

# Shasta Local Agency Formation Commission



Municipal Services Review  
& Sphere of Influence Update  
Buckeye Fire Protection District

December 2014

**Buckeye Fire Protection District  
Municipal Service Review & Sphere of Influence Update**

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**District**

1. Executive Summary .....
2. General Background .....
3. District Services.....
  - a. Infrastructure, Facilities, Services .....
  - b. Administration, Management, Operations .....
  - c. Fiscal .....
  - d. Governance .....
4. Regional context/Relevant services by other agencies .....
5. Agency Boundary & Proposed Sphere of Influence Service Area
6. Written Determinations for Municipal Service Review .....
- a. Growth & population projections .....
- b. Disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs).....
- c. Present and planned capacity of public facilities .....
- d. Adequacy of public services .....
- e. Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies.....
- f. Financing Constraints and Opportunities.....
- g. Opportunities for Rate Restructuring.....
- h. Status of and Opportunities for Shared Facilities .....
- i. Accountability for community service needs,  
        governmental structure and operational efficiencies .....
7. Written Determinations for Sphere of Influence Update.....
  - a. Present/planned land uses.....
  - b. Present and probable need for public facilities and services.....
  - c. Present capacity of public facilities/adequacy of services.....
  - d. Existence of social or economic communities of interest.....
  - e. Present and probable needs of disadvantaged unincorporated  
        communities within area .....
8. Conclusion.....
9. References .....
10. Exhibits.....
  - A. Buckeye FPD Map of Zero SOI Boundary
  - B. Buckeye Areas w/annexation areas
  - C. Redding Fire Station Boundaries 2014
  - D. Buckeye Area Map – Updated COR SOI 2014
  - E. 1967 JPA COR re USBR Formation
  - F. Buckeye FPD Budgets
  - G. 2014 Buckeye DUC Community Finder
  - H. Notice of Intent to Adopt CEQA Determination – Statutory Exemption PRC 21083
  - I. No Effect Determination – California Department of Fish & Wildlife

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Local agency formation commissions have been tasked with updating local agency municipal service reviews (MSR) and sphere of influence boundaries (SOI) every five years since 2008 [Government Code Section 56425 *et seq.*]. This study presents a baseline review of the Buckeye Fire Protection District services and SOI needs, satisfying the requirements of this statute.

**2. GENERAL BACKGROUND**

The Buckeye Fire Protection District is located just above the City of Redding, and is now totally within the sphere of influence of Redding.

Originally known as Ohio City and Pumptown, Buckeye is located between Redding, Shasta Lake City and Summit City. The Ohio City name was derived after a miner was reminded of his home state when he observed a buckeye bush in bloom, Ohio being the Buckeye state. The Pumptown name was derived from a horse trough used to supply water to passersby.

Buckeye was one of Shasta County's original 1849 gold mining settlements. Later, in 1858, gold quartz was found which resulted in many tunnels and shafts being dug into mountains and hillsides. The first school was also established in 1858 and a Post Office followed in 1880, but closed in 1918 only to be restored in 1938 due to the construction of Shasta Dam. During its peak, Buckeye had approximately 1,000 residents and was home to various businesses including saloons and boardinghouses.

The Buckeye Fire Protection District was formed in 1967 to provide fire protection and prevention services to unincorporated territory in the central urban region of Shasta County after the Buckeye Water District was dissolved.

The area is generally bounded to the south by the City of Redding, to the north by Shasta Lake Fire Protection District and the City of Shasta Lake, to the west by the Quartz Hill-Walker Mine Road area and to the east by Upper Churn Creek. The District also encompasses development on the east side of Interstate 5 near Hawley Road, north of Highway 299E and an unincorporated 'island' in the vicinity of the Highway 299E/Highway 273/Lake Boulevard intersection. The northern sector is bisected by Lake Boulevard and Southern Pacific Railroad. All District services are provided by the City of Redding.

**3. AGENCY SERVICES**

The Buckeye Fire Protection District was formed in 1967 when the Buckeye Water District, who previously provided fire protection and emergency services to the area, was dissolved. It currently provides no direct services.

**a. Infrastructure, Facilities and Services**

The Buckeye Fire Protection District owns no facilities or equipment and provides no direct services. The Board of Directors contracts with the City of Redding for fire protection and

emergency services within the District boundaries. As a result, the area within the District boundaries enjoys an ISO rating of 3.

The District is operated by the City of Redding Fire Department through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) to provide services to Shasta County residents and visitors, see appendices. The basic premise of the agreement between the City, the County and the District is that due to the passage of Proposition 13, the District could no longer finance adequate fire protection, however under the Joint Exercise of Powers Act the City would be able to provide it in the most economic and efficient manner. Any of the three parties may terminate the agreement in writing six months prior to the designated termination date.

The District contributes to the purchase of fire engines and other apparatus as requested by the City of Redding. Once purchased these become the property of the City, who then provides all necessary maintenance and required inspections. Dispatching is contracted with SHASCOM, along with other Redding Fire Department calls.

The City of Redding reports the following statistics for the Buckeye Fire Protection District service area:

- **ISO Rating:** The Buckeye area maintains a Class 3 ISO rating, the same as that for the City of Redding.
- **Calls for Service:** Calls for service are not broken out separately for the BFPD.
- **Serving BFPD:** Station 6 (Oasis Road/Beltline Road) is the primary station serving the BFPD, however, it may receive service from one or all of the City's stations depending on need.
- **Budget/Expenditures:** The BFPD receives between \$80,000 and \$100,000 a year in tax revenues and it currently has \$55,000 in expenditures committed annually to the Redding Fire Department. The remaining funds are expended on Redding Fire Department vehicles and equipment when requested as part of a budget process.
- **Equipment:** BFPD does not own any equipment. The RFD does not "reserve" City-owned equipment for use in the BFPD.
- **Employees:** BFPD does not have any employees. As noted above, it is served primarily by Station 6 which is staffed with 3 personnel, 24 hours per day/seven days per week.

**b. Administration, Management and Operations**

The Board of Directors meets monthly.

**c. Fiscal**

The District's Board of Directors operates as the administrative and financial governing body of the district. Administrative decisions are made by the Board of Directors in conjunction with the Redding Fire Chief.

The Buckeye Fire Protection District has no employees, nor are there any volunteers. Annual audits, attorney needs and special studies are performed by Redding Fire Department or the District as needed. All revenues are transferred to the City of Redding. Any financial surpluses are

handled by the Shasta County Auditor-Controller's Office and are maintained in an interest earning account.

The ability to generate new revenue is relatively limited. The majority of District revenues come from property taxes, which have not been increased over the years. Budgets for the past two years are attached as Exhibit F.

**d. Governance**

The Board of Directors operates as the governing body for the Buckeye Fire Protection District. The Board consists of five persons, appointed by the Shasta County Board of Supervisors, who serve a five-year term. Three of the five board members are appointed at once, and the other two are appointed on an alternating two-year rotation. Board members are required to live within the district boundaries and be registered voters. Board members are not paid a salary but do receive a per diem for meeting attendance. They do not receive any other benefits.

Board meetings are held quarterly, on the first Monday of each quarter at 6:00 pm at Redding Fire Station #6, 1695 Beltline Avenue in Redding, California. Agendas are posted and available to the public 72 hours in advance. There have been no reported Brown Act violations in the past three years.

**4. Regional Context/Relevant Services by Other Agencies**

Land use and building regulation services are provided by the County of Shasta, as are law enforcement, road services and other general services provided to the unincorporated areas of the county by various county departments.

At this time there is no district-level consideration of combining fire protection districts. In 1986 Shasta LAFCO determined that Buckeye Fire Protection District should be assigned a 'zero sphere of influence' encompassing no territory based upon relevant Cortese-Knox factors and applicable LAFCO policies. This determination was made due to the fact that nearly all of the District at that time was within the adopted Sphere of Influence for the City of Redding.

The entire district is now within the City of Redding's sphere of influence boundary. In conjunction with the fact that the JPA is the most conclusive indicator of the City's ultimate jurisdiction over the area, the zero sphere of influence for this district has now been assigned for the past 19 years.

The size of the District reduces as territory is annexed into the City of Redding. Additionally, all services within the area are actually provided by the City of Redding and ultimately the area will be annexed to the City of Redding.

Based on this information it is appropriate for the Buckeye Fire Protection District to be brought into the City, perhaps as a subsidiary district in order to continue the current operational and financial programs and to keep revenues and expenditures separate. There are special provisions within LAFCO and CEQA codes that will permit the two agencies to adopt such a simplified program to create more efficient services within the Buckeye area, while managing services within the

subsidiary district as a separate unit. Information on this process is available from Shasta LAFCO staff.

**5. Agency Boundary and Proposed Sphere of Influence Update Map.**

The agency boundary was established in 1947 and has not been amended since that time. In the mid-1980s a sphere of influence boundary was designated to be coterminous with the district boundary. After the current review, it would be appropriate to affirm that existing sphere of influence boundary. The District is surrounded by federal and state lands, and currently protects private land areas which are rather closely aligned to the I-5 Corridor than to the outlying lands.

**6. Written Determinations for the Municipal Service Review**

a. Growth & Population Projections

Current estimates by the Redding Fire Department indicate services is provided to a population of approximately 3,000.

b. Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities (DUCs)

Buckeye qualifies for the designation of "Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities." California State Parks ([www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)) provides a Community Locator tool which helps with identifying the general income within one mile of the town center. It usually sufficient to provide a guideline for this classification (see attached sheets). The population counts shown on these reports only encompass a one mile diameter and do not reflect the actual population assigned to those communities.

The median income for the state is \$46,477, and communities qualify for this designation if their median income falls below 80% of this figure. The median income calculation for Buckeye is \$14,692 (32% of the state standard).

No other such communities have been identified either within the District boundaries.

c. Present and Planned of Public Facilities

District facilities are established and there are no current plans for expansion. Revenues are used to maintain existing facilities and provide emergency response and fire services to its citizens and neighboring area. Current infrastructure capacity, availability and quality are adequate for local public needs.

d. Adequacy of Public Services

Through the vehicle of interagency agreements, the District services are adequately met.

e. Infrastructure Needs or Deficiencies

Because services are provided by a municipal fire department, their existing and planned infrastructure adequately meets the needs of the public, both currently and for the near future. Current infrastructure capacity, condition, availability and quality are in fair condition. None of the infrastructure is owned by the District, rather is owned by the City of Redding Fire Department.

f. Financing Constraints and Opportunities

The District currently utilizes multiple funding sources including tax revenue and grants which are pursued by the City of Redding. There are no assessment fees.

g. Opportunities for Rate Restructuring

The District operates with tax revenues and does not utilize rates as a revenue source.

h. Status of and Opportunities for Shared Facilities

The District owns no facilities.

i. Accountability for Community Service needs, governmental structure, and operational efficiencies.

The District meets quarterly, notices meetings, and offers the public an opportunity to participate in their meetings.

**7. Written Determinations for the Sphere of Influence Update**

a. Present and planned land uses

The Buckeye area is totally within the Sphere of Influence of the City of Redding, who periodically pre-zones these areas through a public planning process. The County of Shasta currently manages land use in the area.

b. Present and probable need for public facilities; adequacy of services

As services are provided by a neighboring municipality, the current level and organization of services is very adequate for the service area.

c. Present capacity of public facilities and adequacy of services

All facilities and services are provided by the City of Redding and are adequate.

d. Existence of social or economic communities of interest

As the Buckeye Fire Protection District is now totally within the Sphere of Influence of the City of Redding, the City is the next probable service provider to the area. The Buckeye FPD rests between Redding and the City of Shasta Lake, sharing boundaries with both agencies.

- e. Present and probable needs of disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) within the area.

As identified in the MSR section, Buckeye qualifies as a disadvantaged unincorporated community. Shasta County is undertaking a study of these DUCs as part of their General Plan update and additional information should be available for an expanded analysis of this designation during the next MSR/SOI Update and review for this District will be due in 2019. The City of Redding will also be undertaking a study of the areas within its sphere of influence as they update their General Plan.

## **8. Conclusion**

It is recommended that the municipal service review and sphere of influence update for the Buckeye Fire Protection District be adopted as proposed within Exhibit A. The sphere of influence should remain at Zero, with a recommendation that the City and the District begin to evaluate the process of creating the District as a subsidiary of the City in order to create a more efficient organization of these services.

## **9. References**

- a. Buckeye Fire Protection District (interviews, records, submitted data)
- b. County of Shasta
- c. Shasta LAFCO files for this district.
- d. Internet research on various sites.

## **10. Exhibits**

- A. Buckeye FPD Map of Zero SOI Boundary
- B. Buckeye Areas w/annexation areas
- C. Redding Fire Station Boundaries 2014
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