill Fire Protection District. In addition, LPPFD has an automatic aid agreement with Yuba County. In addition to the mutual and automatic aid agreements already identified, the District conducts joint training sessions with Foothill Fire Protection District.					
Notes:					
1) Primary service area (square miles) per station.					
2) Total staff includes sworn and non-sworn personnel.					
3) Based on ratio of sworn full-time and call staff to the number of stations. Actual staffing levels of each station vary.					

## LA PORTE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT DETERMINATIONS

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### Growth and Population Projections

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- ❖ As of 2010, La Porte Fire Protection District (LPFPD) had population of 26.
- ❖ There has been minimal growth within the District's bounds over the last five years. This trend is anticipated to continue over the next few years.
- ❖ The District anticipates growth little or no change in service demand in the near future.

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### The Location and Characteristics of Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities Within or Contiguous to the Agency's SOI

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- ❖ The population threshold by which Plumas LAFCo will define a community is yet to be determined. Specific disadvantaged unincorporated communities and characteristics of the communities will be identified when appropriate as other areas are to be annexed to the District.

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### Present and Planned Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services, Including Infrastructure Needs and Deficiencies

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- ❖ The average number of calls for service per annum, based on number from 2006 to 2010, is 16.2. Peak service demand is in the summer months.
- ❖ The District identified no pressing infrastructure or facility needs; however, when financing becomes available LPFPD plans to purchase a vehicle to replace the aged 1976 type II vehicle.
- ❖ The District reported that it currently has the capacity to provide adequate service to areas in its bounds; however, LPFPD expressed concern that if a new subdivision was to be built it may no longer have the capacity to provide adequate services.

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### Financial Ability of Agencies to Provide Services

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- ❖ The District reported that the current financing level is adequate to deliver services to existing customers. However, the District did express concern over the stability of funding resources, noting that fundraising financing is not always guaranteed.
- ❖ The District has no designated restricted or unrestricted reserves.

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### Status of, and Opportunities for, Shared Facilities

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- ❖ The District does not share fire facilities with any other district or city in Plumas County.
- ❖ The District's fire station is open to the surrounding communities and organizations to periodically host events and meetings.

- ❖ The District expressed interest in the potential opportunity to share facilities with the substation for the Sheriff Department.

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### Accountability for Community Service Needs, Including Governmental Structure and Operational Efficiencies

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- ❖ LPFPD demonstrated accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Plumas LAFCo. The District responded to the questionnaires and cooperated with the document requests.
- ❖ It is recommended that LPFPD develop a basic website or Facebook page in order to keep customers up to date on District happenings. This online presence may be a more efficient way of posting meeting notices, agendas and meeting minutes.
- ❖ Governance structure options, with regard to fire services in La Porte, include the finalization of the proposed annexation of the four subdivisions currently in LPFPD's SOI. As of the drafting of this report, the District had adopted a resolution to proceed with an application to LAFCo.