



Balancing Community and Commerce

44 N. SAN JOAQUIN STREET SUITE 374 LODI, CA 95202 209-468-3198

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

DATE: September 2, 2026
TO: Commissioners
FROM: J.D. Hightower, Executive Officer
SUBJECT: **Rural Fire Protection Districts Service Review**

RECOMMENDATION

Receive information regarding the draft Rural Fire Protection Districts Service Review and close the public review comment period for the draft service review.

BACKGROUND

Work on the Draft Rural Fire District Service Review (DSR) commenced on January 9, 2025 when the Commission approved a contract with RSG/Planwest (RSG/P) for the preparation of the report. The DSR is the first phase of work for the overall work effort that also includes a governance study. The DSR included service reviews of 17 rural fire protection district. Expedited service reviews for Boggs Tract and Farmington Fire Protection Districts were evaluated separately and will be included in the final document.

Below is a timeline of the work effort to date:



The work process included four (4) Steering Committee meetings in March 2025, July 2025, February 2026 and August 2026. . In addition to Commissioners Ding and Gardea, the Steering Committee included: City of Manteca Councilmember Breitenbucher, City of Stockton Chiefs Edwards and Carr, City of Lodi Deputy Chief Ortegell, Woodbridge FD Chief Downey, Waterloo-Morada Chief Walder, County Fire Warden Butler, Farmington FD Board member Briggs, Clements FD Board member Swearingen and public-at-large member Robert Tuitavuki. The diversity and experience of the Steering Committee provided valuable insights throughout the work effort.

RSG/P and staff worked with the Districts to include their insights and comments prior to the DSR public review. District comments were solicited from June 1, 2026 through July 10, 2026. Upon incorporation of district insights, the DSR was noticed and posted on the Commission's website. The agenda item today is to close the public review comment period so that all comments can be included into the Final Service Review for adoption tentatively scheduled for the October 8, 2026 Commission hearing.

