

Q: Will the consolidation cost the taxpayers more?

A: No, based on the agreements in place no tax increase will be needed to make this happen. As the independent report shows it will be cheaper for the two fire departments to formally merge than for Mill Valley to run its own fire department.

Q: How do we know these two fire departments can work together?

A: Since 2014, the Southern Marin Fire Protection District and Mill Valley Fire Department have been actively engaged in two formal shared services agreements. These agreements were viewed, in part, as a means by which to evaluate the value of exploring a formal consolidation of the two fire departments. Since then, both agencies have been sharing battalion chiefs; developed a structure capitalizing on the benefits of four battalion chief positions, and merging operational programmatic areas where feasible. In 2020 both groups decided to formally study, and if appropriate, find a way to consolidate services into one fire department. This application is a byproduct of that work.

Q: How can I find out more about what is occurring with this application?

A: A complete independent report was conducted by Citigate to analyze all aspects of this application. That report can be found on our website (<https://www.marinlafco.org/smfpd-mv-fire-department-consolidation>). In addition on October 3, 2022, both agencies held a joint meeting where they unanimously approved moving this application to LAFCo. You can watch that joint meeting from the City of Mill Valley website (https://cityofmillvalley.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=1761).

Q: Will my fire station remain open and staffed?

A: Yes, your fire station will remain staffed with at least three professional and qualified firefighters 24/7.

Q: Will this adversely impact response times?

A: No, all of the firehouses and number of firefighters per house will remain exactly as they are today when this transition occurs.

Q: As a resident, how will I be represented by the Board of Directors?

A: The Southern Marin Fire Protection District Board is elected at large from within the district boundaries. Mill Valley will be added to that election process with residents of Mill Valley being able to vote and run for seats on the board starting with the 2024 election. Until the 2024 election occurs the Southern Marin Fire Protection District will create a special committee that includes two appointed Fire

District Board members and two Mill Valley City Councilmembers (who are appointed by the Mill Valley City Council) to help ensure Mill Valley residents' voices are heard.

Q: When will the consolidation take place?

A: Assuming all approvals are approved this will start July 1, 2023.