

A. Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District

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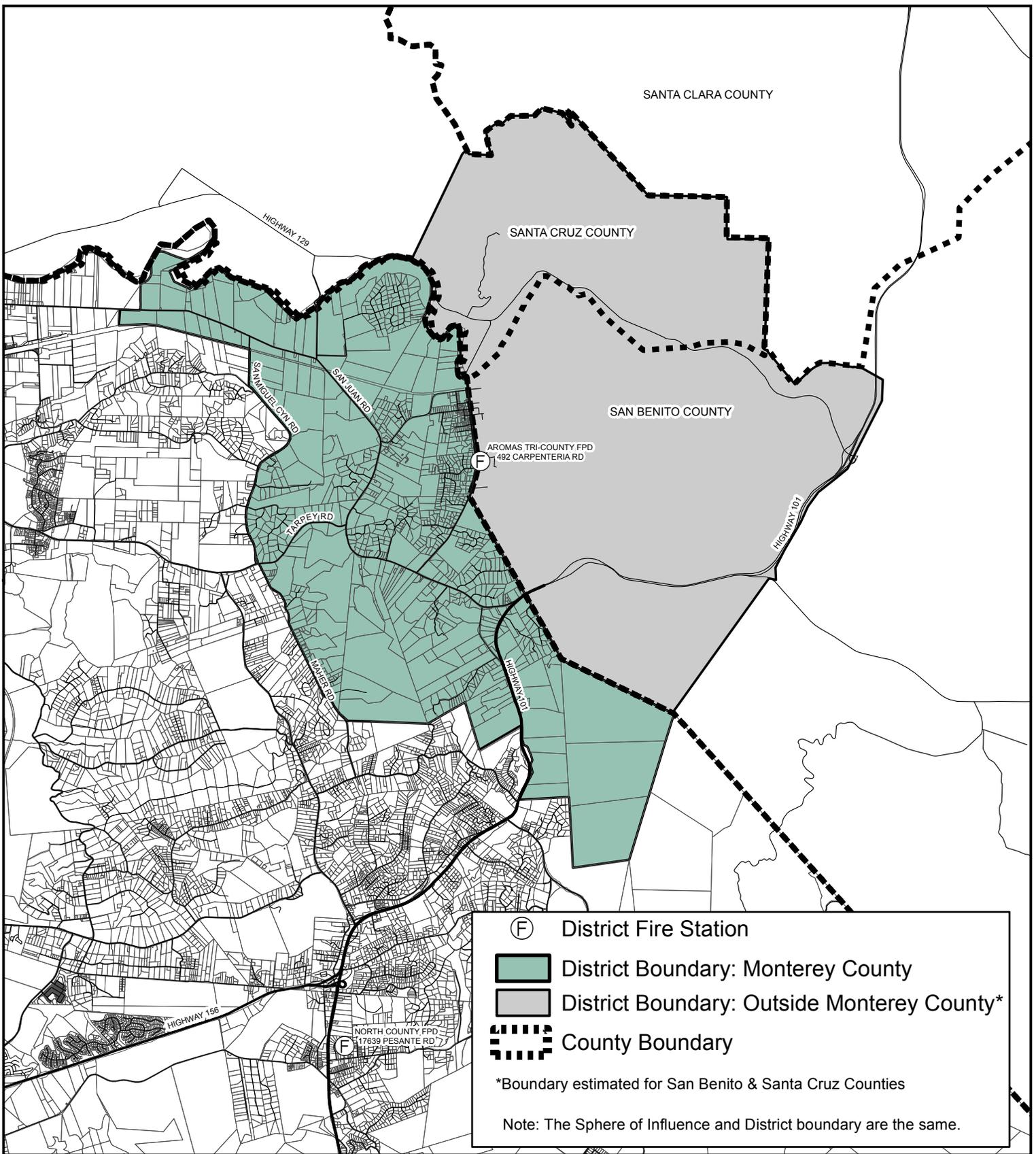
SUMMARY

The Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District provides fire protection and emergency medical services to approximately 5,500 people throughout forty square miles in the northeast corner of Monterey County and adjacent areas of San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties. The District provides services through a contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and is exploring the possibility of a geographic expansion and the construction of a second fire station within San Benito County. The District's Monterey County boundary is the same as its Sphere of Influence and there are no proposals for expansion. The District receives financial support at a rate of approximately \$225 per resident and maintains a fund balance to meet future needs. The District has financial procedures in place to ensure the preparation of timely agency audits. The District has an ISO Public Protection Classification of 5 within five road miles of a fire station where there is a credible water source for fighting fires.

BACKGROUND

The Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District was formed in 1952 with an all-volunteer firefighting staff. In 1962, the District first hired a part time chief and began moving to a force composed solely of full time paid firefighters. In 1993, the District determined that services could better be provided by contracting for cooperative fire protection with CAL FIRE. Through this arrangement, CAL FIRE provides management and personnel services to the Aromas community.

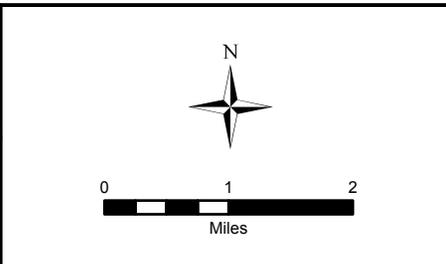
The Aromas Tri-County FPD serves the Aromas community, which is located at the intersection of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties. The District maintains a single station at the Corner of Carpenteria Road and Seely Avenue. While this station is within San Benito County it is immediately across Carpenteria from Monterey County.



LAFCO of Monterey County
 LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS

**AROMAS TRI-COUNTY
 FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

2012 Municipal Service Review
 Map Produced on 10/10/2011

The District serves an estimated population of 5,543 people, with 3,143 living within Monterey County. The District anticipates a growth rate of approximately 2% a year within its boundaries in coming years. In 2006, it was estimated that the District served 1,129 parcels in Monterey County, 933 in San Benito County, and 70 in Santa Cruz County. Monterey County is the District's "Principal County," defined as the county having the greater portion of the assessed value of all taxable property within the district. This designation gives LAFCO of Monterey County exclusive jurisdiction on proposed changes of organization or reorganization for the District.

OPERATIONS

Most of the District's general revenues come from ad valorem taxes on real estate and unsecured property and from State Proposition 172 monies. The District also receives revenue through inspections and fire mitigation fees for new construction. The District has created specific reserves to replace needed equipment and buildings. On June 2010, these two funds contained \$76,550 and \$248,500, respectively.

As of June 2010, the Aromas Tri-County FPD had invested \$1,746,785 in a broad range of capital assets including land, structures and improvements and equipment. The District has no long-term liabilities. While the District's Fund Balance dropped from \$1,044,400 to \$683,105 between June 30, 2008 and 2010 the District spent over \$500,000 on capital assets over the same period. These funds were used to acquire a new \$400,000 fire engine, five mobile data computers, a compressor, and to make fire station improvements.

The District currently maintains an ISO Public Protection Classification of 5 for properties within five road miles of a station where there is a credible source of water.

Aromas Tri-County FPD shares administrative and management resources with the other contract fire protection agencies served by CAL FIRE's San Benito – Monterey Unit. The District participates in mutual aid throughout the State, and maintains automatic aid agreements with the City of Watsonville, and the North Monterey County and Pajaro Valley Fire Protection Districts.

The District maintains a standard 3-person engine response to emergency calls. In Fiscal Year 2010-11 the District received 452 calls for assistance. Seventy percent of these calls were for medical emergencies. The District reports that it responds to many automotive accidents along the long stretches of Highways 101 and 129 that are within its boundaries. Injury accidents are recorded in this data as medical emergencies. All full time personnel are trained to the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) or paramedic (ALS) level.

The District has identified a need to construct an additional fire station in the eastern portion of the District, within San Benito County. The District reports that this project has been delayed due to financial constraints, which are partially due to the District's lack of a commercial tax base. District Management is currently working with the County of San Benito and the San Benito County Fire Department to develop a new station. This station is being sought on

donated land near the entrance to the Rancho Larios residential subdivision, on the unincorporated outskirts of San Juan Bautista.

The District Board of Directors is composed of five Members who are elected at-large to four-year terms. The Board meets the last Tuesday of every other month at the Aromas Fire Station. The District maintains a website which includes a list of members of the Board of Directors, agendas of upcoming meetings, and minutes of past meetings.

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE & BOUNDARIES

Within Monterey County, the Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District's boundaries are contiguous with those of the North County FPD. The District currently has no Sphere of Influence beyond its boundaries in any of the three counties it serves. A map of the District's Sphere of Influence and boundaries can be seen at the beginning of this profile.

While no significant changes are anticipated to District boundaries within Monterey County, conversations are continuing between the District and LAFCO staff concerning minor boundary adjustments. Within San Benito County, the District is exploring an expansion eastward into the San Juan Valley. This area contains rich agricultural lands as well as agricultural processing facilities and a high school. This potential Sphere of Influence amendment and annexation is seen as a way to facilitate the development of a second fire station.

A 2007 Countywide Municipal Service Review adopted by LAFCO of San Benito County stated that the District may propose the annexation of additional territory to serve the City of San Juan Bautista. The City currently has a volunteer fire department with limited financial and staff resources. Such an annexation would provide the District with an existing second station. LAFCO of Monterey County encourages the District and the City of San Juan Bautista to consider options for sharing services.

While Monterey County is the "Principal County" for the consideration of Sphere of Influence amendments, or changes of organization and reorganization, LAFCO of Monterey County would likely seek direction from the LAFCOs in San Benito and Santa Cruz County for proposals within these Counties.

**Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources**

District Formation and Duties	
Formation Date	1952
Legal Authority	Fire Protection District Law of 1961, Health & Safety Code, section 13800 et seq.
Board of Directors	Five Directors elected to four-year terms through at-large elections. If the number of candidates equals the number of eligible seats, or if there are no candidates, the Board of Supervisors shall make these appointments pursuant to Elections Code section 10515.
Agency Duties	Fire Protection / Emergency Medical Services

District Revenues				
	2008-2009		2009-2010	
	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total
Property tax	\$1,176,215	88.1%	\$1,122,615	89.9%
Use of Money & Property (Interest Income)	-\$16,914	-1.3%	\$18,320	1.5%
Aid from Other Government Agencies (Proposition 172 Fund, Homeowner's Property Tax Relief, Grant Revenue)	\$103,176	7.7%	\$86,159	6.9%
Other Revenue	\$57,933	4.3%	\$18,546	1.5%
Fire Mitigation Fees	\$14,464	1.1%	\$2,974	0.2%
Revenue total	\$1,334,874	100.0%	\$1,248,614	100.0%

Source: Aromas Tri-County FPD, Financial Statements and Supplementary Information, June 30, 2010 and 2009, Statement E: Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – All Government Fund Types.

**Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources**

Attributes	
District area (est. square miles): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monterey County • Entire District 	17.3
	40.0
Population (2010 estimated): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monterey County • Entire District 	3,143
	5,543
Assessed Valuation (FY 10-11: Monterey County portion only)	\$440,500,742
Number of stations	1
Dispatch	CAL FIRE
ISO Public Protection Classification: Within 5 miles of a Station and with a Credible Source of Water Without a Credible Source of Water	5
	9
Regular Financial Audits	Annual
Annual Revenue Per Capita, Entire District (FY 09-10)	\$225
Average Portion of County 1% Property Tax Received	14¢/\$1
Ending Total Fund Balance (June 2010)	\$683,105
Change in Total Fund Balance (from June 2008 to June 2010)	-35%
Total Fund Balance/Annual Revenue Total (FY 09-10)	55%

Source: District area estimated utilizing County of Monterey GIS Data; Population estimated utilizing 2010 U. S. Census Data; Assessed Valuation and Portion of County Property Tax Received are from County of Monterey Auditor-Controller's Office; Fund Balance Information from District Audit; Other information from District.

Types of Services	
Fire	X
Technical Rescue	X
Basic Life Support (EMT)	X
Advanced Life Support (Paramedic)	-
Ambulance	-

**Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources**

Station		
Address	Acquired/Built	Condition
492 Carpenteria Road, Aromas	1979	Good

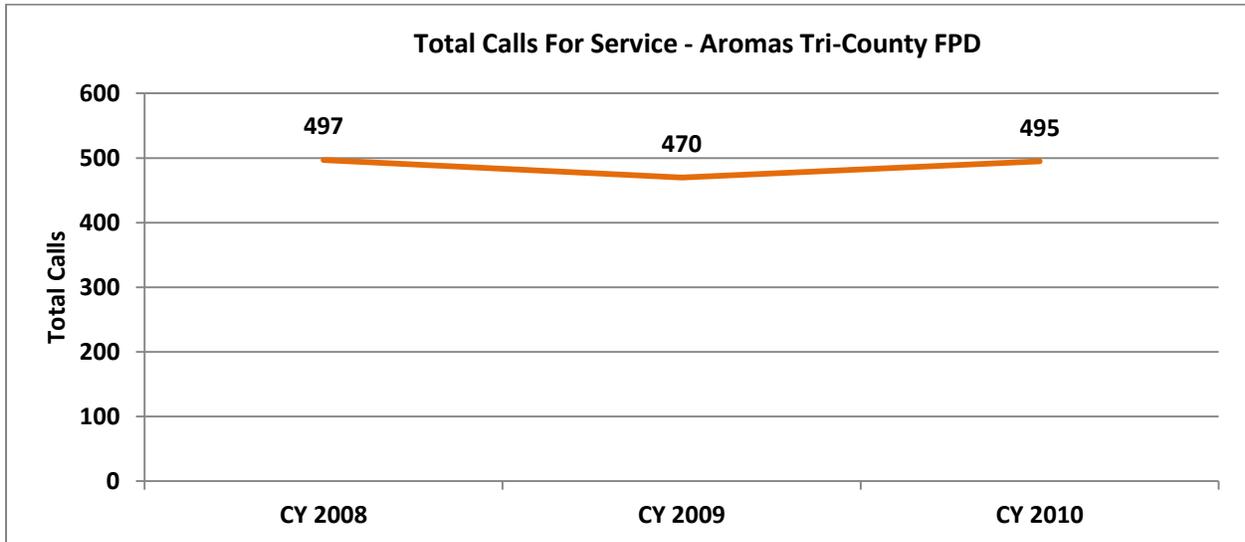
Apparatus	
Engines	Two Type I Engines
	One Type III Engine
Utility	4x4 Ford Expedition Command Vehicle
	4x4 Ford F-150 Utility Vehicle

An additional Type III Engine is located at this station by CAL FIRE for wildland fire protection during the fire season.

Total Staffing	
Full time fire suppression	8.05
Temporary fire suppression	0
Volunteer/Paid call Firefighters	0
Non-safety regular	.74

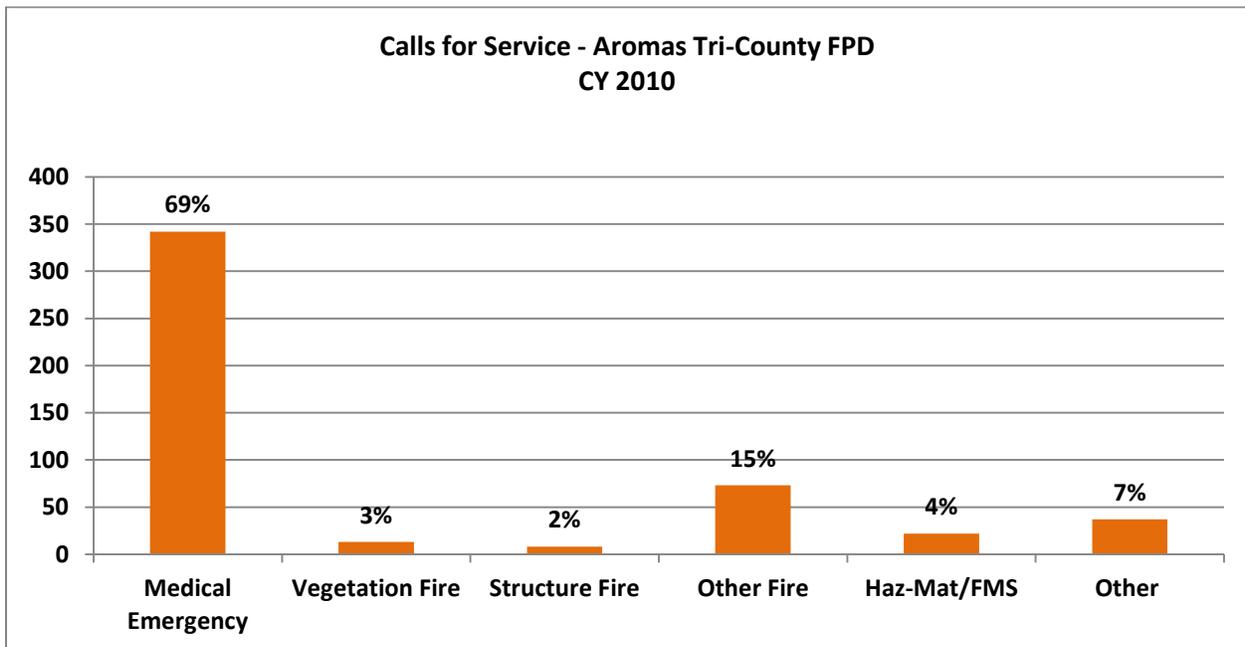
CAL FIRE's San Benito-Monterey Unit contractually provides staffing to the Aromas Tri-County FPD. The full time fire suppression and non-safety regular positions outlined above represent the District's share of funding for full time positions, which are sometimes referred to as "full time equivalents" ("FTEs").

**Aromas Tri-County Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources**



Source: CAL FIRE Data.

Note: Information is for the entire District, which contains portions of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties. Also, this table tabulates calls referred to the District for primary response. Additional calls are referred - and responded to - for mutual and automatic aid.



Source: CAL FIRE Data.

Note: Information is for the entire District, which contains portions of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties.