



**VALENCIA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION No 2023-68**

**CONSOLIDATING THE VALENCIA COUNTY FIRE ADMINISTRATION DISTRICT,
THE LOS CHAVEZ FIRE DISTRICT, THE TOMÉ-ADELINO FIRE DISTRICT, AND THE
VALENCIA DEL NORTE FIRE DISTRICT INTO ONE FIRE DISTRICT WHICH WILL BE CALLED
THE
VALENCIA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Valencia County Board of Commissioners met upon notice of a Business Meeting, duly published, at the Valencia County Administration Building, 444 Luna Avenue, Los Lunas, New Mexico 87031 on Wednesday, September 6, 2023 at 5:00 PM as required by law; and,

WHEREAS, the New Mexico “Fire Protection Fund Law,” Section 59A-53-5, NMSA 1978 as amended, authorizes the County Commissioners of any county to establish one or more county fire districts within the county;” and,

WHEREAS, New Mexico Attorney General Opinion 80-35 states that “[i]ndependent fire districts were created solely for the purposes of allocating state funds for fire protection services. It was not intended by the Act that they be independent governmental entities or political subdivisions. That is they were not “formed or maintained for the more effectual or convenient exercise of political power within certain boundaries or localities, to whom the electors residing therein are, to some extent, granted power to locally self-govern themselves.” Gibbany v Ford, 29 N.M. 621, 626, 225 P. 577 (1924). Having been granted no power or authority independent of that of the county, the ownership and control of all funds and property credited to independent fire districts, from whatever source, vests in the county” and,

WHEREAS, the County of Valencia is currently divided into four fire districts which consist of the Valencia County Fire Administration District established in 2005, the Tomé-Adelino Fire District established in 2006, the Los Chavez Fire District established in 1964 and the Valencia Del Norte Fire District established in 2019; and,

WHEREAS, in recent years, and especially since the COVID 19 pandemic, the County of Valencia Fire Department has experienced a drastic and continual decline in volunteer membership; and,

WHEREAS, currently the County’s volunteer firefighters respond to 9% of all calls within Valencia County districts and career staff absorbs the remainder of the calls. With the County’s current structure (3 Fire Districts and 1 Fire Administration), staffing does not meet the

needs of ISO. The County would need a reliable response from every VCFD Station to meet the ISO requirement per district, currently the fire service cannot accommodate a response from every station. Current staffing model has career personnel in 2 of the 3 districts. A consolidation would remove district lines and allow free movement of all of our personnel; and,

WHEREAS, consolidation into one district would allow County career staff will to have more of an impact with relation to staffing, and our volunteers can respond without boundary to the appropriate station in the County for apparatus; and,

WHEREAS, consolidating the districts would allow a more efficient fleet maintenance and replacement program being as we could move apparatus freely to meet needs; and,

WHEREAS, with consolidation the overall Command and Control of the Fire Department would be more efficient with a streamlined system of internal communication, budget, training, discipline and safety; and,

WHEREAS, satisfactory evidence has been presented to the Valencia County Commission that the merging of the Valencia County Fire Administraiton District, the Tomé-Adelino Fire District, the Los Chavez Fire District and the Valencia Del Norte Fire District is in the best interest of all communities; and,

WHEREAS, the new fire district shall be named the Valencia County Fire Department; and,

WHEREAS, said district has adequate sources of water supply, personnel, and fire protection equipment available and the boundaries of the said district being clearly established and being otherwise in compliance with the statutes and laws of the State of New Mexico; and,

WHEREAS, funds received from the Fire Protection Fund of New Mexico for benefit of the the four distrists, shall be expended under the direction of the Chief of Valencia County and on duly executed vouchers approved by this Commission and shall be disbursed in the same manner as other funds the County disbursed; and,

WHEREAS, any monies received from the Fire Protection Fund of the State of New Mexico for the benefit of the Valencia County Fire Department shall be used only for the purposes specified in Section 59A- 53-8, New Mexico Statutes Annotated, as amended.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF VALENCIA COUNTY, that there is hereby created and established the Valencia County Fire Department as is shown on the map attached an incorporated into this resolution by reference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, with the adoption of this resolution the original resolutions that created Valencia County Fire Administraiton District, the Tomé-Adelino Fire District, the Los Chavez Fire District and the Valencia Del Norte Fire District are hereby repealed.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED on this 6th day of September, 2023

Gerard Saiz, Chairman
District I

Troy Richardson, Commissioner
District II

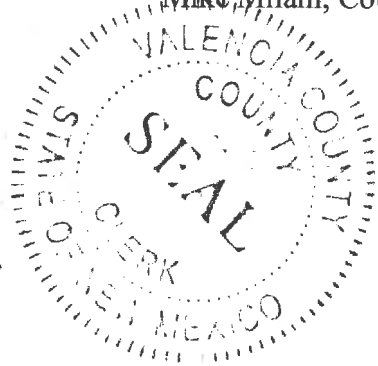
Jhonathan Aragon, Vice-Chairman
District V

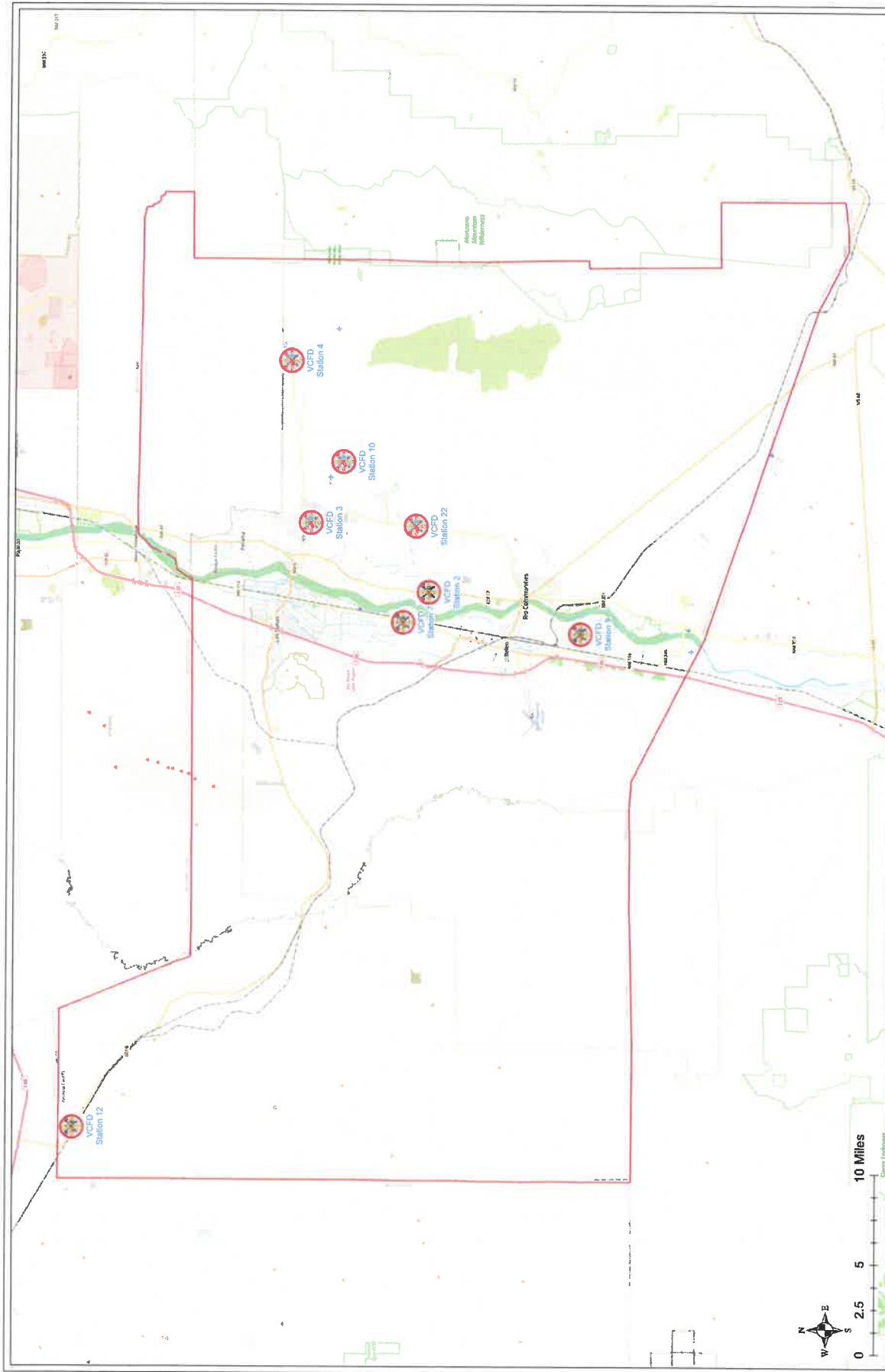
Morris R. Sparkman, Commissioner
District III

Joseph Bizzell, Commissioner
District IV

Attest:

Mike Milam, County Clerk





VCFLD STATIONS

