

L. South Monterey County Fire Protection District

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SUMMARY

The South Monterey County Fire Protection District provides fire protection and emergency medical services to over 500 square miles of the southern Salinas Valley. South Monterey County FPD serves the largest geographic area of any of the County's fire protection districts. The District also has a large Sphere of Influence and plans are underway to annex large portions of it.

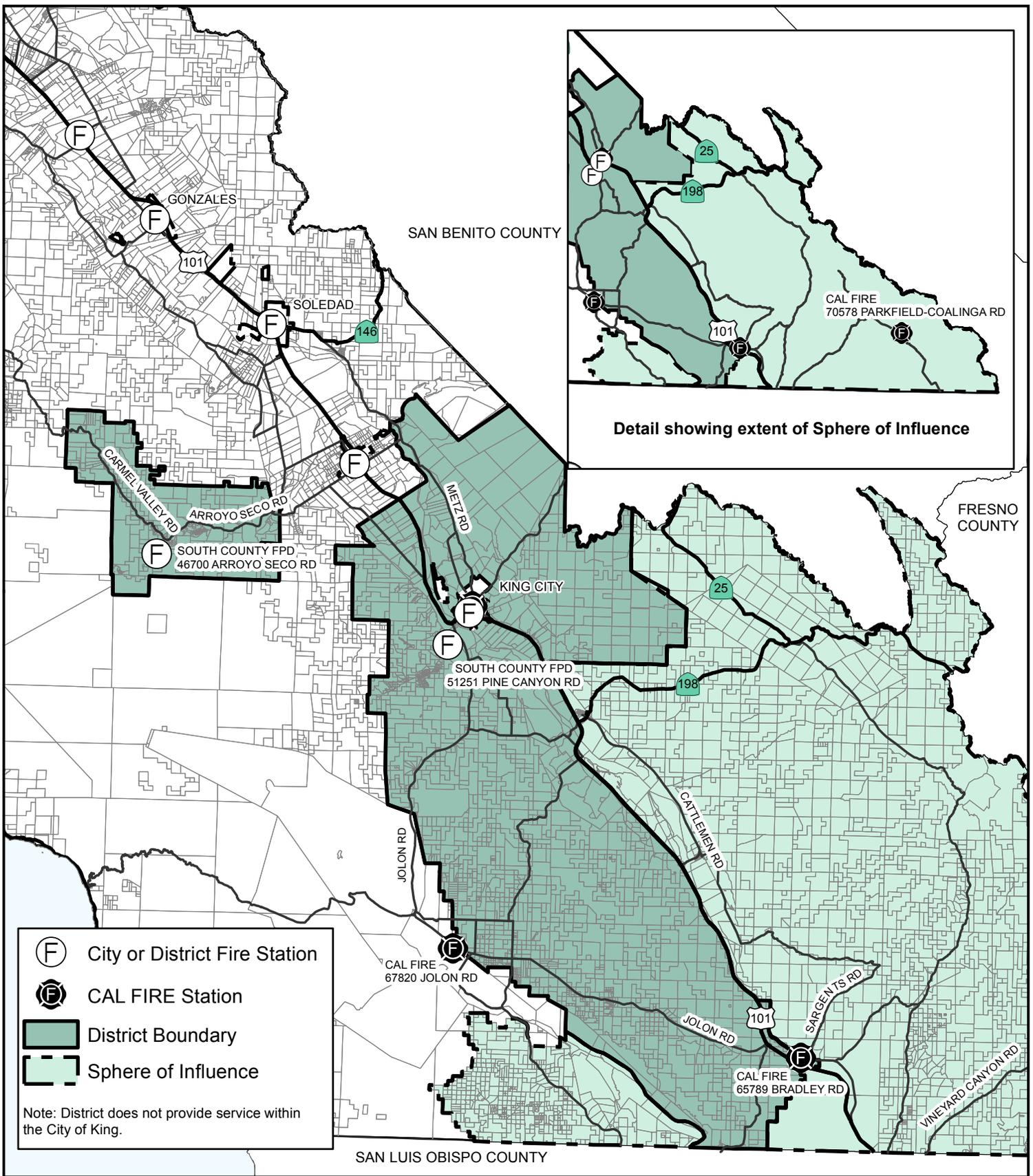
The District cooperatively provides services to its 4,500 residents through a contract with CAL FIRE. Through this contract CAL FIRE provides management and administrative services and a battalion chief who coordinates the District's volunteer firefighters. The District's annual budget is approximately \$450,000, and the District has recently increased its fund balance to almost \$900,000. The District is increasing its management capabilities, and updating the strategic plan. The District has financial procedures in place to ensure the preparation of timely agency audits.

The District maintains an ISO Rating to 6 within five road miles of a fire station where there is a credible source of water for firefighting. No expansion of the District's Sphere of Influence is anticipated at this time.

BACKGROUND

The South Monterey County Fire Protection District provides service to a large unincorporated portion of the southern Salinas Valley, including Arroyo Seco, the San Antonio Valley, and the unincorporated area around King City.

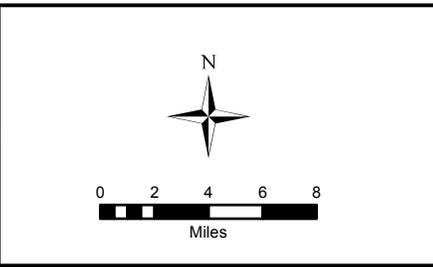
County Service Area 61, the predecessor of the South Monterey County FPD, was originally formed in 1971 to provide structural fire protection in the unincorporated area within the King City Union School District boundaries. Over the years, CSA 61 expanded to include the Arroyo Seco and Bradley areas. The CSA was officially dissolved and the South Monterey County FPD formed in 1997. At the time of this formation, the Bryson-Hesperia area was excluded from the new district's boundaries in response to public input.



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FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS

**SOUTH COUNTY
 FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

2012 Municipal Services Review
 Map Produced on 10/11/2011

The South Monterey County FPD is geographically the largest fire protection district in the County covering over 500 square miles. This area covers large areas of farmland and open areas in the south county area encompassing both Local and State Responsibility Area lands that pertain to wildland fire protection responsibility. The 2010 population has been estimated at 4,513. The District estimates that the population may increase by a third in the next 15 years.

The District is rural and contains little commercial development. The large size of the District, low population density, and low tax rates challenge the District's ability to respond to increasing demands.

OPERATIONS

The South Monterey County FPD increased its fund balance by over 80% in the 24 months between June 2007 and June 2009. At the end of June 2009, the fund balance stood at over \$880,000. Within this amount the District maintains two \$100,000 designated reserves, one each for buildings and equipment. The only outstanding long-term District debt, for the 2004 purchase of a fire engine, will be retired in 2012.

The South Monterey County FPD receives a relatively small amount of revenue for its area and population. Annual revenues for the District are less than \$500,000. This revenue equals approximately \$104 per District resident, which is the second lowest per capita revenue figure among fire protection districts. Although over 50% of the District's revenue is derived from property taxes, the District receives less than one cent of each dollar collected by the County for the 1% property tax. Additional revenues are derived from State Proposition 172 funds, and a voter-approved fire suppression fee.

CAL FIRE provides contractual management and administrative services to the District. In Fiscal Year 2011-12, the District increased its contract with CAL FIRE to allow for the services of a battalion chief. The District will pay for 80% of this position with the other 20% being paid through CAL FIRE's new contract with the City of Soledad. This increase will allow the District additional management capabilities. Similar to all CAL FIRE contract local agencies, the District also pays CAL FIRE for accounting, personnel, communications, and mechanical services.

Like many other southern Salinas Valley fire protection agencies, South Monterey County FPD relies on the services of volunteer firefighters for the provision of fire protection and emergency medical services. While CAL FIRE provides management and administrative services to the District, the District's firefighters are all volunteers.

The District's 45 volunteers are allocated to three fire stations: one in the rural area around King City, one in the Arroyo Seco area, and one in Lockwood. The District owns the first two of these stations, and utilized the existing CAL FIRE station in Lockwood for the co-location of firefighting apparatus. The District is currently in negotiations to purchase property in the Lockwood area to construct a new District station.

The District maintains an ISO Public Protection Classification of 6 for properties within five miles of a station when there is a credible source of water for firefighting. The District participates in mutual aid throughout the State. Firefighters are trained to the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) level, so that basic life support can be provided.

The South Monterey County FPD has begun the process of updating the strategic plan. The District's Fiscal Year 2011-12 budget includes funding for the continued coordination of this process by Citygate Associates, a private consulting firm specializing in fire protection service and strategic planning.

The South Monterey County FPD is run by a five-person Board of Directors whose Members are appointed to four-year terms by the County Board of Supervisors. The Board meets every other month at the Pine Canyon Fire Station. The District does not maintain a website.

SPHERE OF INFLUENCE & BOUNDARIES

The South Monterey County FPD is primarily surrounded by open space lands that are within Federal or State Responsibility Areas. Beyond the District's boundaries, the Sphere of Influence contains all of the area east to the County line, and to the southwest in the Bryson-Hesperia area. This Sphere is estimated to contain approximately 870 square miles. A map of the District's Sphere of Influence and boundaries can be seen at the beginning of this profile. No changes are anticipated in the District's Sphere of Influence.

The Sphere of Influence contains residential enclaves which would benefit from fire protection service. The District has been contacted by citizens in some of these areas who are interested in annexation. Among those interested are members of the San Ardo Fire Company who are exploring the possible annexation of this 500-person community to the District. The District has budgeted \$30,000 in the current year to pursue annexations within the existing Sphere of Influence.

In the future, the District may be reduced in size, as portions of the District are annexed to the City of King. In some cases these District detachments may cause a financial hardship to the District. An existing LAFCO policy discourages proposals causing adverse financial impacts on the provision of government services. This policy may support financial mitigation to compensate for future District detachments.

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

District Formation and Duties	
Formation Date	1997
Legal Authority	Fire Protection District Law of 1961, Health & Safety Code, section 13800 et seq.
Board of Directors	Five Directors appointed to four-year terms by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors
Agency Duties	Fire Protection / Emergency Medical Services

District Revenues				
	2007-2008		2008-2009	
	Amount	% of Total	Amount	% of Total
Property tax	\$224,021	53.1%	\$246,534	52.7%
Use of Money & Property (Interest)	\$21,875	5.2%	-\$13,093	-2.8%
Aid from Other Government Agencies (Proposition 172 Fund, Homeowner's Property Tax Relief, and Measure A)	\$101,763	24.1%	\$92,227	19.7%
Other Revenue	\$25,630	6.1%	\$62,208	13.3%
Fire Suppression Assessment Fee	\$48,237	11.4%	\$79,981	17.1%
Revenue total	\$421,526	100%	\$467,857	100%

Source: South Monterey County FPD, Financial Statements and Supplementary Information, June 30, 2009 and 2008, Statement E: Statements of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances – Government Funds.

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

Attributes	
District area (est. square miles)	508.7
Population (2010 estimated)	4,513
Assessed Valuation (FY 10-11)	\$1,152,298,237
Number of stations	2
Dispatch	CAL FIRE
ISO Public Protection Classification:	
Within 5 miles of a Station and with a Credible Source of Water	6
Without a Credible Source of Water	9
Regular Financial Audits	Biennial
Annual Revenue Per Capita (FY 08-09)	\$104
Average Portion of County 1% Property Tax Received	1¢/\$1
Ending Total Fund Balance (June 2009)	\$880,229
Change in Total Fund Balance (from June 2007 to June 2009)	82%
Total Fund Balance/Annual Revenue Total (FY 08-09)	188%

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	-

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

Stations		
Address	Acquired/Built	Condition
51251 Pine Canyon Road, King City	1985	Good
46700 Arroyo Seco Road, Greenfield	2007	Excellent
Lockwood (CAL FIRE)	Approx. 1955	Fair

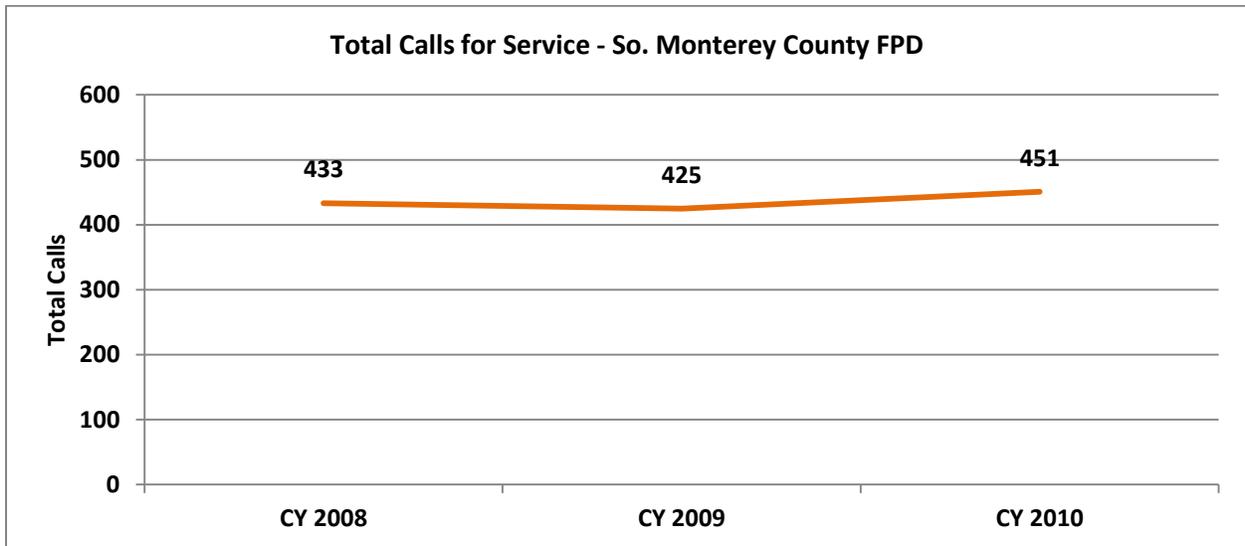
The SMCFPD owns and operates the Pine Canyon and Arroyo Seco Stations, and co-locates equipment at the CAL FIRE Lockwood Forest Fire Station.

Apparatus	
Engines	Two Type I Fire Engines Two Type III Fire Engines
Ambulance/Squads/Rescue	Two Rescue Vehicles
Utility	One Type IV Patrol

Total Staffing	
Full time fire suppression	0.8
Temporary fire suppression	0
Volunteer / Paid call firefighters	45
Non-safety regular	0.44

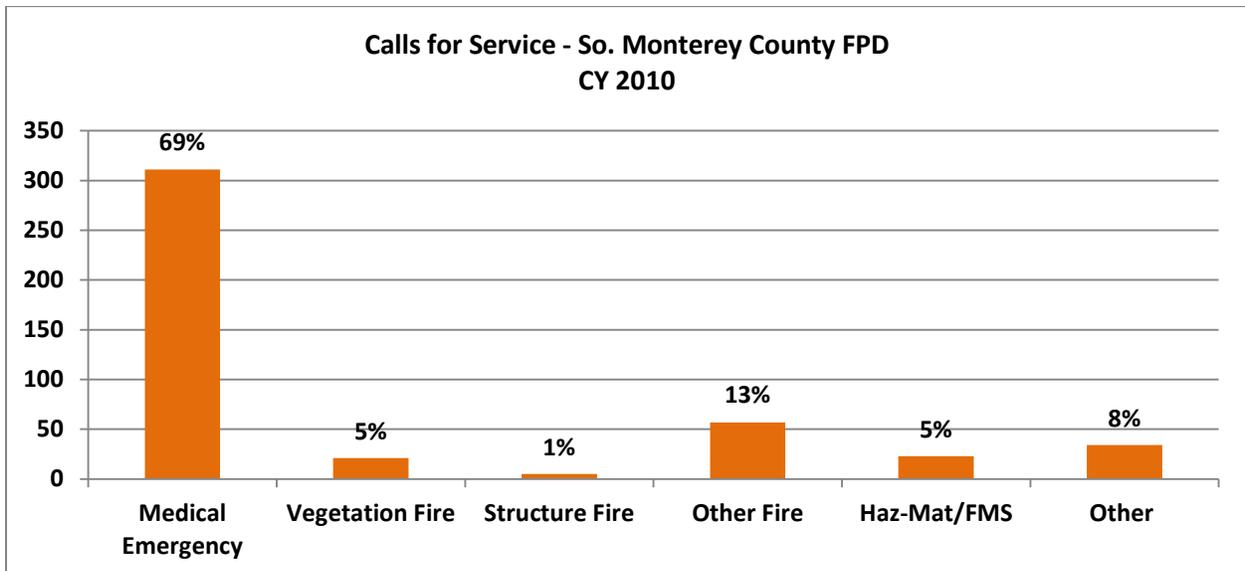
CAL FIRE's San Benito-Monterey Unit contractually provides staffing to the South Monterey County FPD. The full time fire suppression and non-safety regular positions outlined above represent the District's share of funding for full time positions, which are sometimes referred to as "full time equivalents"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

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



Source: CAL FIRE 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.



Source: CAL FIRE Data.