



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue's Participation in the Cal Tahoe JPA

South Lake Tahoe, CA (March 25, 2016) – In response to press releases issued by El Dorado County and Lake Valley Fire Protection District on March 24, 2016, South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue refutes the inaccuracies by both agencies. The Cal Tahoe Emergency Services Operations Authority is a partnership between the City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue and Lake Valley Fire Protection District, providing paramedic ambulance service to Lake Tahoe's south shore region. The Cal Tahoe JPA (El Dorado County) funds nine firefighter / paramedic positions, South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue funds six EMT and six paramedic positions, Lake Valley Fire funds 3 firefighter / paramedic positions. Cal Tahoe JPA supports the operations of three paramedic ambulances, two of which are stationed at South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue Station 2, and one paramedic ambulance at Lake Valley's Station 7.

The funding by the Cal Tahoe JPA is paid for by CSA3 special assessment as well as ambulance fees collected by El Dorado County. The issue at hand has been discussed for several years with El Dorado County only funding approximately 50% of the costs for CSA3. In comparison, the cost for ambulance services in CSA7 are 100% funded.

"I am disappointed in the press releases from both El Dorado County and Lake Valley Fire Protection District that contain false information. In the County's press release (attached), they state, "El Dorado County officials have initiated discussion with the Cal Tahoe JPA to jointly consider the consequences of this action." The County has not initiated discussions with the City or Cal Tahoe JPA. The City initiated and has *held a number of meetings* with the County's Interim CAO (Larry Combs), County Management, County Supervisors Novasel and Veercamp and well as Cal Tahoe JPA Board subcommittee members on this issue – **multiple times**. The City initiated discussions with these and former officials **for years** on this issue. We have had public discussions with the City Council and Cal Tahoe JPA board. We have held individual meetings many times. **The County's statement is a knowingly false and misleading statement intended to feign surprise at the City's action.** The City will continue serving on the Cal Tahoe JPA and ensure adequate ambulance and medical emergency service are provided as evidence by the hiring of 6 EMTs and 6 Paramedics in the last couple of months," said City of South Lake Tahoe City Manager Nancy Kerry.

South Lake Tahoe Fire and Rescue has been proactive and added twelve new Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Specialists on December 14, 2015. The increase in staffing now features South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue as the only fire department in the Tahoe basin to have three (3) firefighters on each engine at all times and two (2) EMS specialists in the ambulance.

Since moving to station 2 the average ambulance response time inside the City has been reduced by 40 seconds. In the event of a medical emergency inside the City Limits an Advanced Life Support Fire

Engine or an Advance Life Support Ambulance typically arrives at your emergency within 5 minutes of calling 911.

"We've been working cooperatively with both agencies to come to some kind of resolution and I thought we have had a very good working relationship with El Dorado County and Lake Valley. The citizens will never have anything to worry about. We will always provide service for our citizens and in fact have recently increased our level of service during this interim period of time," said South Lake Tahoe Fire Rescue Chief Jeff Meston.

For further information about the Cal Tahoe JPA, click on this link:

[Cal Tahoe JPA](#)

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