



January 4, 2021

The Honorable Judge Renee C. Day, Presiding Judge  
Amador County Superior Court  
500 Argonaut Lane  
Jackson, CA 95642

Dear Honorable Renee C. Day:

The Amador County Board of Supervisors would like to submit to you the Board's response to the findings and recommendations listed in the 2020 Grand Jury report concerning Amador County Fire Protection Services. Below are the two required responses (F2 & R5) to that report.

F2.

We agree that the Measure M ballot language permits only certain uses of the Measure M funds and that the Board of Supervisors has limited abilities to change them. For example Measure M can be used to pay "paid fire fighters" but not volunteers.

However, several of the fire districts/departments wish to change the apportionment formula of Measure M because they are in need of additional funding but this would occur at the expense of other fire districts. Also, those same fire districts/departments wish to claim another fire district's response area primarily so they can receive additional Measure M funding. Furthermore, the amounts of measure M funding some districts/departments are currently receiving is far greater on a per employee basis than what other districts are currently receiving. Finally, an unfair practice of arbitrarily picking calls to award funding works to the financial benefit to certain districts/departments and at the expense of others.

R5.

While the Board of Supervisors may have some flexibility in changing the apportionment formula which is based on call volume and population, the spirit of the apportionment scheme should remain in place. It is the opinion of this Board that changing some of the permissible uses may be worth looking into; however, this will likely involve a ballot measure which could be problematic.

It is also the opinion of this Board that a comprehensive review of the current levels and uses of Measure M funds by all districts/departments should be performed in order to show the amounts that they are receiving in order to determine what's fair.

In addition, there should be a comprehensive analysis of potential consolidation of several districts/departments which is a primary goal of AFPA. The following criteria should be considered in that analysis:

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- Potential for a better Insurance Services Organization (ISO) rating
  - Providing adequate speed and weight of response on all incidents (staffing levels)
  - Cost savings
  - Economies of scale for purchases
  - Elimination of artificial service boundaries
  - Stronger internal programs such as training
  - Eliminates duplication of effort
  - Better utilization of resources
  - Affords the opportunity to offer expanded or specialized services

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Crew", written over a horizontal line.

Patrick Crew, Chairman  
Amador County Board of Supervisors