

J. North County Fire Protection District of Monterey County

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SUMMARY

The boundaries of the North County Fire Protection District cover approximately 122 square miles of northern Monterey County. The District is home to an estimated 37,720 residents, making North County the County's most populous fire protection district. The District provides service through its own stations, equipment, and staffing. The District receives approximately \$162 in annual revenues for each District resident, and is able to maintain a fund balance of approximately one-third of its annual budget. The District has financial procedures in place to ensure the preparation of timely agency audits. The North County FPD is the only district outside of the Monterey Peninsula that maintains an ISO Rating of 4. The District has grown since its founding 52 years ago, through a consolidation and numerous annexations. Today, its boundaries and Sphere of Influence are identical and there is no discussion of expansion.

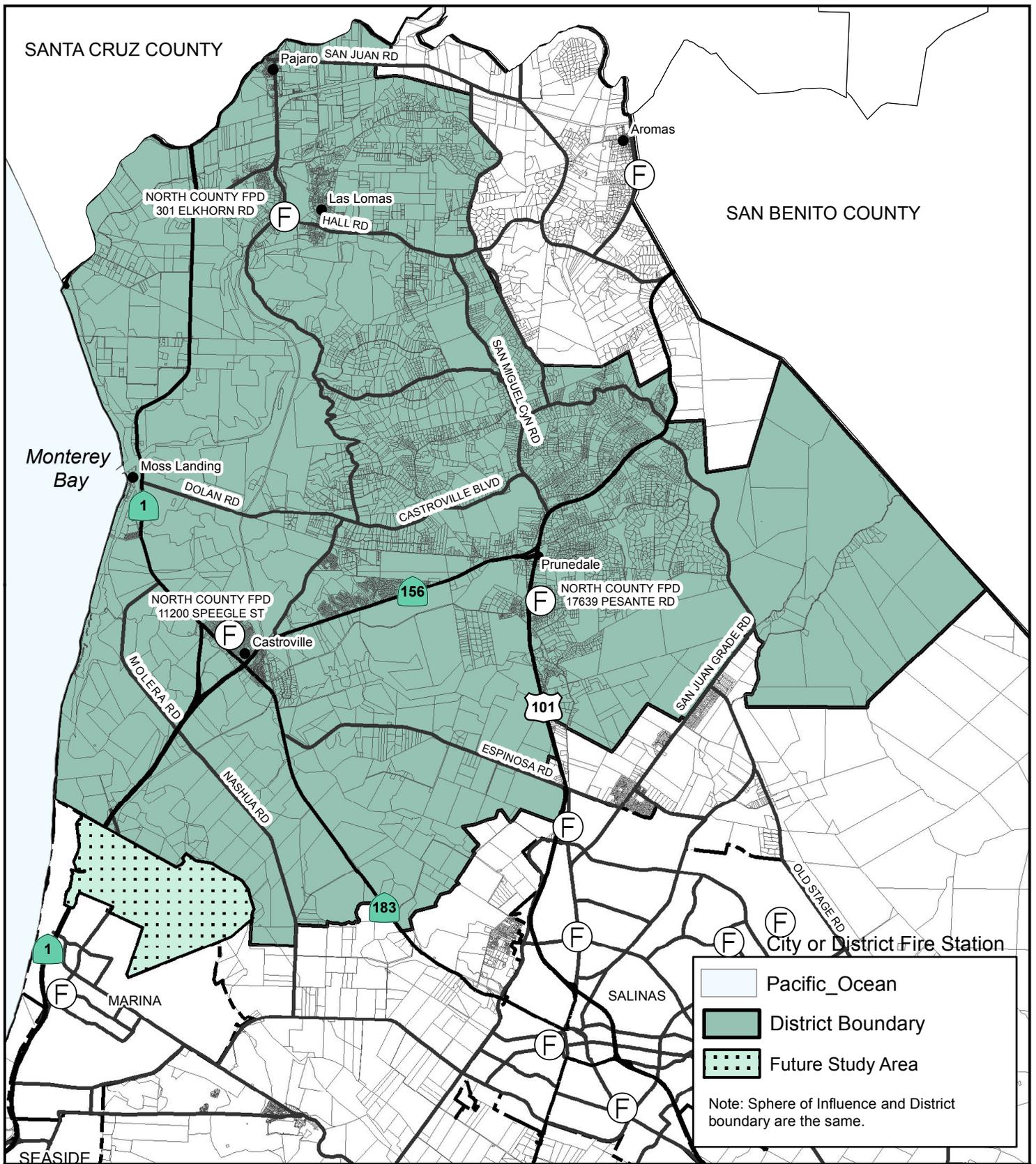
BACKGROUND

The North County Fire Protection District serves the northern portion of Monterey County. The District was originally formed as the Castroville Fire Protection District in 1949. The Moss Landing, Elkhorn, and Hall areas were added to the District through a series of annexations in the early 1970s. In 1982, the District received its new name and attained its current boundaries with a reorganization that divided the northern portion of Monterey County between three fire protection districts.

More people live in the North County Fire Protection District than any other fire protection district in Monterey County. The growth potential in the District is substantial with an estimated 1,500 vacant buildable residential lots and two areas that were targeted for growth by the County's redevelopment program.

OPERATIONS

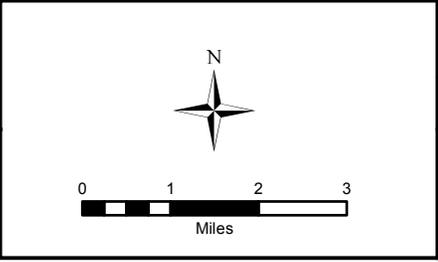
The District is proactively working to secure its financial future through long range financial planning, apparatus maintenance and replacement schedules, and the review of personnel needs, schedules, and compensation levels. Most of the District's general revenues come from ad



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PROPOSED FUTURE STUDY AREA

**NORTH COUNTY
 FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

2012 Municipal Services
 Map Produced on 3/9/12

valorem taxes on real estate and unsecured property. The District received special payments from the power plant in Moss Landing to support fire protection service; these payments will continue into 2013. Additional revenue is produced through inspections and fire mitigation fees for new construction. The District has created specific reserves to replace needed apparatus and facilities and to meet other obligations. The District has approximately \$3.4 million in long-term debt.

The District maintains its level of service through the creation and application of standards of response coverage. These standards take into consideration everything from the appropriate response to everyday accidents to the probability and consequence of large scale emergencies. The District currently maintains an ISO Public Protection Classification of 4 for properties within five miles of a station. The insurance industry normally requires that a property be located within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant to receive the lower insurance rates of a good ISO rating. All property owners within the North County FPD receive these rates, even if there is no nearby hydrant, because of the District's use of water tenders to bring additional water to a fire.

The District receives approximately 2,400 primary response calls a year for assistance, 1,500± of which are medical calls. The District responds to many medical and other non-fire emergencies due to four major highways (101, 156, 183, and 1), one railroad line, two rivers, nine miles of beach/waterfront, harbor, and large electrical power generation plant that are located within the District.

The District participates in mutual aid throughout the State, and maintains automatic aid agreements with the cities of Marina, Salinas and Watsonville and the Aromas Tri-County and Monterey County Regional FPDs.

All full time personnel and reserve firefighters are trained to the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level.

The District has a depth of service through its use of a large pool of reserve firefighters which provide additional personnel when needed. The District also provides training and support for Rancho Cielo's Wildfire Suppression Program. This program trains underserved youth in fire behavior and suppression tactics, including fire line construction, progressive hose lays, chainsaw use and safety, and prescribed fire operations.

The District is currently experiencing response delays in the Prunedale area due to road work along Highway 101 which is being conducted as a part of the "Prunedale Improvement Program." Other District concerns include the aging of equipment and facilities and decreasing grant opportunities.

The North County Fire Protection District Board of Directors is composed of five Directors elected at-large to four-year terms. The District Board meets every third Tuesday of the month at the Castroville Library, which is a block from the District's main fire station. The District maintains a website that contains information on District Directors, budgets, audits, agendas, minutes, and packets for upcoming and past meetings.

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE & BOUNDARIES

The North County Fire Protection District currently has no Sphere of Influence beyond its boundaries. A 2,500+ acre island of land north of Marina is the only adjacent area that is outside the boundaries of any fire protection agency. This island area is totally surrounded by the North County FPD, the City of Marina, and, to a minor extent, the Monterey County Regional FPD. This island contains most of the landfill disposal and material recovery facilities of the Monterey Regional Waste Management District. A small portion of this property is already within the boundaries of the North County FPD. The island also contains the regional wastewater treatment plant of the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency. The remainder of the island is undeveloped, agricultural or grazing land. Most of the island is within the Sphere of Influence of the City of Marina, although the landfill and wastewater treatment plant properties are outside of the City's Sphere. The entire island is outside the City's voter approved Urban Growth Boundary which limits growth and new development, along with required community services, until 2020.

The immediate fire protection and emergency medical services needs of the landfill and wastewater treatment plant are now being met through agreements between these districts and the City of Marina. With these long-standing agreements, the City provides fire protection and EMS services outside of its boundaries and Sphere of Influence.

The Executive Officer recommends that this island area be designated a Future Study Area for the North County Fire Protection District. LAFCO's "Policies and Procedures" define a Future Study Area as "territory outside of an adopted Sphere of Influence that may warrant inclusion in the Sphere in future years. Further study would have to be completed prior to inclusion." The North County FPD is in support of this study.

LAFCO will work with the North County FPD, the City of Marina, the Monterey Regional Waste Management District, the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency, and other area landowners to determine if an expansion of the Fire Protection District's Sphere of Influence in this area is appropriate. This determination will be made based on the factors outlined in Section 56425(e) of the Government Code, and in particular the present and probable need for fire protection and emergency medical services in the area and the adequacy of public services available.

A map of the District's Sphere of Influence and boundaries, and the proposed Future Study Area, can be seen at the beginning of this profile.

**North County Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources**

District Formation and Duties	
Formation Date	1949
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	\$4,615,519	67.7%	\$4,248,590	69.5%
Use of Money & Property	-\$19,873	-0.3%	\$30,168	0.5%
Aid from Other Gov. Agencies	\$509,406	7.5%	\$444,677	7.3%
Charges for Current Services	\$53,155	0.8%	\$63,201	1.0%
Other Revenue	\$1,587,726	23.3%	\$1,243,557	20.3%
Fire Capital Facilities Fee (Special Revenue)	\$74,642	1.1%	\$84,137	1.4%
Revenue total	\$6,820,575	100.0%	\$6,114,330	100.0%

Source: North County Fire Protection District of Monterey County, Financial Statements and Supplementary Information, June 30, 2010 and 2009: Statements of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Government Funds.

**North County Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources**

Attributes	
District Area (est. square miles)	121.6
Population (2010 estimated)	37,720
Assessed Valuation (FY 10-11)	\$3,798,597,307
Number of Stations	3
Dispatch	County
ISO Public Protection Classification:	
Within 5 miles of a Station and with a Credible Source of Water	4
Without a Credible Source of Water	10
Regular Financial Audits	Annual
Annual Revenue Per Capita (FY 09-10)	\$162
Average Portion of County 1% Property Tax Received	11¢/\$1
Ending General Fund Balance (June 2010)	\$2,039,173
Change in General Fund Balance (from June 2009 to June 2010)	-3%
Total Fund Balance/Annual Revenue Total (FY 09-10)	33%

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.

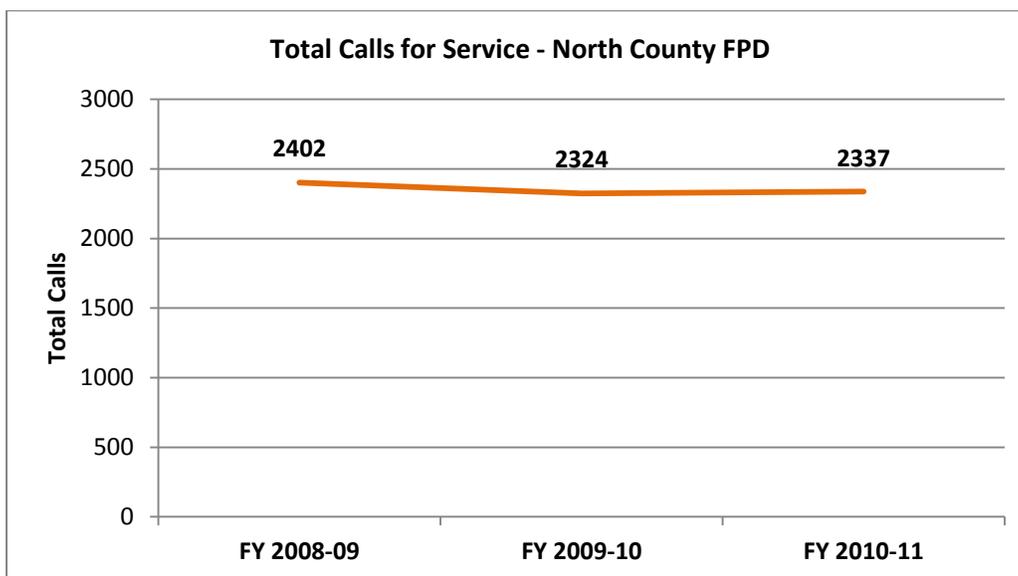
Types of Services	
Fire	X
Technical Rescue	X
Basic Life Support (EMT)	X
Advanced Life Support (Paramedic)	-
Ambulance	-

Stations		
Address	Acquired/Built	Condition
11200 Speegle Street, Castroville	1947 (Original Building) 1971 (Training Building)	Fair
17639 Pesante Road, Prunedale	Acquired in 1982	Fair
301 Elkhorn Road, Las Lomas	1985	Good

**North County Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources**

Apparatus	
Engines	7 Fire Engine/Pumpers
	3 Brush Fire Engines
Water Tenders	2 Water Tenders
Ambulance/Squads/ Rescue	1 Heavy Rescue Vehicle
Utility	3 Command Vehicles
	1 Invest/Prevention Vehicle
	1 Utility Van
	2 Utility Pickups
Special	1 Ladder/Pump Truck

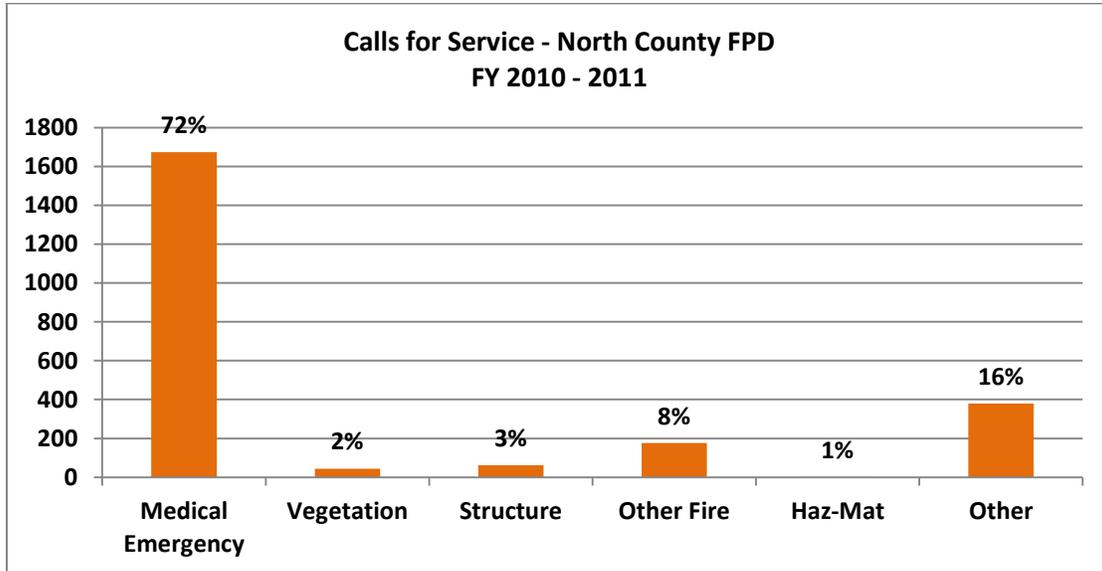
Total Staffing	
Full time fire suppression	30
Temporary fire suppression	-
Volunteer / Paid call firefighters	30
Non-safety regular	1



Source: County Department of Emergency Communications (911 System) Data.

Note: This table tabulates calls referred to the District for primary response. Additional calls are referred - and responded to - for mutual and automatic aid.

North County Fire Protection District
Formation, Revenues, Attributes, Types of Service, and Resources



Source: County Department of Emergency Communications (911 System) Data.