



# City of Rialto

## Legislation Text

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For City Council Meeting July 23, 2019]

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

APPROVAL: Rod Foster, City Administrator

FROM: Brian Park, Acting Fire Chief

Request City Council to Adopt a **Resolution No.7546** to Add the Chino Valley Independent Fire District and Apple Valley Fire Protection District as Party to Consolidated Fire Agencies (“CONFIRE”) Joint Powers Agreement.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The City of Rialto is currently one of six local jurisdictions that have collectively formed a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to provide regional emergency and non-emergency communication services for their fire departments. The six-member agencies of the JPA include the cities of Rialto, Loma Linda, Colton, Redlands, Rancho Cucamonga and the County of San Bernardino. These member agencies comprise the policy making authority for the JPA and retain joint ownership of all JPA assets. In addition to the six-member agencies, there are nine contract agencies that pay a fee for the services of the JPA commensurate with the volume of calls for service that their agency generates. Although these contract agencies enjoy the same level and type of services as the member agencies, they are not directly represented in the policy making process, nor do they have any ownership of the JPA’s assets.

The Chino Valley Independent Fire Protection District (CVIFD) and Apple Valley Fire Protection District (Apple Valley) are currently Confire contract agencies. However, in accordance with the bylaws of the JPA, they have requested to become formal member agencies. Approval for membership requires all current member agencies’ local governing bodies individually approve a resolution amending the current JPA agreement to accept the CVIFD and Apple Valley as member agencies. Additionally, the CVIFD must agree to pay a membership fee of \$412,423 and Apple Valley must agree to a membership fee of \$406,336. The fee amounts are based on average percentage of calls for service in relation to the total number of calls for service processed by the JPA over the three previous calendar years.

### **ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:**

On May 15, 1990, the cities of Rialto, Colton, Loma Linda, Redlands, and the County of San Bernardino (formally known as the San Bernardino Consolidated Fire Agency) entered into an agreement establishing a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to create a regionalized emergency communication center for the fire departments of each respective jurisdiction. The formal name adopted for the JPA is “Consolidated Fire Agencies of the East Valley,” and is commonly referred to as Confire. The primary objective of the JPA is to provide the community members of each respective agency with a regionalized approach to the deployment of fire and Emergency Medical

Service (EMS) resources. This regionalized approach improves efficiency and reduces each agency's costs associated with delivering these services. The joint services include providing a secondary 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP), the purchase and maintenance of a Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) system, delivery of specialized Emergency Medical Dispatching (EMD), information technology services, and the employment and oversight of all human resources needed to maintain Confire operations.

Article III of the JPA's bylaws provides for non-member agencies to become a formal voting member after a minimum of one year as a contracting agency, and providing that all existing member agencies agree and sign an amended Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement. Membership is also contingent upon payment of a "buy in" fee to the joint ownership of the JPA's assets. The fee amount must be determined and agreed upon by a majority of the JPA's board of directors.

The final step in the formal acceptance of CVIFD and Apple Valley as member agencies is to have the elected bodies of each current JPA member agency individually adopt a resolution approving the CVIFD and Apple Valley requests for membership. Although each jurisdiction need only have a simple majority vote to ratify their individual resolution, all jurisdictions must pass a resolution approving the action. Should one or more of the member jurisdictions fail to pass the resolution, the action would not move forward.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:**

The request is not a Project as defined by Section 15378 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). A "Project" means the whole of an action, which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment. By definition, a Project does not include: The creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment according to Section 15378 (b)(4) of CEQA.

**GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY:**

5:7: Maintain a high level of emergency response capability.

**LEGAL REVIEW:**

The City Attorney has reviewed and approved this staff report.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Operating Budget Impact

There are no increased costs to the City associated with this item. Because the CVIFD and Apple Valley are currently contract agencies with the JPA, the contract fees that they have paid and the offsets those fees represent to the City's contribution to the JPA are already factored into the 2019/20 budget.

Capital Improvement Budget Impact

No Impact to Capital Improvement Budget

Licensing

This action does not require a business license.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council Adopt a Resolution to add the Chino Valley Independent Fire District and the Apple Valley Fire Protection Agency as Party to Consolidated Fire Agencies ("CONFIRE") Joint Powers Agreement.