

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington

MOTION NO. 22-283

CONCERNING THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S POSITION ON A
PROPOSED FULL MERGER OF FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 23 INTO FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 17 – BRB #04-2022

WHEREAS, Snohomish County has received notice of a proposal from Fire Protection District No.23 ("merging district") for a full merger into Fire Protection District No. 17 ("merger district"), with the total proposed merged area consisting of approximately 32,320 acres encompassing the City of Granite Falls and areas of unincorporated Snohomish County; and

WHEREAS, the proposal is described in Washington State Boundary Review Board for Snohomish County (hereinafter "Boundary Review Board") File No. BRB 04-2022; and

WHEREAS, the full merger is governed by Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 52.06.001 through RCW 52.06.085 and is subject to chapter 2.77 of the Snohomish County Code (SCC), RCW 36.93.157, RCW 36.93.170, RCW 36.93.180, SCC 36.70A.020, SCC 36.70A.110, and SCC 36.70A.210; and

WHEREAS, if the full merger is approved by the Boundary Review Board after a hearing, or deemed approved because no one invokes Boundary Review Board jurisdiction, a special election is then required to be held as provided in RCW 52.06.030, and RCW 29A.04.330, to present the question of the full merger to the residents of Fire Protection District No. 23; the merging district; and

WHEREAS, if the vote in the special election on the question of full merger is favorable, the respective district boards (Fire Protection District No. 23 and Fire Protection District No. 17) would adopt concurrent resolutions for final action in merging the two districts; and

WHEREAS, the full merger is generally consistent with the factors and objectives of the Boundary Review Board, SCC, and other applicable statutes governing the review of proposed full mergers. The proposed full merger is consistent with adopted Countywide Planning Policies and the County's Growth Management Act (GMA) Comprehensive Plan, as set out in a Planning and Development Services staff report dated June 23, 2022; and

WHEREAS, RCW 36.93.157 requires that decisions of the Boundary Review Board be consistent with the GMA;

NOW, THEREFORE ON MOTION:

1. The Snohomish County Council does not oppose the full merger and will not invoke the jurisdiction of the Boundary Review Board.
2. The Council Clerk is directed to forthwith file this Motion with the Boundary Review Board, together with a copy of the Planning and Development Services staff report dated June 23, 2022.

MOTION 22-283

CONCERNING THE COUNTY COUNCIL'S POSITION ON A PROPOSED FULL MERGER OF FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 23 INTO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 17 – BRB #04-2022

PAGE 1 OF 2

DATED this 13th day of July, 2022.

SNOHOMISH COUNTY COUNCIL
Snohomish County, Washington



Acting Council Chair

ATTEST:



Asst. Clerk of the Council

NOTICE OF INTENTION COVER SHEET

Washington State
Boundary Review Board
for Snohomish County

3000 Rockefeller, M/S #409
Everett, WA 98201
425-388-3445

As required by RCW 36.93, a Notice of Intention is hereby submitted for proposed annexation to or formation of special purpose district: Full Statutory Merger of Snohomish Co. Fire Protection District #23 into Snohomish Co. Fire Protection District #17
Proceedings were initiated under authority of RCW 52.06

By: () Petition Method: N/A % of land owned by petition signers (must be 60%).
(✓) Election Method: N/A number of qualified electors in area to be annexed or formed
N/A % of above figure represented by signers.

Is assumption of existing indebtedness to be required? No
Will simultaneous adoption of comprehensive plans be required? N/A

Name each governmental unit having jurisdiction:
within the boundaries of the proposal:

City of Granite Falls, Sno-Isle Library District, Granite Falls School District,
Snohomish County PUD #1, Snohomish Health District, Snohomish County,
Washington Department of Natural Resources.

The following other persons (attorneys, etc.)
shall receive communication regarding proposal.

Brian Snure (brian@snurelaw.com)

Jim Haverfield (jim.haverfield@gffd17.org)

John Sobieski (johnski999@aol.com)

Special purpose district means any sewer district, water district, fire protection district, drainage improvement district, drainage and diking improvement district, flood control zone district, irrigation district, metropolitan park district, drainage district, or public utility district engaged in water distribution.

Signatures on petition N/A
Residences in area 5,627
Population of area 14,017
Acreage 32,320
Square miles 50.5

Assessed valuation 2,318,457,893
Topography Various
Current district boundaries and adjacent roads:
Snohomish Co. Fire District 17 and Snohomish Co. Fire District 23

Proximity to other districts, cities, etc.
See attached Notice of Intention

| | <u>Present</u> |
|------------------|---|
| Sewers | <u>No Change</u> |
| Water | <u>No Change</u> |
| Roads | <u>No Change</u> |
| Fire Dist. | <u>Snohomish Co. FPD17 & Snohomish Co. FPD 23</u> |
| Police | <u>No Change</u> |
| Growth Potential | <u>No Change</u> |

| | <u>Proposed</u> |
|---|--|
| No Change | <u>No Change</u> |
| No Change | <u>No Change</u> |
| No Change | <u>No Change</u> |
| Snohomish County Fire Protection District #17 | <u>Snohomish County Fire Protection District #17</u> |
| No Change | <u>No Change</u> |
| No Change | <u>No Change</u> |

Attachments:

\$50 Filing Fee
Notice of Intention (with attachments)
Perimeter legal (follow outside boundary)
Assessor and Vicinity Maps

SEPA Checklist and Determination or EIS
Petition
Resolution of Intent

Petitioner (Spokesperson): James E. Haverfield
Address: PO Box 1049, Granite Falls, WA 98252
Phone: 360.691.5553

Initiator (District or Proponent): Snohomish County Fire Protection District #17
Representative Signature: 
Address/Phone: PO Box 1049, Granite Falls, WA 98252

Boundary Review Board for
Snohomish County

RECEIVED

5/24/22

File No. 04-2022 Filed effectively this 6th day of June, 2022 by Allegra Clarkson
Chief Clerk

NOTICE OF INTENTION

To: Washington State Boundary Review Board for Snohomish County

From: Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 Department

**Contact: Jim Haverfield, Fire Chief
PO Box 1049
Granite Falls, WA 98252
360.691.5553
Jim.Haverfield@gffd17.org**

NATURE OF PROPOSAL

This Notice of Intention is for the proposed merger of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 into Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17 pursuant to chapter 52.06 RCW. The merger process was initiated by the Board of Commissioners of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 on April 23rd, 2022 and was concurred in by the Board of Commissioners of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17 on May 9th, 2022.

ATTACHMENTS

- Exhibit A.** Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 Petition
- Exhibit B.** Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17 Resolution
- Exhibit C.** Map of Merger Areas.
- Exhibit D.** Legal Descriptions.

REASONS FOR THE MERGER

Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 and Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17 currently each provide fire protection and emergency medical services to their respective jurisdictions. The Districts work cooperatively to maximize efficiencies, improve service, reduce redundancy and to initiate the full consolidation of the fire districts. The Districts have determined that a full merger and consolidation of administrations and operations is feasible and will serve the best interests of the citizens of both Districts.

Under RCW 52.06.010, two fire protection districts are authorized to merge when the districts are within “reasonable proximity” to each other. The term reasonable proximity is defined under RCW 52.06.010(2) as “geographical areas near enough to each other so that governance, management, and services can be delivered effectively.” The District’s boundaries are adjacent to each other and the Districts believe the merger will result in a more effective delivery of governance, management and services by creating the following efficiencies:

1. Combined governance resulting in a reduction of the number of elected officials and providing for a single administrative and operational chain of command.
2. Greater combined workforce for response to emergency and non-emergency incident, backfill of vacant shift positions, and emergency callback for large-scale incidents;
3. Reduction in duplication of staff positions, processes, specialized equipment apparatus, and contracts;
4. Strengthen fiscal sustainability and ability to meet growing emergency and non-emergency service needs;
5. Increase staff resources for development and staffing of specialized services including but not limited to non-emergent medical services, hazardous materials, technical rescue and water rescue; and
6. Promotes strategic regional planning efforts.

FACTORS AND OBJECTIVES OF PROPOSED ANNEXATION

I. Statutory Factors and Objectives:

A. RCW 36.93.170(1):

1. **Population Density:** Each District is currently serving the current populations with similar service levels. The merger will enhance the ability to serve the combined populations more effectively and efficiently. The merger will not have an impact on population density.
2. **Land area and land uses (existing):** The merger will not affect the land uses in the area since the Districts have no control over land uses.
3. **Comprehensive Use Plans and Zoning:** The merger will not affect any County or City Comprehensive Plan or zoning.
4. **Topography, natural boundaries and drainage basins:** The merger will have no effect on the topography, natural boundaries and drainage basins.
5. **Proximity to other population areas:** Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17 includes the City of Granite Falls. The merged district will not alter or impact other population areas in or nearby the merger area.
6. **Likelihood of significant growth in the area and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas in near future:** There is growth in both Districts and the merger will enhance the ability of the merged district to accommodate and serve such growth in an effective and efficient manner.

7. **Location of existing and future location of community facilities:** The merged district will continue to operate the existing fire stations serving both districts.

B. RCW 36.93.170(2):

1. **Need For Municipal Services:** The current need for municipal services will not be affected by the merger. The proposed merger of the two districts will not necessarily improve or reduce current response times to the service area. However, the merger will create the potential to improve the concentration and reliability of response personnel within each service area. This efficiency is created by combining the operational personnel of both district whom are available to respond to an incident, available to fill shift vacancies, or available for emergency callback.
2. **Effects of ordinance, government codes, regulation on existing uses:** N/A
3. **Present cost and Adequacy of Governmental Services:** The Districts are currently providing adequate fire protection and emergency medical services with similar tax rates. Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17 has a current combined regular and EMS levy rate of approximately \$ 1.65 per thousand of assessed valuation and Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 has a current combined regular and EMS levy property tax rate of approximately \$.97 per thousand of assessed valuation.
4. **Prospects of services from other sources:** No prospects.
5. **Effect on finances, debt structure and contractual obligations and rights of all affected governmental units:** The merger will result in a single tax base funding the operations within the merged district that will be determined in accordance with WAC 459-19-030 that will result in minor adjustments to the total tax levy rate in both jurisdictions. The merger will result in a single entity with an increased debt limit. The merger will not affect any existing contractual or debt obligations of either District.

C. RCW 36.93.170(3) Effect of proposal on adjacent areas, on social services, and on local governmental structure of County: No effect.

D. RCW 36.93.180 – Objectives of Boundary Review Board.

1. **Preservation of natural neighborhoods and communities:** The annexation will have no appreciable impact on neighborhoods and communities.
2. **Use of physical boundaries, including but not limited to bodies of water, highways, and land contours:** The merger will use the existing boundaries of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 and Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17.

3. **Creation and preservation of logical service areas:** The merger will allow a single administration and operational structure to serve areas that are currently served by separate operations and administration, this will enhance the level of service by providing a larger pool of resources available to the citizens of both jurisdictions.
4. **Prevention of Abnormally irregular boundaries:** The merger will not create abnormally irregular boundaries as the merger will simply consolidate the existing boundaries of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 into Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17.
5. **Discouragement of multiple incorporations of small cities and encouragement of incorporation of cities in excess of ten thousand population in heavily populated urban areas:** N/A
6. **Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts;** N/A
7. **Adjustment of impractical boundaries;** N/A
8. **Incorporation as cities or towns or annexation to cities or towns of unincorporated areas which are urban in character:** N/A
9. **Protection of agricultural and rural lands which are designated for long term productive agricultural and resource use by a comprehensive plan adopted by the county legislative authority:** N/A

Exhibit A

Petition

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 23
PETITION FOR MERGER**

To: Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17

Request: The Board of Commissioners of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23
Petition to merge into Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17.

Reasons: Snohomish County Fire Protection Districts No. 17 and No. 23 are located within
reasonable proximity to each other and have a history of working cooperatively. A
merger of the Districts will decrease costs and increase efficiency in serving the areas
currently within the boundaries of both Districts.

Terms: The effective date of the merger shall be January 1, 2023.

Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17 will levy its regular property tax
levies in the Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 areas beginning with
the 2023 tax levy to be collected in 2024.

The parties will comply with the provisions of RCW 52.06.110, RCW 52.06.120 and
RCW 52.06.130 regarding any current employees of Snohomish County Fire
Protection District No. 23.

On the effective date of the merger, all assets and liabilities of Snohomish County
Fire Protection District No. 23 shall become assets and liabilities of Snohomish
County Fire Protection District No. 17 and Snohomish County Fire Protection No.
23 shall be dissolved.

Action: The Board of Commissioners of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23
requests that this Petition be approved by the Board of Commissioners of Snohomish
County Fire Protection District No. 17.

Dated: 4/23/, 2022

SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 23

by: John Sobieski
Commissioner

by: Dick Durham
Commissioner

by: Tony Greene
Commissioner

by: Alice M. Sharp
Secretary

Exhibit B

Resolution

RESOLUTION 2022-04

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PETITION OF SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 23 TO MERGE INTO SNOHOMISH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 17

The Board of Commissioners of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 have presented a Petition to the Board of Commissioners of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17 to merge Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 into Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17.


The Board of Commissioners of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17 has reviewed the petition and finds it is in the best interest of both Districts that Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 merge into Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17.

The Board of Commissioners has reviewed and studied the proposal and has considered the Environmental Checklist prepared by the Chief in consultation with District legal counsel provided for under WAC 197-11-960.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17 Resolve as Follows:

1. The Petition for Merger is approved and the Fire Chief is authorized and directed to transmit the Petition together with a copy of this Resolution to Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23.; and
2. The Board declares Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17 as lead agency for SEPA review; finds that such merger will not significantly affect the environment; and, therefore, hereby adopts the attached final Declaration of Nonsignificance;
3. The Fire Chief or designee is authorized to work with the District 23 to file a Notice of Intention with the Washington State Boundary Review Board for Snohomish County; and
4. The Fire Chief is authorized to take all additional necessary actions to process the proposed merger.

ADOPTED by the Board of Commissioners of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17 at an open public meeting of such Board on the 9th day of May 2022, the following commissioners being present and voting:


Rick Hjelle, Chairman


Rick Ainley, Vice-Chairman


Ron Stephenson, Commissioner


Jesse James, Commissioner


Gary Chandler, Commissioner


James Haverfield, District Secretary



Snohomish Co. Fire District #17

*Granite Falls Fire • PO Box 1049 • Granite Falls, WA 98252
Phone (360) 691-5553 • Fax (360) 691-7837 • www.gffd17.org*

Snohomish County Fire District #17

Monday, May 9th, 2022

Regular Meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners
Station 87, 116 S. Granite Ave., Granite Falls, WA 98252
9:00 a.m.

AGENDA

- a. Flag Salute
- b. Call Meeting to Order
- c. Welcome Visitors
- d. Public Comment

Business Items

- 1. **Consent Agenda**
 - a. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 2022
 - b. Approval of Accounts Payable Vouchers
 - c. Approval of May 2022 Payroll
 - d. Approval of April 2022 Financial Reports
- 2. **Reports**
 - a. Association Report
 - b. Local Report
 - c. Chief's Report
- 3. **New Business**
- 4. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. Phase 1 Project Update (Progress Report #5)
 - b. Phase 2 Planning – Future HQ Fire Station
 - c. Chief's Performance Evaluation
 - d. Resolution 2022-03; EMS Levy Lid Lift
 - e. Resolution 2022-04; Approving FD23 Merger Petition
- 5. **Reports from the Board/Good of the Order**
- 6. **Executive Session** RCW 42.30.110(g)
- 7. **Adjourn/Recess Meeting**

Fire Commissioners

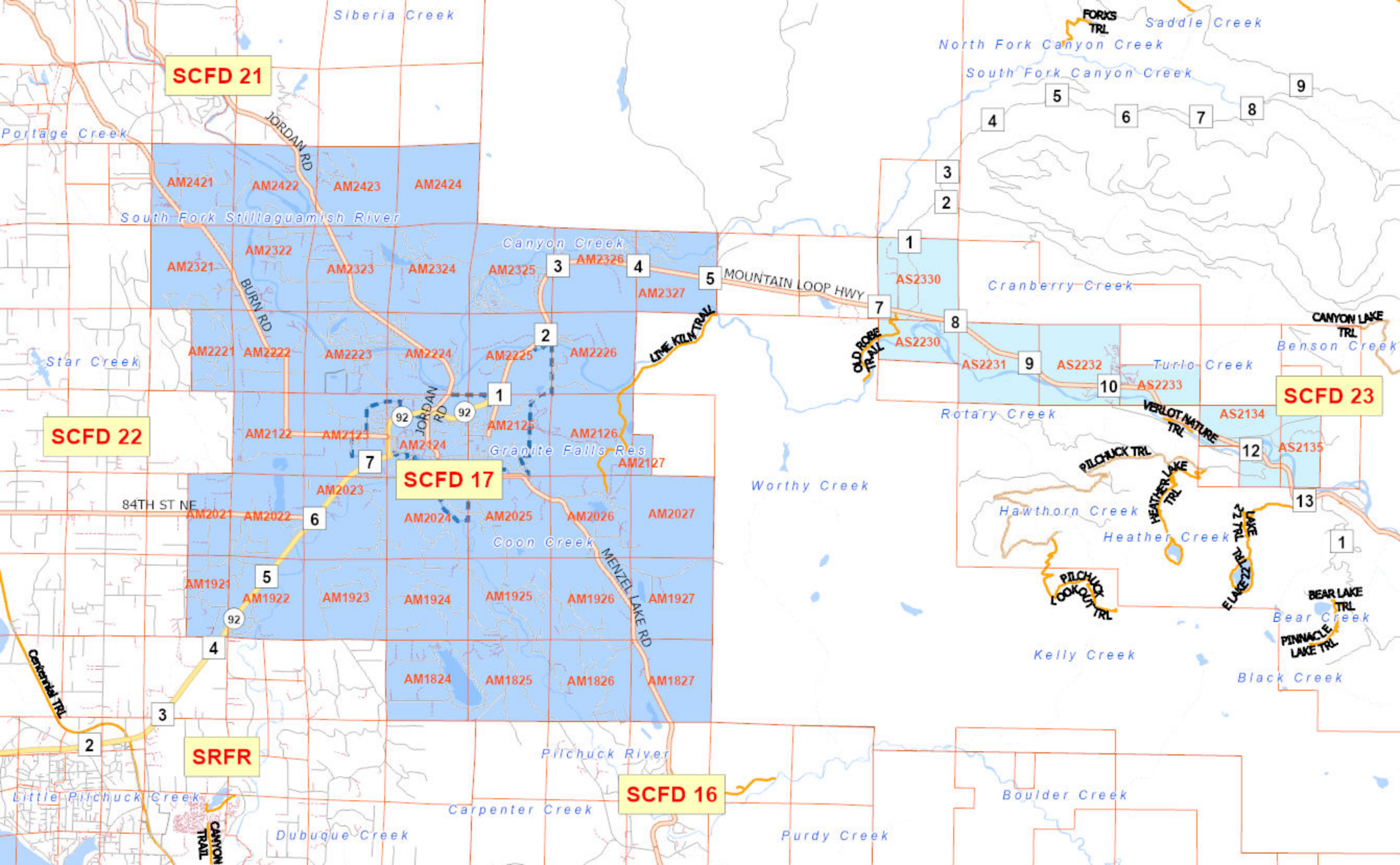
*Rick Hjelle, Rick Ainley, Ron Stephenson
Jesse James and Gary Chandler*

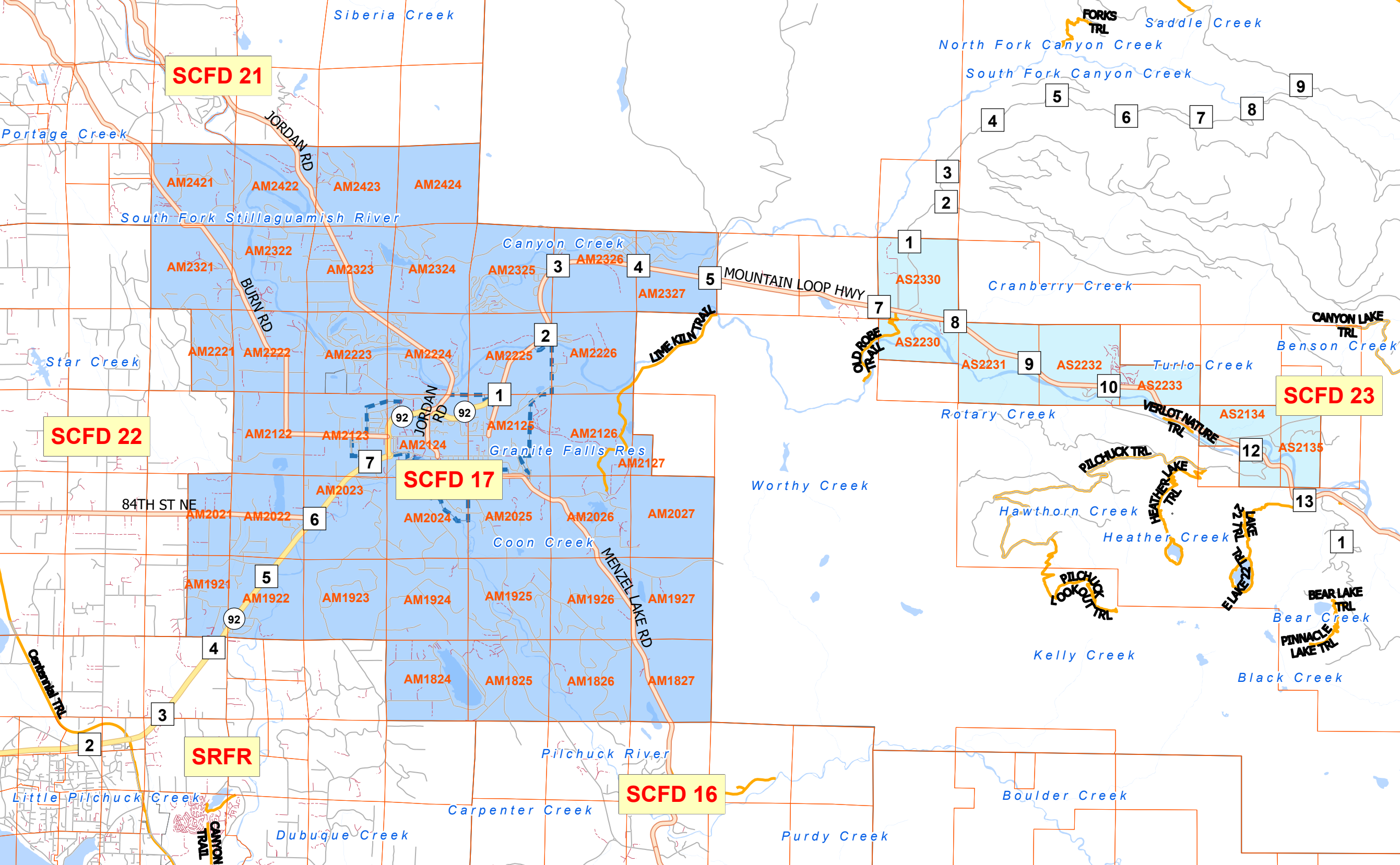
Fire Chief

Jim Haverfield

Exhibit C

Maps





SCFD 21

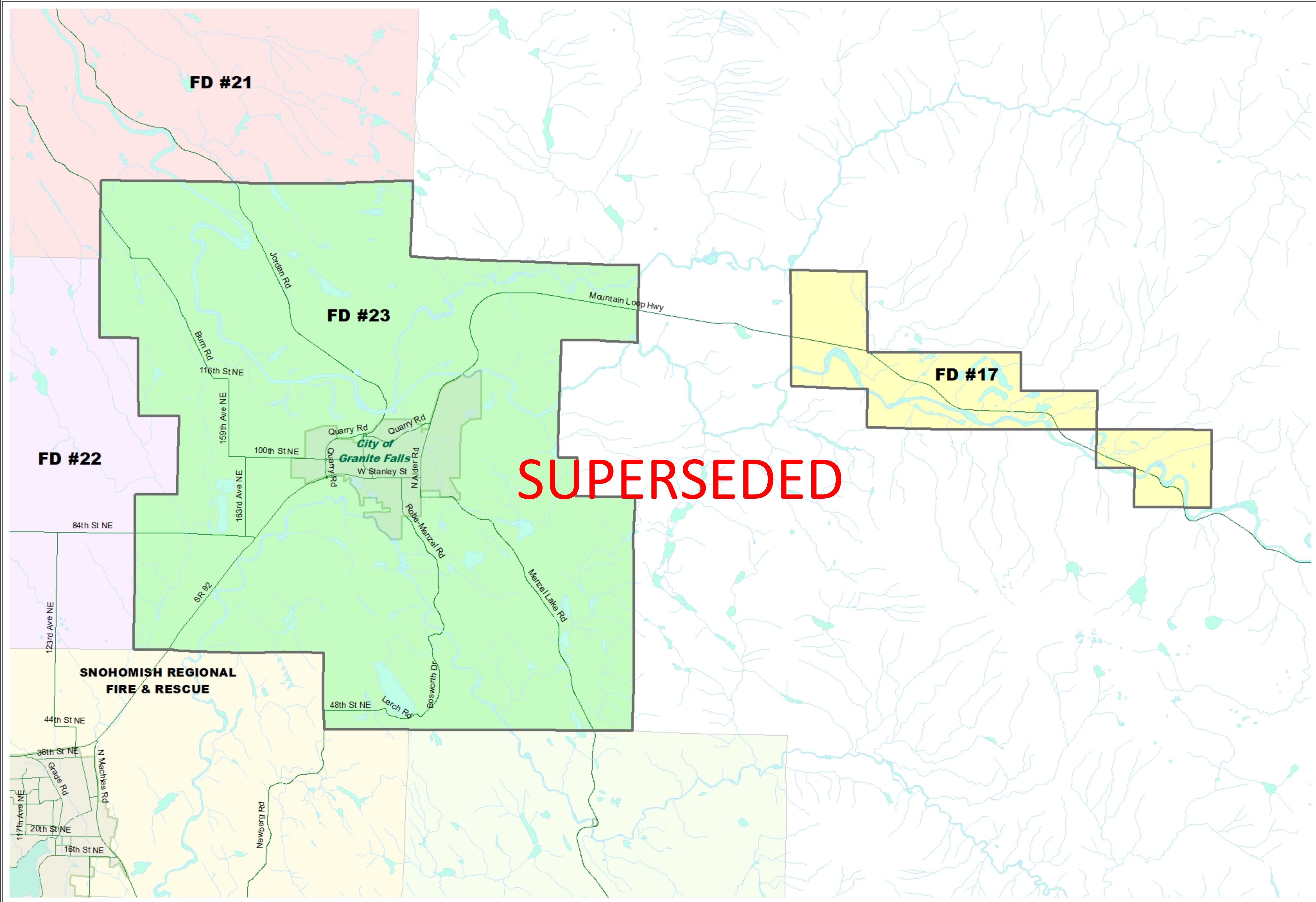
SCFD 22

SCFD 17

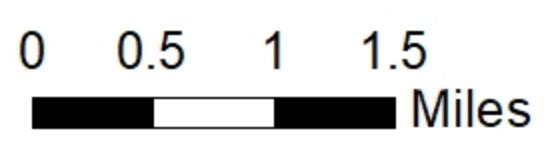
SCFD 16

SCFD 23

SRFR



SUPERSEDED



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Corrected map submittal
BRB received 6/8/22

FD #21

FD #17

FD #22

FD #23

**SNOHOMISH REGIONAL
FIRE & RESCUE**

Granite Falls

0 0.5 1 1.5
Miles



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Snohomish County

Exhibit D

Legal Descriptions

Exhibit D(1)

Legal Description Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, East ½ Section 9, all of Sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 36, and the East ½ Section 21, East ½ Section 28 in Township 30 N, Range 6 East W.M.

ALSO: Sections 33, 34, 35, 36 in Township 31 N, Range 6 East W.M.

ALSO: Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, and 33 in Township 30 N. Range 7 East W.M.

ALSO: The West ½ of the Southwest ¼ Section 16 Township 30 Range 7 East W.M.

Exhibit D(2)

Legal Description of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23

Section 1 and the North $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 12 in Township 30 N, Range 7 East. W. M.

Also: Sections 7, 8, South $\frac{1}{2}$ Section 9; all of Section 15 except the SW $\frac{1}{4}$; and the West $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 14 in Township 30 North, Range 8 East. W. M.

Exhibit E

SEPA CHECKLIST

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental Checklist

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the questions from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply." Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

For nonproject proposals complete this checklist and the supplemental sheet for nonproject actions (Part D). The lead agency may exclude any question for the environmental elements (Part B) which they determine do not contribute meaningfully to the analysis of the proposal.

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Merger of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 into Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17. The merger is a nonproject action.

2. Name of applicant: **Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17.**
3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

**Chief Jim Haverfield
PO Box 1049
Granite Falls, WA 98252
360.691.5553**

4. Date checklist prepared: **April 19, 2022**

SEPA Rules

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

5. Agency requesting checklist: **Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23**
6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable): **Not Applicable**
7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

Not Applicable

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

None

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

No

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

None.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

Non project action. Merger of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 into Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17. (Chapter 52.06 RCW).

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The geographical areas within Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 and Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.

Not Applicable.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Not Applicable

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, much)? If you know the classifications of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Not Applicable

SEPA Rules

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Not Applicable

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Not Applicable

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Not Applicable

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Not Applicable

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Not Applicable

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Not Applicable

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Not Applicable

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

3. Water

- a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Not Applicable

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Not Applicable

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Not Applicable

SEPA Rules

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Not Applicable

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Not Applicable

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

Not Applicable

b. Ground

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Not Applicable

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals ...; etc.) Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Not Applicable

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Not Applicable

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Not Applicable

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Not Applicable

4. Plants **Not Applicable**

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- ☐ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
☐ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
☐ shrubs
☐ grass
☐ pasture
☐ crop or grain
☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
☐ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
☐ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

SEPA Rules

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

Not Applicable

- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Not Applicable

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Not Applicable

- e. List all noxious weeds and invasive species known to be on or near the site.

Not Applicable

5. Animals **Not Applicable**

- a. List any birds and other animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site.
Examples include:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other: _____

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other: _____

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other: _____

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Not Applicable

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Not Applicable

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Not Applicable

- e. List any invasive animal species known to be on or near the site.

Not Applicable

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Not Applicable

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? No. If so, generally describe.

Not Applicable

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Not Applicable

7. Environmental Health

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- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Not Applicable

- 1) Describe any known or possible contamination at the site from present or past uses.

Not Applicable

- 2) Describe existing hazardous chemicals/conditions that might affect project development and design. This includes underground hazardous liquid and gas transmission pipelines located within the project area and in the vicinity.

Not Applicable

- 3) Describe any toxic or hazardous chemicals that might be stored, used, or produced during the project's development or construction, or at any time during the operating life of the project.

Not Applicable

- 4) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Not Applicable

- 5) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Not Applicable

- b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Not Applicable

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Not Applicable

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Not Applicable

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties? Will the proposal affect current land uses on nearby or adjacent properties? If so, describe.

Not Applicable

- b. Has the project site been used as working farmlands or working forest lands? If so, describe. How much agricultural or forest land of long-term commercial significance will be converted to other uses as a result of the proposal, if any? If resource lands have not been designated, how many acres in farmland or forest land tax status will be converted to nonfarm or nonforest use?

Not Applicable

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EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

- 1) Will the proposal affect or be affected by surrounding working farm or forest land normal business operations, such as oversized equipment access, the application of pesticides, tilling, and harvesting? If so, how:

Not Applicable

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

Not Applicable

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Not Applicable

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Not Applicable

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Not Applicable

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Not Applicable

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as a critical area by the city or county? If so, specify.

Not Applicable

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Not Applicable

- j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Not Applicable

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not Applicable

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Not Applicable

- m. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts to agricultural and forest lands of long-term commercial significance, if any:

Not Applicable

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not Applicable

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EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Not Applicable

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Not Applicable

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Not Applicable

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Not Applicable

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Not Applicable

11. Light and Glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Not Applicable

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Not Applicable

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Not Applicable

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Not Applicable

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Not Applicable

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Not Applicable

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Not Applicable

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EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any buildings, structures, or sites, located on or near the site that are over 45 years old listed in or eligible for listing in national, state, or local preservation registers? If so, specifically describe.

Not Applicable

- b. Are there any landmarks, features, or other evidence of Indian or historic use or occupation. This may include human burials or old cemeteries. Are there any material evidence, artifacts, or areas of cultural importance on or near the site? Please list any professional studies conducted at the site to identify such resources.

Not Applicable

- c. Describe the methods used to assess the potential impacts to cultural and historic resources on or near the project site. Examples include consultation with tribes and the department of archeology and historic preservation, archaeological surveys, historic maps, GIS data, etc.

Not Applicable

- d. Proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or compensate for loss, changes to, and disturbance to resources. Please include plans for the above and any permits that may be required.

Not Applicable

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site or affected geographic area, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Not Applicable

- b. Is the site or affected geographic area currently served by public transit? If so, generally describe. If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Not Applicable

- c. How many additional parking spaces would the completed project or nonproject proposal have? How many would the project or proposal eliminate?

Not Applicable

- d. Will the proposal require any new or improvements to existing roads, streets, pedestrian, bicycle or state transportation facilities, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Not Applicable

- e. Will the project or proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Not Applicable

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project or proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur and what percentage of the volume would be trucks (such as commercial and nonpassenger vehicles). What data or transportation models were used to make these estimates?

Not Applicable

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EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

g. Will the proposal interfere with, affect or be affected by the movement of agricultural and forest products on roads or streets in the area? If so, generally describe.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Not Applicable

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protections, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Proposal will enhance provision of fire protection and emergency medical services.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Not Applicable

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Not Applicable

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Not Applicable

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature:



Jim Haverfield, Chief Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17

Date Submitted: April 19th, 2022

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D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Not Applicable

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Not Applicable

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Not Applicable

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life:

Not Applicable

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Not Applicable

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources:

Not Applicable

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Not Applicable

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

Not Applicable

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Not Applicable

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

Not Applicable

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EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Proposal will enhance provision of fire protection and emergency medical services in the merger area.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

Not Applicable

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

Not Applicable

WAC 197-11-970

Determination of Nonsignificance (DNS)

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: Merger of Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 into Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17.

Proponent: Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17

Location of proposal, including street address, if any: Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 and Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17.

Lead agency: Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

 X There is no comment period for this DNS.

 This DNS is issued under 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 15 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by _____.

Responsible official: **Jim Haverfield**

Position/title: **Chief**

Phone: 360.691.5553

Address: PO Box 1049, Granite Falls, WA 98252

Date April 19, 2022 Signature: _____



(OPTIONAL)

 You may appeal this determination to (name)

at (location)

no later than (date)

by (method)

You should be prepared to make specific factual objections.

Contact _____ to read or ask about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

 X There is no agency appeal.



Snohomish County

**Planning and Development
Services**

3000 Rockefeller Ave., M/S 604
Everett, WA 98201-4046
(425) 388-3311
www.shoco.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Councilmember Megan Dunn, Council Chair, District 2
Councilmember Jared Mead, Council Vice-Chair, District 4
Councilmember Nate Nehring, District 1
Councilmember Stephanie Wright, District 3
Councilmember Sam Low, District 5

Dave Somers
County Executive

FROM: Michael McCrary, Director
Planning and Development Services

VIA: Matthew Siddons, Senior Planner
Planning and Development Services

SUBJECT: Fire Protection District No. 23 Merger, BRB #04-2022

DATE: June 23, 2022

The purpose of this staff report is to provide the County Council with a review and recommendation for the merger of fire protection districts. Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 23 ("Fire District 23") is proposing to merge into Snohomish County Fire Protection District No. 17 ("Fire District 17"). The fire protection districts are in east Snohomish County along the Mountain Loop Highway. Fire District 23 is east of the City of Granite Falls. Fire District 17 includes the City of Granite Falls. The fire districts are within "reasonable proximity" with each other, with an approximately 3-mile separation. Fire District 23 is 7,680 acres in area, and Fire District 17 is 24,640 acres in area. The total area of the merged districts would be approximately 32,320 acres.

County staff reviewed the district's annexation proposal according to section 2.77.040 of the Snohomish County Code (SCC) and Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 52.06.010. The review criteria in SCC 2.77.040 includes the factors and objectives considered by the Boundary Review Board (BRB), consistency with the Growth Management Act (GMA), Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs), the County's comprehensive plan, and impacts to County services and facilities. RCW 52.06.010 lists the requirements for authorizing the merger of fire protection districts. This report is provided pursuant to Chapter 2.77 SCC, and RCW 52.06.01 through .150. The parties will comply with the provisions of RCW 52.06.110, RCW 52.06.120, and RCW 52.06.130 regarding any current employees of Fire District 23.

BACKGROUND

On May 24, 2022, the BRB received the Notice of Intention (NOI) for the merger proposal and deemed it legally sufficient with an effective filing date of June 6, 2022 (file no. 04-2022). Per RCW 36.93.100, the NOI for the proposed merger has a 45-day review period that expires on July 21, 2022. County Council action on the proposed fire district merger must be within the 45-day review period. The BRB, consistent with its annexation review procedures outlined in Chapter 2.77 SCC, distributed the NOI to Planning and Development Services (PDS) and PDS distributed it to County departments for comments, which have been incorporated into this staff report.

The County Council's authority for reviewing fire protection district mergers is set forth in RCW 36.93.100, and SCC 2.77.040. Pursuant to SCC 2.77.040, the County Executive is required to review the merger and make a recommendation to the County Council. The options for the County Council are to either:

- Approve the merger, and not invoke the jurisdiction of the BRB, or
- Not approve the merger and invoke the jurisdiction of the BRB.

If the County Council approves the merger, BRB jurisdiction could be invoked by another party during the 45-day BRB review period, which ends July 21, 2022. The County Council findings and decision to approve or not approve the merger will be transmitted to the BRB.

REVIEW

The following review of the proposed Fire District 23 merger considers the criteria of RCW 52.06.010 and SCC 2.77.040. The merger of any districts under chapter 52.06 RCW is subject to potential review by the BRB or boards of the county in which the merging district, or the portion of the merging district that is proposed to be merged with another district, is located.

RCW 52.06.010 authorizes that (a) a fire protection district may merge with another fire protection district located within a reasonable proximity, on such terms and conditions as they agree upon; (b) for the purposes of this section, "reasonable proximity" means geographical areas near enough to each other so that governance, management, and services can be delivered effectively.

The Districts boundaries are adjacent to each other, and the Districts believe the merger will result in a more effective delivery of governance, management and services by creating the following efficiencies:

1. Combined governance resulting in a reduction of the number of elected officials and providing for a single administrative and operational chain of command.
2. Greater combined workforce for response to emergency and non-emergency incidents.
3. Backfill of vacant shift positions, and emergency callback for large-scale incidents.

Attachment B to Motion

4. Reduction in duplication of staff positions, processes, specialized equipment apparatus, and contracts.
5. Strengthen fiscal sustainability and ability to meet growing emergency and nonemergency service needs.
6. Increase staff resources for development and staffing of specialized services including but not limited to non-emergent medical services, hazardous materials, technical rescue and water rescue.
7. Promotes strategic regional planning efforts.

SCC 2.77.040 contains impacts relevant to the BRB considerations as established by state law and County impacts considerations: The following comments relate to RCW 36.93.157: “The decisions of a boundary review board located in a county that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 must be consistent with RCW 36.70A.020, 36.70A.110, and 36.70A.210.”

- I. Location, acreage, number of residences: Fire Districts 23 and 17 are in east Snohomish County. Fire District 23 is east of the City of Granite Falls. Fire District 17 includes the City of Granite Falls. Fire Protection District No. 23 is 32,320 acres in area. The population of the district is 14,017 with 5,627 residences.
- II. Total assessed value of the subject area(s): The assessed valuation is \$2,318,457,893.
- III. Consistency of the proposal with GMA planning goals, UGA designations, Countywide Planning Policies (CPPs), and the County’s comprehensive plan:
 - a. GMA planning goals in RCW 36.70A.020: The proposed fire district merger is consistent with GMA planning goal (12) Public facilities and services as adequate service levels shall be provided to serve local populations. Providing fire protection services is consistent with GMA planning goal (12):

(12) Public facilities and services. Ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.
 - b. Snohomish County CPPs: The proposed fire district merger supports the public services and facilities goal of coordinating, developing, and providing adequate and efficient public facilities and services to ensure the health, safety, and conservation of resources for communities and residents. The proposed merger is consistent with CPP policies Essential Public Facilities (EPF-3) and (EPF-5):

EPF-3: Local essential public facilities should be sited or expanded to support the countywide land use pattern, minimize public costs, and protect the environment and public health, including reducing adverse impacts upon

Attachment B to Motion

historically marginalized populations and disproportionately burdened communities.

EPF-5: The County and each city should collaborate with public agencies and special districts to identify opportunities for the co-location of local essential public facilities.

- c. Snohomish County GMA Comprehensive Plan (GMACP): The fire protection district merger is consistent with the Capital Facilities Plan and the GPP of the GMACP.
 - The proposed merger is consistent with Essential Public Facilities (CF) policies 12.A.2 and 12.A.4:

12.A.2. Local essential public facilities shall be sited to support the countywide land use pattern, support economic activities, reduce environmental impacts, provide amenities or incentives, and minimize public costs.

12.A.4. The county shall collaborate with public agencies and special districts to identify opportunities for the co-location of local essential public facilities.

- II. Impact relevant to BRB consideration as established by state law. The following comments relate to RCW 36.93.170 – Factors to be considered by the BRB.

- a. **Factor 1.** “Population and territory; population density; land area and land uses; comprehensive plans and zoning, as adopted under chapter 35.63, 35A.63, or 36.70 RCW; comprehensive plans and development regulations adopted under chapter 36.70A RCW; applicable service agreements entered into under chapter 36.115 or 39.34 RCW; applicable interlocal annexation agreements between a county and its cities; per capita assessed valuation; topography, natural boundaries and drainage basins, proximity to other populated areas; the existence and preservation of prime agricultural soils and productive agricultural uses; the likelihood of significant growth in the area and in adjacent incorporated and unincorporated areas during the next ten years; location and most desirable future location of community facilities;”

The proposed merger of Fire District 23 into Fire District 17 is consistent with Factor 1 in the following ways:

- Each district is currently serving populations with similar service levels. The merger will enhance the ability to serve the combined populations more efficiently and effectively.
- The proposal is consistent with the policies in the County’s comprehensive plan, as it supports the collaboration of service providers to share services and amenities and minimize public costs.

Attachment B to Motion

- In terms of proximity to other population areas, Fire District 17 includes the City of Granite Falls. The merged district will not alter or impact other population areas in or nearby the merger area.
- In terms of the “...likelihood of significant growth in the area...”, there is growth in both districts and the merger will enhance the ability of the merged district to accommodate and serve such growth in an effective and efficient manner.
- A response on the proposed merger was received from the County’s Surface Water Management (SWM) division of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR), which stated that no impacts to SWM utility district boundaries would occur with the proposed merger, and there would be no impacts anticipated to SWM revenues or programs.

- b. **Factor 2.** “Municipal services; need for municipal services; effect of ordinances, governmental codes, regulations and resolutions on existing uses; present cost and adequacy of governmental services and controls in area; prospects of governmental services from other sources; probable future needs for such services and controls; probable effect of proposal or alternative on cost and adequacy of services and controls in area and adjacent area; the effect on the finances, debt structure, and contractual obligations and rights of all affected governmental units.”

The proposed merger of Fire District 23 into Fire District 17 is consistent with Factor 2 in the following ways:

- The current need for municipal services will not be affected by the merger. The merger will create the potential to improve the concentration and reliability of response personnel to the new service area of Fire District 17. Efficiency is created by combining the operational personnel of both districts who are available to respond to an incident, available to fill shift vacancies, or available for emergency callback.
- The districts are currently providing adequate fire protection and emergency medical services with similar tax rates. Fire District 17 has a current combined regular and EMS levy rate of approximately \$1.65 per thousand of assessed valuation and Fire District 23 has a current combined regular and EMS levy property tax rate of approximately \$ 0.97 per thousand of assessed valuation.
- The merger will result in a single tax base funding the operations within the merged district that will be determined in accordance with WAC 459-19-030 that will result in minor adjustments to the total tax levy rate in both jurisdictions. The merger will result in a single entity with an increased debt limit. The merger will not affect any existing contractual or debt obligations of either District.

Attachment B to Motion

- The County's SWM division of DCNR stated that no impacts to SWM utility district boundaries would occur with the proposed merger, and there would be no impacts anticipated to SWM revenues or programs.
- c. **Factor 3.** "The effect of the proposal or alternative on adjacent areas, on mutual economic and social interests, and on the local governmental structure of the county."

The proposed merger of Fire District 23 into Fire District 17 is consistent with Factor 3 in the following ways:

- The merger will use the existing boundaries of Fire District No. 23 and Fire District 17.
- The merger will allow a single administration and operational structure to serve areas that are currently served by separate operations and administration, this will enhance the level of service by providing a larger pool of resources available to the citizens of both jurisdictions.
- The merger will not create abnormally irregular boundaries as the merger will simply consolidate the existing boundaries of Fire District 23 into Fire District 17.

III. Impacts relevant to BRB considerations as established by state law. The proposal meets the Objectives of the BRB as listed in RCW 36.93.180 in the following manner:

- a. **Objective 1.** "Preservation of natural neighborhoods and communities": The merger will have no impact on existing neighborhoods and communities.
- b. **Objective 2.** "Use of physical boundaries, including but not limited to bodies of water, highways, and land contours": The merger will use the existing boundaries of Snohomish County Fire District No. 23 and Fire District No. 17.
- c. **Objective 3.** "Creation and preservation of logical service areas": The merger will allow a single administration and operational structure to serve areas that are currently served by separate operations and administration. This will enhance the level of service by providing a larger pool of resources available to the citizens of both jurisdictions.
- d. **Objective 4.** "Prevention of abnormally irregular boundaries": The merger will not create abnormally irregular boundaries as the merger will simply consolidate the existing boundaries of Fire District 23 into Fire District 17.
- e. **Objective 5.** "Discouragement of multiple incorporations of small cities and encouragement of incorporation of cities in excess of ten thousand population in heavily populated urban areas": As a fire district merger, this objective is not applicable per RCW 36.93.180.
- f. **Objective 6.** "Dissolution of inactive special purpose districts": Not applicable, this fire district merger is not a dissolution.

Attachment B to Motion

- g. **Objective 7.** “Adjustment of impractical boundaries”: As a fire district merger, this objective regarding the adjustment of irregular boundaries is not as great a factor as it is for annexations by cities or towns, as per RCW 36.93.180.
- h. **Objective 8.** “Incorporation as cities or towns or annexation to cities or towns of unincorporated areas which are urban in character”: Not applicable, this is a fire district merger, not an annexation proposed by a city or town.
- i. **Objective 9.** “Protection of agricultural and rural lands which are designated for long term productive agricultural and resource use by a comprehensive plan adopted by the county legislative authority”: Not applicable, the fire district merger will not impact agricultural lands or rural lands.

- IV. **All County fiscal, departmental, and other impacts:** No fiscal County impacts or other departmental impacts anticipated. Snohomish County does not provide fire suppression services. As per the fire districts, no impacts to revenues or fiscal costs are anticipated.
- V. **Impacts to County facilities and other county-owned property:** No impacts to County facilities or county-owned property.
- VI. **Impacts to the provision of public facilities and services:** No impacts to the provision of public facilities and services anticipated. As per the fire districts, no impacts to service levels are anticipated.

CONCLUSIONS:

Based on County review, PDS concludes that a full statutory merger of Fire District 23 into Fire District 17 is consistent with the applicable statutory provisions governing district mergers. This conclusion has been reached by comprehensively reviewing the proposed merger against the requirements of RCW 52.06.010 for merger authorization, the applicable BRB factors and objectives, County codes, and other applicable statutes per RCW 52.06.

The recommendation to the County Council from PDS is to **not invoke** the jurisdiction of the BRB and **approve** the merger of Fire District 23 into Fire District 17.

cc: Ken Klein, Executive Director
Mike McCrary, Director, PDS
David Killingstad, Manager, PDS
Ryan Countryman, Senior Council Legislative Analyst