



March 2, 2026

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Dear Landowner,

You are receiving this notice because you reside within the boundary of the Newcastle Fire Protection District (Newcastle FPD). The Executive Officer or Executive Officer's designee have been delegated responsibility by the Placer Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to hold a protest hearing regarding **LAFCO Project No. 2022-05 Reorganization of the Placer Hills and Newcastle Fire Protection Districts** approved by LAFCO on February 11, 2026, at the date and time specified below:

NOTICE OF PROTEST HEARING

WHERE: Newcastle Fire Protection District, Station 41
9350 Old State Highway, Newcastle, CA 95658

WHEN: March 25, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

The reorganization involves the dissolution of the Newcastle FPD and concurrent annexation of its jurisdictional territory to the Placer Hills Fire Protection District (Placer Hills FPD) as successor agency. At the February 11, 2026, LAFCO hearing, the Commission approved the reorganization with terms and conditions (LAFCO Resolution No. 26-02). The affected territory encompasses approximately 9,600 acres or 15 square miles within the Newcastle FPD jurisdictional boundary with an estimated population of 4,321 residents.

Upon the effective date of the reorganization, Placer Hills FPD as successor agency would assume all powers, duties, assets, and liabilities of Newcastle FPD and would continue providing services authorized under the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (Health and Safety Code § 13800 et seq.), consisting of fire protection, rescue, emergency medical, hazardous material response, and related public safety services. Additional Information regarding this reorganization can be found here: <https://www.placerlafcoca.gov/noticeofprotesthearing>.

What is Placer LAFCO?

Placer LAFCO is the state agency in charge of boundaries for cities and special districts, such as Placer Hills FPD and Newcastle FPD. This Notice and all related documents (staff report, resolution, maps, etc.) are available on the LAFCO website: www.placerlafcoca.gov. If you have issues accessing information on the LAFCO website, please contact LAFCO staff at (530) 889-4097.

Why is this happening?

The Boards of Directors for the Placer Hills FPD and Newcastle FPD filed a joint resolution with Placer LAFCO initiating reorganization proceedings. Placer Hills FPD has provided administrative services including emergency response command and control to Newcastle FPD under contract since 2016, and the two districts currently operate under a unified management structure. The proposed reorganization is intended to improve service efficiency, enhance emergency medical response capabilities, and achieve economies of scale, while addressing the fiscal instability of Newcastle FPD and ensuring the long-term sustainability of essential public safety services within the Newcastle FPD area.

Will fire services for the Newcastle area change?

Yes. Placer Hills FPD currently provides comprehensive administrative services to Newcastle FPD under contract. The proposed reorganization includes an increase in the level of services being provided to the Newcastle area by Placer Hills FPD. The reorganized district will provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) services, upgrading the staff at the former Newcastle FPD Station 41 to include at least one personnel certified as a paramedic, improving emergency medical service levels within the former Newcastle service area.

Will my taxes go up? Will I incur new costs?

Yes. As part of the proposed reorganization, the existing special taxes for Placer Hills FPD would continue to be levied within the original Placer Hills FPD boundary, and the existing special taxes for Newcastle FPD would continue to be levied within the original Newcastle FPD boundaries. Additionally, pursuant to the Government Code, the Placer Hills FPD Measure A special tax would be extended to and levied on the former territory of Newcastle FPD. This means that Newcastle residents will be paying three special taxes upon approval of the reorganization: the existing Measure B and Measure F taxes will remain, and the new Measure A tax will be added. In the 2025 tax year, an improved residential parcel paid approximately **\$220.02** under Measure A. Actual charges vary based on parcel use characteristics. In addition, each of the voter-approved special taxes includes an annual inflationary adjustment (escalator) clause. Therefore, the amounts reflected in the 2025 tax year are subject to future annual increases in accordance with the terms approved by voters for each respective measure.

What are Protest Proceedings?

Pursuant to Government Code § 57000 et seq., when the Commission adopts a resolution making determinations regarding a change of organization or reorganization, affected landowners and registered voters within the proposal area have an opportunity to voice their opposition during the protest period. During this period, from **March 2, 2026, to the conclusion of the protest hearing on March 25, 2026**, affected landowners and registered voters may submit protests of opposition. A protest hearing will also be conducted on **Wednesday, March 25, 2026, at 5 p.m.**

Notice of Protest Hearing – Reorganization of the Placer Hills and Newcastle Fire Protection Districts

February 24, 2026

The following thresholds would apply in valuing protests and determining next steps under the Government Code:

- Should less than 25% of (a) registered voters residing in the affected territory (the Newcastle FPD boundary) and/or (b) landowners holding at least 25% of the assessed value of land within the affected territory file written protests, the reorganization would be ordered without an election.
- Should (a) at least 25% of registered voters residing in the affected territory and/or (b) at least 25% of the number of landowners who also own at least 25% of the assessed value of land within the affected territory file written protests, the reorganization would be ordered subject to an election of registered voters to be held at a future date.

Who can File a Protest?

If you are a registered voter and/or a landowner within the Newcastle FPD boundary, you may submit a written protest. You may file a written protest using the official LAFCO Registered Voter Protest Form or Landowner Protest Form that can be found here: <https://www.placerlafcoa.gov/noticeofprotesthearing> or by submitting a written protest containing the same information.

To be considered valid, a written protest must state whether it is made by a landowner or registered voter and include the following information:

- Your printed name
- The property location or assessor's parcel number(s) (for landowners) or residence address (including street number where applicable) (for registered voters)
- Your signature
- The date of signature

If you are a registered voter **and** a landowner, please submit a separate written protest as a registered voter and landowner. If you own more than one parcel, please complete and submit a separate written protest form for each parcel.

How do I Submit a Protest?

Protests can be submitted in the following ways:

- Mail, courier, or hand delivery to: **Placer LAFCO, 110 Maple Street, Auburn, CA 95603**
(If not delivered at the hearing, must be received by **5:00 p.m. on March 24, 2026.**)
- Electronic mail (e-mail) to: lafco@placer.ca.gov by **5:00 p.m. on March 24, 2026.**
- **In person at the protest hearing** on March 25, 2026 before the close of the protest hearing.

Where can I get a Protest Form?

If you wish to protest the reorganization, you may obtain a Protest Form by either:

- Downloading the form from the LAFCO website:
<https://www.placerlafcoa.gov/noticeofprotesthearing> or
- Contact LAFCO by phone (530-889-4097) or email (lafco@placer.ca.gov) to have a form mailed to you.

Important Dates

To be considered valid, written protests must be signed and dated during the official protest period, which begins on **March 2, 2026**, and ends on **March 25, 2026**. You can withdraw your protest at any time before the conclusion of the protest hearing.

What Happens After the Protest Hearing?

Within 30 days following the conclusion of the protest hearing, the Executive Officer will determine the value of all written protests and the next step for the project, which may be to (1) order the reorganization subject to an election or (2) order the reorganization.

A resolution finalizing the protest results will be considered by the Commission during the April 8, 2026, LAFCO meeting. If you have any questions regarding this Notice, please contact the LAFCO office at 530-889-4097 or by email at lafco@placer.ca.gov.



Amanda Ross

Acting Assistant Executive Officer, Placer LAFCO

Date: March 2, 2026