

Memorandum

Date: March 7, 2007

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: John M. Scherrei, Fire Chief 

Subject: Consolidation of Solvang and County Fire Departments



SUMMARY

Attached is an MOU for the board's signature between the city of Solvang and the County of Santa Barbara for the purpose of combining staffing, resources, and supplies in order to consolidate the Solvang Fire Department and the County Fire Department.

FINDINGS

The city of Solvang's Fire Department has been staffed by paid call firefighters. The proposed MOU is a product of an ad hoc committee of Solvang City Council, the City Manager, members of County Fire, and County Council. The MOU covers the following items:

- Shared expenses, for salaries and benefits.
- Direction to apply to LAFCO for annexation of the city boundaries into the fire district.
- Direction to work with the Insurance Service's Organization to potentially reduce insurance rates to the region.
- A lease of the existing fire station for \$1/year, and agreement of maintenance and utility payment
- Agreement to utilize equipment and apparatus.
- Agreement to administer the fire code, and inspection process.
- Transfer of staff from the City to County Fire

The Solvang City Council will have a hearing and vote on the MOU on March 12, 2007. County Counsel, Risk Management, CEO/HR, General Services, and the Auditor Controller have reviewed the MOU. Local 2046 has participated as a non-voting member in the ad hoc committee and is in agreement.

CONCLUSION

The MOU is designed to improve customer service by reducing response times to both the City and the surrounding unincorporated area. There are no tax increases or additional use of the County's General Fund with this MOU. This is a mutually beneficial agreement.