



**Local Agency
Formation Commission
of Santa Clara County**

777 North First Street
Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

SantaClaraLAFCO.org

Commissioners

Sylvia Arenas
Jim Beall
Rosemary Kamei
Yoriko Kishimoto
Otto Lee
Russ Melton
Terry Trumbull

Alternate Commissioners

Domingo Candelas
Helen Chapman
Cindy Chavez
Teresa O'Neill
Mark Turner

Executive Officer

Neelima Palacherla

REGULAR MEETING

Board of Supervisors' Chambers, 70 West Hedding Street, First Floor, San Jose

April 3, 2024 ▪ 1:15 PM

AGENDA

Chairperson: Russ Melton ▪ Vice-Chairperson: Sylvia Arenas

PUBLIC ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

This meeting will be held in person at the location listed above. As a courtesy, and technology permitting, members of the public may also attend by virtual teleconference. However, LAFCO cannot guarantee that the public's access to teleconferencing technology will be uninterrupted, and technical difficulties may occur from time to time. Unless required by the Brown Act, the meeting will continue despite technical difficulties for participants using the teleconferencing option. To attend the meeting by virtual teleconference, access the meeting at <https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/95874445434> or by dialing **(669) 900-6833** and entering **Meeting ID 958 7444 5434#** when prompted.

PUBLIC COMMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Written Public Comments may be submitted by email to LAFCO@ceo.sccgov.org. Written comments will be distributed to the Commission and posted to the agenda on the LAFCO website as quickly as possible but may take up to 24 hours.

Spoken public comments may be provided in-person at the meeting. Persons who wish to address the Commission on an item are requested to complete a Request to Speak Form and place it in the designated tray near the dais. Request to Speak Forms must be submitted prior to the start of public comment for the desired item. For items on the Consent Calendar or items added to the Consent Calendar, Request to Speak Forms must be submitted prior to the call for public comment on the Consent Calendar. Individual speakers will be called to speak in turn. Speakers are requested to limit their comments to the time limit allotted.

Spoken public comments may also be provided through the teleconference meeting. To address the Commission virtually, click on the link <https://sccgov-org.zoom.us/j/95874445434> to access the meeting and follow the instructions below:

- You will be asked to enter an email address and name. We request that you identify yourself by name as this will be visible online and will be used to notify you when it is your turn to speak.
- When the Chairperson calls for the item on which you wish to speak, click on "raise hand" icon. The Clerk will activate and unmute speakers in turn. Speakers will be notified shortly before they are called to speak. Call-in attendees press *9 to request to speak, and *6 to unmute when prompted.
- When called to speak, please limit your remarks to the time limit allotted.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

- Pursuant to Government Code §84308, no LAFCO commissioner shall accept, solicit, or direct a contribution of more than \$250 from any party, or a party's agent; or any participant or the participant's agent if the commission knows or has reason to know that the participant has a financial interest, while a LAFCO proceeding is pending, and for 12 months following the date a final decision is rendered by LAFCO. Prior to rendering a decision on a LAFCO proceeding, any LAFCO commissioner who received a contribution of more than \$250 within the preceding 12 months from a party or participant shall disclose that fact on the record of the proceeding. If a commissioner receives a contribution which would otherwise require disqualification returns the contribution within 30 days from the time the commissioner knows or should have known, about the contribution and the proceeding, the commissioner shall be permitted to participate in the proceeding. A party to a LAFCO proceeding shall disclose on the record of the proceeding any contribution of more than \$250 within the preceding 12 months by the party, or the party's agent, to a LAFCO commissioner. For forms, visit the LAFCO website at www.santaclaralafco.org. No party, or the party's agent and no participant, or the participant's agent, shall make a contribution of more than \$250 to any LAFCO commissioner during the proceeding or for 12 months following the date a final decision is rendered by LAFCO.
- Pursuant to Government Code Sections 56100.1, 56300, 56700.1, 57009 and 81000 et seq., any person or combination of persons who directly or indirectly contribute(s) a total of \$1,000 or more or expend(s) a total of \$1,000 or more in support of or in opposition to specified LAFCO proposals or proceedings, which generally include proposed reorganizations or changes of organization, may be required to comply with the disclosure requirements of the Political Reform Act (See also, Section 84250 et seq.). These requirements contain provisions for making disclosures of contributions and expenditures at specified intervals. More information on the scope of the required disclosures is available at the web site of the FPPC: www.fppc.ca.gov. Questions regarding FPPC material, including FPPC forms, should be directed to the FPPC's advice line at 1-866-ASK-FPPC (1-866-275- 3772).
- Pursuant to Government Code §56300(c), LAFCO adopted lobbying disclosure requirements which require that any person or entity lobbying the Commission or Executive Officer in regard to an application before LAFCO must file a declaration prior to the hearing on the LAFCO application or at the time of the hearing if that is the initial contact. In addition to submitting a declaration, any lobbyist speaking at the LAFCO hearing must so identify themselves as lobbyists and identify on the record the name of the person or entity making payment to them. Additionally, every applicant shall file a declaration under penalty of perjury listing all lobbyists that they have hired to influence the action taken by LAFCO on their application. For forms, visit the LAFCO website at www.santaclaralafco.org.
- Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on the agenda and distributed to all or a majority of the Commissioners less than 72 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at the LAFCO Office, 777 North First Street, Suite 410, San Jose, California, during normal business hours. (Government Code §54957.5.)
- In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, those requiring accommodation for this meeting should notify the LAFCO Clerk 24 hours prior to meeting at (408) 993- 4705.

1. ROLL CALL

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

This portion of the meeting provides an opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on matters not on the agenda, provided that the subject matter is within the jurisdiction of the Commission. No action may be taken on off- agenda items unless authorized by law. Speakers are limited to THREE minutes. All statements that require a response will be referred to staff for reply in writing.

3. APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR

The Consent Calendar includes Agenda Items marked with an asterisk (*). The Commission may add to or remove agenda items from the Consent Calendar.

All items that remain on the Consent Calendar are voted on in one motion. If an item is approved on the Consent Calendar, the specific action recommended by staff is adopted. Members of the public who wish to address the Commission on Consent Calendar items should comment under this item.

***4. APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2024 LAFCO MEETING**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. PROPOSED WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR FY 2025

Recommended Action:

1. Adopt the Proposed Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
2. Adopt the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
3. Find that the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 is expected to be adequate to allow the Commission to fulfill its statutory responsibilities.
4. Authorize staff to transmit the Proposed Budget adopted by the Commission including the estimated agency costs as well as the LAFCO public hearing notice for the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025 Final Budget to the cities, the special districts, the County, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County, and the Santa Clara County Special Districts Association.

ITEMS FOR ACTION / INFORMATION

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LAFCO'S COUNTYWIDE FIRE SERVICE REVIEW

Recommended Action: Accept report and provide direction, as necessary.

7. LEGISLATIVE REPORT – UPDATE AND POSITION LETTERS

Recommended Action:

1. Accept report and provide direction to staff, as necessary.

2. Take a support position and authorize staff to send support letters to the appropriate parties on the following bills:
 - a. AB 3277 (Assembly Committee on Local Government) Omnibus Bill
 - b. SB 1209 (Cortese) Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act of 2000: Indemnification

***8. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Recommended Action: Accept report and provide direction, as necessary.

8.1 Presentation on LAFCO to County Planning Commission

8.2 Presentation on LAFCO to Leadership Morgan Hill

8.3 Special Districts Association Meeting

8.4 Joint Venture Silicon Valley's 2024 State of the Valley Conference

8.5 Santa Clara County Association of Planning Officials Meeting

***9. LAFCO COMMISSIONER APPOINTMENTS BY CITY SELECTION COMMITTEE**

For information only.

10. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

11. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES / NEWSLETTERS

Gilroy Dispatch - Letter: Eager to support LAFCO policies

12. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

13. ADJOURN

Adjourn to the regular LAFCO meeting on June 5, 2024 at 1:15 PM in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose.



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Russ Melton
Terry Trumbull

ITEM #4

Alternate Commissioners

Domingo Candelas
Helen Chapman
Cindy Chavez
Teresa O'Neill
Mark Turner

Executive Officer

Neelima Palacherla

**LAFCO MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:17 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Commissioners

- Russ Melton, Chairperson
- Sylvia Arenas, Vice Chairperson (Absent)
- Jim Beall
- Rosemary Kamei (Arrived at 1:21 p.m.)
- Yoriko Kishimoto (Absent)
- Otto Lee (Arrived at 1:22 p.m.)
- Terry Trumbull

Alternate Commissioners

- Domingo Candelas (Absent)
- Cindy Chavez (Absent)
- Helen Chapman (Voting for Yoriko Kishimoto, arrived at 1:21 p.m.)
- Teresa O'Neill
- Mark Turner

Staff

- Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
- Dunia Noel, Assistant Executive Officer
- Emmanuel Abello, Associate Analyst
- Sonia Humphrey, Clerk
- Mala Subramanian, Counsel

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were none.

3. APPROVE CONSENT CALENDAR

MOTION: Beall	SECOND: Trumbull	
AYES: Beall, Chapman, Kamei, Lee, Melton, Trumbull		
NOES: None	ABSTAIN: None	ABSENT: Arenas

Commission Action: The Commission approved the Consent Calendar, including items #4, #8, #9 and #10.

***4. APPROVED ON CONSENT: APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 6, 2023 LAFCO MEETING**

The Commission approved the minutes of December 6, 2023 meeting.

ITEMS FOR ACTION / INFORMATION

5. UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LAFCO'S COUNTYWIDE FIRE SERVICE REVIEW

MOTION: Beall	SECOND: Kamei	
AYES: Beall, Chapman, Kamei, Lee, Melton, Trumbull		
NOES: None	ABSTAIN: None	ABSENT: Arenas

Commission Action: Accepted report.

6. UPDATE ON THE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND UPDATE OF LAFCO POLICIES

MOTION: Beall	SECOND: Trumbull	
AYES: Beall, Chapman, Kamei, Lee, Melton, Trumbull		
NOES: None	ABSTAIN: None	ABSENT: Arenas

Commission Action: Accepted report.

7. FINANCE COMMITTEE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

MOTION: Trumbull	SECOND: Kamei	
AYES: Beall, Chapman, Kamei, Lee, Melton, Trumbull		
NOES: None	ABSTAIN: None	ABSENT: Arenas

Commission Action: Established the Finance Committee composed of Chairperson Melton, Commissioner Beall and Alternate Commissioner Chapman to work with staff to develop and recommend the proposed FY 2024-2025 LAFCO work plan and budget that will be considered by the full commission.

***8. APPROVED ON CONSENT: SECOND AMENDMENT TO SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH CHAVAN & ASSOCIATES FOR INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL AUDITING SERVICES**

Commission Action: Authorized the LAFCO Executive Officer to amend the Chavan & Associates, LLP service agreement to (a) extend the agreement term to January 1, 2027, (b) included an additional \$38,250 in the contract, for a total contracted amount not to exceed \$103,750, and (c) designated Paul Pham as the Contractor's Project Manager.

***9. APPROVED ON CONSENT: CALAFCO RELATED ACTIVITIES**

9.1 2024 CALAFCO Staff Workshop

Commission Action: Authorized staff to attend the 2024 CALAFCO Staff Workshop and authorized travel expenses funded by the LAFCO budget.

***10. APPROVED ON CONSENT: EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT**

Commission Action: Accepted the report.

10.1 Presentation on LAFCO to Leadership Sunnyvale

10.2 Bay Area LAFCOS Meeting

10.3 Presentation on LAFCO to Leadership Sunnyvale

10.4 Santa Clara County Association of Planning Officials Meeting

11. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

12. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES / NEWSLETTERS

13. WRITTEN CORRESPONDENCE

CLOSED SESSION

14. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Government Code §54957)

Title: LAFCO Executive Officer

The Commission adjourned to Closed Session at 1:34 p.m.

15. REPORT OUT OF CLOSED SESSION

The Commission reconvened at 2:17 p.m., with no reportable action.

16. ADJOURN

The Commission adjourned at 2:18 p.m., to the next regular LAFCO meeting on April 3, 2024, at 1:15 p.m., in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose.

Approved on April 3, 2024.

Russ Melton, Chairperson
Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County

By: _____
Sonia Humphrey, LAFCO Clerk

DRAFT



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Susan Vicklund Wilson

ITEM #5

Alternate Commissioners

Helen Chapman
Domingo Candelas
Cindy Chavez
Terry Trumbull
Mark Turner

Executive Officer

Neelima Palacherla

LAFCO MEETING: April 3, 2024

TO: LAFCO

**FROM: Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
Dunia Noel, Asst. Executive Officer**

SUBJECT: PROPOSED WORK PLAN AND BUDGET FOR FY 2025

FINANCE COMMITTEE / STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Adopt the Proposed Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
2. Adopt the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025.
3. Find that the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 is expected to be adequate to allow the Commission to fulfill its statutory responsibilities.
4. Authorize staff to transmit the Proposed Budget adopted by the Commission including the estimated agency costs as well as the LAFCO public hearing notice for the adoption of the Fiscal Year 2025 Final Budget to the cities, the special districts, the County, the Cities Association of Santa Clara County and the Santa Clara County Special Districts Association.

ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS REQUIREMENTS

The Cortese Knox Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH Act) which became effective on January 1, 2001, requires LAFCO, as an independent agency, to annually adopt a proposed budget by May 1 and a final budget by June 15 at noticed public hearings. Both the proposed and the final budgets are required to be transmitted to the cities, the special districts and the County. Government Code §56381(a) establishes that at a minimum, the budget must be equal to that of the previous year unless the Commission finds that reduced staffing or program costs will nevertheless allow it to fulfill its statutory responsibilities. Any unspent funds at the end of the year may be rolled over into the next fiscal year budget. After adoption of the final budget by LAFCO, the County Auditor is required to apportion the net operating expenses of the Commission to the agencies represented on LAFCO.

**FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 WORKPLAN & BUDGET DEVELOPMENT
TIMELINE**

Dates	Staff Tasks / LAFCO Action
March 11 - April 3	Notice of this public hearing was advertised in a local newspaper, posted on the LAFCO website and distributed to local agencies. The agenda and a link to the posted agenda packet are also distributed to local agencies, interested persons and organizations. The proposed Workplan and Budget are posted on the LAFCO website and available for public review and comment.
April 3	LAFCO public hearing on adoption of Proposed Workplan and Budget
April 4	Proposed Work Plan and Budget, preliminary apportionments and LAFCO public hearing notice for Final Budget Hearing transmitted to agencies
June 5	LAFCO public hearing and adoption of Final Budget
June 5 - July 1	Final Budget transmitted to agencies; Auditor requests payment from agencies

LAFCO FINANCE COMMITTEE

At its February 7, 2024 LAFCO meeting, the Commission appointed Commissioner Melton, Commissioner Beall and Alternate Commissioner Chapman to serve on the Finance Committee.

At its special meeting held on March 22, 2024, the Finance Committee discussed the progress on the current year work plan and the status of the current year budget; and recommended the proposed FY 2025 work plan and budget for consideration and adoption by the full commission.

CURRENT YEAR IN REVIEW

PROGRESS REPORT ON FY 2023-2024 WORK PLAN

LAFCO’s current fiscal year workplan was adopted at a noticed public hearing held on April 5, 2023. **Attachment A** depicts the current status (through the third quarter of the year) of the 2023-2024 Work Program.

A major component of the current year work program involves the Countywide Fire Service Review. LAFCO held two public hearings on the Countywide Fire Service Review Report and approved the final report at its October 2023 meeting, following an extensive public review and comment process involving presentation of the report at a Technical Advisory Committee meeting in San Jose, at community meetings in Morgan Hill and Palo Alto, and at LAFCO public hearings. Staff is

currently working with the affected agencies on facilitating the implementation of recommendations in the report.

Another important work plan priority is the comprehensive review and update of LAFCO policies. At its December 2023 meeting, the Commission created an ad hoc committee of 3 commissioners to work with staff on the project, which is currently underway and expected to be brought before the full commission for their consideration at the end of the calendar year, following stakeholder involvement through a public review and comment process.

LAFCO has received and /or processed various applications such as a city urban service area amendment and various city/district annexations. Staff has held pre-application meetings and has received and responded to many requests for assistance and expertise from local and regional agencies on a variety of matters related to city service extensions, city annexations/island annexations, special district annexations, and housing element updates. Similarly, responding to public inquiries is another significant and growing area of the workplan and staff has seen an increase in the volume and complexity of such inquiries.

In accordance with the Commission's directive, as opportunities arise and time permits, staff continues to conduct targeted outreach to various local entities (special districts, County, cities, civil grand jury, and other community organizations/individuals) through informational presentations on LAFCO and its role in promoting sustainable growth and good governance in the county.

The Commission membership has remained stable, and the LAFCO office is now fully staffed with 4.0 FTE positions. The LAFCO Clerk position was filled in September 2023; training activities for the new staff person are currently in progress.

Other notable administrative activities and projects that have been completed or are currently underway include among others, the annual financial audit, the annual report, implementation of a work plan for the training and professional development of LAFCO staff including the new Clerk and the Associate Analyst, transition back to in-person LAFCO meetings with an option for remote public participation, and webcasting LAFCO meetings.

Given the emphasis on the above-mentioned activities, some important projects such as the scanning of LAFCO records are currently on hold. Projects in the current workplan that will not be completed by the end of the fiscal year have been added to the proposed FY 2025 workplan.

The LAFCO Annual Report for FY 2024 will be published at the end of the current fiscal year and will document all the applications reviewed and processed by LAFCO in Fiscal Year 2024; and will summarize the various accomplishments, activities/projects that LAFCO has engaged in or completed during the period.

STATUS OF FY 2023-2024 ADOPTED BUDGET

Attachment D includes the FY 2024 budget adopted by the Commission at a noticed public hearing on June 7, 2023, the status of LAFCO's expenditures and revenues as

of March 11, 2023, and expenditure and revenue projections for end of FY 2024. The adopted LAFCO budget for FY 2024 is \$893,186. It is estimated that the total year-end projected expenditures for FY 2024 would be approximately 11% lower than the adopted budget primarily due to salary savings from the unfilled clerk position for a portion of the year, and from the unused consultant service item. Staff anticipates that overall, year-end revenue for FY 2024 will be slightly lower than the amount budgeted. LAFCO has received the respective FY 2024 funds from the County, the cities and the independent special districts. The actual fund balance rolled over at the end of FY 2023 was higher at \$407,582, compared to the amount estimated (\$366,814) in the FY 2024 budget. The excess fund balance and the unspent FY 2024 expenditure amounts will carry over into FY 2025 and will be used to reduce net operating expenses that would in turn translate to reduced FY 2025 costs for contributing agencies.

PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Attachment C includes the proposed work plan for FY 2025, as recommended by the Finance Committee, for consideration and adoption by the full commission.

The proposed workplan includes ongoing as well as new projects and outlines detailed projects/activities organized under six broad areas: (1.) LAFCO application processing; (2.) island annexations; (3.) outreach, government/community relations and customer service; (4.) service reviews, special studies and sphere of influence updates; (5.) commission support; and (6.) administrative projects. The work plan assigns priority levels (high, moderate, low); and designates whether the work is to be conducted by staff or outside consultants.

The proposed work plan includes a broad spectrum of responsibilities that LAFCO, as an independent local agency and as a regulatory body of the state, is expected to fulfill in its role of promoting sustainable growth and good governance in Santa Clara County. It incorporates the Commission's legislative functions and mandates and also the Commission's proactive local initiatives and priorities such as its directives for ongoing public outreach and education and its proactive service review and implementation program.

The Finance Committee discussed the need for continued public outreach particularly to South County communities, requested expanded opportunities for commissioner educational presentations from local agencies, and encouraged a robust professional staff development and training program.

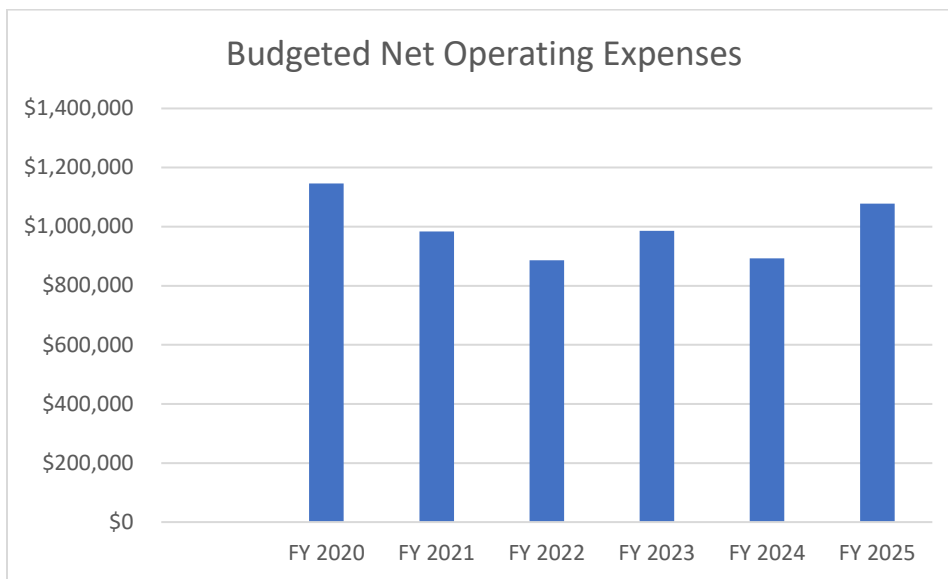
Staff actively manages the workload in order to focus on accomplishing essential activities such as processing applications, completing projects currently underway, maintaining core administrative functions, tracking on-going projects and studies, supporting the commission and responding to local agency and public requests for assistance. Consistent with past practice, LAFCO's statutorily mandated activities take priority over administrative projects that are not statutorily required, and over proactive commission-initiated projects which are discretionary but support LAFCO's mission and statutory requirements.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Attachment D includes the proposed Budget for FY 2024-2025 as recommended by the Finance Committee, for consideration and adoption by the full commission. The Finance Committee conducted a thorough review of the work plan and budget and recognized the public benefit of LAFCO's work and the high demand for LAFCO's services from local agencies and the public. The Committee maintained its commitment to ensure adequate resources that allow the Commission to fulfill its statutory responsibilities and accomplish its work plan while also limiting costs for LAFCO's funding agencies.

The overall projected expenditure for FY 2025 (\$1,280,912) in the proposed budget is slightly lower than the current year budgeted expenses (\$1,296,000).

However, LAFCO's proposed net operating expense for FY 2025 is approximately 20% higher than the FY 2024 budgeted net operating expense. The primary reason for this is because unlike the previous 2 fiscal years with large year-end fund balances (due to staff salary savings), the fund balance at the end of the current year which will be used to reduce net operating expenses in FY 2025, is projected to be relatively smaller at \$172,301.



DESCRIPTION OF FY 2024-2025 BUDGET LINE ITEMS

LAFCO and the County of Santa Clara entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (effective since July 2001), under the terms of which, the County provides staffing, facilities, and services to LAFCO. The associated costs are reflected in the proposed LAFCO budget. LAFCO is a stand-alone, separate fund within the County's accounting and budget system and the LAFCO budget information is formatted using the County's account descriptions/codes.

The following is a detailed itemization of the proposed budget.

EXPENDITURES

Expenditures are divided into two main sections: Staff Salary and Benefits (Object 1) which comprise approximately 67% of the total expenditures; and Services and Supplies (Object 2).

OBJECT 1. SALARIES AND BENEFITS \$862,484

This line item supports the salary and benefits for the 4.0 FTE positions including the Executive Officer position, a Senior Analyst position, an Associate Analyst position, and a Clerk position. All four positions are currently staffed. LAFCO contracts with the County of Santa Clara for staffing and services and in accordance with the MOU between the County and LAFCO, all four positions are staffed through the County Executive’s Office. The proposed amount is based on the best available projections from the County at this time for salary and benefits for the 4 positions. Changes to the projections for the four positions that occur within the next couple of months will be reflected in the Final LAFCO budget.

OBJECT 2. SERVICES AND SUPPLIES

5255100 Intra-County Professional \$10,000

This includes the costs for services from various County agencies such as the County Surveyor’s Office, the County Assessors’ Office, and the Registrar of Voters. The County Surveyor assists with map review and approval for boundary change proposals. In addition, the Surveyor’s Office also assists with research to resolve boundary discrepancies. The County Assessor’s Office prepares reports for LAFCO and the Registrar of Voters provides data necessary for processing LAFCO applications. This item also allows LAFCO to seek GIS mapping services including support and technical assistance from the County Planning Office, as necessary. This item also includes the approximate annual cost (\$7,806) associated with webcasting the regular LAFCO meetings held in the County Board of Supervisors Chambers. In February 2021, LAFCO and the County entered into an MOU regarding webcasting services and associated costs for LAFCO meetings. As a result of the pandemic and virtual meetings, webcasting of LAFCO meetings did not begin until April 2023.

This line item has been maintained at the same level as the current year.

5255800 Legal Counsel \$85,780

This item covers the cost for general legal services.

In February 2009, the Commission retained the firm of Best Best & Krieger for legal services on a monthly retainer. The contract was amended in 2010 to reduce the number of total hours required to 240 hours per year. The contract sets the hourly rate and allows for an annual automatic adjustment to the rates based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). In 2017, the contract was once again amended to increase the monthly retainer cost and limit the CEQA work within the retainer to 24 hours annually. Any additional CEQA work above 24 hours would be charged outside the retainer at the same hourly rate.

The monthly retainer for FY 2025 increases to \$6,875, based on a 3.7% increase in the Consumer Price Index for the prior calendar year (2023). This item covers the annual retainer fees and includes additional monies to cover approximately 10 hours of work outside the retainer at the hourly rate of \$328.

5255500 Consultant Services \$150,000

This item is budgeted for hiring consultants to assist LAFCO with special projects such as for conducting service reviews and special studies, facilitating a strategic planning workshop, and scanning LAFCO's hardcopy records into the existing electronic document management system, among others. The Commission must take action to authorize such special projects prior to expending funds. This item also includes costs associated with ongoing contracts such as costs for the maintenance and hosting of the LAFCO website by an outside provider; and for the contract with an independent financial auditor for conducting the annual financial audits of LAFCO.

5285700 Meal Claims \$750

This item includes cost of food to support Commission events, workshops, meetings.

5220200 Insurance \$8,335

This item is for the purpose of purchasing general liability insurance and workers' compensation coverage for LAFCO. In 2010, LAFCO switched from the County's coverage to the Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA), for the provision of general liability insurance. Additionally, LAFCO also obtains workers' compensation coverage for its commissioners from SDRMA. Workers' compensation for LAFCO staff is currently covered by the County and is part of the payroll charge.

SDRMA has recently provided estimated FY 2025 contribution amounts for use in the budgeting process: Property Liability (\$5,758) and Workers' Compensation (\$979). The Final budget will reflect any major revisions to these estimates.

5270100 Rent & Lease \$56,416

This item includes FY 2025 monthly rent for LAFCO office space located at 777 North First Street, Suite 420, San Jose. The original lease term for the office space expired on May 5, 2022. At its February 2, 2022 meeting, the Commission authorized the extension of the lease for a five-year period through April 30, 2027.

5250100 Office Expenses \$5,000

This item includes funds for purchase of books, subscriptions/publications necessary to keep current on laws and trends; and small equipment and supplies for office operations, including printer/photocopier lease.

5255650 Data Processing Services \$22,517

This item includes estimated costs associated with County Technology Solutions & Services Department (TSS) providing IT services to the LAFCO program. According to TSS, the projected costs cover Telecom services for 5 phones- VOIP/Landline (\$2,520), Wireless Carrier Service (\$1,236), enterprise licensing including MS Adobe special order, Acrobat Pro and MS Visio monthly subscription (\$2,827), and other

services (\$15,933) comprising Enterprise Content Management services and solutions, Kronos support, Architecture and Innovation Services, Claranet services, Data Analytics and Visualizations, digital print and sccLearn. Any further revised cost estimates received from the County will be reflected in the Final LAFCO budget.

5225500 Commissioner's Fees \$10,000

This item covers the \$100 per diem amount for LAFCO commissioners and alternate commissioners to attend LAFCO meetings and committee meetings.

5260100 Publications and Legal Notices \$1,000

This item is for costs associated with publication of hearing notices for LAFCO applications and other projects/ studies, as required by state law. This budgeted amount has been maintained at the same level as the current year.

5245100 Membership Dues \$14,509

This item includes CALAFCO – the California Association of LAFCOs membership dues. At its meeting in December 2023, the CALAFCO Board voted to approve a 3.1% rate adjustment to account for the CPI increase (June 2022 to June 2023), in accordance with the CALAFCO Bylaws. The FY 2025 membership dues for Santa Clara LAFCO is \$12,509.

Additionally, this item includes estimated membership dues for CSDA – the California Special Districts Association. In June 2018, CSDA informed that Santa Clara LAFCO as a customer of SDRMA, must be a member of CSDA pursuant to SDRMA bylaws.

5250750 Printing and Reproduction \$1,500

This covers printing expenses for reports such as service reviews or other studies and documents.

5285800 Business Travel \$21,000

This item includes funding for staff and commissioners to attend conferences and workshops. It would cover costs of air travel, accommodation, conference registration and other expenses at the conferences. CALAFCO annually holds a Staff Workshop (Temacula, April 2025) and an Annual Conference (Yosemite, October 2024) that is attended by commissioners as well as staff.

5285300 Private Automobile Mileage \$1,000

This item provides for mileage reimbursement when staff travels by private car to conduct site visits and attend meetings / training sessions. This budgeted amount has been maintained at the same level as the current year.

5285200 Transportation and Travel (for use of County car) \$600

This item would cover costs associated with the use of a County vehicle for travel to conferences, workshops, site visits and meetings.

5281600 Overhead \$21,119

This overhead charge is established by the County Controller's Office, for service rendered by various County departments that do not directly bill LAFCO. The

overhead includes LAFCO's share of the County's FY 2025 Cost Allocation Plan which is based on actual overhead costs from FY 2023 – the most recent year for which actual costs are available. The overhead amount includes the following charges from:

County Executive's Office:	\$5,268
Controller-Treasurer:	\$10,317
Employee Services Agency:	\$7,371
OBA:	\$418
BHS-MH - Employee:	\$84
TSS Intragovernmental Service:	\$829
Technology Services & Solutions:	\$1,607
Procurement:	\$33
Equal Opp. (County Counsel):	\$854
CoB – Harvey Rose Mgt Audit:	\$24

Further, a "roll forward" is applied which is calculated by comparing FY 2023 Cost Plan estimates with FY 2023 actuals. The FY 2023 cost estimates were higher than the actuals by \$5,842; this amount is deducted from the FY 2025 Cost Plan. This is a state requirement.

5275200 Computer Hardware \$4,000

This item is designated for any required hardware upgrades / purchases.

5250800 Computer Software \$4,000

This amount is designated for computer software purchases, including annual licenses for GIS software (ArcGIS) and records management software (Lasersfiche) with 2 hours of online/onsite support.

5250250 Postage \$500

This amount covers postage costs for mailing notices, agendas, agenda packets and general correspondence.

5252100 Training Programs \$2,000

This item covers the costs associated with attendance at commissioner / staff professional development courses and seminars. CALAFCO conducts University Courses throughout the year on topics of relevance to LAFCO.

REVENUES

4103400 Application Fees \$25,000

It is anticipated that LAFCO will receive approximately \$25,000 in fees from processing applications. The actual amount earned from fees corresponds to the level of application activity.

4301100 Interest \$6,000

It is estimated that LAFCO will receive an amount of approximately \$6,000 from interest earned on LAFCO funds.

3400150 Fund Balance from Previous Fiscal Year (i.e., FY 2024) \$172,301

It is projected that there will be a savings or fund balance of approximately \$172,301 at the end of the current year, which will be carried over to reduce the proposed Fiscal Year 2025 costs for LAFCO's funding agencies (cities, independent special districts and the County).

Projected Year-End [FY 2024] Fund Balance = (Projected Year-End [FY 24] Revenue + Actual Fund Balance from Previous Fiscal Year [FY 23] + Funds Received from Local Agencies in FY 24) - (Projected Year-End [FY 24] Expenses)

$$= (\$30,000 + \$407,582 + \$893,186) - \$1,158,467$$

$$= \$172,301$$

The fund balance excludes the reserves.

RESERVES

3400800 Reserves Available \$200,000

This item includes reserves for two purposes: litigation reserve – for use if LAFCO is involved with any litigation; and contingency reserve – to be used for unexpected expenses. If used during the year, this account will be replenished in the following year. Since 2012, the reserves have been retained in a separate Reserves account, thus eliminating the need for LAFCO to budget each year for this purpose.

The Reserves amount was held at \$250,000 since FY 2020 to timely implement potential recommendations from the Comprehensive Organizational Assessment, and as a tentative measure in recognition that LAFCO operates in an increasingly complex and controversial environment.

In FY 2022, LAFCO reduced the Reserves from \$250,000 to \$200,000, in order to further reduce costs to local agencies given the COVID -19 related economic hardships; and maintained the reserve level at \$200,000 in FY 2023. The Finance Committee recommends maintaining the current level of reserves for FY 2025. This places the proposed Reserve amount at approximately 15% of the total FY 2025 expenditures. LAFCO has not adopted a Reserves policy, however as an independent agency, LAFCO should maintain sufficient reserves for flexibility and stability in the event of unanticipated needs.

FY 2025 NET OPERATING EXPENSES

FY 2025 Net Operating Expenses = (Proposed FY 2025 Expenditures) - (Proposed FY 2025 Fee & Interest Revenues + Projected Fund Balance from FY 2024)

$$= (\$1,280,912) - (\$31,000 + \$172,301)$$

$$= \$1,077,611$$

The projected operating expense for FY 2025 is based on projected expenditures and revenues as well as on estimated fund balance for the current year. Further revisions may be needed as we get a better indication of current year expenses/revenues towards the end of this fiscal year. Additionally, a more accurate projection of costs/revenues for the upcoming fiscal year could become available, particularly for employee salary and benefits. This could result in changes to the proposed net operating expenses for FY 2025 which could in turn impact the costs for each of LAFCO's funding agencies.

COST APPORTIONMENT TO CITIES, INDEPENDENT SPECIAL DISTRICTS AND COUNTY

In January 2013, independent special districts were seated on LAFCO. Government Code §56381(b)(1)(A) provides that when independent special districts are represented on LAFCO, the county, cities and independent special districts must each provide a one-third share of LAFCO's operational budget.

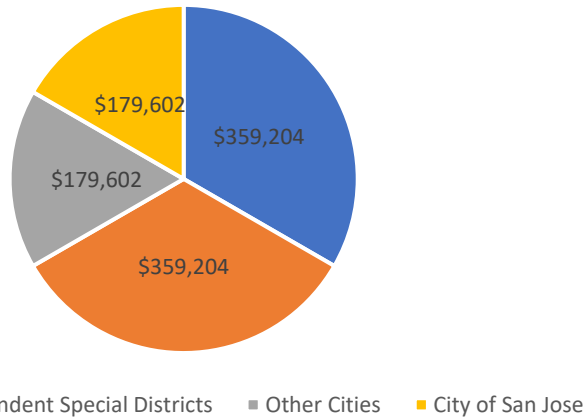
The City of San Jose has permanent membership on LAFCO pursuant to Government Code Section 56327. As required by Government Code §56381.6(b), the City of San Jose's share of LAFCO costs must be in the same proportion as its member bears to the total membership on the commission, excluding the public member. The remaining cities' share must be apportioned in proportion to each city's total revenues, as reported in the most recent edition of the Cities Annual Report published by the Controller, as a percentage of the combined city revenues within a county.

Government Code Section §56381 provides that the independent special districts' share shall be apportioned in proportion to each district's total revenues as a percentage of the combined total district revenues within a county. The Santa Clara County Special Districts Association (SDA), at its August 13, 2012 meeting, adopted an alternative formula for distributing the independent special districts' share to individual districts. The SDA's agreement requires each district's cost to be based on a fixed percentage of the total independent special districts' share.

Therefore, in Santa Clara County, the County pays a third of LAFCO's operational costs, the independent special districts pay a third, the City of San Jose pays one sixth and the remaining cities pay one sixth. Government Code §56381(c) requires the County Auditor to request payment from the cities, independent special districts and the County no later than July 1 of each year for the amount each agency owes based on the net operating expenses of the Commission and the actual administrative costs incurred by the Auditor in apportioning costs and requesting payment.

The following is a draft apportionment to the agencies based on the proposed net operating expenses for FY 2025.

Proposed Net Operating Expenses for FY 2025



Apportionment of the costs among the 14 cities and among the 17 independent special districts will be calculated by the County Controller’s Office after LAFCO adopts the final budget in June. In order to provide each of the cities and districts with a general indication of their costs in advance, **Attachment E** includes draft estimated apportionments, based on the proposed FY 2025 net operating expenses and the FY 2021-2022 Cities Annual Report from the State Controller’s Office. The final apportionments will be prepared by the County Controller’s Office based on the latest available Cities Annual Report.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: Status of FY 2024 Work Plan
- Attachment B: LAFCO Financials 2008-2023 and FY 2024 YTD Actuals
- Attachment C: Proposed Work Plan for Fiscal Year 2025
- Attachment D: Proposed LAFCO Budget for Fiscal Year 2025
- Attachment E: Estimated FY 2025 Costs to Agencies

STATUS OF CURRENT YEAR WORK PLAN (FISCAL YEAR 2024)

ITEM # 5
Attachment A

PRIORITY* H - High Priority (essential activities: state mandate, Commission directive, requirements)
M - Medium Priority (important, provided resources allow or time permits)
L - Low Priority (desirable provided resources allow or time permits, not urgent)

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*	STATUS
LAFCO APPLICATIONS	Process applicant-initiated LAFCO proposals	Encourage pre-application meetings prior to application submittal Conduct pre-agenda meetings with County Depts to obtain Assessor & Surveyor reports, as needed Process applications per CKH Act: issue Notice of Application, Certificate of Filing / Sufficiency, Public Hearing Notice, staff report, conduct protest proceedings, as needed	Staff	H	Several pre-application meetings held (Sunnyvale/Cupertino Sanitary District, WVSD, Milpitas, San Jose, etc.) One USA amendment completed
	Comment on potential LAFCO applications, relevant projects & development proposals, city General Plan updates and/ or related environmental documents	Ongoing, as needed	Staff	H	Ongoing
	Review and update LAFCO policies for context, clarity and consistency with State law	In progress	Staff / Consultant	H	In progress – Ad Hoc Committee established. Workplan developed for project scope and timeline. Ad Hoc Committee meetings in progress.
	Prepare flowcharts for LAFCO processes and update application packets and application fee schedules for current requirements and ease of public use	Upon completion of policies update	Staff	L	Internal application processing checklists updated

STATUS OF CURRENT YEAR WORK PLAN (FISCAL YEAR 2024)

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*	STATUS
ISLAND ANNEXATIONS	Conduct outreach to cities with islands, follow up on responses including review/research of city limits/ USA boundaries, provide assistance with annexations or necessary USA amendments	Prepare and distribute island maps to cities	Staff	L	As needed
	Review and finalize city-conducted island annexations	Ongoing, as needed	Staff	H	As needed
OUTREACH, GOVERNMENT / COMMUNITY RELATIONS & CUSTOMER SERVICE	Conduct outreach to increase awareness of LAFCO's role	Presentations to cities, other agencies on LAFCO, as relevant	Staff	L	Presentations provided upon request: Leadership Sunnyvale (12/23), County Planning Commission (2/24), Leadership Morgan Hill (3/24) Website updated
		Distribute LAFCO communications material to elected officials and staff of cities, special districts and the County		M	
		Seek exhibit opportunities at public spaces / events		L	
		Maintain website as the primary information resource on LAFCO		H	
	Engage and establish relationships with local (cities, districts, county), regional (ABAG/MTC), state (SGC, OPR, DoC, SWRCB) agencies, organizations such as SDA, SCCAPO, CALAFCO, other stakeholder groups	Attend regular meetings of SDA (quarterly), SCCAPO (monthly), County Planning Dept.(quarterly)	Staff	M	Ongoing
		Small water systems issues / legislation		M	
		Collaborate with agencies and entities with goals common to LAFCO		M	
	Track LAFCO related legislation	EO attends CALAFCO Legislative Committee	Staff	L	AB 399
		Commission takes positions and submit letters on proposed legislation		M	

STATUS OF CURRENT YEAR WORK PLAN (FISCAL YEAR 2024)

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*	STATUS
	Respond to public enquiries re. LAFCO policies, procedures and application filing requirements	Timely response to public inquiries Update the PRA form for the website Document research on complex inquiries Report to Commission on complex inquiries	Staff	H L L H	Ongoing
SERVICE REVIEWS, SPECIAL STUDIES & SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATES	Countywide Fire Service Review	Manage new consultant's work and contract Coordinate TAC meetings Review and comment on administrative draft reports Distribute Public hearing notices and coordinate community workshops and public hearings Prepare and distribute stakeholder/public outreach material Coordinate stakeholder / public engagement process along with public comment and response process Prepare staff reports with implementation recommendations Follow up with agencies and report back to the commission	Staff / Consultant	H	Publication of Draft report Two Community meetings and a TAC Mtg. in July 2023 Public comment and response process Two LAFCO public hearings on the Report Final Report adopted by LAFCO in October 2023 Coordinating and compiling agency responses to LAFCO recommendations
	Countywide Water and Wastewater Service Review	Develop water/wastewater service review workplan and identify method for consultant selection	Staff	M	TBD

STATUS OF CURRENT YEAR WORK PLAN (FISCAL YEAR 2024)

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*	STATUS
	Continue to monitor implementation of recommendations from previous service reviews and conduct special studies, as necessary	RRRPD study – city took action to delay decision on consolidation	Staff	L	Pending city action
	Map Mutual Water companies	Initial maps complete, further work through service review	Staff	L	As needed
	Engage in or support grant/partnership opportunities on issues related to enhancing viability of agriculture, and climate smart growth	As needed, and as opportunities arise	Staff	L	As needed
	Compile and post JPA filings on the LAFCO website	Notice provided, gather JPA information through service review process	Staff	L	JPA information obtained from Fire Service Review
COMMISSION SUPPORT	Provide ongoing support to the 12 commissioners for regularly-scheduled Commission meetings, special meetings and Committee meetings (Finance Committee, Ad Hoc Committee on Organizational Assessment and the Fire Service Review TAC)	<p>Prepare and distribute public hearing notices and agenda packets, provide staff support during the meetings, record minutes, broadcast meetings</p> <p>Hold pre-agenda review meeting with Chair</p> <p>Hold pre-meeting calls with individual commissioners to address agenda item questions</p> <p>Process commissioner per diems for attendance at LAFCO meetings</p>	Staff	H	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Transitioned to in-person meetings with option for remote public participation for regular LAFCO meetings</p> <p>Began webcasting LAFCO meetings in June 2023</p>
	Keep the Commission informed	<p>EO report, off-agenda emails, as needed</p> <p>Provide ongoing educational opportunities / events</p>	Staff	H	Ongoing

STATUS OF CURRENT YEAR WORK PLAN (FISCAL YEAR 2024)

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*	STATUS
	Onboarding new Commissioners	Facilitate filing / completion of Form 700, commissioner pledge, ethics training. Update LAFCO letterhead, directory, and website Set up vendor accounts, provide parking permits Conduct new Commissioner orientation Recognize outgoing commissioners for service on LAFCO	Staff	H	Ongoing - as needed
	Commissioners Selection Process	Inform appointing bodies of any upcoming vacancies and provide information on appointment criteria Convene ISDSC committee meeting, as necessary Coordinate public member selection process, as necessary	Staff	H	Cities Selection Committee appointments
	Conduct a Strategic Planning Workshop	2018 Workshop re. LAFCO Communications and Outreach Plan	Staff / Consultant	L	TBD
	Commissioner participation in CALAFCO	Support commissioner participation in CALAFCO activities / or election to the CALAFCO Board	Staff	L	Six commissioners + staff attended CALAFCO Annual Conference

STATUS OF CURRENT YEAR WORK PLAN (FISCAL YEAR 2024)

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*	STATUS
ADMINISTRATIVE PROJECTS	Prepare LAFCO annual work plan	March –June	Staff	H	In progress
	Prepare LAFCO annual budget	March –June	Staff	H	In progress
	Prepare LAFCO Annual Report	August 2023	Staff	H	Completed
	Prepare LAFCO Annual Financial Audit	October 2023	Consultant / Staff	H	Completed December 2023 Chavan Associates contract extended for FYs 24 - 27
	Office / facility management	<p>Coordinate with Building Manager on facilities issues</p> <p>Coordinate with County re. computers/network, phone, printers, office security, procurement, installation & maintenance</p> <p>Order and manage office supplies</p> <p>Make travel arrangements and process expense reimbursements.</p> <p>Process mileage reimbursements</p> <p>Office space lease extended (lease extended through April 30, 2027)</p>	Staff	H	Ongoing
	Records management	<p>Organize scan of LAFCO records to Electronic Document Management System (LaserFische)</p> <p>Maintain LAFCO’s hard copy records</p> <p>Maintain and enhance the LAFCO Website</p> <p>Maintain LAFCO database</p>	<p>Staff/ Consultant</p> <p>Staff</p>	<p>H</p> <p>H</p> <p>H</p> <p>H</p>	<p>On hold</p> <p>Website content updates completed</p>

STATUS OF CURRENT YEAR WORK PLAN (FISCAL YEAR 2024)

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*	STATUS
ADMINISTRATIVE PROJECTS	Contracts and payments & receivables	Track consultant contracts and approve invoices Approve vendor invoices / process annual payments for various services/ memberships Coordinate with County Controller's Office and track annual collection of payments from member agencies	Staff	H	Ongoing
	Review and update LAFCO bylaws / administrative policies and procedures	Ongoing, as needed	Staff	H	Ongoing
	Staff training and development	CALAFCO workshops, conferences, relevant courses	Staff	M	Staff registered to attend CALAFCO Workshop (4/24)
	Coordinate with County on administrative issues	Attend monthly meetings with the Deputy County Executive	Staff	H	Ongoing
	Staff performance evaluation	April - October 2023	Staff/ Commission	H	Completed in February 2024
	Recruitment, hiring, and training of LAFCO staff	Training of new LAFCO Clerk - recruitment and hiring expected by end of FY 2023	Staff	H	Recruitment and hiring completed. New Clerk started on September 5, 2023. Training in progress. Prepared workplan for professional development of LAFCO staff
	Student internship program	Contact the County to explore creation of a paid student internship program	Staff		Preliminary contact completed. On hold due to current staff training priorities

STATUS OF CURRENT YEAR WORK PLAN (FISCAL YEAR 2024)

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*	STATUS
	Other administrative functions mandated of a public agency (Form 700 annual filing & AB 1234 training compliance, Form 806, maintaining liability/workers comp insurance, etc.)	Ongoing	Staff	H	Ongoing

**FY 2008 - FY 2023 LAFCO FINANCIALS
YTD FY 2024 ACTUALS**

**ITEM #5
Attachment B**

ITEM NO.	TITLE	ACTUALS FY 2008	ACTUALS FY 2009	ACTUALS FY 2010	ACTUALS FY 2011	ACTUALS FY 2012	ACTUALS FY 2013	ACTUALS FY 2014	ACTUALS FY 2015	ACTUALS FY 2016	ACTUALS FY 2017	ACTUALS FY 2018	ACTUALS FY 2019	ACTUALS FY 2020	ACTUALS FY 2021	ACTUALS FY 2022	ACTUALS FY 2023	ACTUALS YTD 3/11/24
EXPENDITURES																		
	Salary and Benefits	\$356,009	\$400,259	\$406,650	\$413,966	\$393,194	\$411,929	\$450,751	\$466,755	\$484,216	\$514,381	\$628,534	\$713,900	\$744,439	\$730,716	\$639,099	\$697,700	\$548,092
Object 2:	Services and Supplies																	
	5255100 Intra-County Professional	\$66,085	\$57,347	\$13,572	\$4,532	\$6,118	\$5,260	\$5,663	\$4,379	\$18,523	\$1,292	\$703	\$3,593	\$346	\$201	\$354	\$3,785	\$0
	5255800 Legal Counsel	\$0	\$9,158	\$67,074	\$52,440	\$48,741	\$56,791	\$53,550	\$52,854	\$57,498	\$71,131	\$59,400	\$72,276	\$69,975	\$65,791	\$78,977	\$78,326	\$54,425
	5255500 Consultant Services	\$19,372	\$75,000	\$76,101	\$58,060	\$102,349	\$59,563	\$35,602	\$37,250	\$39,625	\$0	\$45,000	\$52,650	\$106,709	\$41,966	\$25,389	\$106,867	\$55,742
	5285700 Meal Claims	\$0	\$368	\$277	\$288	\$379	\$91	\$228	\$209	\$367	\$50	\$901	\$257	\$166	\$0	\$56	\$1,473	\$139
	5220100 Insurance	\$491	\$559	\$550	\$4,582	\$4,384	\$4,378	\$4,231	\$4,338	\$4,135	\$4,679	\$4,893	\$5,296	\$5,893	\$10,452	\$8,591	\$7,042	\$8,125
	1151 Office Expenses	\$1,056	\$354	\$716	\$639	\$1,212	\$536	\$850	\$783	\$6,266	\$48,632	\$15,412	\$4,702	\$2,544	\$1,151	\$1,462	\$2,211	\$1,887
	5270100 Rent and Lease										\$41,120	\$39,360	\$44,478	\$46,254	\$47,903	\$53,172	\$40,869	
	5255650 Data Processing Services	\$8,361	\$3,692	\$3,505	\$1,633	\$3,384	\$1,663	\$3,311	\$9,024	\$1,519	\$6,869	\$877	\$11,894	\$15,500	\$21,223	\$18,125	\$27,297	\$16,832
	5225500 Commissioners' Fee	\$5,700	\$5,400	\$3,500	\$3,400	\$4,000	\$4,900	\$5,800	\$4,900	\$6,700	\$5,300	\$5,400	\$5,000	\$4,600	\$6,100	\$4,200	\$4,500	\$4,400
	5260100 Publications and Legal Notices	\$1,151	\$563	\$1,526	\$363	\$916	\$222	\$378	\$2,484	\$487	\$191	\$145	\$192	\$44	\$90	\$704	\$470	\$44
	5245100 Membership Dues	\$5,500	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$14,473	\$0	\$7,428	\$7,577	\$8,107	\$8,674	\$9,615	\$11,822	\$12,144	\$12,316	\$12,921	\$13,936
	5250750 Printing and Reproduction	\$5	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$9	\$177	\$703	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$799	\$0	\$0	\$435	\$416
	5285800 Business Travel	\$7,238	\$8,415	\$4,133	\$8,309	\$3,095	\$4,777	\$5,800	\$4,042	\$5,811	\$3,877	\$13,091	\$4,260	\$6,908	\$0	\$0	\$4,933	\$8,557
	5285300 Private Automobile Mileage	\$1,016	\$704	\$832	\$1,185	\$615	\$424	\$409	\$396	\$1,009	\$1,264	\$590	\$689	\$696	\$61	\$0	\$42	\$403
	5285200 Transportation&Travel (County Car Usage	\$894	\$948	\$629	\$0	\$384	\$250	\$371	\$293	\$559	\$605	\$0	\$328	\$256	\$0	\$0	\$323	\$0
	5281600 Overhead	\$42,492	\$62,391	\$49,077	\$46,626	\$60,647	\$43,133	\$42,192	\$34,756	\$49,452	\$0	\$28,437	\$69,944	\$4,505	\$30,917	\$49,173	\$30,041	\$10,173
	5275200 Computer Hardware	\$0	\$451	\$0	\$83	\$2,934	\$1,791	\$2,492	\$0	\$106	\$0	\$0	\$773	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	5250800 Computer Software	\$0	\$0	\$626	\$314	\$579	\$3,124	\$933	\$1,833	\$2,079	\$754	\$4,505	\$3,012	\$1,200	\$4,708	\$1,753	\$1,843	\$1,203
	5250250 Postage	\$1,160	\$416	\$219	\$568	\$309	\$589	\$246	\$597	\$411	\$209	\$183	\$117	\$73	\$184	\$159	\$42	\$26
	5252100 Staff Training Programs	\$0	\$665	\$491	\$250	\$300	\$0	\$0	\$1,431	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$350	\$525	\$70	\$70	\$35	\$0
	5701000 Reserves	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$516,530	\$633,691	\$636,478	\$604,238	\$640,540	\$613,895	\$612,816	\$633,929	\$687,043	\$667,342	\$857,865	\$998,208	\$1,021,478	\$972,028	\$888,331	\$1,033,458	\$765,269
REVENUES																		
	4103400 Application Fees	\$46,559	\$41,680	\$35,576	\$48,697	\$37,426	\$45,458	\$63,561	\$27,386	\$146,168	\$20,436	\$29,864	\$33,049	\$7,587	\$34,622	\$41,847	\$19,637	\$11,323
	4301100 Interest: Deposits and Investments	\$24,456	\$16,230	\$6,688	\$4,721	\$4,248	\$3,416	\$2,674	\$2,844	\$6,073	\$10,830	\$12,620	\$12,141	\$18,176	\$10,488	\$7,831	\$25,401	\$14,562
	TOTAL REVENUES	\$71,015	\$57,911	\$42,264	\$53,418	\$41,674	\$48,873	\$66,235	\$30,230	\$152,241	\$31,266	\$42,484	\$45,190	\$25,763	\$45,110	\$49,678	\$45,038	\$25,885
	AVAILABLE FUND BALANCE																	
	3400150 END OF YEAR	\$271,033	\$368,800	\$334,567	\$275,605	\$209,987	\$208,219	\$160,052	\$226,111	\$187,310	\$293,489	\$331,177	\$314,693	\$352,123	\$312,351	\$410,027	\$407,583	\$407,582
	3400800 RESERVES AVAILABLE				\$100,000	\$100,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
BUDGETED COSTS TO AGENCIES																		
	5440200 County	\$271,641	\$270,896	\$267,657	\$292,601	\$298,597	\$281,780	\$156,002	\$187,521	\$220,668	\$225,778	\$266,298	\$277,942	\$381,904	\$327,928	\$295,443	\$328,658	\$297,729
	4600100 Cities (San Jose 50% +other cities 50%)	\$271,641	\$270,896	\$267,657	\$292,601	\$298,597	\$282,625	\$156,002	\$187,521	\$220,668	\$225,778	\$266,298	\$277,942	\$381,904	\$327,928	\$295,443	\$328,658	\$297,729
	4600100 Independent Special Distrcits							\$296,892	\$187,521	\$220,668	\$225,778	\$266,298	\$277,942	\$381,904	\$327,928	\$295,443	\$328,658	\$297,729

PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

PRIORITY* H - High Priority (essential activities: state mandate, Commission directive, requirements)
M - Medium Priority (important, provided resources allow or time permits)
L - Low Priority (desirable provided resources allow or time permits, not urgent)

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*
LAFCO APPLICATIONS	Process applicant-initiated LAFCO proposals	Encourage pre-application meetings prior to application submittal Conduct pre-agenda meetings with County Depts. to obtain Assessor & Surveyor reports, as needed Process applications per CKH Act requirements: issue Notice of Application, Certificate of Filing / Sufficiency, Public Hearing Notice, staff report, conduct protest proceedings, as needed	Staff	H
	Comment on potential LAFCO applications, relevant projects & development proposals, city General Plan updates and/ or related environmental documents	Ongoing, as needed	Staff	H
	Comprehensive review and update of LAFCO policies for context, clarity and consistency with State law	In progress	Staff /Ad Hoc Committee	H
	Prepare flowcharts for LAFCO processes and update application packets and application fee schedules for current requirements and ease of public use	Upon completion of policies update	Staff	L
ISLAND ANNEXATIONS	Conduct outreach to cities with islands, follow up on responses including review/research of city limits/ USA boundaries, and provide assistance with annexations or necessary USA amendments	Prepare and distribute island maps to cities	Staff	L
	Review and finalize city-conducted island annexations	Ongoing, as needed	Staff	H

PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*
OUTREACH, GOVERNMENT / COMMUNITY RELATIONS & CUSTOMER SERVICE	Conduct outreach to increase awareness of LAFCO's role	Presentations on LAFCO to cities, other agencies or organizations, focus on south county communities, as relevant	Staff	M
		Distribute LAFCO communications material to elected officials and staff of cities, special districts and the County		M
		Seek exhibit opportunities at public spaces / events		L
		Maintain website as the primary information resource on LAFCO		H
		Increase social media presence (Twitter)		L
	Engage and establish relationships with local (cities, districts, county), regional (ABAG/MTC), state (SGC, OPR, DoC, SWRCB) agencies, organizations such as SDA, SCCAPO, CALAFCO, other stakeholder groups	Attend regular meetings of SDA (quarterly), SCCAPO (monthly), and County Planning Dept. (quarterly)	Staff	M
		Small water systems issues / legislation		M
		Collaborate with agencies and entities with goals common to LAFCO		M
	Track LAFCO related legislation	EO attends CALAFCO Legislative Committee meetings	Staff	L
		Commission takes positions and submits letters on proposed legislation		M
	Respond to public enquiries re. LAFCO policies, procedures and application filing requirements	Timely response to public inquiries	Staff	H
		Update the PRA form for the website		L
		Document research on complex inquiries		L
Report to Commission on complex inquiries		H		

PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*
SERVICE REVIEWS, SPECIAL STUDIES & SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATES	Countywide Fire Service Review	Follow up with agencies on implementation of recommendations and report back to the commission Work with interested agencies on implementing recommendations requiring LAFCO action	Staff	H H
	Countywide Water and Wastewater Service Review	Develop water/wastewater service review workplan and identify method for consultant selection	Staff	M
	Continue to monitor implementation of recommendations from previous service reviews and conduct special studies, as necessary	RRRPD study – city took action to delay decision on consolidation	Staff	L
	Map Mutual Water companies	Initial maps complete, further through service review	Staff	L
	Engage in or support grant / partnership opportunities on issues related to enhancing viability of agriculture, and climate smart growth	As needed, and as opportunities arise	Staff	L
	Compile and post JPA filings on the LAFCO website	Notice provided, gather JPA information through service review process	Staff	L

PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*
COMMISSION SUPPORT	Provide ongoing support to the 12 commissioners for regularly scheduled Commission meetings, special meetings and Committee meetings (Finance Committee, and the Ad-Hoc Committee)	Prepare and distribute public hearing notices and agenda packets, provide staff support during the meetings, record minutes, broadcast meetings Hold pre-agenda review meeting with Chair Hold pre-meeting calls with individual commissioners to address agenda item questions and prepare meeting script for Chair Process commissioner per diems for attendance at LAFCO meetings	Staff	H
	Keep the Commission informed	EO report Off-agenda emails, as needed Provide ongoing educational opportunities/events, including presentations from local agencies	Staff	H
	Onboarding new Commissioners	Facilitate filing / completion of Form 700, commissioner pledge, ethics training Update LAFCO letterhead, directory, and website Set up vendor accounts, provide parking permits Conduct new Commissioner orientation Recognize outgoing commissioners for LAFCO service	Staff	H
	Commissioners Selection Process	Inform appointing bodies of any upcoming vacancies and provide information on appointment criteria Convene ISDSC committee meeting, as necessary Coordinate public member selection process, as necessary	Staff	H
	Conduct a Strategic Planning Workshop	Most recent workshop in 2018 re. LAFCO Communications and Outreach Plan	Staff / Consultant	L
	Commissioner participation in CALAFCO	Support commissioner participation in CALAFCO activities / or election to the CALAFCO Board	Staff	L

PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*
ADMINISTRATIVE PROJECTS	Prepare LAFCO annual work plan	March – June 2025	Staff/Finance Committee	H
	Prepare LAFCO annual budget	March – June 2025	Staff/Finance Committee	H
	Prepare LAFCO Annual Report	August 2024	Staff	H
	Prepare LAFCO Annual Financial Audit	October 2024 (Contract with Chavan Associates extended for FY 2024 thru FY 2027)	Consultant / Staff	H
	Office / facility management	Coordinate with Building Manager on facilities issues Coordinate with County re. computers/network, phone, printers, office security, procurement, installation & maintenance Order and manage office supplies Make travel arrangements and process expense reimbursements. Process mileage reimbursements Office space lease extended (lease extended through April 30, 2027)	Staff	H
	Records management	Organize scan of LAFCO records to Electronic Document Management System (Laserfiche) Maintain LAFCO's hard copy records Maintain and enhance the LAFCO Website Maintain LAFCO database	Staff/ Consultant Staff	H H H
	Contracts and payments & receivables	Track consultant contracts and approve invoices Approve vendor invoices / process annual payments for various services/ memberships Coordinate with County Controller's Office and track annual collection of payments from member agencies	Staff	H

PROPOSED WORK PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	ACTIVITIES / TIMELINE	RESOURCES	PRIORITY*
ADMINISTRATIVE PROJECTS	Review and update LAFCO bylaws / administrative policies and procedures	Ongoing, as needed	Staff	H
	Staff training and development	CALAFCO workshops, conferences, relevant courses	Staff	H
		Training of new LAFCO Clerk		H
		Implementation of the work plan for staff professional development		H
	Coordinate with County on administrative issues	Attend monthly meetings with the Deputy County Executive	Staff	H
Staff performance evaluation	April - December 2024	Staff/Commission	H	
Other administrative functions mandated of a public agency (Form 806, maintaining liability/workers comp insurance, etc.)	Ongoing	Staff	H	

**PROPOSED LAFCO BUDGET
FISCAL YEAR 2024- 2025**

ITEM #	TITLE	APPROVED BUDGET FY 2024	ACTUALS Year to Date 3/11/2024	PROJECTIONS Year End FY 2024	PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2025
EXPENDITURES					
Object 1:	Salary and Benefits	\$882,121	\$548,092	\$831,222	\$862,484
Object 2:	Services and Supplies				
5255100	Intra-County Professional	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
5255800	Legal Counsel	\$82,780	\$54,425	\$82,000	\$85,780
5255500	Consultant Services	\$150,000	\$55,742	\$70,000	\$150,000
5285700	Meal Claims	\$750	\$139	\$600	\$750
5220100	Insurance	\$8,335	\$8,125	\$8,335	\$6,737
5250100	Office Expenses	\$5,000	\$1,887	\$4,000	\$5,000
5270100	Rent & Lease	\$54,766	\$40,869	\$54,766	\$56,416
5255650	Data Processing Services	\$27,520	\$16,832	\$27,000	\$22,517
5225500	Commissioners' Fee	\$10,000	\$4,400	\$10,000	\$10,000
5260100	Publications and Legal Notices	\$1,000	\$44	\$500	\$1,000
5245100	Membership Dues	\$13,870	\$13,936	\$13,936	\$14,509
5250750	Printing and Reproduction	\$1,500	\$416	\$1,500	\$1,500
5285800	Business Travel	\$15,900	\$8,557	\$15,000	\$21,000
5285300	Private Automobile Mileage	\$1,000	\$403	\$750	\$1,000
5285200	Transportation&Travel (County Car Usage)	\$600	\$0	\$200	\$600
5281600	Overhead	\$20,358	\$10,173	\$20,358	\$21,119
5275200	Computer Hardware	\$4,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$4,000
5250800	Computer Software	\$4,000	\$1,203	\$4,000	\$4,000
5250250	Postage	\$500	\$26	\$300	\$500
5252100	Staff/Commissioner Training Programs	\$2,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$2,000
5701000	Reserves	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		\$1,296,000	\$765,269	\$1,158,467	\$1,280,912
REVENUES					
4103400	Application Fees	\$30,000	\$11,323	\$15,000	\$25,000
4301100	Interest: Deposits and Investments	\$6,000	\$14,562	\$15,000	\$6,000
TOTAL REVENUE		\$36,000	\$25,885	\$30,000	\$31,000
3400150	FUND BALANCE FROM PREVIOUS FY	\$366,814	\$407,582	\$407,582	\$172,301
NET LAFCO OPERATING EXPENSES		\$893,186	\$331,802	\$720,885	\$1,077,611
3400800	RESERVES Available	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
COSTS TO AGENCIES					
5440200	County	\$297,729	\$297,729	\$297,729	\$359,204
4600100	Cities (San Jose 50% + Other Cities 50%)	\$297,729	\$297,729	\$297,729	\$359,204
4600100	Special Districts	\$297,729	\$297,729	\$297,729	\$359,204

ITEM # 5
Attachment E

LAFCO COST APPORTIONMENT: COUNTY, CITIES, SPECIAL DISTRICTS
Estimated Costs to Agencies Based on the Preliminary FY 2025 LAFCO Budget

Preliminary Net Operating Expenses for FY 2025				\$1,077,611
JURISDICTION	REVENUE PER 2021/2022 REPORT	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL REVENUE	ALLOCATION PERCENTAGES	ALLOCATED COSTS
County	N/A	N/A	33.3333333%	\$359,203.67
Cities Total Share			33.3333333%	\$359,203.67
San Jose	N/A	N/A	50.0000000%	\$179,601.84
Other cities share			50.0000000%	\$179,601.83
Campbell	\$75,467,809	1.9125415%		\$3,434.96
Cupertino	\$129,437,941	3.2802785%		\$5,891.44
Gilroy	\$155,661,855	3.9448575%		\$7,085.04
Los Altos	\$68,948,492	1.7473258%		\$3,138.23
Los Altos Hills	\$21,241,527	0.5383130%		\$966.82
Los Gatos	\$68,358,558	1.7323754%		\$3,111.38
Milpitas	\$184,621,280	4.6787612%		\$8,403.14
Monte Sereno	\$5,176,569	0.1311871%		\$235.61
Morgan Hill	\$118,001,078	2.9904400%		\$5,370.88
Mountain View	\$457,001,226	11.5815447%		\$20,800.67
Palo Alto	\$658,551,528	16.6893293%		\$29,974.34
Santa Clara	\$1,248,643,286	31.6437181%		\$56,832.70
Saratoga	\$43,208,940	1.0950217%		\$1,966.68
Sunnyvale	\$711,623,561	18.0343062%		\$32,389.94
Total Cities (excluding San Jose)	\$3,945,943,650	100.0000000%		\$179,601.83
Total Cities (including San Jose)				\$359,203.67
Special Districts Total Share		(Fixed %)	33.3333333%	\$359,203.66
Aldercroft Heights County Water District		0.06233%		\$223.89
Burbank Sanitary District		0.15593%		\$560.11
Cupertino Sanitary District		2.64110%		\$9,486.93
El Camino Healthcare District		4.90738%		\$17,627.49
Guadalupe Coyote Resource Conservation District		0.04860%		\$174.57
Lake Canyon Community Services District		0.02206%		\$79.24
Lion's Gate Community Services District		0.22053%		\$792.15
Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District		0.02020%		\$72.56
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District		5.76378%		\$20,703.71
Purissima Hills Water District		1.35427%		\$4,864.59
Rancho Rinconada Recreation and Park District		0.15988%		\$574.29
San Martin County Water District		0.04431%		\$159.16
Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority		1.27051%		\$4,563.72
Santa Clara Valley Water District		81.44126%		\$292,539.99
Saratoga Cemetery District		0.32078%		\$1,152.25
Saratoga Fire Protection District		1.52956%		\$5,494.24
South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District		0.03752%		\$134.77
Total Special Districts		100.00000%		\$359,203.66
Total Allocated Costs				\$1,077,611.00



Local Agency
Formation Commission
of Santa Clara County

777 North First Street
Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

SantaClaraLAFCO.org

Commissioners

Sylvia Arenas
Jim Beall
Rosemary Kamei
Yoriko Kishimoto
Otto Lee
Russ Melton
Terry Trumbull

ITEM # 6

Alternate Commissioners

Domingo Candelas
Helen Chapman
Cindy Chavez
Teresa O'Neill
Mark Turner

Executive Officer

Neelima Palacherla

LAFCO MEETING: April 3, 2024

TO: LAFCO

**FROM: Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
Dunia Noel, Asst. Executive Officer
Emmanuel Abello, Associate Analyst**

**SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM
LAFCO'S COUNTYWIDE FIRE SERVICE REVIEW**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept report and provide direction, as necessary.

BACKGROUND

LAFCO, at its October 4, 2023 meeting, directed LAFCO staff to request from each of the agencies / organizations included in the Countywide Fire Service Review Report written response to its recommendations, including plans and timeframes for implementation, or explanations for planned non-implementation. Following the publishing of the Final Report on December 14, 2023, LAFCO staff sent a request to each of the agencies / organizations and asked that responses be provided to LAFCO by February 16, 2024. Please see **Attachment A** for a copy of the request.

RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM MOST AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

As of the date of this staff report, LAFCO staff has received a complete or mostly complete response from the following agencies and organizations:

- 14 of the 15 affected cities (no response from the City of Santa Clara)
- all 4 fire districts
- County of Santa Clara [i.e. County Executive's Office (CEO), and County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)]
- CAL FIRE
- Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA)
- Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association
- Santa Clara County FireSafe Council
- Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD)

Report Contains Over One-Hundred Recommendations

LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review contains recommendations for fire districts, city fire departments, cities that contract for fire service, and other fire and/or emergency medical response service providers.

Some of these recommendations apply to multiple agencies where each agency may have a different response to the recommendation. Some recommendations require inter-agency support or coordination for implementation. Therefore, each recommendation as directed to a specific agency is counted distinctly, resulting in a total of 109 recommendations.

Table A includes 84 recommendations regarding service delivery and response capabilities, including performance standards, seismic protection and maintenance of fire stations, capacity issues, rising expenditures outpacing increased general fund revenues, interoperability challenges, and coordination among agencies to enhance service delivery and response capabilities.

Table B includes 25 recommendations that address the 27 identified geographic areas in the County that currently lack an identified local fire service provider. This identification does not necessarily mean that these areas lack service, as fire service providers will often respond outside of boundaries if dispatched and will not deny service even if not within jurisdiction. However, these providers do not receive compensation for these responses outside of their boundaries unless the agency has a fee system in place to charge the caller.

Attachment A contains LAFCO's December 19, 2023 request (including Table A & Table B and corresponding maps) which were provided to the agencies for a response. On January 25, 2024, LAFCO staff sent out a courtesy reminder email to affected agencies / organizations concerning the upcoming deadline. However, not all agencies responded by the February 16, 2024 deadline. On February 20, 2024, LAFCO staff sent another reminder email to affected agencies which generated some additional responses. Even with these efforts, there were still many outstanding responses. LAFCO staff then personally contacted these agencies, in some cases multiple times, to request a timely response. Agency responses varied widely in terms of level of detail and clarity. LAFCO staff personally contacted certain agencies by email and phone to seek additional clarity and resolve any remaining questions.

We thank participating agencies for their time and assistance in helping LAFCO understand their responses.

Please see **Attachment B** for each agency's response to LAFCO's request and to follow-up questions.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO "TABLE A": RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE FIRE SERVICE DELIVERY AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

Attachment C includes a summary matrix of responses to Table A recommendations. The matrix includes a detailed listing of the recommendations,

the response that was received from each of the agencies, and any LAFCO staff notes or comments.

In summary, of the 84 recommendations regarding service delivery and response capabilities:

- **24 are already implemented or being implemented**
- **14 will be implemented in the future**
- **8 will be implemented if sufficient interest and funding is available**
- **10 will be further analyzed and evaluated for feasibility**
- **18 will not be implemented due to various reasons** (e.g. disagreement on the necessity, lack of funding, technological issues, inopportune timing, competing priorities, etc.).
- **10 have elicited either no response or no substantive response or are responses that LAFCO staff is seeking further clarification on.** These include the following:
 - LAFCO staff continues to await a response from the City of Santa Clara on two recommendations (#8G and #31) and have contacted the City of Santa Clara multiple times over the last two months. As most recently recommended by the City of Santa Clara’s Fire Chief, LAFCO staff sent a third request to the Santa Clara City Manager’s Office on March 8, 2024. If we receive a response, we will provide it to the Commission for its consideration.
 - There are five recommendations (#2C, #8A, #20, #30, and #30A) directed to the City of Gilroy. In response to these recommendations, City staff informed LAFCO staff that “implementation of the recommendation depends on the policy and funding directions of the Gilroy City Council. In the end, City Council direction is achieved through ongoing budget and policy discussions concerning any service in and for the City of Gilroy.” LAFCO staff then inquired as to whether City staff had any plans to take LAFCO’s request to the City Council for their consideration and response. City staff informed that “the City will not be providing any additional information. Please consider the February 13, 2024 letter our final response.”
 - LAFCO staff is seeking clarification and awaiting a response from:
 - Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association regarding the use of boundary drop agreements (#6) and the reporting on the status of fire inspections to the State Fire Marshal (#10)
 - SCFD on whether the District has emergency response goals, and whether they are adopted by their elected officials (#1)

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO “TABLE B” RECOMMENDATIONS TO ADDRESS AREAS THAT LACK AN IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDER

Attachment D includes a summary matrix of responses to Table B for addressing the 27 identified geographic areas that currently lack an identified local fire service provider. These recommendations are targeted to affected agencies and generally recommend that a district must annex the area and negotiate a contract with a nearby agency capable of providing the service.

Most of the recommendations were favorably received. For 18 of the identified geographic areas, agencies expressed interest in implementing them. For 2 other areas, LAFCO staff is awaiting an official affirmative response from the SCFD. LAHCD informed that they will work with the County Executive’s Office to analyze the feasibility of the recommendations that apply to them for 4 areas.

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has raised strong objections to recommendations that pertain to District owned open space lands that are located outside a local fire service provider. While MROSD may support the recommended boundary changes, they do not support the recommendation that changes should be made to fire agencies’ funding of response in recreation areas.

In terms of funding fire and emergency response services in County owned park lands that are located outside a local fire service provider, the Office of the County Executive reported that since County Parks are property-tax exempt, there is no revenue generated for this.

PUBLIC COMMENT LETTER

LAFCO staff received a comment letter/email (**Attachment E**) from a member of the public concerning a recommendation that was directed to both the Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD) and the Santa Clara County Fire Protection District (CCFD). The recommendation is that “SFD’s receptiveness to reorganization to enhance services efficiencies be assessed” (Recommendation #29 in Table A). Both agencies have provided a response to this recommendation. SFD expressed disagreement with the recommendation and said that they will not implement it. CCFD informed that they agree that there are potential alternatives for SFD but that they will continue to provide services to SFD through their contract.

NEXT STEPS

LAFCO staff will work with interested agencies to help facilitate any boundary changes needed to implement the recommendations for the identified geographic areas outside a local fire service provider. It is anticipated that LAFCO staff will meet as soon as possible with the agency responsible for initiating said boundary change(s) to discuss the overall process and requirements and to help each agency formalize its implementation plan(s).

LAFCO staff will keep the Commission informed on the progress of these implementation efforts. Unless otherwise directed by the commission, LAFCO staff

will not take any further action, at this time, on recommendations that have been rejected by affected agencies.

Lastly, staff recommends that future countywide fire service reviews begin with the consultant assessing the status of efforts to implement the recommendations of the prior countywide fire service review. This was a suggestion provided at the community meetings that LAFCO staff held in Summer 2023.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A:** Request to Agencies / Organizations Re: Implementation of the Recommendations of LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review, including Table A & Table B and Corresponding Maps
- Attachment B:** Responses from Each of the Agencies / Organizations to LAFCO's Request and to Follow-up Questions
- Attachment C:** Summary of Responses to Table A: Recommendations to Enhance Fire Service Delivery and Response Capabilities
- Attachment D:** Summary of Responses to Table B: Recommendations for Addressing Areas Outside of Identified Local Fire Service Providers
- Attachment E:** Public Comment Letter/Email Received on March 22, 2024

ITEM #6
Attachment A

From: [Noel, Dunia](#)
Cc: [LAFCO](#)
Subject: Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review
Date: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 5:08:42 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Table A.pdf](#)
[Table B & Corresponding Maps.pdf](#)

Dear Fire Chiefs, City Managers, County Executive, and Other Affected Service Providers:

As you know, LAFCO recently adopted its [Countywide Fire Service Review](#) which includes recommendations for fire and emergency medical response service providers to consider and potentially implement.

LAFCO is requesting that each of the identified agencies / organizations:

1. Provide a written response on how you plan to implement the recommendations presented in the Countywide Fire Service Review Report pertaining to your agency/organization and summarized in the attached Table A and Table B; and
2. Provide a timeframe for that implementation; or
3. Provide an explanation if your agency/organization does not plan to implement a recommendation.

Please provide your response to lafco@ceo.sccgov.org as soon as possible and no later than February 16, 2024. Your response will be provided to the Commission for their consideration at a future LAFCO meeting.

For your convenience we have prepared the following summary to help you quickly identify the recommendations (by number) that pertain to each agency. Please see the attached Tables A & B for the detailed recommendations.

AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS	REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS # IN:	
	Table A	Table B
Cities		
City of Campbell	2D, 3, 8, 8F, 12	
City of Cupertino	12	
City of Gilroy	2, 2C, 8, 8A, 20, 30, 30A	
City of Los Altos	8, 8J, 12	
Town of Los Altos Hills	12	
Town of Los Gatos	8, 8J, 12	
City of Milpitas	1, 8, 8C	1
City of Monte Sereno	12,	
City of Morgan Hill	1, 4, 8, 8C, 12, 20, 30, 30B	
City of Mountain View	8, 8D, 31	
City of Palo Alto	2, 2B, 8, 8E, 31	24, 25
City of San Jose	2, 2A, 8, 8F, 20	2, 3, 4, 5, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
City of Santa Clara	8, 8G, 31	
City of Saratoga	12	

City of Sunnyvale	1, 8, 8H, 20, 31	
Fire Districts		
Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD)	1, 8, 8I, 12	20, 21, 22, 23
Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD)	1, 12, 29	
Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD)	1, 2, 2D, 3, 8, 8J, 13, 20, 29, 31	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13
South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District (SCFD)	1, 5, 8, 8K, 12, 20, 30, 30C	5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
Other Providers		
County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)	5, 28, 32	6, 7, 15, 16, 20, 21
County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	15, 16, 17, 18	
CAL FIRE	30, 32	5, 9, 19
Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA)	19, 22	
Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association	6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 21	
Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council	23, 24, 25, 26, 27	
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD)		17, 18, 19, 20, 21

If you have any questions, please reach out to Dunia Noel at dunia.noel@ceo.sccgov.org.

Lastly, thank you for participating in LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review and for your consideration and timely response to this request.

Sincerely,

Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer

If you have an inquiry, we encourage you to contact us by email at LAFCO@ceo.sccgov.org.

Dunia Noel

Assistant Executive Officer, Santa Clara LAFCO

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TABLE A: COUNTYWIDE FIRE SERVICE REVIEW REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS & POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTORS

#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES OVERVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS			
1	<p>Emergency Response Performance Standard : Gilroy, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Santa Clara, and San Jose have adopted performance standards (goals) through their elected officials. Sunnyvale and CCFD (including SFD and LAHCFD) have published response time goal, however, their elected officials have not adopted the standard. Morgan Hill, Milpitas and SCFD have not adopted a response time standard. Organizations should adopt a performance goal and present those to the elected officials for adoption. The organizations should consider a baseline standard that defines the expectation of service for the community.</p>	Pages xiii, 25	Sunnyvale, CCFD (including SFD and LAHCFD), Morgan Hill, Milpitas and SCFD
2	<p>Unit Utilization Hours: San Jose, Palo Alto, Gilroy, and CCFD all have units with UHUs of over 10%. These agencies should add additional resources to effectively manage the call volume and improve response time performance.</p>	Pages xiii, 25	San Jose, Palo Alto, Gilroy, and CCFD
2A	<p>San Jose Units: 28 engines and medical units exceeding 10% UHU, of which four exceed 20% UHU. Specifically: E01 (17.4%), E02 & E302 (17.9%), E03 (19%), E04 (15.2%), E05 (14.8%), E06 (11.4%), E07 (13.3%), E08 (16.2%), E10 (13.5%), E12 (10.2%), E13 (13.4%), E14 (12.2%), E16 (15.1%), E17 & WT17 (13.1%), E18 & WT18 (20.6%), E19 & E619 (26.5%), E21 & WT21 (19.4%), E23 (10.9%), E24 & E624 (23.1%), E26 & RM26 (28.3%), E27 & E627 (19.8%), E30 (14.1%), RM30 (10.4%), E31 & E631 (14.3%), E34 (15.0%), USAR34 (14.2%), E335 & E35 (12.5%).</p>	Pages 302 - 303	San Jose
2B	<p>Palo Alto Units: E61 (10.7%), M61 (22.3%), M62 (18.5%), and M64 (19.1%).</p>	Page 261	Palo Alto
2C	<p>Gilroy Units: The Chestnut Station has two units cross-staffed with three personnel assigned to the station, and the crew has an UHU of 10.9%. The Station 47/Chestnut Station crew has an UHU of 10.9%, specifically Sta.47 Cross Staffed (2.1%) + E47 (8.8%).</p>	Page 123	Gilroy
2D	<p>CCFD Unit: E81 (10.3%). The City of Campbell needs additional resources to reduce the unit hour utilization rate for the crew at Station 81 to help meet the performance standards adopted for the community. This study did not evaluate whether the city needs an additional fire station or just an additional company at Station 81.</p>	Page 506, 508, 534	Campbell & CCFD

#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
3	<p>Call Volume: The City of Campbell, which contracts with CCFD, is experiencing an increase in service demand and the resources assigned are already exceeding capacity, including the automatic aid stations nearby. The call volume inside the City of Campbell accounts for approximately 20% of all CCFD emergency responses, however, the staffing level only represents 9.3% of the on duty staffing each day. CCFD staffing levels in the city are dependent on contract conditions. The City of Campbell will need additional resources to meet the performance standards adopted for the community.</p>	Page 534	Campbell & CCFD
4	<p>Morgan Hill: 3-13: The rise in expenditures is anticipated to outpace increases in General Fund revenues for Morgan Hill through FY 27, causing the city to operate at a deficit in its GF each year from FY 23 to FY 27. Additional measures will be required to increase revenues or reduce expenditures in future years. The city should review its ability to continue with the contract for services in future years and whether to prioritize fire service in its expenditures or find additional revenue to continue providing service at least at the current level.</p>	Page 199	Morgan Hill
5	<p>SCFD & County of Santa Clara: 12-14: The sustainability of funding the operations of SCFD is being challenged primarily due to the increased cost of the CAL FIRE agreement. Projections show SCFD will use up all available fund balance by early FY 25; if no further revenue sources can be identified by that time, SCFD's operations will be severely impacted and may need to be reduced or may not be able to continue.</p>	Page 595	SCFD & Santa Clara County (County Executive's Office or other Dept.)
6	<p>Boundary Drop Response: While SCFD, Morgan Hill, and Gilroy have entered into a boundary drop agreement to share resources, AP Triton recommends the fire agencies evaluate opportunities for a boundary drop response for critical incidents (where time significantly matters in the outcome) for the entire county. Note: To be more effective, this will require improved interoperability between CAD products for dispatch centers, including the existing agreement between SCFD, Morgan Hill, and Gilroy. This effort should be coordinated by the Santa Clara Fire Chiefs Association.</p>	Pages xiii, 25	Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association

#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
7	<p>Station Identifiers: All agencies have unique unit identifiers; however, only San Jose and CCFD have station numbers that match the unit assigned. Each agency should consider assigning station numbers (in addition to station names) that match the unit identifier assigned across the county to improve awareness of the home station of response units. This effort should be coordinated by the Santa Clara Fire Chiefs Association.</p>	Pages xiii, 25	Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association
FACILITY REPLACEMENT & MAINTENANCE PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS			
8	<p>Facility Replacement & Maintenance Planning: Establish a comprehensive facility replacement plan and a maintenance plan for fire stations. Please see specifics below.</p>		Gilroy, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, and LAHCFD,
8A	<p>Gilroy: With two of Gilroy Fire Department's three stations being over forty years old, there should be a facility replacement plan in place. (Chestnut - 51 years) and (Las Animas - 45 years). In reviewing the city's current capital improvement budget, there were no fire facilities identified.</p>	Pages 128-129, 133	Gilroy
8B	<p>Milpitas: With one of Milpitas' four stations over fifty years, there should be a facility replacement plan in place. (Station 3 - 54 years). The older Milpitas fire stations do not meet the requirements of modern firefighting. The City's current Capital Improvement Plan only identified project related to fire stations was a portable building replacement project at Station 1 that is housing the Office of Emergency Services.</p>	Pages 162-163, 168	Milpitas
8C	<p>Morgan Hill: The City of Morgan Hill is building a new station that is expected to open in 2024. AP Triton did not identify any other capital projects in the current budget documents. Ensuring the stations are in good repair also requires regular maintenance and scheduled replacement of specialized equipment. Plans for updating and repairing systems such as heating and air conditioning (HVAC), generators, roofs, driveways, parking areas, security gates, painting, carpet replacement, and small appliances can keep costs down and buildings in service longer. In addition, establishing a facility replacement and maintenance plan will enable the city to plan for ongoing service from each station more efficiently.</p>	Page 195	Morgan Hill

#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
8D	<p>Mountain View: Two (Station 3 - 61 years & Station 4 - 55 years) of five stations over 50 years old...The City of Mountain View Public Works Department is responsible for the planning and maintenance of all facilities. The Fire Chief stated that Fire Station 3 is on the schedule for a capital replacement, however per Public Works, it is an “unfunded capital replacement project.”...Fire Stations and the Fire Department’s Training Division/Center are critical infrastructures which should be components of capital improvement and replacement plan for the city.</p>	Pages 230, 235	Mountain View
8E	<p>Palo Alto: Five of seven station over 50 years in age and/or were identified as not meeting the needs of a modern fire station: (Station 1 - 57 years), (Station 2 - 57 years), (Station 4 - 69 years), (Station 5 - 55 years), (Station 6 - 50 years), and Station 8. The city’s current five-year Capital Improvement Plan only identifies Station 4 for replacement. It was not apparent if an additional plan was in place for the other older stations. Station 6 is owned and maintained by Stanford University. Palo Alto has worked to update its facilities, including seismic protection, however, Stations 1, 2, 5, and 8 are nearing end of life and should be included in a plan for replacement.</p>	Pages 270, 277	Palo Alto
8F	<p>San Jose: With 15 of San José Fire Department’s 35 stations being over fifty years old there should be a more robust facility replacement plan in place. (Station 5 - 63 years), (Station 6 - 60 years), (Station 7 - 86 years), (Station 8 - 73 years), (Station 9 - 60 years), (Station 10 - 62 years), (Station 13 - 54 years), (Station 14- 60 years), (Station 15 - 60 years), (Station 16 - 62 years), (Station 18 - 59 years), (Station 22 - 57 years), (Station 23 - 56 years), (Station 26 - 74 years), (Station 30 - 67 years). Additionally, eighteen of the fire stations have no known seismic protection. The Fire Department’s current Capital Improvement Plan has identified only two remodel projects.</p>	Pages 340, 344, 351	San Jose
8G	<p>Santa Clara: With five of Santa Clara Fire Department’s nine stations being over forty years old, there should be a facility replacement plan in place. (Station 1 - 57 years), (Station 5 - 61 years), (Station 7 - 51 years), (Station 8 - 47 years), (Station 9 - 40 years). The Fire Department’s Capital Improvement Plan has identified a major gap in not having a funding source for major infrastructure needs for stations 1, 5, 7, and 9.</p>	Pages 384-385, 389	Santa Clara

#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
8H	<p>Sunnyvale: With five of Sunnyvale's six stations being over fifty years old, there should be a facility replacement plan in place. (Station 1 - 62 years), (Station 2 - 62 years), (Station 3- 62 years), (Station 4 - 62 years), (Station 6 - 62 years). Sunnyvale's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) states the following: "The advancement of fire service standards and continued population growth of the city establishes the recognition for the need to begin replacing or expanding older, smaller fire stations built in the 1960s. The current facilities are becoming functionally inadequate and driving the need for a master plan. The master plan's recommendations will be utilized to develop a project plan which will be brought forward for consideration during the next CIP budget cycle." At this time, there appears to be funding identified to replace Station 2 but there are only remodels listed for the remaining stations.</p>	Pages 419-420, 424	Sunnyvale
8I	<p>LAHCFD: A facility replacement plan should be established for the Station 74 (El Monte) Fire Station. While it is only 26 years old, it has been rated in fair condition and does not meet the needs of a modern fire stations. It does, however, have seismic protection.</p>	Pages 447, 450	LAHCFD
8J	<p>CCFD, Los Altos, Campbell, Los Gatos: The majority of CCFD's fire stations are older and do not meet the requirements of moder firefighting. With seven of CCFD's stations over fifty years old, a facility replacement plan should be in place. [Station 75 (City of Los Altos) - 54 years], [Station 78 (CCFD) - 74 years], [Station 79 (CCFD) - 57 years], [Station 80 (City of Campbell) - 53 years], [Station 82 (City of Los Gatos - 62 years)], [Station 83 (City of Los Gatos) - 58 years], [Station 85 (CCFD) - 57 years]]. In reviewing the current Capital Improvement Plan, CCFD has identified that most facilities need some sort of update, repair, or replacement. CCFD established a capital fund in 2020 that will assist in funding the necessary improvements. Also, some facilities are not owned by the district and rely on each city or district to maintain or replace them. Most stations need a remodel to create gender separation in both sleeping areas and restrooms/shower areas.</p>	Pages 527-528, 535	CCFD, Los Altos, Campbell, and Los Gatos

#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
8K	<p>SCFD: The majority of fire stations, including SCFD's, are older and do not meet the requirements of modern firefighting. With two of the four stations serving SCFD being over 50 years old, there should be a facility replacement plan in place. [Headquarters (Shared with CAL FIRE) - 69 years]], and [Masten (owned by SCFD) - 57 years]]. The difficulty for SCFD is the mix of state-owned and local government-owned facilities and some with shared staffing. Getting the right funding at the right time for a multiagency building project is challenging. We did not identify any existing capital projects in the current SCFD budget documents.</p>	Pages 590-591, 595	SCFD
FIRE PREVENTION & PUBLIC EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS			
9	<p>Coordinate Consistency in Fire Codes: The Santa Clara County Fire Marshals Association should continue to work toward consistency in its fire codes through coordination or reduction of amendments. Amendments to vegetation management and fire sprinkler requirements should receive special attention as inconsistencies have the greatest impact on residents and the development community.</p>	Pages xiii, 25, 43	Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association
10	<p>Report on Status of Fire Inspections: Each jurisdiction should annually report the status of mandated inspections to its governing body in accordance with state law (California Health & Safety Code 13146.4). This will allow the governing body to assess and make decisions regarding resources and corrective action. A similar report should be submitted to the State Fire Marshal per the 2020 letter of request from the State Fire Marshal.</p>	Pages xiv, 37, 44	Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association
11	<p>Provide Information on Plan Review and Construction Requirements: The Santa Clara County Fire Marshals Association should consider creating processes like the one used for hazardous materials for plan reviews and construction inspections. Unidocs is an excellent way to clearly convey who is responsible, where to go, and what is required for service. Updates on requirements and/or turnarounds times, and other relevant information can be kept current on this living, web-based document.</p>	Pages xiv, 44	Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association

#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
12	<p>Service Provider Transparency for Cities and Districts with Fire Prevention Services provided by other agencies: Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Los Altos, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Campbell, SFD, LAHCFD, SCFD should all provide an explanation and links on their websites to connect community members with the agency providing fire prevention services. Those providing the service should consider adding guidelines and checklists used by staff to assist customers.</p>	Pages xiv, 38, 44	Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Campbell, SFD, LAHCFD, and SCFD
13	<p>Provide Access to Incident Data: CCFD and CAL FIRE should provide access to the incident database for every fire agency in Santa Clara County. The Fire Investigation Task Force is a best practice, and the data collected can be used to identify the fire problem countywide. The data quality must be high enough to determine what caused the fire (ignition source and material first ignited), where it occurred (fire origin in specific occupancy type, as well as geographic location), who caused it, if applicable (age, sex, etc.), and why it occurred (the action that brought the ignition source and material first ignited together). A shared database/geocoded map would facilitate the creation of programs that target specific populations and occupancies in areas at risk.</p>	Pages xiv, 40, 44	CCFD and CAL FIRE
14	<p>Coordinate Public Education re. Community Risk Reduction: Public education regarding community risk reduction is sparse and distinct among the agencies. Many rely on their websites to provide information and links. Creating a set of coordinated materials, programs, and messages, based on the identified fire (and EMS) problem(s), would go a long way in providing a clear, consistent message to targeted occupancies and populations throughout the county. A Public Education Task Force, working with local CERT and Red Cross groups, would be a best practice in efficiency as well as maximize the potential for behavior change in impacted populations. The Santa Clara County Fire Marshals Association should coordinate this recommendation with all the fire agencies in the County.</p>	Pages xv, 44	Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS			
15	<p>Emergency Operations Plan Updates: The County Office of Emergency Management should develop a schedule for regular updates of the Emergency Operations Plan.</p>	Pages xv, 49	County Office of Emergency Management
16	<p>Emergency Management Outreach: The County Office of Emergency Management should build community resiliency to disasters through regular outreach and scheduled drills.</p>	Pages xv, 49	County Office of Emergency Management

#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
17	Fire Safe Council Representation: The County Office of Emergency Management should consider adding a representative from the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council as a partner in plan updates and revisions.	Pages xv, 49	County Office of Emergency Management
18	Reference Community Wildfire Protection Plan: The County Office of Emergency Management should include references to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in the wildfire threat summary portion of the Santa Clara County Emergency Operations Plan to help ensure coordination.	Pages xv, 49	County Office of Emergency Management
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS			
19	CAD-to-CAD Interoperability: Establish a CAD-to-CAD connection between dispatch centers to enhance interoperability. This connection would enable the transfer of information and real-time monitoring of neighboring agency resource status. It would streamline the process of requesting resources from neighboring centers and facilitate the determination of available resources outside the center for specific incidents. Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA) should provide the coordination with all the Fire Dispatch Centers to meet this recommendation.	Pages xv, 57	Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA) to coordinate with the fire agencies and dispatch centers.
20	AVL Dispatch of Resources: Gilroy, Morgan Hill, San Jose, Sunnyvale, CCFD, and SCFD are not currently utilizing Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology to dispatch the closest available resource for emergencies. By integrating AVL into the CAD system through GIS mapping, the system can identify and dispatch the nearest unit to the incident. AVL Dispatch can help improve overall response times, potentially making a significant difference in critical calls. Each of these agencies should implement AVL dispatch in their dispatch center.	Pages xvi, 57	Gilroy, Morgan Hill, San Jose, Sunnyvale, CCFD, and SCFD
21	Data Quality and Access: The Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs should coordinate data standardization among the fire agencies, promote a single CAD system for the County with access for each agency to review their data sets, and all agencies should review the quality of inputs by their personnel.	Page xvi	Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association

#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
22	<p>Communications Feasibility Study: Due to their existing Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the service providers, Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA) should commission a comprehensive feasibility study to address weaknesses in the overall emergency communications system in the county. The study should focus on reducing the number of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), establishing a common Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) platform for fire and EMS agencies, and evaluating the benefits and challenges of combining fire and EMS dispatch centers, at least virtually. This study will provide valuable insights to improve services for individual agencies and the entire county. SVRIA's mission aligns with the goal of this proposed study, and it can facilitate collaboration and support for implementing improvements.</p>	Pages xvi, 58	Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA)
WUI HAZARD MITIGATION IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS			
23	<p>Coordinate Community Wildfire Protection Plan Updates: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should coordinate CWPP updates with particular emphasis on ensuring all communities within Santa Clara County are participating (Milpitas does not have an Annex).</p>	Pages xvi, 74	Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
24	<p>Multi Party Fuel Mitigation, monitoring and outreach : Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should concentrate on multi-party mitigation, monitoring, and outreach in the CWPP update. Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should consider combining mitigation strategies from city Annexes into a single list that can be used to locate fuel breaks and fuel modifications to protect multiple jurisdictions, recognizing efficiencies of scale. The list should be prioritized to fund the most significant risks to the County first. The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should also develop public messages and online tools for all fire agencies to echo and make available to residents. Grants are available to fund projects. Implementation of projects should involve staff of impacted fire agencies, cities, and County OES, as well as hired contractors. Napa, Marin, and San Diego counties have already implemented this best practice and can serve as examples.</p>	Pages xvi, 74	Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
25	<p>Annual Updates of the CWPP: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should conduct annual CWPP and fire agency updates regarding project planning, implementation, and maintenance.</p>	Pages xvii, 74	Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council

#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
26	Annual CWPP Project Coordination Meetings: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should conduct annual project coordination meetings between fire agencies, land management agencies, local non-profits, and the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council to evaluate project priorities and review project accomplishments.	Pages xvii, 74	Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
27	Maintain CWPP Project Database: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should maintain an extensive project database available to the community.	Pages xvii, 74	Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
28	Funding Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council: The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council is actively working at a countywide level to improve mitigation efforts. While the Fire Safe Council has access to some grant funding, the Fire Safe Council needs sustainable funding to provide consistent long-term service. AP Triton recommends Santa Clara County provide some level of consistent funding each year to the Fire Safe Council. In addition, funding for projects within a fire agency's jurisdiction should be budgeted by the fire agency in accordance with CWPP timeframes.	Pages xvii, 74	Santa Clara County (County Executive's Office or other Dept.)
GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE ALTERNATIVES RECOMMENDATIONS			
29	SFD: 11-16: There are potential alternatives with regards to SFD's governance and administration, where duplicated efforts could be minimized, as identified in LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review in 2010 and in Section III: Governance Structure Alternatives of this report. The review affirms that there are redundancies in SFD's current service structure that could be more efficient with just one fire district serving the area. It is recommended that SFD's receptiveness to reorganization to enhance services efficiencies be assessed.	Page xviii, Page 562	SFD and CCFD

#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
30	<p>Gilroy, Morgan Hill and SCFD: Exploring options for alternative service structures, such as joint powers authorities combining operations of two or more neighboring agencies, could potentially bring efficiencies and value-added services to Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SCFD. While CAL FIRE provides contractual service of a large-scale fire agency to Morgan Hill and SCFD, creating a larger local entity consisting of Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SCFD with a unified structure could offer benefits such as increased accountability, improved efficiency, and enhanced effectiveness in delivering fire services to the community. While reorganization, consolidation, and other shared service structures will likely have efficiencies from which agencies can benefit, if they are facing service-related constraints, these structure alternatives do not provide a singular solution to all constraints to services and must be combined with other strategies. It is recommended that SCFD and the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, in coordination with CAL FIRE, outlining the agencies' commitment to providing long-term cooperative fire services and establishing a joint strategic planning team to assess potential cooperative service elements for implementation.</p>	Page xviii , Page 135, Page 201	Gilroy, Morgan Hill, SCFD, and CALFIRE
30A	<p>Gilroy: Considering the staffing and facility constraints specific to the City of Gilroy, collaborating with the City of Morgan Hill and SCFD to establish a larger entity may hold particular value.</p>	Page 135	Gilroy
30B	<p>Morgan Hill: While Morgan Hills' services are satisfactory and appear to be sustainable, there are facility capacity constraints and regionalization could offer opportunities to pool resources, share expertise, and optimize operations, leading to improved service delivery.</p>	Page 201	Morgan Hill
30C	<p>SCFD: SCFD has the economies of scale through its contract with CAL FIRE that allow for greater efficiency and effectiveness. However, due to financing constraints, and the need to either enhance revenues or reduce service costs, there may be further opportunities for regionalization between Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SCFD to form a larger local entity.</p>	Page 597	SCFD

#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
31	<p><u>Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and CCFD:</u> Exploring options for alternative structures, such as joint powers authorities combining two or more neighboring agencies (Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and CCFD), could potentially bring efficiencies and value-added services to Mountain View and other smaller fire service providers in Santa Clara County. Creating a larger entity with a unified structure can offer benefits such as increased accountability, improved efficiency, and enhanced effectiveness in delivering fire services to the community. While Mountain View’s services are satisfactory and appear to be sustainable, there could be opportunities to pool resources, share expertise, and optimize operations, leading to improved service delivery.</p>	<p>Page 237 (Mountain View); Page 279 (Palo Alto); Page 391 (Santa Clara); Page 426 (Sunnyvale); and Page 537 (CCFD)</p>	<p>Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and CCFD</p>
32	<p>Six counties in California have opted to provide contract services to the State to fill CAL FIRE’s obligations with their counties. Given the changes to fire service that have occurred over the last two decades, reassessing the possibility of Santa Clara County transitioning to a “contract county” may be warranted. Inclusion of Alameda County and Contra Costa County in the restructuring, should their fire agencies express interest, would create a more cohesive fire service structure in the Bay Area and likely enhance bargaining power with the State. A challenge may be CAL FIRE’s long-term established presence in the County and existing infrastructure that is in place.</p>	<p>Pages xix, 94</p>	<p>Santa Clara County (County Executive’s Office or other Dept.) and CALFIRE</p>

TABLE B: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING AREAS OUTSIDE OF AN IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDER & CORRESPONDING MAPS

#	Area	Sq. Miles	Land Use	Location to Essential Borders	Current Initial Responder	Nearest Station	Necessity/Fire Hazard	Wildland Urban Interface	Options	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Implementor(s)
1	1, 2, 3	6.26	Hillside, large lot residential, regional park	Within Milpitas SOI, outside Milpitas USA, adjacent to CCFD boundaries	City of Milpitas/ Spring Valley Volunteer Fire Department	Milpitas Station 2, Spring Valley VFD Station	Mostly SRA, some LRA. Large lot residences and few other structures.	Yes	1. Annexation by CCFD (requires SOI expansion) and contract with Milpitas	Annexation by CCFD with SOI expansion and contract with Milpitas.	Pages 82-82, 86, 90, 538	CCFD and Milpitas
2	4	3.1	Hillside with residences on 1+acre.	Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to CCFD boundaries and San José city limit	San José FD	San José Station 19	SRA—Hillside development with ~30 residences and equine facilities.	Yes	1. Annexation by CCFD (requires SOI expansion)	Annexation by CCFD with SOI expansion and contract with San José.	Pages 82-83, 86, 90, 538	CCFD and San Jose
3	5	0.33	Hillside with ranch and 1 residence	Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to CCFD boundaries	San José FD/CAL FIRE	San José Station 2, CAL FIRE Station 12	SRA—One residence	Yes	1. Annexation by CCFD (requires SOI expansion) 2. Continued service by CAL FIRE	Annexation by CCFD with SOI expansion and contract with San José.	Pages 82-32, 86, 90, 538	CCFD and San Jose
4	6	0.27	Agricultural with orchard, Hillside with residences	Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to CCFD boundaries	San José FD/CAL FIRE	San José Station 21, CAL FIRE Station 12	SRA—3 residences	Yes	1. Annexation by CCFD (requires SOI expansion) 2. Continued service by CAL FIRE	Annexation by CCFD with SOI expansion and contract with San José.	Pages 82-83, 86, 90, 538	CCFD and San Jose
5	7	38.9	Agricultural ranchlands and Hillside, United Technologies Corp.	Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to CCFD and SCFD boundaries and San José city limit	San José FD/CAL FIRE and contracts	San José Station 11, CAL FIRE Station 12	SRA—few structures	Yes	1. Annexation by SCFD (requires SOI expansion) 2. Annexation by CCFD (requires SOI expansion)	Annexation by CCFD of the northern half and annexation by SCFD of southern half with SOI expansions and contract service by San José or CAL FIRE.	Pages 82-83, 86, 90, 538, 598	CCFD, SCFD, San Jose, and CAL FIRE
6	8	284.4	Agricultural ranchlands	Outside city SOIs and USAs, adjacent to San José City boundaries, outside FPD SOIs, adjacent to CCFD boundaries and SCFD SOI	CAL FIRE (only during fire season)	CAL FIRE Stations 12 and 25 in area	Entirely SRA, few to no structures, recreation related service calls	Yes	1. Extend CAL FIRE staffing year round through Amador Contract. 2. Status quo—CAL FIRE service during wildfire season only.	Extend CAL FIRE staffing year round, with possible Amador Contract through off season contingent on funding mechanism.	Pages 82-83, 86, 90	County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.) and CAL FIRE
7	9	0.2	Hillside, Rosendin County Park	Inside Morgan Hill SOI, outside USA, inside SCFD SOI, adjacent to Morgan Hill city limits, adjacent to SCFD	Morgan Hill FD	Morgan Hill Station 58 (Dunne Hill)	SRA, no structures, State park	Yes	1. Annexation into SCFD	Annexation into SCFD as area is already located within its SOI. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks.	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91	SCFD and County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)
8	10	138.5	Agricultural Ranchlands/ Henry W. Coe State Park	Outside SCFD boundaries, inside SOI	CAL FIRE	CAL FIRE Station 21 and 31	Entirely SRA, few to no structures	Yes	1. Annexation into SCFD	Annexation into SCFD.	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91	SCFD
9	11	37.6	Agricultural ranchlands	Outside SCFD boundaries and SOI	CAL FIRE	CAL FIRE Station 31	Entirely SRA, few to no structures	Yes	1. Annexation by SCFD (SOI expansion needed) 2. Continued service by CAL FIRE	Annexation by SCFD (SOI expansion needed) including entirety of highway, with contract services provided by CAL FIRE.	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 598-599	SCFD and CAL FIRE
10	12	0.08	Ranchlands, no structures (1 parcel)	Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to San José city limits and SCFD boundaries	Unknown	Casa Loma VFA Station	SRA, no structures	Yes	1. Annexation by SCFD (requires SOI expansion)	Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion with contract for services if necessary.	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 598-599	SCFD
11	13	0.24	Hillside, about 8 residential structures with some ag (10 parcels)	Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to San José city limits and SCFD boundaries	Unknown	Casa Loma VFA Station	SRA	Yes	1. Annexation by SCFD (requires SOI expansion)	Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion with contract for services if necessary.	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 598-599	SCFD
12	14	0.28	Hillside with ag, some residential structures (2 parcels)	Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to San José city limits and SCFD boundaries	Unknown	Casa Loma VFA Station	SRA	Yes	1. Annexation by SCFD (requires SOI expansion)	Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion with contract for services if necessary.	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 598-599	SCFD
13	15	0.26	Hillside, agricultural no structures (1 parcel)	Inside San José SOI, adjacent to San José city limits and CCFD boundaries	San José FD	San José Station 28, CAL FIRE Station 22	SRA, no structures	Yes	1. Annexation by CCFD (requires SOI expansion) and contract with San José for services	Annexation by CCFD with SOI expansion and contract service by San José for consistency of response with all territory in the region regardless of city SOI.	Pages 82-83, 87, 90, 539	CCFD and San Jose

#	Area	Sq. Miles	Land Use	Location to Essential Borders	Current Initial Responder	Nearest Station	Necessity/Fire Hazard	Wildland Urban Interface	Options	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Implementor(s)
14	16	0.23	Hillside with residence and agricultural activities (1 parcel)	Surrounded by CCFD boundaries, inside San José SOI, outside San José USA	San José FD	San José Station 28, CAL FIRE Station 22	SRA, few structures	Yes	1. Annexation by CCFD (requires SOI expansion) and contract with San José for services	Annexation by CCFD with SOI expansion and contract service by San José for consistency of response with all territory in the region regardless of city SOI.	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 539	SCFD and San Jose
15	17	6.73	Calero Reservoir County Park, and Hillside with ~10 residences	Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to SCFD boundaries and San José city limits	Likely San José FD	San José Station 28, CAL FIRE Station 22, Casa Loma VFA Station	SRA, few structures, regional park	Yes	1. Annexation by SCFD (requires SOI expansion) 2. Annexation by CCFD (requires SOI expansion and overlap with San José SOI) and contract with San José for services	Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion and contract service by San José for consistency of response with all territory in the region regardless of city SOI. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks.	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 598-599	SCFD, San Jose, and County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)
16	18	9.2	Hillside with ~11 Residences, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve	Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to SCFD boundaries, and San José city limits	Likely San José FD	San José Stations 22 and 28, CAL FIRE Station 22	SRA, few structures, regional park	Yes	1. Annexation by SCFD (requires SOI expansion) 2. Annexation by CCFD (requires SOI expansion and overlap with San José SOI) and contract with San José for services	Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion and contract service by San José for consistency of response with all territory in the region regardless of city SOI. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks.	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 598-599	SCFD, San Jose, and County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)
17	19	0.17	Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve	Outside of Los Gatos and San José SOI, outside USA of Los Gatos and San José	Likely San José FD	San José Station 22, CCFD Station 82, CAL FIRE Station 22	SRA, no structures, open space	Yes	1. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District ensure structure in place with provider for fire suppression of fires on district properties until CAL FIRE is on scene. 2. Annexation by SCFD (requires SOI expansion) 3. Annexation by CCFD (requires SOI expansion and overlap with San José SOI) and contract with San José for services	Midpen ensure structure in place with provider for fire suppression of fires on district properties until CAL FIRE is on scene. Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion and contract service by San José for consistency of response with all territory in the region regardless of city SOI. Identify funding structure for emergency services in recreational areas.	Pages 82-83, 87, 92-93, 598-599	MROSD, SCFD, and San Jose
18	20	1.05	Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve	Inside Los Gatos SOI, Outside Los Gatos USA, adjacent to CCFD and SCFD	Likely San José FD	San José Station 22, CCFD Station 82, CAL FIRE Station 22	SRA, no structures, open space	Yes	1. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District ensure structure in place with provider for fire suppression of fires on district properties until CAL FIRE is on scene. 2. Annexation by SCFD (requires SOI expansion) and contract with San José for services 3. Annexation by CCFD (requires SOI expansion) and contract with San José for services	Midpen ensure structure in place with provider for fire suppression of fires on district properties until CAL FIRE is on scene. Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion and contract services by San José FD for consistency of response with all territory. Identify funding structure for emergency services in recreational areas.	Pages 82-83, 87, 92-93, 598-599	MROSD, SCFD, San Jose

#	Area	Sq. Miles	Land Use	Location to Essential Borders	Current Initial Responder	Nearest Station	Necessity/Fire Hazard	Wildland Urban Interface	Options	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Implementor(s)
19	21	0.41	Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, Hillside, and private residences	Inside Palo Alto SOI, outside Palo Alto USA, adjacent to Palo Alto city limits	CAL FIRE San Mateo/Santa Cruz Cal Fire Units (CZU)	CAL FIRE Saratoga Summit and Skylonda Stations, Palo Alto Station 68	Mostly LRA - 65 acres private ownership, including residences, 163 acres Midpen ownership, and 12 acres public right-of-way. 14 acres of SRA.	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District ensure structure in place for fire suppression of fires on district properties. 2. Annexation into Palo Alto outside USA to protect open space and/or ag. 3. Responsible agency contract with or enter into a mutual aid agreement with CAL FIRE CZU to have CAL FIRE CZU be the responding agency for fire and emergency medical response. 4. Consider formal inclusion in the SRA. 	Midpen ensure structure in place with appropriate provider, for fire suppression of fires on district properties. City of Palo Alto FD is nearest local fire provider; however, CAL FIRE has the nearest stations that are operated year-round. Structure be put in place to enable contract or mutual aid agreement with CAL FIRE CZU.	Pages 82-83, 88, 92-93	MROSD and CAL FIRE
20	22	3.07	Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve, private non-profit Hidden Villa, Hillside	Inside Los Altos Hills SOI, Outside LAHCFD SOI, outside CCFD SOI, adjacent to Palo Alto city limits and CCFD boundaries, outside Los Altos Hills USA	LAHCFD/ CCFD	CCFD Stations 74	SRA, no structures, regional park	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annexation by LAHCFD (requires SOI expansion) 2. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District ensure structure in place with LAHCFD/CCFD for fire suppression of fires on district properties until CAL FIRE is on scene. 3. Status quo 	Annexation by LAHCFD with SOI expansion. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks and open space.	Pages 82-83, 88, 92-93, 453	LAHCFD, MROSD, and County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)
21	23	0.31	Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve, Hillside	Inside Los Altos Hills SOI, inside LAHCFD SOI, adjacent to Los Altos Hills city limits, outside Los Altos Hills USA	LAHCFD/ CCFD	CCFD Stations 74, 77, 76	SRA, no structures, regional park	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annexation by LAHCFD 2. Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District ensure structure in place with LAHCFD/CCFD for fire suppression of fires on district properties until CAL FIRE is on scene. 3. Status quo 	Annexation by LAHCFD. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks and open space.	Pages 82-83, 88, 92-93	LAHCFD, MROSD, and County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)
22	24	0.33	Private nonprofit - Hidden Villa	Inside Los Altos Hills SOI, inside LAHCFD SOI, adjacent to Los Altos Hills and Palo Alto city limits, outside Los Altos Hills USA	LAHCFD/ CCFD	CCFD Stations 76, 77, 74	SRA, structures	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annexation by LAHCFD 2. Status quo 	Annexation by LAHCFD.	Page 82-83, 88, 90-91	LAHCFD
23	25	0.05	Roadway—Interstate 280	Inside City of Palo Alto SOI, adjacent to City of Los Altos Hills city limits, adjacent to Los Alto Hills FPD boundaries, outside of Los Altos Hills FPD SOI, outside Los Altos Hills USA	LAHCFD/CCFD	CCFD Station 74, 76, 75, 77	Interstate with demand for emergency services	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annexation by LAHCFD (requires SOI expansion) 2. Status quo 	Annexation by LAHCFD with SOI expansion for logical service boundaries along the interstate.	Page 82-83, 88, 90-91, 453	LAHCFD

#	Area	Sq. Miles	Land Use	Location to Essential Borders	Current Initial Responder	Nearest Station	Necessity/Fire Hazard	Wildland Urban Interface	Options	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Implementor(s)
24	26	0.01	Lucille M. Nixon Elementary School	Inside Palo Alto SOI, inside Palo Alto USA	City of Palo Alto FD	Palo Alto Station 2 and 6	Elementary school with demand for fire protection and emergency services	No	1. Palo Alto FD develop contract for services with school district. 2. Status quo.	PAUSD contract with City of Palo Alto FD for services at school.	Pages xviii, 82-83, 89, 92	City of Palo Alto
25	27	0.01	Escondido Elementary School	Inside Palo Alto SOI, adjacent to Palo Alto city limits, inside Palo Alto USA	City of Palo Alto FD	Palo Alto Station 2 and 6	Elementary school with demand for fire protection and emergency services	No	1. Palo Alto FD develop contract for services with school district. 2. Annexation into City of Palo Alto. 3. Status quo.	PAUSD contract with City of Palo Alto FD for services at school.	Pages xviii, 82-83, 89, 92	City of Palo Alto

Figure 17: Map of Areas Outside of an Identified Local Fire Service Provider

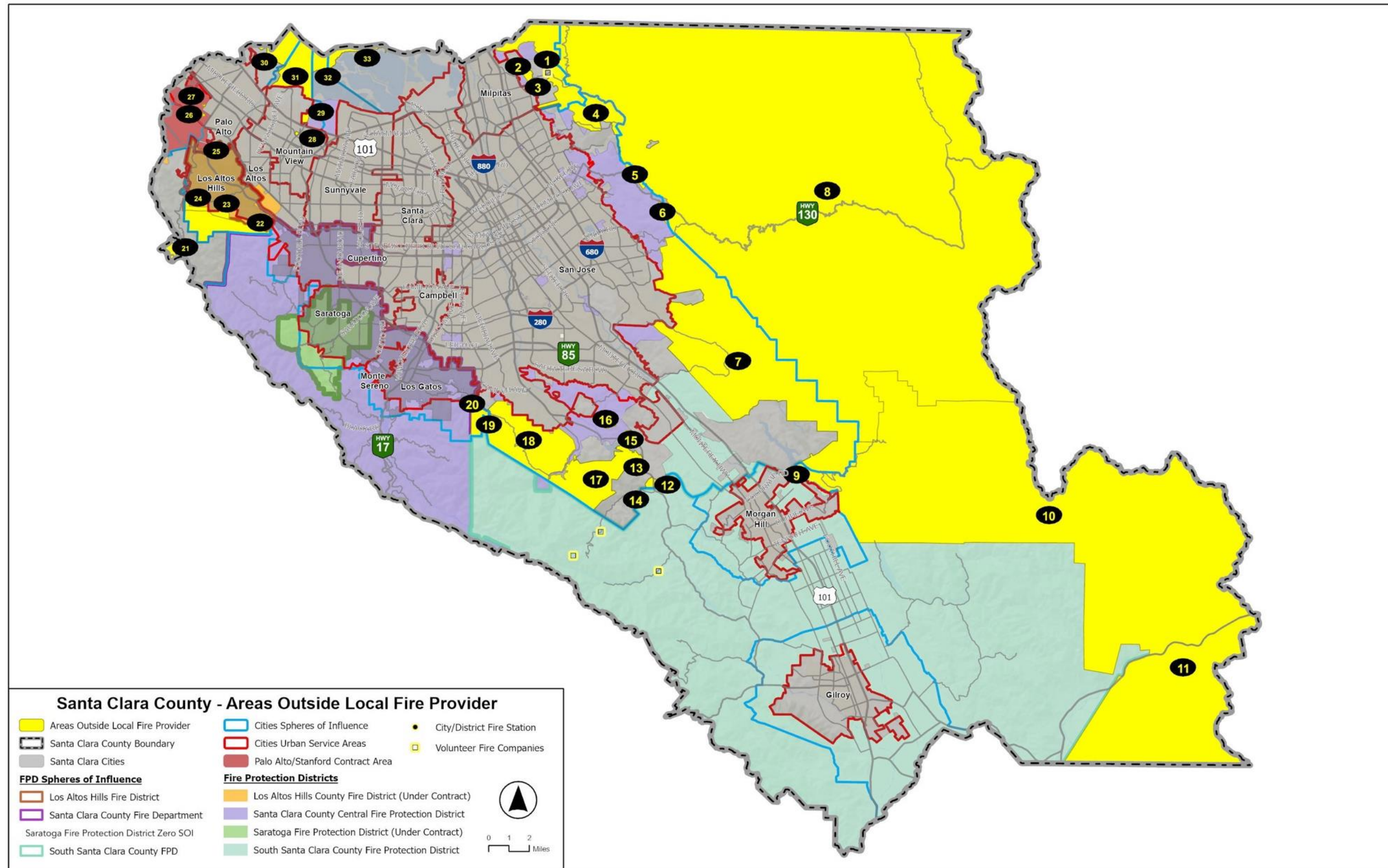
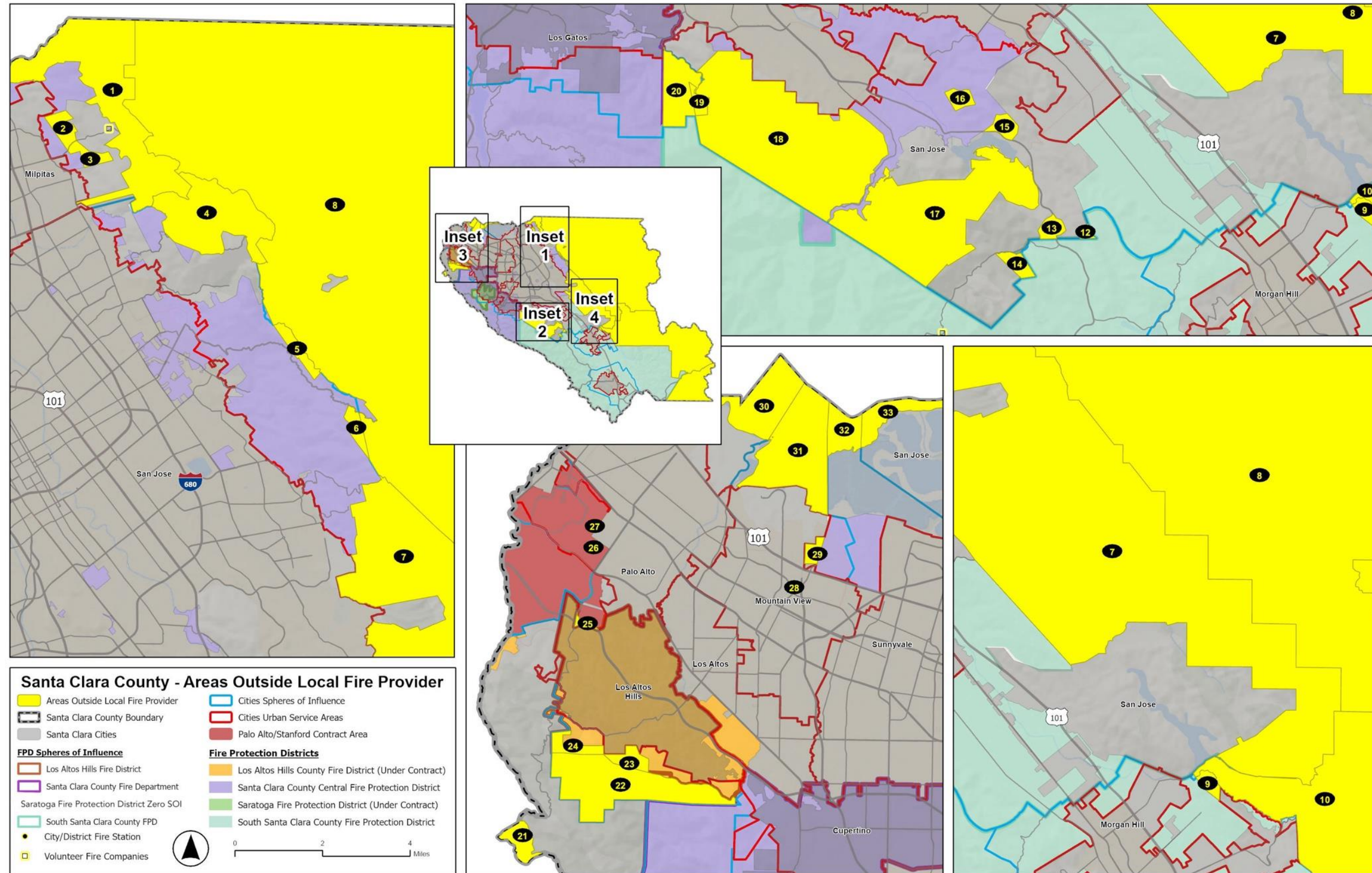
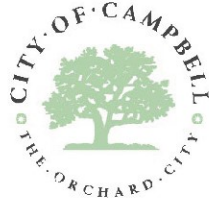


Figure 18: Map of Areas Outside of an Identified Local Fire Service Provider (cont.)





ITEM #6
Attachment B

CITY of CAMPBELL

February 29, 2024

Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County (LAFCO)
777 North First St., Ste. 410
San Jose, CA 95112

**RE: Response to the Santa Clara LAFCO Countywide Fire Service Review Report
Recommendations & Potential Implementors Dated December 2023**

Dear Santa Clara LAFCO Commissioners and LAFCO staff:

The City of Campbell ("City") thanks the Santa Clara LAFCO for its work on the Countywide Fire Service Review Report Recommendations & Potential Implementors. Attached, please find the City's response to Recommendations 2D, 3, 8, 8J, and 12 contained in the report.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at CMOffice@Campbellca.gov or at (408) 866-2125.

Sincerely,

Brian Loventhal

Brian Loventhal
City Manager

Attachment: City of Campbell Response to the Santa Clara LAFCO Countywide Fire Service Review Report Recommendations & Potential Implementors

City of Campbell Response to the Santa Clara LAFCO Countywide Fire Service Review Report Recommendations & Potential Implementors

Recommendation 2D

The City of Campbell needs additional resources to reduce the unit hour utilization rate for the crew at Station 81 to help meet the performance standards adopted for the community. This study did not evaluate whether the city needs an additional fire station or just an additional company at Station 81.

Response: The City will review its current contract conditions with Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD) and determine what, if any, contract amendments shall be needed to address the needs of the community during the contract's negotiation stages.

Meeting the needs of its community is a priority for the City. As such, the City periodically reviews the existing service agreement with CCFD, reviews the service demands of the City, and reviews the best practices and service demands in other similar cities to determine what, if any, additional support is needed. Any additional support requires the allocation of financial resources that have to be carefully considered along with service demands.

Recommendation 3

The City of Campbell, which contracts with CCFD, is experiencing an increase in service demand and the resources assigned are already exceeding capacity, including the automatic aid stations nearby. The call volume inside the City of Campbell accounts for approximately 20% of all CCFD emergency responses, however, the staffing level only represents 9.3% of the on duty staffing each day. CCFD staffing levels in the city are dependent on contract conditions. The City of Campbell will need additional resources to meet the performance standards adopted for the community.

Response: The City will review its current contract conditions with CCFD and determine what, if any, contract amendments shall be needed to address the needs of the community during the contract's negotiation stages.

Meeting the needs of its community is a priority for the City. As such, the City periodically reviews the existing service agreement with CCFD, reviews the service demands of the City, and reviews the best practices and service demands in other similar cities to determine what, if any, additional support is needed. Any additional support requires the allocation of financial resources that have to be carefully considered along with service demands.

Recommendation 8

Establish a comprehensive facility replacement plan and a maintenance plan for fire stations. Please see specifics below.

Response: The City will review its current fire station conditions and determine what steps to take next. A comprehensive facility replacement plan and maintenance plan will be assessed in the future.

Maintaining the fire station facilities is a priority for the City. As such, the City periodically reviews the condition of the Campbell Fire Station and the Sunnyoaks Fire Station. A facility replacement requires the allocation of financial resources that have to be carefully considered along with service demands.

**City of Campbell Response to the Santa Clara LAFCO Countywide Fire Service Review Report
Recommendations & Potential Implementors**

Recommendation 8J

The majority of the CCFD's fire stations are older and do not meet the requirements of modern firefighting. With seven of CCFD's stations over fifty years old, a facility replacement plan should be in place. [Station 75 (City of Los Altos) - 54 years), [Station 78 (CCFD) - 74 years)], [Station 79 (CCFD) - 57 years)], [Station 80 (City of Campbell) - 53 years)], [Station 82 (City of Los Gatos - 62 years)], [Station 83 (City of Los Gatos) - 58 years)], [Station 85 (CCFD) - 57 years)]. In reviewing the current Capital Improvement Plan, CCFD has identified that most facilities need some sort of update, repair, or replacement. CCFD established a capital fund in 2020 that will assist in funding the necessary improvements. Also, some facilities are not owned by the district and rely on each city or district to maintain or replace them. Most stations need a remodel to create gender separation in both sleeping areas and restrooms/shower areas.

Response: The City will review its current fire station conditions and determine what steps to take next. A comprehensive facility replacement plan and maintenance plan will be assessed in the future.

Maintaining the fire station facilities is a priority for the City. As such, the City periodically reviews the condition of the Campbell Fire Station and the Sunnyoaks Fire Station. A facility replacement requires the allocation of financial resources that have to be carefully considered along with service demands.

Recommendation 12

Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Los Altos, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Campbell, SFD, LAHCFD, SCFD, should all provide an explanation and links on their websites to connect community members with the agency providing fire prevention services. Those providing the service should consider adding guidelines and checklists used by staff to assist customers.

Response: The City will review its current website content and determine what, if any, updates are needed. Content that is needed will be added to the City's website.

Maintaining the community informed on fire prevention services is a priority for the City. As such, the City provides information on the fire stations located in Campbell and links resources to the Santa Clara County Fire Department.

From: [Tom Chin](#)
To: [Noel, Dunia](#)
Cc: [Pamela Wu](#); [Matt Morley](#); [Tina Kapoor](#); [Debra Nascimento](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fw: Follow-Up re. Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review
Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2024 2:17:11 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-n1uuoud3.png](#)
[Outlook-f31i2ui2.png](#)

Good afternoon, Dunia,

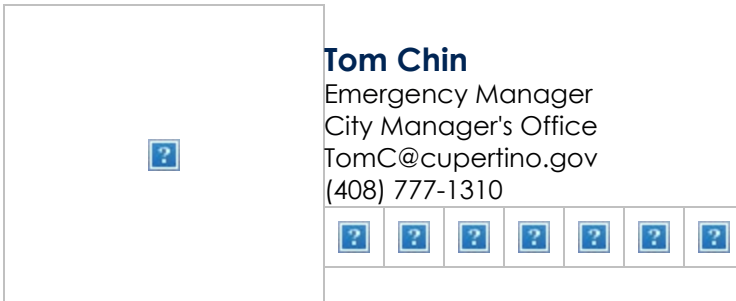
The City of Cupertino complies with Recommended Action #12 from the report with a webpage dedicated to the [Santa Clara County Fire Department](#).

Recommended Action #12

Service Provider Transparency for Cities and Districts with Fire Prevention
Services provided by other agencies: Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Los Altos, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Campbell, SFD, LAHCFD, SCFD should all provide an explanation and links on their websites to connect community members with the agency providing fire prevention services. Those providing the service should consider adding guidelines and checklists used by staff to assist customers

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,
Tom



From: Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 3:00 PM
To: Cupertino City Manager's Office <manager@cupertino.org>
Cc: Debra Nascimento <DebraN@cupertino.org>
Subject: Follow-Up re. Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello Pamela,

It was so great to see you at LAFCO's 60th Anniversary Celebration last year. We have sent a couple of emails (see below) to you requesting a response from the City (concerning Recommendation #12), but we have not received a response. The City of Cupertino is the only City that has not yet responded. We will be providing responses to LAFCO later this month. We look forward to receiving the City's response as soon as possible. Thanks.

-Dunia Noel (Asst. EO, Santa Clara LAFCO)

From: Abello, Emmanuel <Emmanuel.Abello@ceo.sccgov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:07 PM
Cc: Palacherla, Neelima <Neelima.Palacherla@ceo.sccgov.org>; Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>; Humphrey, Sonia <sonia.humphrey@ceo.sccgov.org>
Subject: Follow-Up re. Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear City Managers and Fire Chiefs:

We have not received your response to LAFCO's request regarding Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review as of the **February 16, 2024 deadline**.

Your input is essential and will be presented to the Commission for their consideration at an upcoming LAFCO meeting.

Please see our request below and kindly let us know when we should expect to receive your response. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Regards,

Emmanuel Abello

Associate Analyst, LAFCO of Santa Clara County

777 North First Street, Suite 410, San Jose, CA 95112

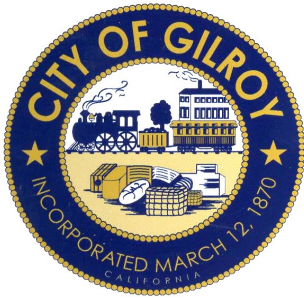
(408) 993-4705 | Mobile: (669) 321-9704 | Twitter: [@SantaClaraLAFCO](https://twitter.com/SantaClaraLAFCO) | www.SantaClaraLAFCO.org

SANTA
CLARA
LAFCO

60th

ANNIVERSARY
1963-2023

From: Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 5:45 PM



Administration Department

7351 Rosanna Street, Gilroy, California 95020-6197
Telephone: (408) 846-0202
<http://www.cityofgilroy.org>

Jimmy Forbis
City Administrator

January 31, 2024

Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
Santa Clara Local Agency Formation Commission
777 North First Street, Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

**RE: LAFCO Board Request for Written Responses to 2023 Fire Service Review
Recommendations**

Ms. Palacherla,

The City Administration appreciates LAFCO's work on the 2023 Fire Service Review. There is valuable information in the study; however, the recommendations staff received were based on the opinions and findings of the consultant hired by LAFCO. The City of Gilroy submitted many comments on the findings and recommendations, some of which the study addressed and others that it did not.

That being said, financial and policy responsibility for fire service in Gilroy lies solely under the jurisdiction of the Gilroy City Council.

The LAFCO Board requested responses to seven report recommendations that were included in Table A (attached). It was asked that the City:

1. *Provide a written response on how you plan to implement the recommendations presented in the Countywide Fire Service Review Report pertaining to your agency/organization and summarized in the attached Table A and Table B; and*
2. *Provide a timeframe for that implementation; or*
3. *Provide an explanation if your agency/organization does not plan to implement a recommendation.*

The City Administration's responses to all recommendations are the same – they depend on policy and funding direction that the Gilroy City Council determines. In the end, City Council direction is achieved through ongoing budget and policy discussions concerning any service in and for the City of Gilroy.

Please contact me with any questions at jimmy.forbis@cityofgilroy.org or (408) 846-0250.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Forbis', written in a cursive style.

Jimmy Forbis
City Administrator

Cc: Gilroy City Council
Harjot Sangha, Gilroy Finance Director

From: [Jimmy Forbis](#)
To: [Noel, Dunia](#)
Cc: [Jim Wyatt](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: EXTERNAL - LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review Final Report - Now Available
Date: Thursday, March 14, 2024 10:30:41 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello Dunia – the City of Gilroy will not be providing any additional information. Please consider the February 13 , 2024 letter our final response.

Thank you,
Jimmy

From: Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2024 11:00 AM
To: Jimmy Forbis <Jimmy.Forbis@ci.gilroy.ca.us>
Cc: Thai.Pham@ci.gilroy.ca.us; Jim Wyatt <Jim.Wyatt@ci.gilroy.ca.us>
Subject: FW: EXTERNAL - LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review Final Report - Now Available

Hello, City Manager Forbis,
Thank you for your response. In your response you note that you defer to the City Council on such matters. Please tell us your plans for taking this request to the City Council for their consideration and response, and the anticipated timeframe for this to occur. If you could let me know your plans within the next week, it would be greatly appreciated. We plan to provide a report to LAFCO by the end of March. Thank you for your time and further assistance.
-Dunia

Dunia Noel

Assistant Executive Officer, Santa Clara LAFCO
777 North First Street, Suite 410, San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 993-4704 | Twitter: [@SantaClaraLAFCO](#) | www.SantaClaraLAFCO.org

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60th
ANNIVERSARY
1963-2023



1 North San Antonio Road
Los Altos, California 94022-3087

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 14, 2024

TO: Dunia Noel, Assistant Executive Officer, Santa Clara County Local Agency Formation Commission

FROM: Gabriel Engeland, City Manager

SUBJECT: 2024 RESPONSE TO THE COUNTYWIDE FIRE SERVICE REVIEW

On behalf of the City of Los Altos, I would like to express our appreciation for the chance to respond to the Recommendations of the Countywide Fire Service Review Report.

Recommendations

Recommendation 8:

Facility Replacement & Maintenance Planning: Establish a comprehensive facility replacement plan and a maintenance plan for fire stations. Please see specifics below. [*Note: Only Recommendation 8J applies to the City of Los Altos and is included in this response.*]

Response 8:

Respondent, City of Los Altos, agrees with the recommendation and had previously implemented this. The City created a Facilities Condition Assessment in 2016, which included both fire stations within the City of Los Altos. Additionally, the City Council has identified the fire stations and the City's police station as priorities for planning in 2024.

Recommendation 8J:

The majority of CCFD's fire stations are older and do not meet the requirements of modern firefighting. With seven of CCFD's stations over fifty years old, a facility replacement plan should be in place. [Station 75 (City of Los Altos) - 54 years], [Station 78 (CCFD) - 74 years], [Station 79 (CCFD) - 57 years], [Station 80 (City of Campbell) - 53 years], [Station 82 (City of Los Gatos - 62 years)], [Station 83 (City of Los Gatos) - 58 years], [Station 85 (CCFD) - 57 years]. In reviewing the current Capital Improvement Plan, CCFD has identified that most facilities need some sort of update, repair, or replacement. CCFD established a capital fund in 2020 that will

assist in funding the necessary improvements. Also, some facilities are not owned by the district and rely on each city or district to maintain or replace them. Most stations need a remodel to create gender separation in both sleeping areas and restrooms/shower areas.

Response 8j:

Respondent, City of Los Altos, agrees with the recommendation. As stated previously, the City Council has identified planning for all of the city's public safety facilities as a priority for 2024.

Recommendation 12:

Service Provider Transparency for Cities and Districts with Fire Prevention Services provided by other agencies: Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Los Altos, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Campbell, SFD, LAHCFD, SCFD should all provide an explanation and links on their websites to connect community members with the agency providing fire prevention services. Those providing the service should consider adding guidelines and checklists used by staff to assist customers.

Response 12:

Respondent, City of Los Altos, has already implemented this recommendation. The City's website has contained a prominent page identifying the fire and medical services provider for a number of years. This link can be found at <https://www.losaltosca.gov/police/page/fire-and-medical>.



December 22, 2023

Via E-mail lafco@ceo.sccgov.org and First Class Mail

Santa Clara County LAFCO
777 North First Street, Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

RE: Response to Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review

To Whom it May Concern:

The Town of Los Altos Hills is providing its response to the Countywide Fire Service Review adopted by Santa Clara County LAFCO. According to the report, the Town is required to respond to Recommendation 12.

Recommendation 12 – Service Provider Transparency for Cities and Districts with Fire Prevention Services provided by other agencies: Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Los Altos, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Campbell, SFD, LAHCFD, SCFD should all provide an explanation and links on their websites to connect community members with the agency providing fire prevention services. Those providing the service should consider adding guidelines and checklists used by staff to assist customers.

- Response: The Town has already implemented this recommendation. The Town has several links to the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) on its homepage, and throughout several other interior pages of the website, for the public to explore available programs for fire prevention services.

This concludes the Town's responses to the recommendations in the Final Report. Please contact me at (650) 941-7222 if you have any questions or need any additional information related to this response.

Sincerely,

Peter Pirnejad

Peter Pirnejad
City Manager
Town of Los Altos hills
ppirnejad@losaltoshills.ca.gov

From: [Katy Nomura](#)
To: [LAFCO](#)
Cc: lprevetti@losgatosca.gov
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2024 2:56:38 PM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)

Hello,

Please find our responses below.

- 8, 8J: Maintenance and repair of fire stations are the responsibility of the County Fire according to the Annexation Agreement.
- 12: The Town will work with County Fire to include this information on our website this year.

Best,
Katy

Katy Nomura • Assistant Town Manager

110 East Main Street, Los Gatos CA 95030

Ph: 408.354.6836 • knomura@losgatosca.gov

www.losgatosca.gov • <https://www.facebook.com/losgatosca>

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From: Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 5:09 PM
Cc: LAFCO <LAFCO@ceo.sccgov.org>
Subject: Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review

[EXTERNAL SENDER]

Dear Fire Chiefs, City Managers, County Executive, and Other Affected Service Providers:

As you know, LAFCO recently adopted its [Countywide Fire Service Review](#) which includes recommendations for fire and emergency medical response service providers to consider and potentially implement.

LAFCO is requesting that each of the identified agencies / organizations:

1. Provide a written response on how you plan to implement the recommendations presented in the Countywide Fire Service Review Report pertaining to your agency/organization and summarized in the attached Table A and Table B; and
2. Provide a timeframe for that implementation; or
3. Provide an explanation if your agency/organization does not plan to implement a recommendation.

Please provide your response to lafco@ceo.sccgov.org as soon as possible and no later than February 16, 2024. Your response will be provided to the Commission for their consideration at a future LAFCO meeting.

For your convenience we have prepared the following summary to help you quickly identify the recommendations (by number) that pertain to each agency. Please see the attached Tables A & B for the detailed recommendations.

AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS	REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS # IN:	
Cities	Table A	Table B
City of Campbell	2D, 3, 8, 8F, 12	
City of Cupertino	12	
City of Gilroy	2, 2C, 8, 8A, 20, 30, 30A	
City of Los Altos	8, 8J, 12	
Town of Los Altos Hills	12	
Town of Los Gatos	8, 8J, 12	
City of Milpitas	1, 8, 8C	1
City of Monte Sereno	12,	
City of Morgan Hill	1, 4, 8, 8C, 12, 20, 30, 30B	
City of Mountain View	8, 8D, 31	
City of Palo Alto	2, 2B, 8, 8E, 31	24, 25
City of San Jose	1, 2, 2A, 8, 8F, 20	2, 3, 4, 5, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
City of Santa Clara	8, 8G, 31	
City of Saratoga	12	
City of Sunnyvale	1, 8, 8H, 20, 31	
Fire Districts		
Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD)	1, 8, 8I, 12	20, 21, 22, 23
Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD)	1, 12, 29	
Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD)	1, 2, 2D, 3, 8, 8J, 13, 20, 29, 31	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13
South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District (SCFD)	1, 5, 8, 8K, 12, 20, 30, 30C	5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
Other Providers		
County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)	5, 28, 32	6, 7, 15, 16, 20, 21
County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	15, 16, 17, 18	
CAL FIRE	30, 32	5, 9, 19
Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA)	19, 22	
Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association	6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 21	

Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council	23, 24, 25, 26, 27	
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD)		17, 18, 19, 20, 21

If you have any questions, please reach out to Dunia Noel at dunia.noel@ceo.sccgov.org.
 Lastly, thank you for participating in LAFCO’s Countywide Fire Service Review and for your consideration and timely response to this request.

Sincerely,
 Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer

If you have an inquiry, we encourage you to contact us by email at LAFCO@ceo.sccgov.org.

Dunia Noel

Assistant Executive Officer, Santa Clara LAFCO
 777 North First Street, Suite 410, San Jose, CA 95112
 (408) 993-4704 | Twitter: [@SantaClaraLAFCO](https://twitter.com/SantaClaraLAFCO) | www.SantaClaraLAFCO.org



Abello, Emmanuel

From: Jason Schoonover <jschoonover@milpitas.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 1:47 PM
To: LAFCO
Cc: Noel, Dunia; Ned Thomas
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review
Attachments: City of Milpitas LAFCO Letterv2.doc

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached Written Responses regarding LAFCO Implementation of Recommendations from the Countywide Fire Service Review.

Thanks,



Jason Schoonover
Fire Chief
Milpitas Fire Department
777 S. Main St, Milpitas CA 95035
Phone (408) 586-2811
Email jschoonover@milpitas.gov

From: Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 5:45 PM
Cc: LAFCO <LAFCO@ceo.sccgov.org>
Subject: Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

This email originated from outside the organization. Do NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. [Report suspicious messages](#) to the [IT Helpdesk](#).

Happy New Year,

Thank you to those agencies that have already provided a response to LAFCO's request regarding Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review. Please see email below. For those who have yet to respond, kindly treat this as a gentle reminder to **send your response to lafco@ceo.sccgov.org at your earliest convenience, and no later than February 16, 2024.** Your input is essential and will be presented to the Commission for their consideration at an upcoming LAFCO meeting.

Sincerely,

Dunia Noel, Asst. Executive Officer
Santa Clara LAFCO

From: Noel, Dunia

Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2023 5:09 PM

Cc: LAFCO <LAFCO@ceo.sccgov.org>

Subject: Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review

Dear Fire Chiefs, City Managers, County Executive, and Other Affected Service Providers:

As you know, LAFCO recently adopted its [Countywide Fire Service Review](#) which includes recommendations for fire and emergency medical response service providers to consider and potentially implement.

LAFCO is requesting that each of the identified agencies / organizations:

1. Provide a written response on how you plan to implement the recommendations presented in the Countywide Fire Service Review Report pertaining to your agency/organization and summarized in the attached Table A and Table B; and
2. Provide a timeframe for that implementation; or
3. Provide an explanation if your agency/organization does not plan to implement a recommendation.

Please provide your response to lafco@ceo.sccgov.org as soon as possible and no later than February 16, 2024. Your response will be provided to the Commission for their consideration at a future LAFCO meeting.

For your convenience we have prepared the following summary to help you quickly identify the recommendations (by number) that pertain to each agency. Please see the attached Tables A & B for the detailed recommendations.

AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS	REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS # IN:	
	Table A	Table B
City of Campbell	2D, 3, 8, 8F, 12	
City of Cupertino	12	
City of Gilroy	2, 2C, 8, 8A, 20, 30, 30A	
City of Los Altos	8, 8J, 12	
Town of Los Altos Hills	12	
Town of Los Gatos	8, 8J, 12	
City of Milpitas	1, 8, 8C	1
City of Monte Sereno	12,	
City of Morgan Hill	1, 4, 8, 8C, 12, 20, 30, 30B	
City of Mountain View	8, 8D, 31	
City of Palo Alto	2, 2B, 8, 8E, 31	24, 25
City of San Jose	2, 2A, 8, 8F, 20	2, 3, 4, 5, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
City of Santa Clara	8, 8G, 31	
City of Saratoga	12	
City of Sunnyvale	1, 8, 8H, 20, 31	
Fire Districts		
Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD)	1, 8, 8I, 12	20, 21, 22, 23
Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD)	1, 12, 29	

Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD)	1, 2, 2D, 3, 8, 8J, 13, 20, 29, 31	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13
South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District (SCFD)	1, 5, 8, 8K, 12, 20, 30, 30C	5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
Other Providers		
County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)	5, 28, 32	6, 7, 15, 16, 20, 21
County Office of Emergency Management (OEM)	15, 16, 17, 18	
CAL FIRE	30, 32	5, 9, 19
Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA)	19, 22	
Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association	6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 21	
Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council	23, 24, 25, 26, 27	
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD)		17, 18, 19, 20, 21

If you have any questions, please reach out to Dunia Noel at dunia.noel@ceo.sccgov.org.

Lastly, thank you for participating in LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review and for your consideration and timely response to this request.

Sincerely,

Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer

If you have an inquiry, we encourage you to contact us by email at LAFCO@ceo.sccgov.org.

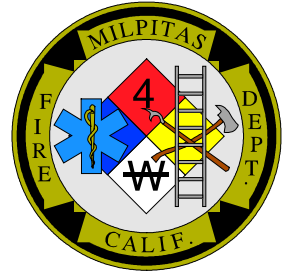
Dunia Noel

Assistant Executive Officer, Santa Clara LAFCO
 777 North First Street, Suite 410, San Jose, CA 95112
 (408) 993-4704 | Twitter: [@SantaClaraLAFCO](https://twitter.com/SantaClaraLAFCO) | www.SantaClaraLAFCO.org



MEMORANDUM

Fire Department (Emergency Response Services)



February 8, 2024

Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County
777 North First Street, Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

CITY OF MILPITAS RESPONSE TO THE COUNTYWIDE FIRE SERVICE REVIEW REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Dear Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Milpitas regarding the recommendations provided in the Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County (LAFCO) Countywide Fire Service Review.

The City appreciates the thorough review conducted by LAFCO and the valuable insights shared in the final report. We acknowledge the importance of collaborative efforts to enhance regional emergency response and planning, and we are proud to enjoy a highly cooperative relationship with fire service agencies Countywide.

We have carefully considered the recommendations in the report. The City's responses are included below.

Table A – Milpitas Fire Response




1. Emergency Response Performance Standard

The Milpitas Fire Departments desired outcome is to include limiting building fire damage to only part of the inside of an affected building, initiating search and rescue operations to increase victim/s survivability and/or minimizing permanent impairment resulting from a medical emergency. Therefore, goals include initial units arriving within 07:30 minutes from the 9-1-1 notification; and a multiple unit Effective Response Force (ERF) arrival within 11:30 minutes of 9-1-1 notification, all at 90 percent or better reliability.

Total response time to emergency incidents includes three (3) distinct components: 1. 9-1-1 call processing with a best practice of 01:30; 2. Crew turnout time at 02:00 minutes; and 3. Travel time at 04:00/08:00 minutes respectively for first-due and multiple-unit ERF response in urban areas.

Milpitas Fire has adopted Budget and Financial Plan performance and workload measures in the 2023-2024 budget as follows:

Performance and Workload Measures

PERFORMANCE MEASURES	Strategic Goals	FY 19-20 Actual	FY 20-21 Actual	FY 21-22 Actual	FY 22-23 Estimate	FY 23-24 Target
Total response time (call to arrival) to emergency calls (minutes)*		7:24	8:20	8:29	8:20	7:30
State mandated fire occupancy inspections completed annually		1,138	1,228	1,515	1,411	1,489
Effective Response Force (First Alarm) for assembling a complete response on all structure fires (minutes)		11:15	11:16	11:20	11:20	11:30

8B Facility Replacement & Maintenance Planning

The City of Milpitas is actively researching additional long-term funding mechanisms that would provide for the necessary maintenance and replacement of existing Public Safety facilities, to include replacing the city's oldest fire station. Fire Station No. 3 replacement cost is currently estimated to be \$20.6 Million, and was added to the CIP on July 1, 2016 as a Planned Project without funding.

City of Milpitas 2020-25 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Category	Project	Estimate Level
Community Improvement	Plan Fire Station No. 3 Replacement	1

CONTACT: Steve Erickson [3301] / Michael Silveira [3303]

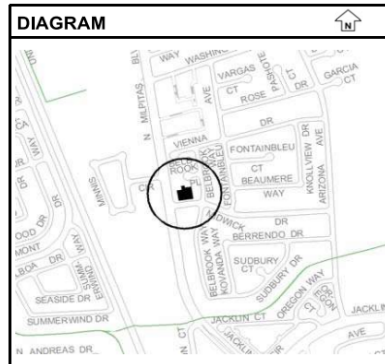
PRIORITY: Public Safety

DESCRIPTION

This project provides for the design and construction of a new Fire Station No. 3 (FS3) at the current location, 45 Midwick Drive. FS3 was constructed in 1968 with seismic upgrades completed in 1998 which has reached the end of its service life. The new fire station will be designed to provide for additional Fire Apparatus, sustainable elements, gender equality/privacy, operational efficiencies to improve response times and meet current Building and Fire Codes for "Essential Services Buildings". Project includes temporary fire station, building demolition, furnishings, fixtures, & equipment (FF&E), and site improvements.

NOTES:

FS3 assessment report was completed in Fall 2014. Findings warranted significant rebuild or replacement of the fire station. Project costs are based on estimates from Fire Station No. 2 Replacement project (#3447), currently in design. Escalation costs are anticipated to be 3% per year. The project does not have an identified funding source and is not funded at this time.



Uncommitted Balance as of 5/31/2020:

\$0

ESTIMATED COST	Prior Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Design	0	0	2,200,000	200,000	0	100,000	2,500,000
Administration	0	0	600,000	400,000	100,000	50,000	1,150,000
Inspection	0	0	0	200,000	300,000	0	500,000
Improvements	0	0	0	4,000,000	12,500,000	0	16,500,000
Totals	0	0	2,800,000	4,800,000	12,900,000	150,000	20,650,000

FINANCING	Prior Year	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Unidentified Funding	0	0	2,800,000	4,800,000	12,900,000	150,000	20,650,000
Totals	0	0	2,800,000	4,800,000	12,900,000	150,000	20,650,000

FINANCE NOTES

Sincerely,

Jason Schoonover
City of Milpitas Fire Chief

From: [Jason Schoonover](#)
To: [Noel, Dunia](#)
Cc: [LAFCO](#); [Ned Thomas](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 8:52:38 AM
Attachments: [image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good Morning Dunia,

Please see responses to your questions below in red.

Thanks,



Jason Schoonover
Fire Chief
Milpitas Fire Department
777 S. Main St, Milpitas CA 95035
Phone (408) 586-2811
Email jschoonover@milpitas.gov

From: Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 7:23 PM
To: Jason Schoonover <jschoonover@milpitas.gov>
Subject: FW: Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

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Hello Chief Schoonover,

Thank you for your response. I wanted to seek further clarification on the City's response to Recommendation #1 in Table A. Specifically, have these performance measures been presented to and adopted by the City Council? If not, please explain.

Response: Affirmative, the performance measures are a component of the Fire Departments annual fiscal budget and work-plan, which the City Council reviews and adopts each year along with the entire City budget.

Also, please provide a response to Recommendation #1 in Table B concerning addressing areas outside of identified local fire service providers.

Response: The Fire Department agrees with the LAFCO recommendations to ensure that all territory in the County lies within the boundaries of a local fire protection provider; however, for the areas

identified for comment by Milpitas In Table B-Recommendation #1, annexations would be at the County's and fire district's discretion.

Your timely response to this request is greatly appreciated, as we plan to report all responses to the LAFCO Commission at the end of March.

Lastly, I will reach out to you separately re. a follow-up question I have on the Fire Chief's Association response.

-Dunia

Dunia Noel

Assistant Executive Officer, Santa Clara LAFCO

777 North First Street, Suite 410, San Jose, CA 95112

(408) 993-4704 | Twitter: [@SantaClaraLAFCO](#) | [www.SantaClaraLAFCO.org](#)



From: Jason Schoonover <jschoonover@milpitas.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 8, 2024 1:47 PM

To: LAFCO <LAFCO@ceo.sccgov.org>

Cc: Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>; Ned Thomas <nthomas@milpitas.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached Written Responses regarding LAFCO Implementation of Recommendations from the Countywide Fire Service Review.

Thanks,

Jason Schoonover
Fire Chief
Milpitas Fire Department

From: [Steve Leonardis](#)
To: [Noel, Dunia](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Follow-Up re. Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review
Date: Friday, March 8, 2024 1:09:30 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello Noel,

Sorry for our delayed response.

The City of Monte Sereno already provides links from our city website for resident to contact service provider and has been practicing this for about 4 years.

Regards,

Steven Leonardis
City Manager

From: Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 12:20 PM
To: City Manager <citymanager@cityofmontesereno.org>
Cc: City Clerk <cityclerk@cityofmontesereno.org>
Subject: Follow-Up re. Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review

Hello City Manager Leonardis,

We have sent a couple of emails (see below) to you requesting a response re. the City's implementation of Recommendation #12 (please see attached Table A), but we have not heard back from you. The City of Monte Sereno is the only City that has not yet responded to our request. We will be providing all responses to LAFCO later this month. We look forward to receiving your response, as soon as possible. Thank you for your time and assistance.

-Dunia Noel (Asst. EO, Santa Clara LAFCO)

Dunia Noel

Assistant Executive Officer, Santa Clara LAFCO
777 North First Street, Suite 410, San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 993-4704 | Twitter: [@SantaClaraLAFCO](#) | www.SantaClaraLAFCO.org



17575 Peak Avenue
Morgan Hill, CA 95037-4128
TEL: (408) 779-7271
FAX: (408) 779-3117
www.morganhill.ca.gov

February 13, 2024

Santa Clara County LAFCO
777 N. First Street #410
San Jose, CA 95112
lafco@ceo.sccgov.org

Re: Countywide Fire Service Review Report Responses

Dear LAFCO Commissioners and Neelima Palacherla,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Countywide Fire Service Review Recommendations. We have the following responses:

Table A

#1 Emergency Response Performance Standard:

Gilroy, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Santa Clara, and San Jose have adopted performance standards (goals) through their elected officials. Sunnyvale and CCFD (including SFD and LAHCFD) have published response time goal, however, their elected officials have not adopted the standard. Morgan Hill, Milpitas and SCFD have not adopted a response time standard. Organizations should adopt a performance goal and present those to the elected officials for adoption. The organizations should consider a baseline standard that defines the expectation of service for the Community.

City's Response:

Morgan Hill Fire Department (MHFD) is scheduled to open its third fire station and will be beta testing Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology with a launch date later this year. Once the AVL program has been implemented and the third station is fully operational, studies will be done to establish a performance goal which will be presented for adoption.

#4 Morgan Hill: 3-13:

The rise in expenditures is anticipated to outpace increases in General Fund revenues for Morgan Hill through FY 27, causing the city to operate at a deficit in its GF each year from FY 23 to FY 27. Additional measures will be required to increase revenues or reduce expenditures in future years. The city should review its ability to continue with the contract for services in future years and whether to prioritize fire service in its expenditures or find additional revenue to continue providing service at least at the current level.

City's Response:

The City is aware of the General Fund's structural deficit in the medium to long-term and is actively working with the Council and Morgan Hill residents to ensure the City's fiscal sustainability. That being said, the City's General Fund was able to achieve a net even in FY23 through conservative spending and higher tax revenue compared to the budgeted deficit of \$2 million. Also, the City has General Fund reserves to fund budgeted deficits over the next few years.

#8C Facility Replacement and Maintenance Planning:

The City of Morgan Hill is building a new station that is expected to open in 2024. AP Triton did not identify any other capital projects in the current budget documents. Ensuring the stations are in good repair also requires regular maintenance and scheduled replacement of specialized equipment. Plans for updating and repairing systems such as heating and air conditioning (HVAC), generators, roofs, driveways, parking areas, security gates, painting, carpet replacement, and small appliances can keep costs down and buildings in service longer. In addition, establishing a facility replacement and maintenance plan will enable the city to plan for ongoing service from each station more efficiently.

City's Response:

The City budgets regular maintenance of the fire facilities in its operating budget with a plan to increase it as the third fire station enters into service. As for specialized equipment such as fire engines, the City set aside funding for this purpose from the transfer of the previous year's General Fund budget savings.

#12 Service Provider Transparency for Cities and Districts with Fire Prevention Services provided by other agencies:

Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Los Altos, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Campbell, SFD, LAHCFD, SCFD should all provide an explanation and links on their websites to connect community members with the agency providing fire prevention services. Those providing the service should consider adding guidelines and checklists used by staff to assist customers.

City's Response:

The City of Morgan Hill website has a City Government tab which takes the user to a list of City departments. Under this section the MHFD can be located which identifies the services provided including Fire Prevention Services. The website is routinely updated with current information.

#20 AVL Dispatch of Resources:

Gilroy, Morgan Hill, San Jose, Sunnyvale, CCFD, and SCFD are not currently utilizing Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology to dispatch the closest available resource for emergencies. By integrating AVL into the CAD system through GIS mapping, the system can identify and dispatch the nearest unit to the incident. AVL Dispatch can help improve overall response times, potentially making a significant difference in critical calls. Each of these agencies should implement AVL dispatch in their dispatch center.

City's Response:

The Morgan Hill Fire Department has received software and hardware for AVL. We are currently testing the AVL technology with a launch date in 2024.

#30 Gilroy, Morgan Hill and SCFD:

Exploring options for alternative service structures, such as joint powers authorities combining operations of two or more neighboring agencies, could potentially bring efficiencies and value-added services to Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SCFD. While CAL FIRE provides contractual service of a large-scale fire agency to Morgan Hill and SCFD, creating a larger local entity consisting of Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SCFD with a unified structure could offer benefits such as increased accountability, improved efficiency, and enhanced effectiveness in delivering fire services to the community. While reorganization, consolidation, and other shared service structures will likely have efficiencies from which agencies can benefit, if they are facing service-related constraints, these structure alternatives do not provide a singular solution to all constraints to services and must be combined with other strategies. It is recommended that SCFD and the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, in coordination with CAL FIRE, outlining the agencies' commitment to providing long-term cooperative fire services

and establishing a joint strategic planning team to assess potential cooperative service elements for implementation.

City's Response:

MHFD, South Santa Clara County Fire District, and Gilroy Fire Department have Boundary Drop Agreements, Mutual Aid Agreements, and Auto Aid Agreements in place to support each other while serving the Community. We've established common communications, standardized operating guidelines, and have routine interagency trainings.

#30B Morgan Hill:

While Morgan Hills' services are satisfactory and appear to be sustainable, there are facility capacity constraints and regionalization could offer opportunities to pool resources, share expertise, and optimize operations, leading to improved service delivery.

City's Response:

The MHFD appreciates the study identifying that our services are sustainable, and we believe meeting the Santa Clara County EMSA requirements of ensuring we meet 95% of our EMS calls within 7 minutes and 59 seconds is above a satisfactory standard. With the addition of our third station, we anticipate our percentage to increase thus providing a greater service to the Community and our residents.

Please reach out to christina.turner@morganhill.ca.gov or baraka.carter@fire.ca.gov if you have any questions.

Best Regards,



Christina Turner
City Manager



Baraka Carter
Morgan Hill Fire Chief
Unit Chief of CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit

cc: AP Triton, Dan Petersen dpetersen@aptriton.com





OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

500 Castro Street, P.O. Box 7540
Mountain View, CA 94039-7540
650-903-6301 | MountainView.gov

February 2, 2024

Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County
777 North First Street, Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

**CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW RESPONSE TO THE COUNTYWIDE FIRE SERVICE REVIEW REPORT
RECOMMENDATIONS**

Dear Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Mountain View regarding the recommendations provided in the Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County (LAFCO) Countywide Fire Service Review.

The City appreciates the thorough review conducted by LAFCO and the valuable insights shared in the final report. We acknowledge the importance of collaborative efforts to enhance regional emergency response and planning, and we are proud to enjoy a highly cooperative relationship with fire service agencies Countywide.

We have carefully considered the recommendations in the report. The City's responses are included below.

Recommendations 8 and 8D—Facility Replacement and Maintenance Planning

Recommendation 8: "Establish a comprehensive facility replacement plan and a maintenance plan for fire stations. Please see specifics below."

Recommendation 8D: "Two (Station 3 – 61 years & Station 4 – 55 years) of five stations over 50 years old. The City of Mountain View Public Works Department is responsible for the planning and maintenance of all facilities. The Fire Chief stated that Fire Station 3 is on the schedule for a capital replacement, however per Public Works, it is an 'unfunded capital replacement project.' Fire Stations and the Fire Department's Training Division/Center are critical infrastructures which should be components of capital improvement and replacement plan for the city."

City Response: The City of Mountain View Public Works Department provides maintenance, upgrades, and replacement planning for our fire stations. The City adopts a Five-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which includes annual funding for maintenance and improvements to provide a modern living environment in the fire stations. These improvements include, but are not limited to, modern turnout storage, privacy areas modernization, new kitchens, flooring, and new HVAC systems.

For example, the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Adopted CIP appropriated \$1.25 million for new turnout storage at three fire stations, with design now nearly complete and construction scheduled to begin in summer 2024. The CIP also includes \$1.0 million to begin preliminary design for replacing Fire Station No. 3 and includes upgrades, as needed, to the other fire facilities. Notably, Fire Station No. 4, which is 55 years old, was remodeled in 2023 at a cost of \$2.0 million to include new bathrooms, showers, and updated office facilities. The Fire Training Tower also received a remodel and update at a cost of approximately \$400,000.

In addition, the City is currently exploring a revenue measure for the 2024 ballot to address critical future Citywide needs, which may include upgrades to Fire Station Nos. 3 and 4.

Recommendation 31—Combining Fire Departments, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and Central Fire District

“Exploring options for alternative structures, such as joint powers authorities combining two or more neighboring agencies (Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and CCFD), could potentially bring efficiencies and value-added services to Mountain View and other smaller fire service providers in Santa Clara County. Creating a larger entity with a unified structure can offer benefits such as increased accountability, improved efficiency, and enhanced effectiveness in delivering fire services to the community. While Mountain View’s services are satisfactory and appear to be sustainable, there could be opportunities to pool resources, share expertise, and optimize operations, leading to improved service delivery.”

City Response: The City enjoys a very collaborative and cooperative relationship with our neighboring fire agencies, including Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and Central County Fire Department (CCFD). This includes participating in regional trainings, providing and receiving mutual aid during critical incidents, and frequently sharing resources and knowledge. The City is proud to provide a well-run, transparent, and effective fire service for the community, as the report noted.

The City recognizes the work that has been conducted in prior years to explore alternative fire service structures, including combining agencies. Ultimately, it has been determined that moving toward a combined fire service or a Joint Powers Authority is not in the best financial or operational interest of the City of Mountain View.

The City will not be implementing this recommendation; however, we are dedicated to working collaboratively with our partners to ensure the best possible outcomes for our community and the region, and we look forward to the opportunity to engage in further discussions on this and other important matters with LAFCO and our neighboring agencies.

The City appreciates the time and attention that many people put into this report, including the LAFCO Commissioners, LAFCO staff, AP Triton staff, the Countywide Fire Protection Service Review Technical Advisory Committee, and the local fire chiefs. Thank you for your efforts toward improving fire service in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kimbra McCarthy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kimbra McCarthy
City Manager

KMC/HM/6/MGR
611-02-02-24L

cc: City Council

FC, ACM—Andrews, PWD(A)—Arango

From: [McCarthy, Kimbra](#)
To: [Noel, Dunia](#); [hemali.mikhael](#)
Cc: [Diaz, Juan](#); [Andrews, Arn](#); [dawn.cameron@mountainview.gov](#); [Arango, Ed](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: LAFCO Response Letter - City of Mountain View Feb 2, 2024
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 10:06:18 AM
Attachments: [image004.png](#)

Good morning Dunia,

Thank you for reaching out. A full replacement of Fire Station #3 is unfunded at this time. The letter states that the City is currently exploring placing a revenue measure on the 2024 ballot, which includes potential funding towards upgrades of Fire Stations #3 and #4. The City is currently polling likely voters on the potential revenue measure. The City does not have the financial capability to fully replace Fire Station #3 at this time, but the City will make a determination about next steps for an upgrade depending on the potential revenue measure status and budget constraints.

Consistent with our ongoing efforts to make improvements at City facilities, going forward, the City will continue to assess and implement improvements at all fire stations for needed daily operations and modernization. In addition to the examples listed in the City's February 2, 2024 letter, other upcoming planned projects at various fire stations includes: two new training center buildings; replacement of apparatus bay doors; and a new steel framed roof structure for protection of ancillary equipment.

Please let us know if you have additional questions.

Regards,
Kimbra



Kimbra McCarthy
City Manager

650-903-6601 | MountainView.gov

[Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [AskMV](#)

From: Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2024 12:02 PM
To: Mikhael, Hemali <Hemali.Mikhael@mountainview.gov>
Cc: McCarthy, Kimbra <Kimbra.McCarthy@mountainview.gov>; Diaz, Juan <Juan.Diaz@mountainview.gov>; Andrews, Arn <Arn.Andrews@mountainview.gov>; Cameron, Dawn <Dawn.Cameron@mountainview.gov>; Arango, Ed <Ed.Arango@mountainview.gov>
Subject: FW: LAFCO Response Letter - City of Mountain View Feb 2, 2024

CAUTION: EXTERNAL EMAIL - Ensure you trust this email before clicking on any links or attachments.

Hello Hemali,

Thank you for providing the City's response. I wanted to seek further clarification on the City's response to Recommendation #8D. The response addresses in general how fire station capital improvements are planned and funded but does not address if and how the City plans to fund the replacement of Fire Station 3, which is over 61 years old. Is this project still "unfunded"? Can the City expand their response to specifically address current plans, if any, to fund the replacement of Fire Station 3?

The City's timely response to this follow-up question is greatly appreciated, as we plan to report all responses to the LAFCO Commission at the end of March. Thank you all for your time and assistance.

-Dunia Noel

Dunia Noel

Assistant Executive Officer, Santa Clara LAFCO

777 North First Street, Suite 410, San Jose, CA 95112

(408) 993-4704 | Twitter: [@SantaClaraLAFCO](#) | www.SantaClaraLAFCO.org



From: Mikhael, Hemali <Hemali.Mikhael@mountainview.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 2, 2024 11:37 AM

To: LAFCO <LAFCO@ceo.sccgov.org>

Cc: Councilmembers <CouncilMembers@mountainview.gov>; Kimbra.McCarthy <Kimbra.McCarthy@mountainview.gov>; Andrews, Arn <Arn.Andrews@mountainview.gov>; Diaz, Juan <Juan.Diaz@mountainview.gov>; Arango, Ed <ed.arango@mountainview.gov>; dawn.cameron@mountainview.gov

Subject: [EXTERNAL] LAFCO Response Letter - City of Mountain View Feb 2, 2024

Hello all,

Please find attached the response from the City of Mountain View regarding the LAFCO Countywide Fire Service Review.

Thank you,



CITY OF
**PALO
ALTO**

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

250 Hamilton Avenue, 7th Floor
Palo Alto, CA 94301
650.329.2392

Neelima Palacherla
Executive Officer
Santa Clara LAFCO
777 North First Street, Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

Dear Neelima Palacherla,

The City of Palo Alto has received and reviewed the Santa Clara Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Countywide Fire Service Review Report. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City’s consideration of all recommendations listed for the Palo Alto Fire Department Table A and B, recommendations 2, 2B, 8, 8E, 31, 24, and 25.

Table A #2 & #2B Unit Utilization Hours (Pages xiii, 24, 25, 276 finding 5-5)

Recommendation San Jose, Palo Alto, Gilroy and CCFD all have units with UHUs over 10%. These agencies should add additional resources to effectively manage the call volume and improve response time performance

Palo Alto Units (Pages 261)
E61 (10.7%), M61 (22.3%), M62 (18.5%), and M64 (19.1%)

The City would need to add resources or reduce call volume to meet response time standards.

Palo Alto Response Palo Alto Fire Department staff will evaluate resource needs to support a reduction in UHU and work with the City’s Budget Office to develop a feasible financial and implementation strategy as part of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget planning process. The ability to advance such a strategy will depend on funding available.

Table A. #8 & #8E Facility Replacement & Maintenance Planning (Pages 270, 277)

Recommendation Five of the seven stations are over 50 years in age and/or were identified as not meeting the needs of a modern fire station: (Station 1: 57 years), (Station 2: 27 years), (Station 4: 69 years), (Station 5: 55 years), (Station 6: 50 years), and Station 8. The city’s current five-year Capital Improvement Plan only identifies Station 4 for replacement.

It was not apparent if an additional plan was in place for the other older stations.

Station 6 is owned and maintained by Stanford University. Palo Alto has worked to update its facilities, including seismic protection, however,



CityOfPaloAlto.org

Stations 1, 2, 5, and 8 are nearing “end of life” and should be included in a plan for replacement.

Establish a comprehensive facility replacement plan and a maintenance plan for fire stations.

Palo Alto Response Palo Alto’s Public Works Department is in the process of finalizing a new City-wide facilities condition assessment report for all City facilities, including all fire stations. Following its completion, the City will use the report to evaluate the needs for individual fire stations and will develop recommendations for a plan for capital improvements and/or replacements as appropriate.

Table A #31 Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and CCFD (Pages 75, 279 finding 5-19)

Recommendation Exploring options for alternative structures such as joint powers authorities combining two or more neighboring agencies (Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and CCFD), could potentially bring efficiencies and value-added services to Mountain View and other smaller fire service providers in Santa Clara County. Creating a larger entity with a unified structure can offer benefits such as increased accountability, improved efficiency, and enhanced effectiveness in delivering fire services to the community. While Mountain View’s services are satisfactory and appear to be sustainable, there can be opportunities to pool resources, share expertise, and optimize operations, leading to improved service delivery.

Explore Joint Powers Authority or sharing resources in collaboration with Mountain View.

Palo Alto Response The decision to combine with a neighboring fire agency would have to come from the direction of the governing bodies over the identified agencies. The City is satisfied with the proven effectiveness of the current auto-aid and mutual-aid agreements with neighboring fire departments. Efficiencies have been utilized with Mountain View with a shared computer automated dispatch system.

Table B. #24 & #25 D. Land Use Consideration (Pages 88-89, 279 finding 5-20)

Recommendation Lucille M. Nixon Elementary School and Escondido Elementary School are located outside of the City of Palo Alto city limits but inside its SOI and USA. Lucille M. Nixon Elementary School is entirely surrounded by the Stanford University property, and Escondido Elementary School is surrounded on three sides by the university property. Palo Alto FD provides contract services to Stanford University’s property; however, the two schools are excluded from the contract service area, meaning the schools lack a formally identified fire and emergency medical provider. Given the nature of the use of the property with structures and students, there is a need to ensure adequate fire and emergency services are provided to the two properties.

It is recommended that the City of Palo Alto and Palo Alto Unified School District form an agreement for fire and emergency medical services at two elementary schools that lie outside of local fire service provider and are excluded from the City’s contract service area with Stanford University.



San José Fire Department

February 12, 2024

Local Area Formation Commission of Santa Clara County
 c/o Noel Dunia, Assistant Executive Officer
 777 North First Street, Suite 410
 San Jose, CA 95112

RE: CITY OF SAN JOSÉ RESPONSE TO THE COUNTYWIDE FIRE SERVICE REVIEW FINAL REPORT

Dear Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and respond to the Santa Clara County Local Agency Formation Commission's (LAFCO) Countywide Fire Service Review Final Report as adopted on October 4, 2023. Herein, please find the City of San José's (City) responses to items as requested by LAFCO including Table A items 2, 2A, 8, 8F, and 20, and Table B areas 4, 5, 6, 7, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20.

CITY OF SAN JOSÉ RESPONSES REQUESTED BY LAFCO IN TABLE A		
LAFCO Recommendation	City Response	Timeframe for Implementation
2., 2A. Unit Utilization Hours	The City recognizes the unit utilization hours in excess of 10 hours and 20 hours for some resources. In recent years, the City has taken several meaningful actions to keep pace with service demand, including adding fire station response areas at Fire Station 20 and Fire Station 37, and planning construction of new Fire Station 32 and Fire Station 36. Each of these new Fire Stations will include deployment of new fire companies. Going forward, the City will continue to monitor unity utilization hours and response time performance and continue to pursue opportunities for improvement.	Ongoing
8., 8F. Facility Replacement & Maintenance Planning	The City's Fire Station 20 at Mineta San José International Airport was recently relocated and replaced. A replacement Fire Station 8 is under construction, and Fire Station 23 replacement is in planning. The City obtained third party facility	Ongoing

	condition assessments in 2015 and 2017 for Fire Stations 1 through 31. These documents guide prioritization of maintenance and replacement and will be revised as necessary.	
20. AVL Dispatch of Resource	The City is in the process of implementing this recommendation.	Fall 2024

CITY OF SAN JOSE RESPONSES REQUESTED BY LAFCO IN TABLE B		
LAFCO Recommendation	City Response	Timeframe for Implementation
Area 4, 5, 6, 7, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20	The Department agrees with the LAFCO recommendations to ensure that all territory in the County lies within the boundaries of a local fire protection provider; however, for the areas identified for comment by San José, requirecommended annexations would be at the County’s and fire district’s discretion.	Unknown

The City of San José appreciates LAFCO’s efforts that generated Countywide Fire Service Review Final Report.

Any questions regarding this response may be directed to Robert Sapien, Jr., Fire Chief at robert.sapien@sanjoseca.gov.



ROBERT SAPIEN, JR.
Fire Chief, Fire Department

From: [Sapien, Robert](#)
To: [Noel, Dunia](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 9:46:45 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Outlook-3rd5q2xh.png](#)

Hi Noel,

I offer language provided to the San Jose City Council on this recommendation.

The Department of Public Works obtained third party facility condition assessments in 2015 and 2017 for Fire Stations 1 through 31. These assessments provided recommendations on conditions, maintenance and replacement of specific systems and building elements of each fire station evaluated. The Department's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Adopted Capital Improvement Program budget of approximately \$13.8M is funded through a set allocation of the City's construction and conveyance tax proceeds aimed towards the continued improvement of fire facilities: including station infrastructure, fire apparatus, technology, and ancillary equipment needs.

Thank you,

Robert

From: Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 4:59 PM
To: Sapien, Robert <Robert.Sapien@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: FW: Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review

[External Email]

You don't often get email from dunia.noel@ceo.sccgov.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello Chief Sapien,

Thank you for your response. I wanted to seek further clarification on the City's response to Recommendation #8 Facility Replacement & Maintenance. I understand that the City uses a facility condition assessment to guide its prioritization as it relates to fire stations and that a couple of the stations listed have been replaced or will be replaced very soon, which is great news. But can you give me a general sense of the City's long-term plans for budgeting and replacing the remaining stations on the list? With such a long potential list, will a replacement happen each year or a couple replacements every five years? Your timely response to this follow-up question is greatly appreciated, as we plan to report all responses to the LAFCO Commission at the end of March.

-Dunia

From: [Ruben Torres](#)
To: [Noel, Dunia](#)
Cc: negresham@SantaClaraCA.gov; [Jenn Panko](#); [atran](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Follow-Up re. Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review
Date: Friday, March 8, 2024 3:55:26 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Hi Noel,

I informed the City Manager of the requested response. He was planning on responding on behalf of the City of Santa Clara. Please feel free to follow up with his Office. I added his Administrative Assistant Anne Tran to this email for coordination.

Sincerely,

RUBEN TORRES | Fire Chief
Fire Department
777 Benton Street | Santa Clara, CA 95050
408-615-4900

From: Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 10:43 AM
To: Ruben Torres <RTorres@SantaClaraCA.gov>
Cc: negresham@SantaClaraCA.gov; [Jenn Panko <JPanko@SantaClaraCA.gov>](mailto:JPanko@SantaClaraCA.gov)
Subject: FW: Follow-Up re. Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review

Hello Chief Torres,

Thank you for your service on the TAC. We have sent a couple of emails (see below) to you requesting a response to LAFCO's request but have not received a response. We will be providing fire service providers' responses to the LAFCO later this month. The City of Santa Clara is the only City that has not responded. If it is more appropriate to follow-up with the City Manager's Office on this request, please let me know. We look forward to receiving the City's response as soon as possible.

-Dunia Noel (Asst. EO for Santa Clara LAFCO)

From: [Abello, Emmanuel <Emmanuel.Abello@ceo.sccgov.org>](mailto:Emmanuel.Abello@ceo.sccgov.org)
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 5:07 PM
Cc: [Palacherla, Neelima <Neelima.Palacherla@ceo.sccgov.org>](mailto:Neelima.Palacherla@ceo.sccgov.org); Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>; [Humphrey, Sonia <sonia.humphrey@ceo.sccgov.org>](mailto:sonia.humphrey@ceo.sccgov.org)
Subject: Follow-Up re. Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service

Review

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear City Managers and Fire Chiefs:

We have not received your response to LAFCO's request regarding Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review as of the **February 16, 2024 deadline**.

Your input is essential and will be presented to the Commission for their consideration at an upcoming LAFCO meeting.

Please see our request below and kindly let us know when we should expect to receive your response. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Regards,

Emmanuel Abello

Associate Analyst, LAFCO of Santa Clara County

777 North First Street, Suite 410, San Jose, CA 95112

(408) 993-4705 | Mobile: (669) 321-9704 | Twitter: [@SantaClaraLAFCO](#) | [www.SantaClaraLAFCO.org](#)



From: Noel, Dunia <Dunia.Noel@ceo.sccgov.org>

Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 5:45 PM

Cc: LAFCO <LAFCO@ceo.sccgov.org>

Subject: Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review

Happy New Year,

Thank you to those agencies that have already provided a response to LAFCO's request regarding Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review. Please see email below. For those who have yet to respond, kindly treat this as a gentle reminder to **send your response to lafco@ceo.sccgov.org at your earliest convenience, and no later than February 16, 2024**. Your input is essential and will be presented to the Commission for their consideration at an upcoming LAFCO meeting.

Sincerely,

Dunia Noel, Asst. Executive Officer



CITY OF SARATOGA

13777 FRUITVALE AVENUE • SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA 95070 • (408) 868-1200

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Belal Aftab
Kookie Fitzsimmons
Chuck Page
Tina Walia
Yan Zhao

Incorporated October 22, 1956

February 21, 2024

Neelima Palacherla
Executive Officer
Santa Clara County LAFCO
777 North First Street, Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

RE: Response to Countywide Fire Service Review

Dear Neelima,

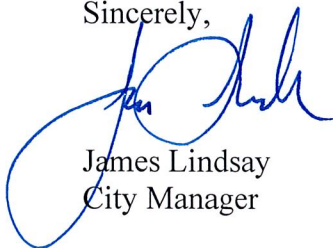
The City of Saratoga has received and reviewed the Countywide Fire Service Review. LAFCO has requested a response to Recommendation #12 in Table A.

Cities and Districts with Fire Prevention Services provided by other agencies:

Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Serrano, Los Altos, Campbell SFD, LAHCFD, SCFD should all provide an explanation and links on their websites to connect community members with the agency providing fire prevention services. Those providing the service should consider adding guidelines and checklists used by staff to assist customers.

The City of Saratoga's website has always contained an explanation and website links to the fire districts that serve our community. No additional action is needed.

Sincerely,



James Lindsay
City Manager



February 6, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC & US MAIL

Neelima Palacherla
Executive Officer
Santa Clara LAFCO
777 North First Street, Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

City Hall
Office of the City Manager
456 West Olive Avenue
Sunnyvale, CA 94088-3707
408-730-7500
Sunnyvale.ca.gov

Dear Neelima Palacherla,

The City of Sunnyvale has received and reviewed the recently adopted LAFCO Countywide Fire Service Review and the recommendations for fire and emergency medical response. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City's consideration of all recommendations listed for Sunnyvale DPS in Table A and Table B, including Recommendations 1, 8, 8H, 20 and 31. The City's responses are as follows:

Recommendation 1: Emergency Response Performance Standard

Gilroy, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Santa Clara, and San Jose have adopted performance standards (goals) through their elected officials. Sunnyvale and CCFD (including SFD and LAHCFD) have published response time goal, however, their elected officials have not adopted the standard. Morgan Hill, Milpitas and SCFD have not adopted a response time standard. Organizations should adopt a performance goal and present those to the elected officials for adoption. The organizations should consider a baseline standard that defines the expectation of service for the community.

Pages xiii, 25

Sunnyvale Response:

Sunnyvale DPS has adopted performance goal standards that match the best practices as set forth by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Deviations from the performance standards are reviewed continuously by command staff. DPS has regularly meets the set performance standard goal of 90% or higher.

Response times for fire services are included as performance indicators in Sunnyvale's budget. Results are reported annually as part of the budget and approved by City Council.

Recommendation 8H (Sunnyvale): Facility Replacement & Maintenance Planning.

(Establish a comprehensive facility replacement plan and a maintenance plan for fire stations)
With five of Sunnyvale's six stations being over fifty years old, there should be a facility replacement plan in place. (Station 1 - 62 years), (Station 2 - 62 years), (Station 3 - 62 years), (Station 4 - 62 years), (Station 6 - 62 years). Sunnyvale's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) states the following: "The advancement of fire service standards and continued population growth of the city establishes the recognition for the need to begin replacing or expanding older, smaller fire stations built in the 1960s. The current facilities are becoming functionally inadequate and driving the need for a master plan. The master plan's recommendations will be utilized to develop a project plan which will be brought forward for consideration during the next CIP budget cycle." At this time, there appears to be funding identified to replace Station 2 but there are only remodels listed for the remaining stations.
Pages 419-420, 424 Sunnyvale

Sunnyvale Response:

A Master Plan of Sunnyvale's six fire stations (five of which were built in the 1960s) was completed in September 2021. The Fire Station Master Plan reviewed the existing conditions, current program requirements, and assessed the stations against current best practices for optimum operation and staff health and safety. With the exception of the Fire Training Facility at Fire Station 2, the fire stations were designed to be code compliant at the time of construction and are therefore not required to be upgraded to current code. Based on the deficiencies identified in the study, options for replacement or remodeling the deficient stations were presented in the Master Plan. All stations, except Station 5, were recommended to be replaced or substantially remodeled. Fire Station 2, including the training facility, was identified for replacement and the highest priority. The recommended sequence of addressing the other stations' deficiencies was as follows: Station 1, followed by Stations 4, 3 and 6.

In June 2022, City Council adopted a 20-year capital projects plan which included future projects to replace and remodel existing fire stations per the recommendations in the Fire Station Master Plan.

Fire Station 2, including the training center, was identified for replacement as the highest priority. The existing single-story fire station, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) building, and classroom building will be rebuilt and consolidated into a sustainably designed two-story structure. Following completion of the Fire Station 2 project, the new Fire Station 2 will be code-compliant, meet current best practices, and will create additional capacity to help maintain services as other stations are remodeled.

The existing Station 1 is of sufficient size to incorporate key best practices with a substantial renovation, including but not limited to, a new kitchen, SCBA refilling room, ADA bathroom, ADA parking, cleaning stations, HVAC, fire sprinklers, painting, roofing, and finish upgrades. Once completed, the renovated Fire Station 1 will be code-compliant and meet or marginally meet current best practices.

Stations 3, 4, and 6 are identical, and separate renovation projects have been planned. These 3 stations can be remodeled to incorporate key best practices including, but not limited to, a new kitchen, ADA bathroom, ADA parking, cleaning stations, HVAC, fire sprinklers, painting, roofing, and finish upgrades. An addition will be made to house a new exercise room. Once completed, the renovated Fire Stations 3, 4, and 6 will also be code-compliant and meet most current best practices.

Additionally, the current timing of design and construction for the 5 stations:

FS2: start Design FY23/24, Construction FY 24/25 and FY 25/26

FS1: start Design FY25/26, Construction FY 26/27

FS3: start Design FY28/29, Construction FY 29/30

FS4: start Design FY31/32, Construction FY 32/33

FS6: start Design FY34/35, Construction FY 35/36

Recommendation 20: AVL Dispatch of Resources:

Gilroy, Morgan Hill, San Jose, Sunnyvale, CCFD, and SCFD are not currently utilizing Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology to dispatch the closest available resource for emergencies. By integrating AVL into the CAD system through GIS mapping, the system can identify and dispatch the nearest unit to the incident. AVL Dispatch can help improve overall response times, potentially making a significant difference in critical calls. Each of these agencies should implement AVL dispatch in their dispatch center.

Pages xvi, 57

Sunnyvale Response:

The City began its CAD update project as part of the approved budget in FY 18/19. This project was a major undertaking that involved DPS, the Department of Public Works that manages fleet, IT, and the Community Development—Building Division. The project is now well underway and expected to go-live in the near future.

The project as designed and scoped in 2018 did not include emerging technology such as AVL. CAD is expected to be re-studied in 10-year increments. DPS staff may choose to study AVL technology in the next CAD upgrade project. A significant financial investment and commitment of staff time would be required to implement this recommendation.

Recommendation 31: Joint Powers Authority:

Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and CCFD: Exploring options for alternative structures, such as joint powers authorities combining two or more neighboring agencies (Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and CCFD), could potentially bring efficiencies and value-added services to Mountain View and other smaller fire service providers in Santa Clara County. Creating a larger entity with a unified structure can offer benefits such as increased accountability, improved efficiency, and enhanced effectiveness in delivering fire services to the community. While Mountain View's services are satisfactory and appear to be sustainable, there could be opportunities to pool resources, share expertise, and optimize operations, leading to improved service delivery.
Page 426 (Sunnyvale)

Sunnyvale Response:

DPS was formed in 1950 as a public safety model, where all sworn personnel are trained as police officers, firefighters, and EMTs. This factor alone would make the formation of a JPA difficult, if not impossible, to incorporate existing staff from other jurisdictions as shared employees of the JPA without great expense to taxpayers to re-train all JPA employees in all three disciplines.



Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the recommendations outlined in the LAFCO Countywide Fire Service Review. Please let me know if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Kent Steffens

Kent Steffens
Sunnyvale City Manager



COUNTY FIRE
DISTRICT

Los Altos Hills County Fire District

P.O. Box 1766, Los Altos, CA 94023-1766

Board of Commissioners
Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County
Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
777 North First Street
Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

Dear LAFCO Board of Commissioners and Executive Officer,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the LAFCO recommendations that pertain to the Los Altos Hills County Fire District in the recently adopted LAFCO Countywide Fire Service Review.

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) has reviewed and considered the recommendations set forth regarding Fire and Emergency Medical Services Overview, Facility Replacement and Maintenance Planning, Fire Prevention & Public Education, and Recommendations for addressing areas outside an identified local fire service provider.

Following LAFCO's lead, LAHCFD used the tables provided to respond to the recommendations pertaining to the LAHCFD jurisdiction. Exhibit 1, Table A, Column E, and Table B, Column N, are added to the LAFCO tables to include our response and timeline for implementation, where relevant.

LAHCFD is coordinating its efforts for the LAFCO identified SOI and annexation areas that pertain to LAHCFD with the County of Santa Clara Office of the County Executive. LAHCFD anticipates exploring these possibilities and the future analysis of the feasibility, complexities and impacts in coordination with the County and entities involved to determine potential implementation and timelines.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond and for your attention to the Fire Service needs of the regional community.

Sincerely,

J. Logan

J. Logan (Feb 16, 2024 16:53 PST)

J. Logan

General Manager

Los Altos Hills County Fire District.

Attached: LAHCFD Response to LAFCO Recommendations, 2/16/2024

c: LAHCFD Board of Commissioners
John P. Mills, Deputy County Executive

Countywide Fire Service Review Report Recommendations and Potential Implementors

EXHIBIT 1

#	Recommendation	Page # in Report	Potential Implementor	LAHCFD Response
1	Emergency Response Performance Standard : Gilroy, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Santa Clara, and San Jose have adopted performance standards (goals) through their elected officials. Sunnyvale and CCFD (including SFD and LAHCFD) have published response time goal, however, their elected officials have not adopted the standard. Morgan Hill, Milpitas and SCFD have not adopted a response time standard. Organizations should adopt a performance goal and present those to the elected officials for adoption. The organizations should consider a baseline standard that defines the expectation of service for the community.	xiii, 25	Sunnyvale, CCFD (including SFD and LAHCFD), Morgan Hill, Milpitas and SCFD	LAHCFD contracts for Fire and Emergency Medical Services through an agreement with CCFD. Performance standards would be coordinated with CCFD and the County of Santa Clara for Board of Directors.
8	Facility Replacement & Maintenance Planning: Establish a comprehensive facility replacement plan and a maintenance plan for fire stations. Please see specifics below.			
81	LAHCFD: A facility replacement plan should be established for the Station 74 (El Monte) Fire Station. While it is only 26 years old, it has been rated in fair condition and does not meet the needs of a modern fire station. It does, however, have seismic protection.	447, 450	LAHCFD	LAHCFD is reviewing replacement or refurbishing of El Monte Fire Station in collaboration with CCFD. Funds have been allocated for upgrades to the station (i.e., new flooring in 2023). The timeline for the refurbishment of El Monte Fire Station is ongoing and implemented as needed in coordination with CCFD. Funds for future remodel or replacement of El Monte Fire Station will be budgeted and planned in coordination with CCFD.
12	Service Provider Transparency for Cities and Districts with Fire Prevention Services provided by other agencies: Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Los Altos, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Campbell, SFD, LAHCFD, SCFD should all provide an explanation and links on their websites to connect community members with the agency providing fire prevention services. Those providing the service should consider adding guidelines and checklists used by staff to assist customers.	Pages xiv, 38, 44	Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Campbell, SFD, LAHCFD, and SCFD	This recommendation is complete. www.lahcfd.org has a link to CCFD Fire Prevention Services on the homepage. LAHCFD has also added a link to Fire Prevention Services on the Chart of Services. LAHCFD can advise the Town of Los Altos Hills to add a link to CCFD's Fire Prevention Services page to the Town of LAH Development Services webpage; however, LAHCFD does not manage this webpage and cannot guarantee that the update will be implemented.

EXHIBIT 1: Countywide Fire Service Review Report Recommendations for Addressing Areas Outside of an Identified Local Fire Service Provider

Table #	Map Area #	Sq. Miles	Land Use	Location to Essential Borders	Current Initial Responder	Nearest Station	Necessity/Fire Hazard	Wildland/Urban Interface	Options	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Implementation	LAHCFD Proposed Response
20	22	3.07	Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve, private non-profit Hidden Villa, Hillside	Inside Los Altos Hills SOI, Outside LAHCFD SOI, outside CCFD SOI, adjacent to Palo Alto city limits and CCFD boundaries, outside Los Altos Hills USA	LAHCFD/ CCFD	CCFD Stations 74	SRA, no structures, regional park	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Annexation by LAHCFD (requires SOI expansion) Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District ensure structure in place with LAHCFD/CCFD for fire suppression of fires on district properties until CAL FIRE is on scene. Status quo 	Annexation by LAHCFD with SOI expansion. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks and open space.	Pages 82-83, 88, 92-93, 453	LAHCFD, MROSD, and County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)	Dual jurisdiction structure is in place with CCFD / CALFIRE for fire suppression. Coordinating efforts to analyze feasibility, complexities & impacts with SCC County Executive Office.
21	23	0.31	Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve, Hillside	Inside Los Altos Hills SOI, inside LAHCFD SOI, adjacent to Los Altos Hills city limits, outside Los Altos Hills USA	LAHCFD/ CCFD	CCFD Stations 74, 77, 76	SRA, no structures, regional park	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Annexation by LAHCFD Midpeninsula Regional Open 	Annexation by LAHCFD. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks and open space.	Pages 82-83, 88, 92-93	LAHCFD, MROSD, and County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)	Dual jurisdiction structure is in place with CCFD / CALFIRE for fire suppression. Coordinating efforts to analyze feasibility, complexities & impacts with SCC County Executive Office.
22	24	0.33	Private nonprofit - Hidden Villa	inside Los Altos Hills SOI, inside LAHCFD SOI, adjacent to Los Altos Hills and Palo Alto city limits, outside Los Altos Hills USA	LAHCFD/ CCFD	CCFD Stations 74, 77, 76	SRA, structures	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Annexation by LAHCFD Status quo 	Annexation by LAHCFD.	Page 82-83, 88, 90-91	LAHCFD	Dual jurisdiction structure is in place with CCFD / CALFIRE for fire suppression. Coordinating efforts to analyze feasibility, complexities & impacts with SCC County Executive Office.
23	25	0.05	Roadway - Interstate 280	Inside City of Palo Alto SOI, adjacent to City of Los Altos Hills city limits, adjacent to Los Alto Hills FPD boundaries, outside of Los Altos Hills FPD SOI, outside Los Altos Hills USA	LAHCFD/ CCFD	CCFD Stations 74, 76, 75, 77	Interstate with demand for emergency services	Yes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Annexation by LAHCFD (requires SOI expansion) Status quo 	Annexation by LAHCFD with SOI expansion for logical service boundaries along the interstate.	Page 82-83, 88, 90-91, 453	LAHCFD	Coordinating efforts to analyze feasibility, complexities & impacts with SCC County Executive Office.



SARATOGA FIRE DISTRICT

SERVICE SINCE 1923

February 6, 2024

Board of Commissioners

Santa Clara County LAFCO

lafco@ceo.secgov.org

Re: Response to Countywide Fire Service Review Report

Dear Commissioners and Executive Director Palacheria:

The Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD) provides written responses on its plan and timeline to implement recommendations presented in the Countywide Fire Service Review Report (report) pertaining to the SFD and shown as items numbered 1, 12, and 29 of Table A. The paragraphs below correspond to the number in the report.

1. SFD responds to the Fire And Emergency Services Overview recommendations – Emergency Response Performance Standard appearing on pages xiii, and 25 of the report as follows:

The SFD Board will consider adopting a response time standard which it has published. This action is expected to be taken sometime before the middle of the year and in connection with a study the SFD is conducting involving designation of emergency response and evacuation routes within the Wildland Urban Interface Area.

12. SFD responds to the Fire And Emergency Services Recommendations on pages xiv, 38, and 44 of the report as follows:

The SFD Board will provide an explanation and links on the district website to connect community members with the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District with whom SFD contracts for fire protection services. The SDF anticipates development not only of guidelines to assist customers but enforceable standards relating to work performed in designated emergency response and evacuation routes as described above.

29. SFD responds to the Fire And Emergency Services Recommendation on pages xvii, and 562 as follows:

SFD does not agree with alternatives purportedly identified in LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review in 2010 or in section III: Governance Structure Alternatives in the present report. The SFD is not receptive to reorganization/ dissolution as SFD maintains that neither would enhance service efficiencies already being provided under contract.

Attention is invited to the comment letter provided by SFD on July 21, 2023. A copy is attached for reference. These comments were not addressed in the final report the commission adopted.

During the past 45 years, the SFD has developed conditions of approval for new construction in the Wildland Urban Interface Area which were eventually incorporated into the Saratoga City Code. These included:

Requirements for minimum water flow of 1000 gallons per minute for fire hydrants.

Requirements for minimum driveway widths of 14 feet to accommodate emergency equipment.

Requirements for new roof coverings to be fire retardant Class A materials, and new wood roofs allowed under UL approved applications.

Requirements for fire sprinkler systems to be installed in garages of all new residential construction.

Requirements for fire detection systems to be installed in all new residential and commercial properties, and to have the installation of an Early Warning Alarm system (EWAS). All systems are monitored by a UL approved monitoring company

The SFD developed the ballot measure to fund the building of its present fire station. This passed with an 88% approval rating of district voters.

The SFD has been transparent and pragmatic during LAFCO's review by establishing a contract for fire protection services with the Central Fire Protection District. The contract between the SFD and the CCFD established a working

relationship for County Fire to provide SFD with 24-hour staffing of two engine companies at the SFD station.

The Countywide Fire Service Review Final report at page 542 recites the unanimous decision of the commission on August 6, 2014 to not initiate any changes in the governance of the district. Nothing has transpired since that action was taken almost 10 years ago to support or justify reorganization/dissolution now.

Very truly yours,



Ernest Kraule

President, Board of Commissioners
Saratoga Fire Protection District

cc: Commissioners

Business Manager



SARATOGA FIRE DISTRICT

SERVICE SINCE 1923

July 21, 2023

Board of Commissioners

Santa Clara County LAFCo

lafco@ceo.sccgov.org

Re: Comments of Saratoga fire Protection District
to Draft Report-Countywide Fire Service Review
Public Review Draft Report June 2023

Dear Commissioners and Executive Director Palacheria:

The Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD) presents this comment letter on the draft Countywide Fire Service Review recommendations prepared for Santa Clara County LAFCo by its consultant AP Triton.

The report does not support the recommendations on page 562. The report simply recites the fire service review undertaken 13 years ago and a special study undertaken 9 years ago. Affirming “redundancies” that have not been identified in this report nor studied or substantiated by AP Triton is without foundation.

Although purportedly basing recommendations on reviews and studies in 2020 and 2014, the report recognizes that, on August 6, 2014, the Commission unanimously decided not to initiate any changes in the governance of the SFD. Any issue about a supposed “hole” in the center of the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD) as a justification for consolidation of SFD with CCFD is rendered meaningless by the fact that SFD contracts with CCFD for fire protection services.

SFD objects to any proceedings towards dissolution. Dissolving the SFD would not be in the best interest of the residents of the district for the following reasons:

Fire Station 73 is still being paid for by the residents of SFD who approved a bond election to construct a building. The station is in a pivotal location for emergency response and can also be used by the City of Saratoga as an emergency operations center. There is no comparable station within the jurisdiction of CCFD. It should also be noted that the draft report observed that CCFD has failed to replace or repair its stations in a timely fashion.

There are no redundancies specified in the current service structure nor were any substantiated the current report. The SFD Board of Commissioner provides accountability and oversight of the services furnished by CCFD including SFD's budget, fire station maintenance and upkeep, emergency response, hydrant maintenance, and hillside access road availability. Consolidation of SFD with CCCFD will deprive SFD residents of an oversight board to ensure that the \$12 million of the taxes they pay are being spent effectively and are not subsidizing another jurisdiction served by CCFD.

Within SFD's jurisdiction are a substantial number of elementary schools, a junior high school, West Valley College, two large retirement communities, numerous churches, the Mountain Winery concert facility, a federal post office, the City of Saratoga city hall and community center, State Highway 9, Saratoga cemetery and Saratoga downtown and Argonaut commercial district. The SFD board of directors interacts with each of these entities to provide monitoring and oversight of events occurring within the SFD. It continues to be a viable entity and does not warrant further action by the commission.

Very truly yours,



Marc G. Hynes
District Counsel

Saratoga Fire Protection District

cc: Fire Commissioners



SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

14700 Winchester Blvd., Los Gatos, CA 95032 | (408) 378-4010 | www.sccfd.org

February 16, 2024

Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County (LAFCO)

Ref: Countywide Fire Service Review Recommendations

Dear Neelima Palacherla,

This memorandum responds to LAFCO's request for written responses from the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD) related to how the recommendations directed to CCFD in LAFCO's recently adopted Countywide Fire Service Review will be accepted and if accepted will be implemented, including a timeframe for implementation. Each recommendation directed to the CCFD is listed below, followed by CCFD's response. The Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD) appreciates the opportunity to respond.

Recommendations:
Table A

1. Palo Alto, Santa Clara, and San Jose have adopted performance standards (goals) through their elected officials. Sunnyvale and CCFD (including SFD and LAHCFD) have published response time goal, however, their elected officials have not adopted the standard. Morgan Hill, Milpitas and SCFD have not adopted a response time standard. Organizations should adopt a performance goal and present those to the elected officials for adoption. The organizations should consider a baseline standard that defines the expectation of service for the community.

Response: Accepted: As a CFAI, international accredited agency, CCFD is committed to continuous improvement of fire service delivery within the response service area. In the last CFAI accreditation cycle for the organization, within the Community Risk Assessment-Standards of Cover (2020-2025 CRA-SOC), identified are response benchmarks based on a 5-year assessment of baseline performance of various incident risk types and population densities. These benchmarks are updated each accreditation cycle based on 5-year past performance and compared against industry standards. The agency will work to codify the benchmark response time standards to the Board of Directors in FY 24-25.

2. Units with UHUs of over 10%. These agencies should add additional resources to effectively manage the call volume and improve response time performance.

Response: Accepted: CCFD plans on remaining a CFAI accredited agency and will continue to monitor UHU of all response units. Units that exceed the 10% UHU within the inherent district as well as contract cities/districts will be identified. CCFD can make adjustments to district resources as budgetary constraints allow and CCFD will continue to work with contract cities/districts to collaboratively work on paths to determine how additional resources can be added to reduce UHU of primary response units based on the applicable contract while determining if agreed upon modification of the said contract is feasible based on budgetary impact. Implementation TBD.

- 2D. **CCFD Unit:** E81 (10.3%). The City of Campbell needs additional resources to reduce the unit hour utilization rate for the crew at Station 81 to help meet the performance standards adopted for the community. This study did not evaluate whether the city needs an additional fire station or just an additional company at Station 81.



SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Response: Accepted: Implementation TBD. CCFD and the city of Campbell will continue to work collaboratively to identify gaps in performance standards within the city of Campbell and determine next steps to meet agreed upon city coverage within the contract and/or applicable CRA-SOC. Discussion of mutually agreeable amendments to the current contract will be needed to add additional response units to the city of Campbell.

3. Call Volume: The City of Campbell, which contracts with CCFD, is experiencing an increase in service demand and the resources assigned are already exceeding capacity, including the automatic aid stations nearby. The call volume inside the City of Campbell accounts for approximately 20% of all CCFD emergency responses, however, the staffing level only represents 9.3% of the on duty staffing each day. CCFD staffing levels in the city are dependent on contract conditions. The City of Campbell will need additional resources to meet the performance standards adopted for the community.

Response: Accepted: Implementation TBD. CCFD and the City of Campbell will continue to work collaboratively with the goals to ensure call volume trends and/or identifying new or increasing risks to the community of Campbell as published in CCFD's CFAI accreditation documents are communicated to the city AHJ staff. Resource allocation within the contract between CCFD and Campbell are reviewed regularly with planned budgetary considerations.

- 8J. **CCFD, Los Altos, Campbell, Los Gatos:** The majority of CCFD's fire stations are older and do not meet the requirements of modern firefighting. With seven of CCFD's stations over fifty years old, a facility replacement plan should be in place. In reviewing the current Capital Improvement Plan, CCFD established a capital fund in 2020 that will assist in funding the necessary improvements. Also, some facilities are not owned by the district and rely on each city or district to maintain or replace them. Most stations need a remodel to create gender separation in both sleeping areas and restrooms/shower areas.

Response: Accepted: Capital Improvement on going. CCFD continues to work through the department's Capital Improvement Plan under the guidance of the Director of Support Services to update, repair and/or replace facilities identified in the CIP.

The organization will continue to strive to create gender separation in both sleeping areas and restroom/shower areas of all stations and facilities owned by the CCFD. CCFD will continue to work through contracts with the city of Campbell, the city of Los Altos, the Saratoga Fire District, and the Los Altos Hills County Fire District to work towards the goals identified.

In lieu of full capital replacement of facilities, CCFD has delivered kitchen, bathroom, flooring and dormitory renovations to many of the fifteen (15) fire stations and Training Center. These renovations support firefighter healthy in and healthy out initiatives and increased productivity.

13. Public Access to Incident Data: CCFD and CAL Fire should provide access to the incident database for every fire agency in Santa Clara County. The Fire Investigation Task Force is a best practice, and the data collected can be used to identify the fire problem countywide. The data quality must be high enough to determine what caused the fire (ignition source and material first ignited), where it occurred (fire origin in specific occupancy type, as well as geographic location), who caused it, if applicable (age, sex, etc.), and why it occurred (the action that brought the ignition source and material first ignited together). A shared database/geocoded map would facilitate the creation of programs that target specific populations and occupancies in areas at risk.



SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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Response: Accepted: Implementation TBD: Implementation of a shared Records Management System (RMS) where data between multiple agencies could be compiled and shared would be beneficial. Not all fire agencies within the county operate on the same system so technological challenges still exist. With the projected move to National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) this could be feasible in the future.
<https://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfirs/neris/>

20. CCFD, and SCFD are not currently utilizing Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology to dispatch the closest available resource for emergencies. By integrating AVL into the CAD system through GIS mapping, the system can identify and dispatch the nearest unit to the incident. AVL Dispatch can help improve overall response times, potentially making a significant difference in critical calls. Each of these agencies should implement AVL dispatch in their dispatch center.

Response: Accepted: CCFD AVL implementation goal of Q3 of 2024. CCFD and Santa Clara County Communications worked together for a successful implementation of the COTs CAD in Q3 of 2023. The second phase of the CAD implementation for CCFD is for AVL based dispatching that is planned to go live in Q3 of 2024, allowing for 9 months of data before the AVL implementation. CCFD will continue working with executive leadership at Santa Clara County Communications for opportunities to integrate CAD with other PSAPs and/or discuss AVL based unit sharing capabilities with other fire jurisdictions within the County.

29. There are potential alternatives with regards to SFD's governance and administration, where duplicated efforts could be minimized, as identified in LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review in 2010 and in Section III: Governance Structure Alternatives of this report. The review affirms that there are redundancies in SFD's current service structure that could be more efficient with just one fire district serving the area. It is recommended that SFD's receptiveness to reorganization to enhance services efficiencies be assessed.

Response: CCFD agrees that there may be potential alternatives for SFD, CCFD however, will continue to work collaborative with SFD in the delivery of operational assets, fire prevention product delivery, CERRS delivery and fuels reduction efforts through the Pre-Fire Management and Wildfire Resilience Program. These services are delivered through contract by CCFD to SFD.

31. Exploring options for alternative structures, such as joint powers authorities combining two or more neighboring agencies (Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and CCFD), could potentially bring efficiencies and value-added services to Mountain View and other smaller fire service providers in Santa Clara County. Creating a larger entity with a unified structure can offer benefits such as increased accountability, improved efficiency, and enhanced effectiveness in delivering fire services to the community. While Mountain View's services are satisfactory and appear to be sustainable, there could be opportunities to pool resources, share expertise, and optimize operations, leading to improved service delivery.

Response: CCFD will continue to be willing to explore the ability to share resources to improve on efficiencies in service delivery to the community.

Recommendations:

Table B: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 13

Response: For all Annexation recommendations identified above, CCFD supports annexation, or consolidation of lands in which fire protection service responsibility is not clearly identified or defined. The risk of wildfire or structure fire exposures is not confined within jurisdictional boundaries and as such it is



SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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important to have identified Fire resources and Fire resource responsibility identify throughout Santa Clara County. This county has a rich history of annexations and consolidations that created efficiencies, economies of scale, and ultimately cohesive fire response as the County developed and grew. Annexations and consolidations will continue to create efficiencies and ultimately improved response capabilities, especially for areas that do not have an identified fire jurisdictional authority.

CCFD believes that areas in which the closest appropriately identified jurisdiction for these areas that currently do not have identified fire protection authority would not significantly change the current fire response model.

Thank you again for the opportunity to respond to the recommendations.

Sincerely,

Suwanna L Kerdkaw
Fire Chief, Santa Clara County Fire Department (CCFD)

CC:

John Mills, Deputy County Executive

Brian Glass, Assistant Fire Chief

Dennis Lollie, Deputy Chief Administration and Planning



South Santa Clara County Fire District

15670 Monterey Street Morgan Hill, CA 95037 • (408) 779-2121 • www.sccfd.com
Baraka Carter, Fire Chief

February 15, 2024

Santa Clara County LAFCO
777 N. First Street #410
San Jose, CA 95112
lafco@ceo.sccgov.org

Re: Countywide Fire Service Review Report Responses

Dear LAFCO Commissioners and Neelima Palacherla,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Countywide Fire Service Review Recommendations. We have the following responses:

Table A

#1 Emergency Response Performance Standard:

Gilroy, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Santa Clara, and San Jose have adopted performance standards (goals) through their elected officials. Sunnyvale and CCFD (including SFD and LAHCFD) have published response time goal, however, their elected officials have not adopted the standard. Morgan Hill, Milpitas and South Santa Clara County Fire District (SSCCFD) have not adopted a response time standard. Organizations should adopt a performance goal and present those to the elected officials for adoption. The organizations should consider a baseline standard that defines the expectation of service for the community.

SSCCFD's Response:

South Santa Clara County Fire District (SSCCFD) services suburban and rural areas surrounding the cities of Morgan Hill, San Martin, and Gilroy. With the expansive landscape SSCCFD covers, we take great pride in meeting our EMS performance goals of 9:59 for suburban areas and 11:59 for rural areas 90% of the time.

#5 SSCCFD & County of Santa Clara: 12-14: The sustainability of funding the operations of SSCCFD is being challenged primarily due to the increased cost of the CAL FIRE agreement. Projections show SSCCFD will use up all available fund balance by early FY 25; if no further revenue sources can be identified by that time, SSCCFD's operations will be severely impacted and may need to be reduced or may not be able to continue.

SSCCFD's Response:

South Santa Clara County Board of Commissioners has been in constant communication with County Executive and County Board of Directors/Supervisors on the financial stability of the Fire District. The Board of Commissioners have and will continue to explore revenue generating options to offset the costs for services.

#8K Facility Replacement and Maintenance Planning:

The majority of fire stations, including SSCCFD's, are older and do not meet the requirements of modern firefighting. With two of the four stations serving SSCCFD being over 50 years old, there should be a facility replacement plan in place. [Headquarters (Shared with CAL FIRE) - 69 years)], and [Masten (owned by SSCCFD) - 57 years)]. The difficulty for SSCCFD is the mix of state-owned and local government-owned facilities and some with shared staffing. Getting the right funding at the right time for a multiagency building project is challenging. We did not identify any existing capital projects in the current SSCCFD budget documents.

SSCCFD's Response:

South Santa Clara County Fire District received funding from the County of Santa Clara to have repairs completed at its Masten Station. The commissioners in coordination with staff have identified repairs to be addressed in SSCCFD 5-year plan.

#12 Service Provider Transparency for Cities and Districts with Fire Prevention Services provided by other agencies: Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Los Altos, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Campbell, SFD, LAHCFD, SSCCFD should all provide an explanation and links on their websites to connect community members with the agency providing fire prevention services. Those providing the service should consider adding guidelines and checklists used by staff to assist customers.

SSCCFD's Response:

South Santa Clara County Fire District have their own website and will continue to work with their web developers to enhance the features while providing a user-friendly platform to the public as they navigate the web.

#20 AVL Dispatch of Resources: Morgan Hill and SSCCFD are not currently utilizing Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology to dispatch the closest available resource for emergencies. By integrating AVL into the CAD system through GIS mapping, the system can identify and dispatch the nearest unit to the incident. AVL Dispatch can help improve overall response times, potentially making a significant difference in critical calls. Each of these agencies should implement AVL dispatch in their dispatch center.

SSCCFD's Response:

South Santa Clara County Fire District will be looking for funding options to budget for AVL. Once identified it will be presented to the Board of Commissioners as an agenda item for recommendations.

#30 Morgan Hill and SSCCFD: It is recommended that SSCCFD and the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy enter a Memorandum of Understanding, in coordination with CAL FIRE, outlining the agencies' commitment to providing long-term cooperative fire services and establishing a joint strategic planning team to assess potential cooperative service elements for implementation.

SCFD's Response:

Morgan Hill FD, South Santa Clara County Fire District and Gilroy FD have Boundary Drop Agreements, Mutual Aid Agreements, and Auto Aid Agreements in place to support each other while serving the community. We've established common communications, standardize operating guidelines, and have routine interagency trainings.

#30C SSCCFD: SSCCFD has the economies of scale through its contract with CAL FIRE that allow for greater efficiency and effectiveness. However, due to financing constraints, and the need to either enhance revenues or reduce service costs, there may be further opportunities for regionalization between Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SSCCFD to form a larger local entity.

SSCCFD's Response:

SSCCFD Commissioners appreciates LAFCO's thorough review of the countywide fire service and will continue to work with County Executive and the Board of Directors/Supervisors to ensure we are providing the best service possible to our community.

Please reach out to john@poultryshow.com or baraka.carter@fire.ca.gov if you have any questions about our responses.

Best Regards,

DocuSigned by:

EEFC91C46A854C2...

John Monaco
Chairperson
Board of Commissioners

DocuSigned by:

DD8A9EC12224475...

Baraka Carter
Fire Chief
South Santa Clara Fire District

cc: AP Triton, Dan Petersen dpetersen@aptriton.com



South Santa Clara County Fire District

15670 Monterey Street Morgan Hill, CA 95037 • (408) 779-2121 • www.sscfd.com
George Huang, Fire Chief

August 1, 2023

Local Agency Formation Commission of
Santa Clara County

Emailed to lafco@ceo.sccgov.org

Honorable Members of LAFCO,

The appointed commissioners of the South Santa Clara County Fire District would like to offer the following comments on the June 2023 Public Review Draft version of the recently released Countywide Fire Service Review.

Comment #1 of 3.

Found on page 597: Sphere of Influence Expansion Recommendation:

Area 7: The draft recommendation is: "... that the northern portion of Area 7 be included in CCFD's SOI and the southern portion of Area 7 be included in SCFD's SOI to ensure logical service boundaries."

We feel that rather than split the responsibility of area 7, the entirety of area 7 should be included in the SCFD SOI for three reasons:

1. Continuity of existing district boundaries
2. Continuity of existing district service area
3. Geographic proximity of existing SCFD resources

CCFD's existing SOI on the east side of San Jose (near area 7) have been contracted out to other agencies for over 30 years. There are no staffed CCFD resources on the east side of San Jose.

Area 11: We agree with the recommendation.

Areas 12-14: We agree with the recommendation

Areas 17 -20: We agree with the recommendation

Comment #2 of 3.

The following corrections should be made:

On page 571, the population of the SCFD is stated as being 22,554. This is in conflict with several other sources.

The 2010 LAFCO Fire Service Review listed the population as 24,533.

The 2019 Santa Clara County Management Audit Report listed the district's population as 53,784.

The current LAFCO webpage lists the district population as 38,500.

LAFCO: <https://santaclaralafco.org/cities-and-special-districts/special-district-profiles/south-santa-clara-county-fire-protection>

Based on the wide range of published populations, we request that the correct population be determined and included in the report.

Comment #3 of 3.

Page 589: Corrections

The ownership of SCFD stations is mis-stated in the report. Please make the following corrections.

Station 1 (Headquarters) is owned by Cal Fire.
Station 2 (Masten Station) is owned by SCFD.
Station 3 (Treehaven Station) is leased by SCFD
Station 4 (Pacheco Station) is owned by Cal Fire.

We will look forward to your response to the above comments and corrections.

Sincerely,

John Monaco

John Monaco, President
Board of Commissioners
South Santa Clara County Fire District

JM:ja

cc: SSCCFD Commissioners, CalFire SCU Unit Chief, SCCBOS-D1

**CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit**

15670 Monterey Street
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
(408) 779-2121
www.fire.ca.gov

March 20th, 2024

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) hereby provides the following response to the Santa Clara County LAFCO Report regarding table A: Recommendation #30.

***Gilroy, Morgan Hill and SCFD:** Exploring options for alternative service structures, such as joint powers authorities combining operations of two or more neighboring agencies, could potentially bring efficiencies and value-added services to Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SCFD. While CAL FIRE provides contractual service of a large-scale fire agency to Morgan Hill and SCFD, creating a larger local entity consisting of Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SCFD with a unified structure could offer benefits such as increased accountability, improved efficiency, and enhanced effectiveness in delivering fire services to the community. While reorganization, consolidation, and other shared service structures will likely have efficiencies from which agencies can benefit, if they are facing service-related constraints, these structure alternatives do not provide a singular solution to all constraints to services and must be combined with other strategies. It is recommended that SCFD and the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, in coordination with CAL FIRE, outlining the agencies' commitment to providing long-term cooperative fire services and establishing a joint strategic planning team to assess potential cooperative service elements for implementation.*

CAL FIRE does not have the authority to speak or act on behalf of three local government jurisdictions related to forming a joint powers authority. CAL FIRE is obligated via the public resources code to evaluate official requests for proposal to enter into Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements with local government agencies. Exploring options for alternative service delivery models among local government agencies is a local initiative.

As for recommendation 5, 6 & 9 on Table B

#5 Annexation by CCFD of the northern half and annexation by SSCCFD of southern half with SOI expansions and contract service by San José or CAL FIRE.

#6 Extend CAL FIRE staffing year round, with possible Amador Contract through off season contingent on funding mechanism.

#9 Annexation by SSCCFD (SOI expansion needed) including entirety of highway, with contract services provided by CAL FIRE.

Local government agencies hold the responsibility for fire, rescue and EMS response within the LRA. CAL FIRE does not have the authority regarding annexation or sphere of influence determination on a local government agency. Entering into a Cooperation Fire Service Agreement including an Amador Agreement would require a request for proposal from the local government agency.



CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit

15670 Monterey Street
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
(408) 779-2121
www.fire.ca.gov

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Baraka Carter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Baraka Carter
Unit/Fire Chief
CAL FIRE / Santa Clara Unit
15670 Monterey Road
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

**CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit**

15670 Monterey Street
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
(408) 779-2121
www.fire.ca.gov

March 20th, 2024

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) hereby provides the following response to the Santa Clara County LAFCO Report regarding table A: Recommendation #30.

Gilroy, Morgan Hill and SCFD: *Exploring options for alternative service structures, such as joint powers authorities combining operations of two or more neighboring agencies, could potentially bring efficiencies and value-added services to Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SCFD. While CAL FIRE provides contractual service of a large-scale fire agency to Morgan Hill and SCFD, creating a larger local entity consisting of Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SCFD with a unified structure could offer benefits such as increased accountability, improved efficiency, and enhanced effectiveness in delivering fire services to the community. While reorganization, consolidation, and other shared service structures will likely have efficiencies from which agencies can benefit, if they are facing service-related constraints, these structure alternatives do not provide a singular solution to all constraints to services and must be combined with other strategies. It is recommended that SCFD and the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, in coordination with CAL FIRE, outlining the agencies' commitment to providing long-term cooperative fire services and establishing a joint strategic planning team to assess potential cooperative service elements for implementation.*

CAL FIRE does not have the authority to speak or act on behalf of three local government jurisdictions related to forming a joint powers authority. CAL FIRE is obligated via the public resources code to evaluate official requests for proposal to enter into Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements with local government agencies. Exploring options for alternative service delivery models among local government agencies is a local initiative.

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#5 Annexation by CCFD of the northern half and annexation by SSCCFD of southern half with SOI expansions and contract service by San José or CAL FIRE.

#6 Extend CAL FIRE staffing year round, with possible Amador Contract through off season contingent on funding mechanism.

#9 Annexation by SSCCFD (SOI expansion needed) including entirety of highway, with contract services provided by CAL FIRE.

Local government agencies hold the responsibility for fire, rescue and EMS response within the LRA. CAL FIRE does not have the authority regarding annexation or sphere of influence determination on a local government agency. Entering into a Cooperation Fire Service Agreement including an Amador Agreement would require a request for proposal from the local government agency.



CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit

15670 Monterey Street
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
(408) 779-2121
www.fire.ca.gov

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Baraka Carter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Baraka Carter
Unit/Fire Chief
CAL FIRE / Santa Clara Unit
15670 Monterey Road
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

County of Santa Clara

Office of the County Executive

County Government Center, East Wing
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, California 95110
(408) 299-5105



DATE: February 13, 2024

TO: Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County

FROM: James R. Williams, County Executive *JRW*

SUBJECT: Recommendations from LAFCo's Countywide Fire Service Review

This memorandum responds to LAFCo's request for written responses from the County of Santa Clara related to how the recommendations directed to the County in LAFCo's recently adopted Countywide Fire Service Review will be implemented, including a timeframe for implementation. Each recommendation directed to the County is listed below, followed by the County's response. The County Executive's Office appreciates the opportunity to respond.

Fire and Emergency Services Overview Recommendations

5. South Santa Clara County Fire District (SCFD) and County of Santa Clara: 12-14: The sustainability of funding the operations of SCFD is being challenged primarily due to the increased cost of the CAL FIRE agreement. Projections show SCFD will use up all available fund balance by early FY 25; if no further revenue sources can be identified by that time, SCFD's operations will be severely impacted and may need to be reduced or may not be able to continue.

County's response: The County and SCFD are working closely to identify and bring forward to the Board of Directors recommendations for new ongoing revenue sources to sustain operations. Our analysis shows that there is additional time to fully mitigate this issue. The County and SCFD anticipate bringing forward these recommendations over the next several fiscal years.

WUI Hazard Mitigation in Santa Clara County Recommendations

28. Funding Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council: The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council is actively working at a countywide level to improve mitigation efforts. While the Fire Safe Council has access to some grant funding, the Fire Safe Council needs sustainable funding to provide consistent long-term service. AP Triton recommends Santa Clara County provide some level of consistent funding each year to the Fire Safe Council. In addition, funding for projects within a fire agency's jurisdiction should be budgeted by the fire agency in accordance with Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) timeframes.

County's response: The County of Santa Clara has provided one-time funding to support the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council over the years at the direction of the Board of Supervisors through the County's annual budget process. The County, however, is facing a significant structural deficit that will have a negative impact on core safety net services. The County appreciates AP Triton's recommendation that funding for projects within a fire agency's jurisdiction should be budgeted by the fire agency in accordance with CWPP timeframes.

Governance Structure Alternatives Recommendations

32. Six counties in California have opted to provide contract services to the State to fill CAL FIRE's obligations with their counties. Given the changes to fire service that have occurred over the last two decades, reassessing the possibility of Santa Clara County transitioning to a "contract county" may be warranted. Inclusion of Alameda County and Contra Costa County in the restructuring, should their fire agencies express interest, would create a more cohesive fire service structure in the Bay Area and likely enhance bargaining power with the State. A challenge may be CAL FIRE's long-term established presence in the county and existing infrastructure that is in place.

County's response: The County appreciates that this recommendation may bring significant service enhancements to our community and will explore this possibility in future analyses.

Recommendations for Addressing Areas Outside of an Identified Local Fire Service Provider

6. County of Santa Clara and CAL FIRE: Extend CAL FIRE staffing year-round, with possible Amador Contract through off season contingent on funding mechanism.

County's response: The County will work with CAL FIRE to understand the number of calls for service on an annual basis. The cost per call of service under an Amador Contract may be an inefficient approach to providing year-round service. A mutual aid arrangement with CAL FIRE and the nearest local fire service provider may be preferable to respond to those calls received during the off season.

7. SCFD and County of Santa Clara: Annexation into SCFD as area is already located within its Sphere of Influence (SOI). Identify funding structure for emergency services in County Parks.

County's response: Since County Parks are property tax-exempt, there is no revenue generated for fire and emergency services for facility users.

15. SCFD, San Jose, and County of Santa Clara: Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion and contract services by San Jose for consistency of response with all territory in the region regardless of city SOI. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks.

County's response: Since County Parks are property tax-exempt, there is no revenue generated for fire and emergency services for facility users.

16. SCFD, San Jose, and County of Santa Clara: Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion and contract services by San Jose for consistency of response with all territory in the region regardless of city SOI. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks.

County's response: Since County Parks are property tax-exempt, there is no revenue generated for fire and emergency services for facility users.

20. Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD), Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), and County of Santa Clara: Annexation by LAHCFD with SOI expansion. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks and open space.

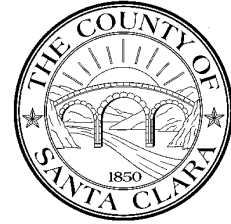
County's response: Since County Parks are property tax-exempt, there is no revenue generated for fire and emergency services for facility users.

21. LAHCFD, MROSD, and County of Santa Clara: Annexation by LAHCFD. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks and open space.

County's response: Since County Parks are property tax-exempt, there is no revenue generated for fire and emergency services for facility users.

c: Greta S. Hansen, Chief Operating Officer
Tony LoPresti, County Counsel
John P. Mills, Deputy County Executive
Ross daSilva, Supervising Budget Analyst
Shawn Whiteman, Program Manager II

County of Santa Clara
Office of the County Executive



Office of Emergency Management
55 West Younger Avenue, Suite 450
San Jose, CA 95110-1712
(408) 808-7800 FAX: (408) 294-4851

February 16, 2024

TO: Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County

FROM: Dana Reed, Director

Response to Recommendations from LAFCo's Countywide Fire Service Review

This memorandum responds to LAFCo's request for written responses from the County of Santa Clara Office of Emergency Management related to how the recommendations directed to the County in LAFCo's recently adopted Countywide Fire Service Review.

Item 15 (EOP):

Emergency Operations Plan Updates: The County Office of Emergency Management should develop a schedule for regular updates of the Emergency Operations Plan.

The current January 2022 Santa Clara County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is reviewed every 2 years and revised every 5 years. This year Santa Clara County has been selected by CalOES to participate in their review and approval process for Operational Area EOP's. Beginning in June/July 2024, the Office of Emergency Management will be utilizing the new CalOES EOP Crosswalk in the next revision to the County's Emergency Operations Plan to ensure alignment between the County and the state's procedures. This initiative ensures compliance with CalOES' 2024 Updates to the County Emergency Plan Legislation Content, Submission, and Review. Key topics covered include Access and Functional Needs, cultural competency, emergency sheltering, transportation between shelters and community resilience centers, and animal care during disasters.

Item 16 (Community Resiliency):

Emergency Management Outreach: The County Office of Emergency Management should build community resiliency to disasters through regular outreach and scheduled drills.

The Office of Emergency Management will continue its efforts to build community resilience to emergencies and disasters by focusing on enhancing public messaging across communication channels, conducting community outreach initiatives, and effectively coordinating the Operational Area Joint Information System. The Office of Emergency Management also maintains the following programs to ensure building community resiliency to disasters:

- Community Outreach Events
- AFN & Cultural Competency Workgroup
- NGO/VOAD Liaison
- Training & Exercise

Dana Reed
February 16, 2024

This years planned exercises are:

- Active Attacker TTX
- Regional Supply Chain TTX
- Supply Chain Resilience TTX
- Commodities Point of Distribution (CPOD) Full-Scale Exercise.

Emergency Management Training:

- Delivered 38 trainings.
- Held quarterly Alert and Warning Alert SCC Basic Notifier Training.

Item 17 (Fire Safe Council Representation):

Fire Safe Council Representation: The County Office of Emergency Management should consider adding a representative from the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council as a partner in plan updates and revisions.

The County Office of Emergency Management continues engagement with our Fire Safe Council, some of the most recent larger endeavors were the Wildfire Annex to the Emergency Operations Plan, the 2023 Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP).

The Wildfire Annex was initially completed in 2019. The OEM underwent a planning endeavor inviting Op Area, Regional, State and Federal partners/stakeholders this included members from the Fire Safe Council who were also invited to all sub-working group meetings and planning endeavors in effort to gain their insight and experience.

The Community Wildfire Protection Plan was updated concurrently with the MJHMP. The OEM and Fire Safe Council collaborated for 15 months to integrate the two planning efforts in a meaningful and effective way. A representatives from the Office of Emergency Management and the Santa Clara County Fire Department actively participated in the CWPP planning process. Conversely, the CWPP leadership team (OEM, SCCFD, Fire Safe Council) was involved and informed the MJHMP planning process. There were several public meetings for each planning initiative, and each meeting included presentations about the Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Fire Safe Council will be included in the upcoming EOP review.

Dana Reed
February 16, 2024

Item 18 (CWPP):

Reference Community Wildfire Protection Plan: The County Office of Emergency Management should include references to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in the wildfire threat summary portion of the Santa Clara County Emergency Operations Plan to help ensure coordination.

The Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Management collaborated with the Santa Clara Fire Safe Council with development of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). When the current Emergency Operations Plan is revised appropriate CWPP references will be added.

Cc: James R. Williams, County Executive
Greta S. Hansen, Chief Operating Officer
Kavita Narayan, County Counsel
John P. Mills, Deputy County Executive



CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit
South Santa Clara County Fire District
Morgan Hill Fire Department

15670 Monterey Street
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
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February 14th, 2024

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) thanks you for the opportunity to respond to the Countywide Fire Service Review Recommendations and hereby provides the following responses to the Santa Clara County LAFCO Report.

Regarding Recommendation 13 in the Report, which states CAL FIRE should provide access to the incident database for every fire agency in Santa Clara County. The Fire Investigation Task Force is a best practice, and the data collected can be used to identify the fire problem countywide. The data quality must be high enough to determine what caused the fire (ignition source and material first ignited), where it occurred (fire origin in specific occupancy type, as well as geographic location), who caused it, if applicable (age, sex, etc.), and why it occurred (the action that brought the ignition source and material first ignited together). A shared database/geocoded map would facilitate the creation of programs that target specific populations and occupancies in areas at risk.

CAL FIRE appreciates the recommendations. While the recommendation would require each agency to enter into some type of a JPA with a monetary impact to each agency, CAL FIRE supports exploring opportunities for increased efficiencies for the investigation of origin and cause of unwanted fires.

CAL FIRE has special concerns about Recommendation 32 in the Report, which states that the County should evaluate the possibility of Santa Clara County becoming a "contract county" by assuming fire protection responsibility for State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands within Santa Clara County where CAL FIRE currently provides fire protection and other services. Since the Report provides only a few sentences explaining this proposal, CAL FIRE would like to take this opportunity to better explain what "contract county" status is and how it is achieved.

Sections 4129, *et seq.*, of the California Public Resources Code (PRC) provide that a County Board of Supervisors may, by ordinance, elect "to assume responsibility for the prevention and suppression of all fires on all land in the county, including lands within state responsibility areas when the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection concurs in accordance with criteria adopted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection." (PRC § 4129.) Upon entering into a contract with the State, "the county shall exercise for the duration of the contract all the duty, power, authority, and responsibility for the prevention and suppression of all fires on all land in the county for which the county is authorized by this section to elect to assume responsibility." (*Ibid.*) The County and the State must then enter into a contract, for a term of not more than three years, which is subject to approval by the California Department of General Services (DGS) and which provides for payment by the State to the County assuming responsibility for SRA lands. (PRC §§ 4133, 4134.) The cost that the State pays to the Contract County shall be at least equal to the cost of providing those services by the State directly, as such cost is fixed by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (State Board) pursuant to section 4130 of the PRC. (PRC § 4132.) Thus, a "Contract County" is one that has assumed responsibility for fire prevention and suppression over SRA lands from the State and that the State pays for such services, roughly in accordance with the State's costs of providing those services itself.



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As provided in section 4129, the Director of CAL FIRE must review any application to become a Contract County in accordance with regulations promulgated by the State Board. The State Board has codified these requirements in article 2, chapter 11, division 1.5 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. Section 1856 ("Criteria for County Assumption of SRA") provides the criteria by which the Director must review an application by a County for Contract County status. This regulation requires that a County submit to the Director of CAL FIRE a detailed plan that: (1) delineates placement of facilities, equipment, and personnel for protection of SRA lands; (2) provides a method for orderly disposition of any state owned land and equipment, and placement of state personnel; (3) identifies State-supported equipment and personnel that the Contract County shall make available to the State for mutual aid, within or outside the Contract County; (4) identifies SRA lands within the county and provides the same or higher intensity of fire protection to these SRA lands as is provided under existing levels of State protection in other comparable areas of the State; and (5) provides a contingency plan for the State to re-assume protection of SRA lands if the Contract County does not provide required minimum levels of protection as required by the State. (Tit. 14, Cal. Code Regs. § 1856(b).) The Director must also make findings that the proposed assumption of fire protection over SRA lands will "not have a significant cumulative adverse effect on the ability of [CAL FIRE], either geographically or organizationally, to provide the level of fire protection mandated statewide by the State Fire Plan" or have a significant adverse impact on agreements with the federal government or any contracts that the State has with local governments for State assumption of local fire protection responsibility (commonly known as Schedule A Contracts). (Tit. 14, Cal. Code Regs. § 1856(c) & (d).)

Pursuant to subsection 1856(b)(2), the County of Santa Clara's detailed plan would need to account for the maintenance or disposition of the State personnel, equipment, and properties currently maintained by the State for fire protection of SRA and Schedule A lands in Santa Clara County. This means that Santa Clara County's plan must provide for the assumption of the approximately 375 CAL FIRE personnel in the County, as well as the purchase or replacement of approximately 70 pieces of equipment and 14 fire stations and other facilities currently owned and maintained by the State, as detailed in the attached spreadsheet. In addition, pursuant to section 1856(d)(1), the County would also need to assume the Schedule A contracts that CAL FIRE currently maintains with the following local governments: City of Morgan Hill and South Santa Clara County Fire District. The Director of CAL FIRE would need to be assured that this assumption by the County of those Schedule A contracts would not negatively impact those local governments.

Finally, Recommendation 32 of the Report suggests that "inclusion of Alameda County and Contra Costa County in the restructuring, should their fire agencies express interest, would create a more cohesive fire service structure in the Bay Area and likely enhance bargaining power with the State." Please be advised that CAL FIRE disagrees that this is a possibility. Section 4129 states that "the board of supervisors of *any county*" may provide, by ordinance, for the assumption of fire protection responsibility for SRA lands within the County. Given the clear language of the statute, and given that a contract found to be in violation of State contracting laws is void, CAL FIRE would not be willing to entertain a multi-County application for Contract County status in the absence of a legislative change to section 4129 explicitly allowing for such an arrangement or an official Opinion of the Attorney General of the State of California that such a multi-County application and subsequent contract is within the authority provided by section 4129. Therefore, as the

"The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection serves and safeguards the people and protects the property and resources of California."



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law currently stands, CAL FIRE would not accept a multi-County application and would only consider applications from individual Counties. The Report's conclusion that a multi-County arrangement would "likely enhance bargaining power with the State" is also, therefore, incorrect.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Baraka Carter".

Baraka Carter
Unit/Fire Chief
CAL FIRE / Santa Clara Unit
15670 Monterey Road
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

**CAL FIRE Santa Clara Unit**

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March 20th, 2024

The Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) hereby provides the following response to the Santa Clara County LAFCO Report regarding table A: Recommendation #30.

***Gilroy, Morgan Hill and SCFD:** Exploring options for alternative service structures, such as joint powers authorities combining operations of two or more neighboring agencies, could potentially bring efficiencies and value-added services to Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SCFD. While CAL FIRE provides contractual service of a large-scale fire agency to Morgan Hill and SCFD, creating a larger local entity consisting of Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SCFD with a unified structure could offer benefits such as increased accountability, improved efficiency, and enhanced effectiveness in delivering fire services to the community. While reorganization, consolidation, and other shared service structures will likely have efficiencies from which agencies can benefit, if they are facing service-related constraints, these structure alternatives do not provide a singular solution to all constraints to services and must be combined with other strategies. It is recommended that SCFD and the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, in coordination with CAL FIRE, outlining the agencies' commitment to providing long-term cooperative fire services and establishing a joint strategic planning team to assess potential cooperative service elements for implementation.*

CAL FIRE does not have the authority to speak or act on behalf of three local government jurisdictions related to forming a joint powers authority. CAL FIRE is obligated via the public resources code to evaluate official requests for proposal to enter into Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements with local government agencies. Exploring options for alternative service delivery models among local government agencies is a local initiative.

As for recommendation 5, 6 & 9 on Table B

#5 Annexation by CCFD of the northern half and annexation by SSCCFD of southern half with SOI expansions and contract service by San José or CAL FIRE.

#6 Extend CAL FIRE staffing year round, with possible Amador Contract through off season contingent on funding mechanism.

#9 Annexation by SSCCFD (SOI expansion needed) including entirety of highway, with contract services provided by CAL FIRE.

Local government agencies hold the responsibility for fire, rescue and EMS response within the LRA. CAL FIRE does not have the authority regarding annexation or sphere of influence determination on a local government agency. Entering into a Cooperation Fire Service Agreement including an Amador Agreement would require a request for proposal from the local government agency.



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Respectfully,

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Baraka Carter
Unit/Fire Chief
CAL FIRE / Santa Clara Unit
15670 Monterey Road
Morgan Hill, CA 95037



Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority
601 El Camino Real
Santa Clara, CA 95050

February 12, 2024

Dunia Noel, Asst. Executive Officer
Santa Clara LAFCO
777 North First Street, Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

Re: Response from Silicon Valley Regional Communications System (SVRIA) to LAFCO regarding Countywide Fire Service Review regarding Implementation of (Emergency Communications) Recommendations

On behalf of the SVRIA Board of Directors, thank you for providing the opportunity to respond to the LAFCO Countywide Fire Service Review and Emergency Communications, specifically Recommendations 19 and 22.

SVRIA provides the public safety and public service radio communication system for Santa Clara County. SVRIA Members and Participating Agencies represent the County of Santa Clara, the Valley Transit Authority (VTA), several special districts, and every city except Los Altos Hills.

The purpose of SVRIA is to enhance and improve interoperable communications, data sharing and other technology systems for the protection and support of the public, and to facilitate federal, state, and local cooperative communication efforts. More information about SVRIA can be found at <https://svria.org/>.

SVRIA's response to recommendations is in addition to the public comment letter previously submitted on July 31, 2023.

Recommendation 19: CAD-to-CAD Interoperability

1. SVRIA can assist and support fire agencies who seek to advance CAD-to-CAD Interoperability. Resource limitations currently exist, and new financial and staff resource investments would be needed to implement this recommendation. SVRIA is a lean organization by design. Its annual budget is approximately \$5M and contract personnel do not total 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) in staff. The SVRIA Executive Director has already contacted a leading CAD-to-CAD solution provider, Emerging Digital

Concepts, and the CAD vendor for several fire agencies in Santa Clara County, Hexagon, to fully understand the project scope and cost. These details have been shared with SVRIA's Working Committee which is made up of staff from Santa Clara County and member cities.

2. The timeframe for implementation would be three to five years.
3. SVRIA intends to support fire agencies if they decide to move forward with the recommendation.

Recommendation 22: Communications Feasibility Study

1. SVRIA can assist and support elected officials and fire agencies who seek to regionalize Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and 9-1-1 emergency communications centers. SVRIA's success as a JPA is based on its mission, fiscal and voting equity, and is a model for regional cooperation. SVRIA's annual budget is approximately \$5M and contract personnel do not total 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) in staff. No resources are currently identified to complete the feasibility study. An estimate to complete the study would be \$75K to \$125K.

SVRIA has already identified nearly \$50 million in lifecycle replacement of the existing radio system over the next 10 years just to maintain the current service level. Significant fiscal resource limitations, technical challenges, and public policy decisions currently exist to implement a regional fire, rescue, and EMS communications center. Substantial, unidentified, and unbudgeted new financial and staff resource investments would be needed to implement a regional PSAP, likely exceeding \$125M.

2. The timeframe for implementation of the feasibility report would be one to two years.
3. SVRIA intends to support its members if they move forward with the recommendation.

SVRIA again appreciates the opportunity to comment and respond on the Countywide Fire Service Review, specifically regional interoperable emergency communications and technology. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best Regards,



Eric Nickel
Executive Director

Abello, Emmanuel

From: Jason Schoonover <jschoonover@milpitas.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2024 9:54 AM
To: LAFCO
Cc: Noel, Dunia
Subject: [EXTERNAL] SCCFCA LAFCO Written Response Letter
Attachments: Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association LAFCO Response.docx

Good Morning,

On behalf of the Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association, please reference attached Written Responses.

Thanks,



Jason Schoonover
Fire Chief
Milpitas Fire Department
777 S. Main St, Milpitas CA 95035
Phone (408) 586-2811
Email jschoonover@milpitas.gov



Jason Schoonover, President
Milpitas FD
Liaison to Fire Marshals / Fire Prevention Section

Geo Blackshire, Secretary
Palo Alto FD
Liaison to EMS Section

Jim Wyatt
Gilroy FD
Liaison to SHSGP Anti-Terrorism Approval Authority

Ruben Torres
Santa Clara FD
Liaison to Santa Clara County Operational Area Council/Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA) PIO Subsection

Daniel Pistor
Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety
Liaison to Law Enforcement Chiefs

Juan Diaz
Mountain View FD
Liaison to Operations Section

Unknown (02/01/2024)
NASA-Ames Research Center
Liaison to Emergency Managers

Suwanna Kerdkaew
Santa Clara County FD
Liaison to CICCIS Program & Santa Clara County FireSafe Council. Treasurer to SCCFCA

Robert Sapien
San Jose FD
Liaison to Safety Committee

Baraka Carter
South Santa Clara County Fire District / Morgan Hill Fire Department
Liaison to Cal Fire and State of California & Training Officers Section

Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs' Association

A Chapter of California Fire Chief's Association

February 8, 2024

Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County
777 North First Street, Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

SANTA CLARA COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION RESPONSE TO THE COUNTYWIDE FIRE SERVICE REVIEW REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

Dear Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association regarding the recommendations provided in the Local Agency Formation Commission of Santa Clara County (LAFCO) Countywide Fire Service Review.

The Association appreciates the thorough review conducted by LAFCO and the valuable insights shared in the final report. We acknowledge the importance of collaborative efforts to enhance regional emergency response and planning, and we are proud to enjoy a highly cooperative relationship with fire service agencies Countywide.

We have carefully considered the recommendations in the report. The Associations responses are included below.

Recommendation #6

The Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association (SCCFCA) regularly review auto-aid agreements for equitable services and opportunities for optimization of services when feasible. Agencies also leverage technologies eg CAD to CAD links for dispatch efficiencies.

Recommendation #7

The Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association (SCCFCA) have discussed this recommendation and there is no operational necessity for this recommendation change.

Recommendation #9

The Fire Marshals Association work collaboratively to provide consistency in the recently adopted fire code. The 2022 code adoption cycle commenced early in 2022 with the published California Fire Code in July 2022. Regular meetings were held with representatives from all jurisdiction. The effort

included assignment of all sections of the fire code for evaluation and collaborative discussion for amendments from base code with appropriate justification. This resulted in a master draft document that was utilized as the base document for each AHJ to present to their respective governmental bodies within Santa Clara County for review, amendment and adoption.

Amendments are necessary and created to appropriately and effectively address the climactic, topographical or geologic hazards of a specific city or county. The Fire Marshals Association should continue to work to align amendments to best suit the needs and conditions of the local cities or county rather than simply reduce the number of amendments.

Recommendation #10

Reports to the respective governing bodies are provided on an annual basis in accordance with state law.

Recommendation #11

The intent of the recommendation is unclear. Unidocs is a repository for standardized forms and guidelines. The functionality described in the recommendation would likely require a records management system (RMS) to track the workflow of a project. Individual agencies implement and manage unique instances of records management systems, typically shared with other departments, that track workflows of the plan review and inspections processes. A tool possessing the functionality to capture workflows for plan review and hold standardized forms and guidelines across agencies would likely require a shared RMS with all requisite management, maintenance and administration at the State or County level.

Recommendation #14

The fire agencies have collaboratively worked together for past and ongoing combined campaigns . Fireworks safety or "Ready, Set, Go" are examples of combined campaigns that are coordinated through the Community Education of the fire agencies in the County.

Recommendation # 21

The recommendation may be on face value cost prohibitive. The SCCFCA supports exploring opportunities for increased efficiencies for Computer Aided Dispatch Systems

Respectfully,

Jason Schoonover, President

Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities, and environment from wildfires

February 14, 2024

Neelima Palacherla
Executive Officer
LAFCO of Santa Clara County
777 North First Street, Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

Re: Santa Clara County FireSafe Council's Response to LAFCO's Requested Implementation of Recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review

Dear Neelima,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the final adopted Countywide Fire Service Review and the recommendations made by the project consultant, AP Triton, and incorporated within The [Final Report for the Countywide Fire Service Review](#), adopted by LAFCO on October 4, 2023.

The request from LAFCO, as it pertains to the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC), is for SCCFSC to respond to the "Other Providers" section and specifically "Table A" Report Recommendations numbers #23, #24, #25, #26 and #27.

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Endorsement and Support of Countywide Fire Service Review recommendations #23, #24, #25, #26, #27 and #28.

We believe that the sum total of LAFCO's recommendations, and specifically recommendations #23, #24, #25, #26, #27 and #28, will result in enhanced risk mitigation and preparedness for all county residents and business, including those in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas within Santa Clara County as identified in the recently updated Santa Clara County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), the update of which was led by the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council and funded by a onetime \$250,000 grant to SCCFSC by CAL FIRE's SCU Unit.

SCCFSC participated in the full countywide fire service review process, from attending the vast majority of LAFCO meetings that the Review was on the agenda, to engaging with the initial consulting firm and subsequently AP Triton, to attending and participating in the various community meetings, responding to and providing our feedback on the initial Draft Countywide Service Review Document to the subsequent support of the Final Countywide Service Review, adopted on October 4, 2023. SCCFSC would like to lead each of the identified recommendations, numbers #23, #24, #25, #26, #27, collaborating with the relevant agencies and municipalities in each of those identified recommendations.

SCCFSC would like to state upfront, that the Final Countywide Service Review also includes another recommendation made by consultant AP Triton and adopted by LAFCO, and that is recommendation #28. Below is the full content of recommendation #28 taken directly from the Final Countywide Fire Service Review document:



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

Mobilizing the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities, and environment from wildfires

#28: Funding Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council: The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council is actively working at a countywide level to improve mitigation efforts. While the Fire Safe Council has access to some grant funding, the Fire Safe Council needs sustainable funding to provide consistent long-term service. AP Triton recommends Santa Clara County provide some level of consistent funding each year to the Fire Safe Council. In addition, funding for projects within a fire agency's jurisdiction should be budgeted by the fire agency in accordance with CWPP timeframes

As LAFCO reviews our response to each of the specified recommendations, please note that the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council is fully committed to supporting and completing each recommendation. As an independent, 501c(3) nonprofit, this independence from the county serves the residents well. They are more apt to engage with us, more willing to allow us on their property and more willing to listen to and accept our recommendations. However, by far, the biggest factor in our ability to address any and all recommendations is the need for dedicated funding to cover the full cost of supporting each recommendation. This will require funding to support the development of Statement of Works (SOWs) for each recommendation, creation of a budget and project timelines, and based on the available budget for each recommendation, the availability of the various county agencies to engage in a timely ability to allocate resources to support each recommendation and SCCFSC's subsequent ability to allocate dedicated resources to complete each recommendation.

The Santa Clara County FireSafe Council does not receive dedicated funding from Santa Clara County, with the exception of a recent contract executed in late 2023 to exclusively support chipping services in the WUI areas as directed by the Santa Clara County Fire Department. Therefore, we welcome the opportunity to discuss how to support SCCFSC's ability to best financially address each recommendation. Utilizing our own limited funds isn't a viable option, will significantly impede our cash flow, our ability to support our other ongoing projects and grant commitments. We believe that all stakeholders in the county's wildfire related efforts value and benefit from the work that the FireSafe Council does, and can avail of the opportunity in this response to ensure the sustainability and ability of the FireSafe Council to support each recommendation, ensuring the financial viability of the FireSafe Council through various ongoing and dedicated funding mechanisms. We welcome this discussion.

LAFCO is requesting that each of the identified agencies / organizations:

1. Provide a written response on how you plan to implement the recommendations presented in the Countywide Fire Service Review Report pertaining to your agency/organization and summarized in the attached Table A and Table B; and
2. Provide a timeframe for that implementation; or
3. Provide an explanation if your agency/organization does not plan to implement a recommendation.

Continued on next page:



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

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LAFCO Recommendations for Santa Clara County FireSafe Council:

TABLE A: COUNTYWIDE FIRE SERVICE REVIEW REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS & POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTORS			
#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES OVERVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS			
WUI HAZARD MITIGATION IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS			
23	Coordinate Community Wildfire Protection Plan Updates: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should coordinate CWPP updates with particular emphasis on ensuring all communities within Santa Clara County are participating (Milpitas does not have an Annex).	Pages xvi, 74	Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
24	Multi Party Fuel Mitigation, monitoring and outreach : Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should concentrate on multi-party mitigation, monitoring, and outreach in the CWPP update. Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should consider combining mitigation strategies from city Annexes into a single list that can be used to locate fuel breaks and fuel modifications to protect multiple jurisdictions, recognizing efficiencies of scale. The list should be prioritized to fund the most significant risks to the County first. The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should also develop public messages and online tools for all fire agencies to echo and make available to residents. Grants are available to fund projects. Implementation of projects should involve staff of impacted fire agencies, cities, and County OES, as well as hired contractors. Napa, Marin, and San Diego counties have already implemented this best practice and can serve as examples.	Pages xvi, 74	Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
25	Annual Updates of the CWPP: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should conduct annual CWPP and fire agency updates regarding project planning, implementation, and maintenance.	Pages xvii, 74	Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
#	Recommendations	Page # in Report	Potential Implementors
26	Annual CWPP Project Coordination Meetings: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should conduct annual project coordination meetings between fire agencies, land management agencies, local non-profits, and the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council to evaluate project priorities and review project accomplishments.	Pages xvii, 74	Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
27	Maintain CWPP Project Database: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should maintain an extensive project database available to the community.	Pages xvii, 74	Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
28	Funding Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council: The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council is actively working at a countywide level to improve mitigation efforts. While the Fire Safe Council has access to some grant funding, the Fire Safe Council needs sustainable funding to provide consistent long-term service. AP Triton recommends Santa Clara County provide some level of consistent funding each year to the Fire Safe Council. In addition, funding for projects within a fire agency's jurisdiction should be budgeted by the fire agency in accordance with CWPP timeframes.	Pages xvii, 74	Santa Clara County (County Executive's Office or other Dept.)

Continued on next page:



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

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Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Response to LAFCO Questions:

#23: Coordinate Community Wildfire Protection Plan Updates: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should coordinate CWPP updates with particular emphasis on ensuring all communities within Santa Clara County are participating (Milpitas does not have an Annex).

1. Participation in the CWPP by any county entity such as a town or municipality is totally voluntary and up to the specific town or municipality to participate or not. SCCFSC does not have the authority to mandate or compel a town or municipality to participate. That said, as was the case in the 2016 CWPP lead by SCCFSC and in this 2023 update, also led by SCCFSC, we solicited and requested participation in the CWPP. At the time in late 2021 or early 2022, Milpitas was not able to participate.

Subsequently, since the start of 2024, SCCFSC has worked closely with Milpitas' new Fire Chief, Jason Schoonover, on collaborating with Milpitas to create an annex for Milpitas. Chief Schoonover is very supportive of this effort. On February 7, 2024, Santa Clara FireSafe Council's CEO, Seth Schalet and Amanda Brenner Cannon, FireSafe's Program Director and County Wildfire Coordinator presented our plans for continuing with the CWPP update for individual annexes. As the President of the County Fire Chiefs Association, Chief Schoonover of Milpitas participated in that presentation. Subsequently, Both Amanda and Seth held a follow-up meeting with Milpitas's Deputy Chief, Fire Operations, Galahad, Zamora and the Milpitas Emergency Management Coordinator, Toni Charlop, on how to best move forward with the Milpitas annex process. Milpitas is currently involved in several tasks including updating and seeking formal adoption of their Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. We agreed that Milpitas will take time to assess the annex process.

2. Santa Clara County FireSafe Council is willing to start this process as soon as reasonably possible. To do so requires specific, dedicated funding for SCCFSC to create a Scope of Work, Budget and Timeline estimate with the buy-in from the Milpitas team with respect to dedicating resources to support this effort. SCCFSC is confident that should the needed funding be provided by July 1, 2024, then SCCFSC would start work on the Milpitas annex update in July of 2024, and look to complete its annex work by March 31, 2025, or earlier if possible. Once SCCFSC completes its annex for Milpitas, in order to be adopted and incorporated within the CWPP Story Map and Project Tracker Dashboard (See here for these: <https://santa-clara-cwpp-sccfc.hub.arcgis.com/>), Milpitas will need its governing body to formally approve the annex for adoption to be placed in the CWPP. The timeline for the Milpitas governing body is not within SCCFSC to determine, and it is our hope that it could take place within 90 days after we complete our annex work for Milpitas.

#24: Multi Party Fuel Mitigation, monitoring and outreach : Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should concentrate on multi-party mitigation, monitoring, and outreach in the CWPP update. Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should consider combining mitigation strategies from city Annexes into a single list that can be used to locate fuel breaks and fuel modifications to protect multiple jurisdictions, recognizing efficiencies of scale. The list should be prioritized to fund the most significant risks to the County first. The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should also develop public messages and online tools for all fire agencies to echo and make available to residents. Grants are available to fund projects. Implementation of projects should involve staff of impacted fire agencies, cities, and County OES, as well as hired contractors. Napa, Marin, and San Diego counties have already implemented this best practice and can serve as examples.



Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

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1. The current CWPP update, and deliverables is based upon a \$250,000 one-time grant awarded to Santa Clara County FireSafe Council by CAL FIRE's SCU Unit. As such, CAL FIRE specified the terms associated with the deliverables as set forth in the grant application and awarded grant agreement. As per LAFCO's stated request in #24, "Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should concentrate on multi-party mitigation, monitoring, and outreach in the CWPP update." While SCCFSC agrees with that stated goal, we are required to adhere to the deliverables specified in the grant award, by the funder CAL FIRE. That is not one of the specific deliverables in the grant application. SCCFSC is more than willing to take on this task, and supports this strategy. In our County Coordinator grant award provided by CAL FIRE through the California Fire Safe Council, one of the deliverables is a GIS based Story Map and Project Tracker Database that we are currently working on. (See here for these: <https://santa-clara-cwpp-sccfc.hub.arcgis.com/>)

Also, LAFCO #24 requests " The list should be prioritized to fund the most significant risks to the County first. The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should also develop public messages and online tools for all fire agencies to echo and make available to residents. Grants are available to fund projects. Implementation of projects should involve staff of impacted fire agencies, cities, and County OES, as well as hired contractors. Napa, Marin, and San Diego counties have already implemented this best practice and can serve as examples." Santa Clara County FireSafe Council agrees with this recommendation by LAFCO. Our County Coordinator grant referenced above is a one-time, nonrenewable grant through the California Fire Safe Council. This grant and its funding will expire on or before December 31, 2024, pending the remaining balance to complete the grant deliverables. SCCFSC is familiar with the work of Napa, Marin, and San Diego, and each of those entities receive some level of dedicated funding, and in the case of Marin specifically through Measure C funds and a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA), they established the Marin Wildfire Protection Authority that in part, through dedicated property tax assessments, provides approximately \$20 million a year dedicated to a variety of hazardous fuel reduction programs along with community outreach and education initiatives. Please see the funding allocation and related deliverables for the Marin Wildfire Protection Authority here: <https://www.marinwildfire.org/about-mwpa/funding-allocation> Santa Clara County FireSafe Council's CEO has an effective professional collaboration with MWPA's CEO, Mark Brown.

2. Santa Clara County FireSafe Council requests that the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors fund the renewal of SCCFSC's County Coordinator role for a period of five (5) years at \$250,000 per year, and such funding would be dedicated to supporting all the recommendations specified in number #24. This will enable SCCFSC to cover staff costs and retention, the support of the ArcGIS database and the costs of working and collaborating with all county agencies to achieve the recommendations outlined in #24 and in #25, the annual update of the Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). LAFCO recommendations number #24 and #25 are interrelated tasks and objectives and the two can and should be managed in tandem.

With dedicated funding of \$250,000 per year, over a five (5) year contract award, Santa Clara County FireSafe Council can combine LAFCO objectives #24 and #25 and achieve an integrated, unified countywide messaging and project tracking, prioritized to mitigate risks across the county's Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas. Should the County award SCCFSC an annual contract of \$300,00 per year for a period of five (5) years, SCCFSC would be able to also hire and retain a dedicated grant writer, specifically dedicated to research, applying for and securing grants to fund and support identified project priorities such as fuel breaks, escape routes, tree removal, FireWise USA program funding , Hazardous Impact Zone (HIZ) defensible space inspections and other countywide priorities for vegetation management and risk reduction as set forth in SCCFSC's collaboration with



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the County Fire Chiefs Association. SCCFSC also recommends that CEO Seth Schalet and/or Amanda Brenner Cannon be appointed as a non-voting member of the association and LAFCO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), solely for the purpose of the CWPP updates and objectives of both LAFCO #23 and #24 recommendations. Santa Clara County FireSafe Council recommends commencing this funding by July 1, 2024, and a Scope of Work (SOW) and project milestones will be established collaboratively between SCCFSC and the County Fire Chiefs Association. Santa Clara County FireSafe Council would submit quarterly reporting on the use of funds to the County Fire Chiefs Association and County Board of Supervisors, create a KPI dashboard for public access (adding on to the Story Map and Project Tracker Database) to track expenditures against deliverables. SCCFSC's CEO would attend regular Board of Supervisor meetings to report out and answer BOS questions.

#25: Annual Updates of the CWPP: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should conduct annual CWPP and fire agency updates regarding project planning, implementation, and maintenance.

1. SCCFSC fully endorses this LAFCO request. The key would be to clearly define what constitutes an "annual CWPP and fire agency updates" for the purposes of this objective. SCCFSC believes this is not a wholesale update for the purposes of creating a new CWPP document, but rather, building upon the current CWPP and updating it, and adding "project planning, implementation, and maintenance" components. SCCFSC would continue to maintain the countywide CWPP under its role as the County Wildfire Coordinator and through the Project Tracker Database and CWPP Story Map, add new projects, new annex updates, keep the Project Tracker Database updated, using ArcGIS to visually display project connectivity and gaps that could then be used by the County Fire Chiefs Association to establish countywide risk mitigation project priorities.
2. SCCFSC is willing to commence this work as soon as dedicated funding is allocated and available for use. We believe this can also be rolled into the costs SCCFSC has already identified in our response to LAFCO numbers #23 and #24, and the deliverables of #25 will be incorporated into the requested \$250/\$300,000 per year annual funding over the course of a new five (5) year contract for SCCFSC. We believe the timeframe to implement this could start on July 1, 2024, upon securing the dedicated funding request and the implementation timeline would be determined in the SOW and project milestones as approved by the County Fire Chiefs Association, who would oversee SCCFSC's efforts.

#26: Annual CWPP Project Coordination Meetings: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should conduct annual project coordination meetings between fire agencies, land management agencies, local non-profits, and the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council to evaluate project priorities and review project accomplishments.

1. SCCFSC fully supports this LAFCO request. In part, this is one of the deliverables of our California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator grant, the one-time grant funding for our County Coordinator role that expires December 31, 2024. SCCFSC would implement this and role this objective into the combined LAFCO number #23, #24 and #25 deliverables. We see this not as a standalone objective in and of itself, but rather, part of the integrated countywide Wildfire County Coordinator role that SCCFSC currently serves under the grant.
2. SCCFSC is willing to commence this work as soon as dedicated funding is allocated and available for use. We believe this can also be rolled into the costs SCCFSC has already identified in our response to LAFCO numbers #23 and #24, and the deliverables of #25 will be incorporated into the requested \$250/\$300,000 per year annual funding over the course of a new five (5) year contract for SCCFSC. We believe the timeframe to implement this could start on July 1, 2024, upon securing the dedicated funding request and the implementation timeline would



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be determined in the SOW and project milestones as approved by the County Fire Chiefs Association, who would oversee SCCFSC's efforts. We believe the first Annual CWPP Project Coordination Meeting could take place before December 31, 2024, should SCCFSC's funding request be granted and made available by July 1, 2024.

#27: Maintain CWPP Project Database: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should maintain an extensive project database available to the community.

1. SCCFSC fully supports this LAFCo request. In part, this is one of the deliverables of our California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator grant, the one-time grant funding for our County Coordinator role that expires December 31, 2024. SCCFSC would implement this and role this objective into the combined LAFCO number #23, #24, #25 and #26 deliverables. We see this not as a standalone objective in and of itself, but rather, part of the integrated countywide Wildfire County Coordinator role that SCCFSC currently serves under the grant.
2. SCCFSC is willing to commence this work as soon as dedicated funding is allocated and available for use. We believe this can also be rolled into the costs SCCFSC has already identified in our response to LAFCO numbers #23 and #24, and the deliverables of #25 and #26 and will be incorporated into the requested \$250/\$300,000 per year annual funding over the course of a new five (5) year contract for SCCFSC. We believe the timeframe to implement this could start on July 1, 2024, upon securing the dedicated funding request and the implementation timeline would be determined in the SOW and project milestones as approved by the County Fire Chiefs Association, who would oversee SCCFSC's efforts. Should SCCFSC's funding request be granted and made available by July 1, 2024, SCCFSC can make its initial deliverable for this by December 31, 2024, using our current Project Tracker Database as a template for the County Fire Chiefs Association to ultimately adopt.

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council sincerely thanks LAFCO for its work, time, and commitment to the Countywide Fire Service Review. We welcome a meeting with LAFCO, the County Fire Chiefs Association, and representatives with the County Board of Supervisors to discuss this response and answer any additional questions. In closing, the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council has a proven 20-year track record supporting countywide wildfire risk reduction efforts. Over the last several years, we have scaled our organizational capacity, added experienced executive leadership and fire service resources, operational, fiscal management and technology experienced resources and enhanced our Board of Directors. We have established a consulting and technology practice for the assessment, pilot testing, procurement and implementation and maintenance of various AI based early wildfire detection products and established exclusive Santa Clara County, Santa Cruz and San Mateo county and FireSafe Council statewide reseller agreements with several leading and early-stage technology product manufacturers that county agencies, towns, municipalities, and residents can benefit from. We believe we are well positioned to mobilize the people of Santa Clara County to protect their homes, communities, and environment from wildfires.

Sincerely,

Seth Schalet

Seth Schalet

CEO

Santa Clara County FireSafe Council

(650) 678-2022

sschalet@sccfiresafe.org

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January 24, 2024

Neelima Palacherla, Executive Director
Santa Clara County LAFCo
VIA EMAIL: Neelima.Palacherla@ceo.sccgov.org
lafco@ceo.sccgov.org

This letter is in response to the Santa Clara County LAFCO request for a written response on plans to implement recommendations in the countywide fire service review that involve the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (“District” or “Midpen”).

The District previously provided three extensive and detailed comment letters to LAFCo during the development of the draft fire service review report, dated May 14, 2023, June 1, 2023, and July 11, 2023. They are attached to this letter for reference. As stated in previous comments, it is Midpen’s goal to work with fire agencies and surrounding communities to strengthen the prevention of, preparation for and response to wildland fires for enhanced ecosystem resiliency and public safety. Midpen conducts extensive annual vegetation management and has implemented a Wildland Fire Resiliency Program to increase vegetation management work and reintroduce prescribed fire to establish healthy, resilient and fire-adapted ecosystems, protect natural resources, reduce wildland fire risk, and facilitate fire suppression and emergency access. While not a fire service provider, Midpen does supplement local fire response by training rangers and a group of maintenance staff in basic wildfire suppression, equipping staff with wildland fire gear, carrying slip on pumpers with 125 gallons of water on most ranger trucks, and keeping two water trucks available for water supply on District lands.

To summarize the major points already made in Midpen’s comments on LAFCo’s countywide fire service review, Midpen remains in disagreement with the Recreation and Open Space Areas section of the report and disagrees with the assertion that Midpen should be responsible for entering into an agreement with local fire service providers to provide services in the State Responsibility Area (“SRA”). By definition, the state has primary wildland fire responsibility in the SRA. In areas where a local fire agency is closer, they already respond to both fires and medical calls. These responses continue to take place to date with no service level issues, thus requiring no changes to how the services are provided, including no need for contracting. The report also incorrectly implies that Midpen should be responsible for all emergency response. The section of Midpen’s enabling legislation referenced in the report only applies to “*primary* responsibility” for fire prevention and

suppression; it is silent regarding emergency medical response. The report should clarify that the majority of local fire agency responses on District lands are for medical calls, and that while Midpen does provide first responder medical services, it does not have responsibility for emergency medical response. That said, it is important to note that Midpen has historically provided significant aid regionally that is a valuable component of emergency response within the broader surrounding communities in both Santa Clara and San Mateo counties. Within rural areas, Midpen personnel are often the first agency to respond on scene to various incidents, including traffic accidents on public roads, for which Midpen staff provide initial first responder medical services.

In response to the recommendation for **areas 19, 20 and 21** that *Midpen ensure structure in place with provider for fire suppression of fires on district properties until CAL FIRE is on scene*, Midpen responds as follows: There is no action needed for this recommendation, both areas are in the SRA and are currently covered by Cal Fire for fire suppression. In addition, Midpen has no obligation to contract with an interim fire suppression provider until Cal Fire is on the scene. Midpen provides initial fire response with staff trained in initial wildfire response and coordinates with San Jose Fire, Santa Clara County Fire, and Cal Fire on all emergency response on District lands. The closest fire agency continues to respond for both fires and medical calls.

In response to the recommendation for **areas 19 and 20** to *Identify funding structure for emergency services in recreational areas*, Midpen responds as follows: Midpen disagrees with the recommendation that changes should be made to fire agencies' funding of their response in recreational areas. There is no action needed on this recommendation because it is unclear why additional funding is necessary to continue existing levels of service.

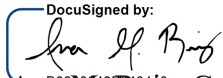
In response to the recommendation for **areas 18, 19, and 20** for *Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion and contract service by San José for consistency of response with all territory in the region regardless of city SOI*, Midpen responds as follows: Midpen will work with SCFD if it decides to implement this recommendation, for portions of preserve lands managed by the District within areas 18, 19 and 20.

In response to the recommendations for **area 21** that *Midpen ensure structure in place with appropriate provider, for fire suppression of fires on district properties*, Midpen responds as follows: There is no action needed on this recommendation because Cal Fire stations in the Santa Cruz/ San Mateo Unit CZU at Saratoga Summit and Skylonda stations actively respond to calls in that area and are staffed year-round. Midpen provides initial fire response with staff trained in initial wildfire response and coordinates with Palo Alto Fire and Cal Fire on all emergency response on District lands. The closest fire agency continues to respond for both fires and medical calls. If Cal Fire is open to considering inclusion of the entirety of area 21 in the SRA, the District would support adding area 21 to the SRA.

In response to the recommendations for **areas 22 and 23**, *Annexation by LAHCFD with SOI expansion. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks and open space*, Midpen responds as follows: The District will work with Los Altos Hills County Fire District if it decides to implement the recommendation for *Annexation by LAHCFD* for portions of preserve lands managed by the District within areas 22 and 23. Midpen disagrees with the recommendation that changes should be made to fire agencies' funding of their response in recreational areas. There is no Midpen action needed on this recommendation because it is not apparent why Midpen would or should provide funding to continue existing levels of service.

In summary, Midpen disagrees with recommendations that it should ensure a structure is in place with a local agency to respond to Midpen lands for fire suppression on its properties, because Midpen provides initial response and CalFire is responsible for responding—and does actively respond—within the SRA and is providing adequate service levels for fire suppression on Midpen lands.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:


B0880749F310410
Ana M. Ruiz, General Manager

CC: Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors

Encl. Letter from Midpen to Neelima Palacherla dated May 14, 2023
Letter from Midpen to Neelima Palacherla dated June 1, 2023
Letter from Midpen to Neelima Palacherla dated July 11, 2023



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July 11, 2023

Neelima Palacherla, Executive Director
Santa Clara County LAFCo
VIA EMAIL: Neelima.Palacherla@ceo.sccgov.org

On June 1, 2023, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) provided a comment letter on the draft Countywide Fire Service Review recommendations prepared for Santa Clara County LAFCo by its consultant AP Triton. Thank you for reviewing that comment letter and making changes to the draft report. The District is writing this follow up letter to communicate several concerns regarding the revised recommendations for specific geographic areas listed in the Draft Report and to resubmit a few remaining corrections that are still missing from the latest revisions.

To begin, the District would like to emphasize the following points, which are not reflected, or counter to what is discussed in the report:

1) The District strongly believes that Cal Fire remains the appropriate agency to respond to wildland fire incidents within the State Responsibility Area (“SRA”). This responsibility should not shift to a local fire district. Cal Fire responds to calls in the SRA, covering the vast majority of District lands in Santa Clara County that fall outside a local fire district or municipality;

2) The District disagrees with the recommendations and options under areas 20 through 23 that state “Midpen ensure structure in place with appropriate provider, for prevention and suppression of fires on District properties.” It is clear that by definition, Cal Fire is responsible and retains authority for fire suppression and prevention on lands in the SRA. A recent conversation with Cal Fire emphasized and confirmed this point. At issue is the provision of emergency medical response and structure fire response, which the District has no statutory responsibility for under the Public Resources code and its enabling legislation. Instead, on all District properties, the District provides staffing and equipment resources to complement both emergency medical and fire response of the primary fire agencies. The District also conducts extensive fire prevention work throughout its open space preserves to reduce fire risk. It is also worth noting that by preserving open space and preventing development in fire prone areas, the District significantly reduces fire risk to structures and reduces the cost of fire agency response. The cost of increased development in the WUI is noted several times in the report. Maintaining lands undeveloped in rugged terrain areas benefits the region by reducing fire risk and fire propensity in these zones.

Areas 17 through 20 are all geographically connected and contain a mix of county park, other public open space, and private property. Therefore, for consistency, LAFCO should select the same recommendation for all of these areas. Furthermore, the District does not understand why a funding source is needed to maintain the current level of emergency services, which has and continues to remain sufficient for the area. If the County believes that expanded services beyond those provided

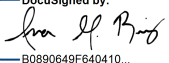
are necessary for the area, then the County should be the entity responsible in funding the expanded services.

Area 21 is a unique area that is partially in the SRA but mostly in a LRA that is not currently covered by a local fire district or municipality. The recommendation for this area should provide a solution for the entire area that covers both wildland fire response as well as medical and structure fire response. The LRA area is divided between 65 acres of private ownership, including residences, 163 acres of District ownership, and 12 acres in the public right-of-way. There is an additional 14 acres in the SRA within Area 21. The closest fire stations are the San Mateo/Santa Cruz Cal Fire units (CZU) located at Saratoga Summit and Skylonda. They are also the current responders to the area and operate year-round. Cal Fire is contracted as the county fire department for both San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties. The District's recommendation is for Santa Clara County to contract with or enter into a mutual aid agreement with Cal Fire CZU to have Cal Fire CZU be the responding agency for both wildland fire and emergency medical response throughout Area 21. Alternatively, Area 21 could be considered for formal inclusion in the SRA. The closest LRA station - Palo Alto station (Station 8 Foothills Park) - is twice as far for travel time, and it is a seasonal station that is only open in the summer. The closest year-round station is Station 2, which is even farther away.

Areas 22 and 23 are located in Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve. The entirety of the county park and large areas of the preserve already fall within the LAHCFD or CCFD. For most of the current service calls, responding fire equipment from CCFD stations stay within their service areas. Although we support the recommendation for annexation into LAHCD, we do not see the rationale for additional funding for services; these services have been and remain sufficient to meet existing and future needs. If the County believes that expanded services beyond those provided are necessary for the area, then the County should be the entity responsible in funding the expanded services. In addition to the changes made in Figure 19, similar corresponding changes should be made in the accompanying text. For example, page 99 under Recreation and Open Space, states "...faster response than Cal Fire, particularly during the off season, which is the case in Areas 20-23." The Cal Fire stations closest to these areas are year-round stations funded through San Mateo and Santa Cruz Counties. Ironically, the closest local station to area 21, Palo Alto Fire Station 8, is instead only open seasonally. In the last paragraph, there is no mention that a large part of Area 21 is composed of private property and that a portion lies within the SRA, making Cal Fire the more appropriate responding fire agency. On page 279, 5-20 should also be changed to reflect a different recommendation for Area 21.

Given the reasons listed above and to prevent further misinterpretations that may extend beyond the Countywide Fire Service Review, the District strongly urges LAFCo to remove the language in Recommendations 20 through 23 asserting that the District ensure a structure in place with an appropriate provider for fire prevention and suppression of fires on District properties. In addition, there are corrections of several factual errors previously raised by the District that were not incorporated in this last Draft Report revision. For added clarity, the corrections are noted by the District directly on a copy of Figure 19 from the LAFCo report (see attached). Also included on Figure 19 are the District's recommended changes to the option and recommendations.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:

 B0890649F640410...

Ana M. Ruiz, General Manager

CC: Santa Clara County LAFCo Technical Advisory Committee
 Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors
 AP Triton Study Consultant



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June 1, 2023

Neelima Palacherla, Executive Director

Santa Clara County LAFCo

VIA EMAIL: Neelima.Palacherla@ceo.sccgov.org

On May 15, 2023, Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) reviewed the draft Countywide Fire Service Review recommendations prepared for Santa Clara County LAFCo by its consultant AP Triton. Thank you for subsequently taking the time on May 24 to discuss the District's concerns about this draft report.

To summarize our discussion, the District's concerns are as follows: 1) Cal Fire responds to calls in the State Responsibility Area ("SRA"), which covers the vast majority of District lands in Santa Clara County that also fall outside a local fire district or municipality. Cal Fire remains the appropriate agency to respond to incidents within the SRA; 2) the District disagrees with the recommendation that the District should contract with local fire agencies and rejects the incorrect premise that the District has an obligation to contract for fire prevention and fire suppression on District properties; and 3) the recommendations are silent regarding the primary purpose of calls on District lands, which are almost entirely calls for emergency medical service serving open space visitors who live in the Bay Area region.

As stated above, Cal Fire provides fire response in the SRA, which includes the vast majority of District lands. Moreover, Cal Fire is often the closest responder for fires, as well as for medical and other non-fire suppression related calls, on District lands even when that area is covered by a local city or fire district. The recommendation that local fire districts should cover District lands within portions of the SRA would either lead to a reduction of service or require an expensive duplication of services.

Draft Recommendations 20-24 state that the portion of District lands of geographic interest under the Service Review Study are located in the SRA and contain no structures because they are "regional parks" and that the District should nonetheless contract with local fire districts for services on those lands. The District disagrees with the premise that the District should contract with local fire districts rather than remain in the SRA to receive services from Cal Fire. These areas are appropriately situated within the SRA where *wildland firefighting and wildland medical response*

would take place. Contracting with local agencies would not increase the level of service because Cal Fire is best suited for wildland fire and wildland medical response for the open space preserve lands in the SRA. Furthermore, attached, please see corrected maps showing District lands that are identified by AP Triton as being “outside a fire service provider in Santa Clara County”. Our maps clarify and clearly indicate that the District lands of question are located within an SRA and are therefore under the primary jurisdiction of Cal Fire. These lands are not deficient in service and are appropriately designated to Cal Fire as wildland, open space areas.

Second, the District is concerned about misstatements in Recommendations 20-24 in the draft report suggesting that the District contract with a local fire agency for fire prevention and suppression of fires on District properties “*as mandated in the principal act.*” The District is baffled by and strongly disagrees with the premise that it is mandated to contract for fire prevention and suppression. There is no legal basis supporting this statement. LAFCo’s draft report should be revised to remove this incorrect legal conclusion, which is unsupported by any law or fact. Below is a more thorough explanation of the District’s analysis of its enabling legislation.

Public Resources Code (“PRC”) section 5500 *et seq.*, enables the existence of park and open space districts and was enacted in 1939. The only portion of this legislation that addresses fire protection and suppression is Public Resources Code section 5561.6, which has been in effect since 1963.

California Public Resources Code section 5561.6 provides:

The district shall be primarily responsible for the prevention and suppression of all fires on any lands in its possession or control, excluding all lands of a district located within the exterior boundaries of any municipality or other fire protection district.

For the purposes of the prevention and suppression of fires on such lands, the board may enter into co-operative mutual aid agreements with the federal government, the State, any municipality, county or district, or any person, corporation or association.

1. No “mandate” to enter into contracts is contained in the text. The statute does not contain the word “contract”. If the legislature intended to require the District to contract for services, then the law would simply state this, which it does not.
2. The District is “*primarily* responsible for prevention/suppression of fires on its lands...” The District’s interpretation and 50-year practice in accordance with this state law is as follows:
 - The District does not have complete responsibility for prevention/suppression of fires on its lands. This responsibility is shared. The word “primarily” does not equate to “exclusivity” or “sole responsibility”.
 - Regarding fire suppression, the District relies on jurisdictional fire agencies to perform larger scale fire suppression, i.e., to provide active firefighting of fires with active spread. The District’s role in fire suppression involves extinguishing small spot fires

before they spread to larger fires, conducting ongoing surveillance for potential fires, and providing secondary fire suppression support for larger scale fires that are led by state or local fire suppression agencies.

- Regarding fire prevention, the District is very involved in both sharing and leading the responsibility for fire prevention/fire resiliency activities on District lands. Fire prevention/fire resiliency is described at length in the District's [Wildland Fire Resiliency Program](#), which was established in 2021 to significantly increase the District's fuel reduction projects and promote healthy forests across its landscape.
- District lands that are not situated within a municipality or other fire protection district fall entirely within the [State Responsibility Area \("SRA"\)](#). Cal Fire expressly assumes legal responsibility to provide fire suppression on all SRA lands.

3. The District is "primarily responsible for the prevention and suppression of all fires ... excluding all lands within any municipality or other fire protection district."

The District's interpretation:

- Local municipalities and other fire protection districts are the primary agencies responsible for fire prevention and fire suppression on District lands that are located within their service area, which are lands that lie outside the SRA. In local responsibility areas, the District provides support for the suppression of fires and completes fire prevention/fire resiliency activities on District lands through its Wildland Fire Resiliency Program. This is done cooperatively with local municipalities and other fire protection districts.
4. "For the purposes of prevention and suppression of fires on lands within any municipality/fire protection district, the board may enter into co-operative mutual aid agreements with the federal government, the State, any municipality, county or district, or any person, corporation or association."

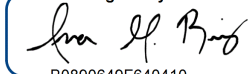
The District's interpretation:

- The District may choose to enter into mutual aid agreements. The language in the statute is permissive, not mandatory. There is no requirement to do so.
- Mutual aid (as the name suggests) refers to entities exchanging mutual services, which is distinguishable from a contract for one-way services.
- With respect to mutual aid, the District has historically provided significant aid that is a valuable component of emergency response within the larger community. Within rural areas, District personnel are often the first agency to respond on scene to various incidents, including traffic accidents on public roads, for which District staff provide first responder medical services and traffic control.

Finally, the report prepared by AP Triton also contains other errors and gaps in information that should be corrected. These errors and gaps are shown in the attached table in red text.

Given the extensive reasons listed above, the District strongly urges LAFCo to remove the statements in Recommendations 20 through 24 asserting that the District has a mandate to contract for services. The District also disagrees with the recommendation that it should contract with local fire agencies in areas that are currently within the SRA. As LAFCo is aware, the consultant did not previously reach out to the District to discuss these draft recommendations. Had they done so, these errors and misinterpretations would have been avoided. These errors are of great concern to the District, and we urge their removal to prevent further misinterpretations that may extend beyond the Countywide Fire Service Review.

Respectfully,

DocuSigned by:

B0890649F640410...
Ana M. Ruiz

General Manager

CC: Santa Clara County LAFCo Technical Advisory Committee
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District Board of Directors
AP Triton Study Consultant

Errors and Gaps in the AP Triton Report

The table below notes the errors and gaps for specific columns and rows. The corrected information is shown in red text (deletions in strikethrough and addition in normal red text). In addition, the response letter also identifies other requested corrections and changes to the specific recommendations for District lands, which namely include the removal of proposed annexations of SRA lands into an LRA and the removal of recommended contracts issued by the District for local fire and emergency services of District lands that are already in an SRA.

Area #	Sq. Miles	Land Use	Current Responder	Nearest Station	Necessity/Fire Hazard
18	9.2	Almaden Quicksilver County Park Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve (2.4 sq. miles)	Likely San Jose FD Cal Fire Station #22 for wildland fires in SRA or SJFD #22	San Jose Stations 22 and 28, Cal Fire Station 22	SRA, no structures, regional park
19	0.17	Almaden Quicksilver County Park Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve	Likely San Jose FD Cal Fire Station #22	San Jose Station 22, Cal Fire Station #22, CCFD Station 82	SRA, no structures, regional park
20	1.05	Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve	Likely San Jose FD Cal Fire Station #22	San Jose Station 22, Cal Fire Station #22, CCFD Station 82	SRA, no structures, regional park
21	0.41	Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, Hillside, private residences	Palo Alto FD , Cal Fire Saratoga Summit Station for wildland fires, San Mateo County Fire for medicals.	Palo Alto Station 68, Cal Fire Saratoga Summit Station	Mostly LRA
22	3.07	Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve, Hillside	LAHCFD/CCFD	CCFD Station 74	SRA, no structures, regional park
23	0.31	Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve, Hillside	LAHCFD/CCFD	CCFD Station 74	SRA, no structures, regional park
24	0.33	Rancho San Antonio County Park and Open Space Preserve, Hillside Private non-profit – Hidden Villa	LAHCFD/CCFD	CCFD Station 74	SRA, no structures, private property regional park



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May 14, 2023

Santa Clara County LAFCO
Countywide Fire Service Review
Technical Advisory Committee

Dear Technical Advisory Committee,

The Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District is submitting the following comments for the May 15, 2023 meeting of the Santa Clara County LAFCO Countywide Fire Service Review Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Item #4 Discussion of Preliminary Findings. In particular, this report contains draft recommendations for 33 areas located outside of local fire service providers under item 4C.










Recommendations 20 through 24 list the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (District) and provide draft recommendations that the *District contract* (a local fire agency) *for fire prevention and suppression of fires on District properties as mandated in principal act*. We were surprised to see this recommendation since neither the consultant nor LAFCO staff have contacted the District to get any background information on the services and responsibilities of the District. At the beginning of the countywide fire service review the District provided comment and a point of contact for any information needed in the preparation of the report.

The District requests that the TAC defer reviewing recommendations 20-24 and direct LAFCO staff or the consultant to contact the District for consultation prior to returning to the TAC with draft recommendations. We request any background information, communication, or other pertinent information related to the draft recommendations 20-24 be made available for review by the District. The District understands the value of the countywide fire services review and we would like to contribute to providing a more complete report and hopefully result in recommendations that further the goals of the review.

Sincerely,

Brian Malone Assistant General Manager

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE A: RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE FIRE SERVICE DELIVERY AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

RECOMMENDATIONS	PAGE # IN THE REPORT	POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES	AGENCY RESPONSES	LAFCO STAFF COMMENTS																												
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES OVERVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS																																
<p>1 Emergency Response Performance Standard: Gilroy, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Santa Clara, and San Jose have adopted performance standards (goals) through their elected officials. Sunnyvale and CCFD (including SFD and LAHCFD) have published response time goal, however, their elected officials have not adopted the standard. Morgan Hill, Milpitas and SCFD have not adopted a response time standard. Organizations should adopt a performance goal and present those to the elected officials for adoption. The organizations should consider a baseline standard that defines the expectation of service for the community.</p>	<p>Pages xiii, 25</p>	<p>Milpitas</p>	<p>The Milpitas Fire Departments desired outcome is to include limiting building fire damage to only part of the inside of an affected building, initiating search and rescue operations to increase victim/s survivability and/or minimizing permanent impairment resulting from a medical emergency. Therefore, goals include initial units arriving within 07:30 minutes from the 9-1-1 notification; and a multiple unit Effective Response Force (ERF) arrival within 11:30 minutes of 9-1-1 notification, all at 90 percent or better reliability.</p> <p>Total response time to emergency incidents includes three (3) distinct components: 1. 9-1-1 call processing with a best practice of 01:30; 2. Crew turnout time at 02:00 minutes; and 3. Travel time at 04:00/08:00 minutes respectively for first-due and multiple-unit ERF response in urban areas.</p> <p>Milpitas Fire has adopted Budget and Financial Plan performance and workload measures in the 2023-2024 budget as follows:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Performance and Workload Measures</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PERFORMANCE MEASURES</th> <th>Strategic Goals</th> <th>FY 19-20 Actual</th> <th>FY 20-21 Actual</th> <th>FY 21-22 Actual</th> <th>FY 22-23 Estimate</th> <th>FY 23-24 Target</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Total response time (call to arrival) to emergency calls (minutes)*</td> <td></td> <td>7:24</td> <td>8:20</td> <td>8:29</td> <td>8:20</td> <td>7:30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>State mandated fire occupancy inspections completed annually</td> <td></td> <td>1,138</td> <td>1,228</td> <td>1,515</td> <td>1,411</td> <td>1,489</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Effective Response Force (First Alarm) for assembling a complete response on all structure fires (minutes)</td> <td></td> <td>11:15</td> <td>11:16</td> <td>11:20</td> <td>11:20</td> <td>11:30</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	PERFORMANCE MEASURES	Strategic Goals	FY 19-20 Actual	FY 20-21 Actual	FY 21-22 Actual	FY 22-23 Estimate	FY 23-24 Target	Total response time (call to arrival) to emergency calls (minutes)*		7:24	8:20	8:29	8:20	7:30	State mandated fire occupancy inspections completed annually		1,138	1,228	1,515	1,411	1,489	Effective Response Force (First Alarm) for assembling a complete response on all structure fires (minutes)		11:15	11:16	11:20	11:20	11:30	<p>Milpitas and Sunnyvale have already implemented the recommendation.</p> <p>Morgan Hill (timeframe TBD), SFD (middle of 2024), CCFD (FY 24-25) will implement recommendation under noted timeframes.</p> <p>LAHCFD notes standards would need to be coordinated with CCFD and County BOS. No timeframe specified.</p> <p>Seeking further clarification from SCFD on any plans for elected officials to adopt emergency response performance standards.</p>
PERFORMANCE MEASURES	Strategic Goals	FY 19-20 Actual	FY 20-21 Actual	FY 21-22 Actual	FY 22-23 Estimate	FY 23-24 Target																										
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		<p>Morgan Hill</p>	<p>Morgan Hill Fire Department (MHFD) is scheduled to open its third fire station and will be beta testing Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology with a launch date later this year. Once the AVL program has been implemented and the third station is fully operational, studies will be</p>																													

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			done to establish a performance goal which will be presented for adoption.	
		Sunnyvale	<p>Sunnyvale DPS has adopted performance goal standards that match the best practices as set forth by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). Deviations from the performance standards are reviewed continuously by command staff. DPS has regularly meet the set performance standard goal of 90% or higher.</p> <p>Response times for fire services are included as performance indicators in Sunnyvale’s budget. Results are reported annually as part of the budget and approved by City Council.</p>	
		LAHCFD	LAHCFD contracts for Fire and Emergency Medical Services through an agreement with CCFD. Performance standards would be coordinated with CCFD and the County of Santa Clara for Board of Directors.	
		SFD	The SFD Board will consider adopting a response time standard which it has published. This action is expected to be taken some time before the middle of the year and in connection with a study the SFD is conducting involving designation of emergency response and evacuation routes within the Wildland Urban Interface Area.	
		CCFD	Accepted: As a CFAI, international accredited agency, CCFD is committed to continuous improvement of fire service delivery within the response service area. In the last CFAI accreditation cycle for the organization, within the Community Risk Assessment-Standards of Cover (2020-2025 CRA-SOC), identified are response benchmarks based on a 5-year assessment of baseline performance of various incident risk types and population densities. These benchmarks are updated each accreditation cycle based on 5-year past performance and compared against industry standards. The agency will work to codify the benchmark response time standards to the Board of Directors in FY 24-25.	

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		SCFD	South Santa Clara County Fire District (SSCCFD) services suburban and rural areas surrounding the cities of Morgan Hill, San Martin, and Gilroy. With the expansive landscape SSCCFD covers, we take great pride in meeting our EMS performance goals of 9:59 for suburban areas and 11:59 for rural areas 90% of the time.	
2 Unit Utilization Hours: San Jose, Palo Alto, Gilroy, and CCFD all have units with UHUs of over 10%. These agencies should add additional resources to effectively manage the call volume and improve response time performance.	Pages xiii, 25	Gilroy, Palo Alto, San Jose and CCFD	See responses to items 2A through 2D below.	
2A San Jose Units: 28 engines and medical units exceeding 10% UHU, of which four exceed 20% UHU. Specifically: E01 (17.4%), E02 & E302 (17.9%), E03 (19%), E04 (15.2%), E05 (14.8%), E06 (11.4%), E07(13.3%), E08 (16.2%), E10 (13.5%), E12 (10.2%), E13 (13.4%), E14 (12.2%), E16 (15.1%), E17 & WT17 (13.1%), E18 & WT18 (20.6%), E19 & E619 (26.5%), E21 & WT21 (19.4%), E23 (10.9%), E24 & 624 (23.1%), E26 & RM26 (28.3%), E27 & 627 (19.8%), E30 (14.1%), RM30 (10.4%), E31 & E631 (14.3%), E34 (15.0%), USAR34 (14.2%), E335 & E35 (12.5%).	Pages 302 - 303	San Jose	The City recognizes the unit utilization hours in excess of 10 hours and 20 hours for some resources. In recent years, the City has taken several meaningful actions to keep pace with service demand, including adding fire station response areas at Fire Station 20 and Fire Station 37, and planning construction of new Fire Station 32 and Fire Station 36. Each of these new Fire Stations will include deployment of new fire companies. Going forward, the City will continue to monitor unit utilization hours and response time performance and continue to pursue opportunities for improvement. Timeframe for Implementation was Ongoing.	Implementation is ongoing. San Jose planning to construct 2 new fire stations, continuing to monitor utilization hours and response time performance, and pursuing opportunities for improvement.
2B Palo Alto Units: E61 (10.7%), M61 (22.3%), M62 (18.5%), and M64 (19.1%). (<i>Ibid., p. 123</i>)	Page 261	Palo Alto	Palo Alto Fire Department staff will evaluate resource needs to support a reduction in UHU and work with the City’s Budget Office to develop a feasible financial and implementation strategy as part of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget planning process. The ability to advance such a strategy will depend on funding available.	Palo Alto will evaluate resource needs and develop implementation strategy (part of FY 2025 budget planning process)

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2C Gilroy Units: The Chestnut Station has two units cross-staffed with three personnel assigned to the station, and the crew has an UHU of 10.9%. The Station 47/Chestnut Station crew has an UHU of 10.9%, specifically Sta.47 Cross Staffed (2.1%) + E47 (8.8%).	Page 123	Gilroy	Implementation of the recommendation depends on the policy and funding directions of the Gilroy City Council. In the end, City Council direction is achieved through ongoing budget and policy discussions concerning any service in and for the City of Gilroy.	Defers to Gilroy City Council, without a substantive response. LAFCO staff inquired further and were informed that the City will not be providing any additional information.
2D CCFD Unit: E81 (10.3%). The City of Campbell needs additional resources to reduce the unit hour utilization rate for the crew at Station 81 to help meet the performance standards adopted for the community. This study did not evaluate whether the city needs an additional fire station or just an additional company at Station 81.	Page 506, 508, 534	Campbell	The City will review its current contract conditions with Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD) and determine what, if any, contract amendments shall be needed to address the needs of the community during the contract’s negotiation stages.	Campbell and CCFD will work together to identify the needs of the community and determine if any amendments are needed to their contract. Timeframe TBD.
		CCFD	<p>Accepted: CCFD plans on remaining a CFAI accredited agency and will continue to monitor UHU of all response units. Units that exceed the 10% UHU within the inherent district as well as contract cities/districts will be identified. CCFD can make adjustments to district resources as budgetary constraints allow and CCFD will continue to work with contract cities/districts to collaboratively work on paths to determine how additional resources can be added to reduce UHU of primary response units based on the applicable contract while determining if agreed upon modification of the said contract is feasible based on budgetary impact. Implementation TBD.</p> <p>Accepted: Implementation TBD. CCFD and the City of Campbell will continue to work collaboratively to identify gaps in performance standards within the City of Campbell and determine next steps to meet agreed upon city coverage within the contract and/or applicable CRA-SOC. Discussion of mutually agreeable amendments to the current contract will be needed to add additional response units to the city of Campbell.</p>	

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<p>3 Call Volume: The City of Campbell, which contracts with CCFD, is experiencing an increase in service demand and the resources assigned are already exceeding capacity, including the automatic aid stations nearby. The call volume inside the City of Campbell accounts for approximately 20% of all CCFD emergency responses, however, the staffing level only represents 9.3% of the on duty staffing each day. CCFD staffing levels in the City are dependent on contract conditions. The City of Campbell will need additional resources to meet the performance standards adopted for the community.</p>	Page 534	Campbell	The City will review its current contract conditions with CCFD and determine what, if any, contract amendments shall be needed to address the needs of the community during the contract’s negotiation stages.	See LAFCO staff comments above.
<p>4 Morgan Hill: 3-13: The rise in expenditures is anticipated to outpace increases in General Fund revenues for Morgan Hill through FY 27, causing the city to operate at a deficit in its GF each year from FY 23 to FY 27. Additional measures will be required to increase revenues or reduce expenditures in future years. The city should review its ability to continue with the contract for services in future years and whether to prioritize fire service in its expenditures or find additional revenue to continue providing service at least at the current level.</p>	Page 199	Morgan Hill	The City is aware of the General Fund’s structural deficit in the medium to long-term and is actively working with the Council and Morgan Hill residents to ensure the City’s fiscal sustainability. That being said, the City’s General Fund was able to achieve a net even in FY23 through conservative spending and higher tax revenue compared to the budgeted deficit of \$2 million. Also, the City has General Fund reserves to fund budgeted deficits over the next few years.	Morgan Hill is aware of issue and working with City Council and residents to ensure City’s fiscal sustainability. General Fund reserves are available to address issue over next few years. No specific plans provided to address issue long-term.

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<p>5 SCFD & County of Santa Clara: 12-14: The sustainability of funding the operations of SCFD is being challenged primarily due to the increased cost of the CAL FIRE agreement. Projections show SCFD will use up all available fund balance by early FY 25; if no further revenue sources can be identified by that time, SCFD’s operations will be severely impacted and may need to be reduced or may not be able to continue.</p>	Page 595	<p>County Executive’s Office</p> <p>SCFD</p>	<p>The County and SCFD are working closely to identify and bring forward to the Board of Directors recommendations for new ongoing revenue sources to sustain operations. Our analysis shows that there is additional time to fully mitigate this issue. The County and SCFD anticipate bringing forward these recommendations over the next several fiscal years.</p> <p>South Santa Clara County Board of Commissioners has been in constant communication with County Executive and County Board of Directors/Supervisors on the financial stability of the Fire District. The Board of Commissioners have and will continue to explore revenue generating options to offset the costs for services.</p>	<p>County and SCFD are jointly working on developing recommendations for new ongoing revenues sources to sustain operations. Any recommendations will be brought forward over the next several fiscal years.</p>
<p>6 Boundary Drop Response: While SCFD, Morgan Hill, and Gilroy have entered into a boundary drop agreement to share resources, AP Triton recommends the fire agencies evaluate opportunities for a boundary drop response for critical incidents (where time significantly matters in the outcome) for the entire county. Note: To be more effective, this will require improved interoperability between CAD products for dispatch centers, including the existing agreement between SCFD, Morgan Hill, and Gilroy. This effort should be coordinated by the Santa Clara Fire Chiefs Association.</p>	Pages xiii, 25	Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association	<p>The Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association (SCCFCA) regularly review auto-aid agreements for equitable services and opportunities for optimization of services when feasible. Agencies also leverage technologies, e.g. CAD to CAD links for dispatch efficiencies.</p>	<p>Already implementing and regularly reviewing auto-aid agreements. Already leveraging existing CAD to CAD links for dispatch efficiencies. Seeking clarity as the response does not specifically address boundary drop agreements.</p>

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7	Station Identifiers: All agencies have unique unit identifiers; however, only San Jose and CCFD have station numbers that match the unit assigned. Each agency should consider assigning station numbers (in addition to station names) that match the unit identifier assigned across the county to improve awareness of the home station of response units. This effort should be coordinated by the Santa Clara Fire Chiefs Association.	Pages xiii, 25	Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association	The Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association (SCCFCA) have discussed this recommendation and there is no operational necessity for this recommendation change.	Association will not implement recommendation. Believes there is no operational necessity for this recommendation.
FACILITY REPLACEMENT & MAINTENANCE PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS					
8	Facility Replacement & Maintenance Planning: Establish a comprehensive facility replacement plan and a maintenance plan for fire stations. Please see specifics below.		Gilroy, Milpitas, Morgan Hill, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose, Santa Clara, Sunnyvale and LAHCFD	See responses to items 8A through 8K below.	
8A	Gilroy: With two of Gilroy Fire Department's three stations being over forty years old, there should be a facility replacement plan in place. (Chestnut - 51 years) and (Las Animas - 45 years). In reviewing the city's current capital improvement budget, there were no fire facilities identified.	Pages 128-129, 133	Gilroy	Implementation of the recommendation depends on the policy and funding directions of the Gilroy City Council. In the end, City Council direction is achieved through ongoing budget and policy discussions concerning any service in and for the City of Gilroy.	Defers to Gilroy City Council, without a substantive response. LAFCO staff inquired further and were informed that the City will not be providing any additional information.

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<p>8B Milpitas: With one of Milpitas' four stations over fifty years, there should be a facility replacement plan in place. (Station 3 - 54 years). The older Milpitas fire stations do not meet the requirements of modern firefighting. The City's current Capital Improvement Plan only identified project related to fire stations was a portable building replacement project at Station 1 that is housing the Office of Emergency Services.</p>	<p>Pages 162-163, 168</p>	<p>Milpitas</p>	<p>The City of Milpitas is actively researching additional long-term funding mechanisms that would provide for the necessary maintenance and replacement of existing Public Safety facilities, to include replacing the city's oldest fire station. Fire Station No. 3 replacement cost is currently estimated to be \$20.6 Million, and was added to the CIP on July 1, 2016 as a Planned Project without funding.</p>	<p>Milpitas is researching additional long-term funding mechanism to fund the replacement of Station 3. Estimated replacement cost is \$20.6M and is included in the City's CIP, but unfunded. No specific plan mentioned, or timeframe identified.</p>
<p>8C Morgan Hill: The City of Morgan Hill is building a new station that is expected to open in 2024. AP Triton did not identify any other capital projects in the current budget documents. Ensuring the stations are in good repair also requires regular maintenance and scheduled replacement of specialized equipment. Plans for updating and repairing systems such as heating and air conditioning (HVAC), generators, roofs, driveways, parking areas, security gates, painting, carpet replacement, and small appliances can keep costs down and buildings in service longer. In addition, establishing a facility replacement and maintenance plan will enable the city to plan for ongoing service from each station more efficiently.</p>	<p>Page 195</p>	<p>Morgan Hill</p>	<p>The City budgets regular maintenance of the fire facilities in its operating budget with a plan to increase it as the third fire station enters into service. As for specialized equipment such as fire engines, the City set aside funding for this purpose from the transfer of the previous year's General Fund budget savings.</p>	<p>Already implemented.</p>

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<p>8D Mountain View: Two (Station 3 - 61 years & Station 4 - 55 years) of five stations over 50 years old...The City of Mountain View Public Works Department is responsible for the planning and maintenance of all facilities. The Fire Chief stated that Fire Station 3 is on the schedule for a capital replacement, however per Public Works, it is an “unfunded capital replacement project.”...Fire Stations and the Fire Department’s Training Division/Center are critical infrastructures which should be components of capital improvement and replacement plan for the city.</p>	<p>Pages 230, 235</p>	<p>Mountain View</p>	<p>The City of Mountain View Public Works Department provides maintenance, upgrades, and replacement planning for our fire stations. The City adopts a Five -Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which includes annual funding for maintenance and improvements to provide a modern living environment in the fire stations. These improvements include, but are not limited to, modern turnout storage, privacy areas modernization, new kitchens, flooring, and new HVAC systems.</p> <p>For example, the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Adopted CIP appropriated \$1.25 million for new turnout storage at three fire stations, with design now nearly complete and construction scheduled to begin in summer 2024. The CIP also includes \$1.0 million to begin preliminary design for replacing Fire Station No. 3 and includes upgrades, as needed, to the other fire facilities. Notably, Fire Station No. 4, which is 55 years old, was remodeled in 2023 at a cost of \$2.0 million to include new bathrooms, showers, and updated office facilities. The Fire Training Tower also received a remodel and upgrade at a cost of approximately \$400,000.</p> <p>In addition, the City is currently exploring a revenue measure for the 2024 ballot to address critical future Citywide needs, which include upgrades to Fire Station Nos. 3 and 4.</p> <p>A full replacement of Fire Station #3 is unfunded at this time...The City is currently polling likely voters on the potential revenue measure. The City does not have the financial capability to fully replace Fire Station #3 at this time, but the City will make a determination about next steps for an upgrade depending on the potential revenue measure status and budget constraints.</p> <p>Consistent with our ongoing efforts to make improvements at City facilities, going forward, the City will continue to assess and implement improvements at all fire stations for needed daily operations and modernization. In addition to the examples listed in the City’s February 2, 2024 letter, other upcoming planned projects at various fire stations</p>	<p>Already implemented or will implement.</p>

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			includes: two new training center buildings; replacement of apparatus bay doors; and a new steel framed roof structure for protection of ancillary equipment.	
<p>8E Palo Alto: Five of seven stations over 50 years in age and/or were identified as not meeting the needs of a modern fire station: (Station 1 - 57 years), (Station 2 - 57 years), (Station 4 - 69 years), (Station 5 - 55 years), (Station 6 - 50 years), and Station 8. The city's current five-year Capital Improvement Plan only identifies Station 4 for replacement. It was not apparent if an additional plan was in place for the other older stations. Station 6 is owned and maintained by Stanford University. Palo Alto has worked to update its facilities, including seismic protection, however, Stations 1, 2, 5, and 8 are nearing end of life and should be included in a plan for replacement.</p>	Pages 270, 277	Palo Alto	Palo Alto's Public Works Department is in the process of finalizing a new City-wide facilities condition assessment report for all City facilities, including all fire stations. Following its completion, the City will use the report to evaluate the needs for individual fire stations and will develop recommendations for a plan for capital improvements and/or replacements as appropriate.	Palo Alto is evaluating its needs for remodel/replacement of individual fire stations. No plan in place yet.
<p>8F San Jose: With 15 of San José Fire Department's 35 stations being over fifty years old there should be a more robust facility replacement plan in place. (Station 5 - 63 years), (Station 6 - 60 years), (Station 7 - 86 years), (Station 8 - 73 years), (Station 9 - 60 years), (Station 10 - 62 years), (Station 13 - 54 years), (Station 14- 60 years), (Station 15 - 60 years), (Station 16 - 62 years), (Station 18 - 59</p>	Pages 340, 344, 351	San Jose	<p>The City's Fire Station 20 at Mineta San José International Airport was recently relocated and replaced. A replacement Fire Station 8 is under construction, and Fire Station 23 replacement is in planning. The City obtained third party facility condition assessments in 2015 and 2017 for Fire Stations 1 through 31. These documents guide prioritization of maintenance and replacement and will be revised as necessary.</p> <p>The City's Public Work's Department's Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Adopted Capital Improvement Program budget of approximately \$13.8M is funded through a set allocation of the City's construction and conveyance tax</p>	San Jose uses facility condition assessments of fire stations to guide prioritization of maintenance and replacement. City recently replaced Fire Station 20 and is currently replacing Fire Station 8. The replacement of Fire Station 23 is in the planning stage. Planning and funding for the future replacement

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years), (Station 22 - 57 years), (Station 23 - 56 years), (Station 26 - 74 years), (Station 30 - 67 years). Additionally, eighteen of the fire stations have no known seismic protection. The Fire Department's current Capital Improvement Plan has identified only two remodel projects.			proceeds aimed towards the continued improvement of fire facilities: including station infrastructure, fire apparatus, technology and ancillary equipment needs.	of fire stations would occur through the City's CIP process. No further information provided.
8G Santa Clara: With five of Santa Clara Fire Department's nine stations being over forty years old, there should be a facility replacement plan in place. (Station 1 - 57 years), (Station 5 - 61 years), (Station 7 - 51 years), (Station 8 - 47 years), (Station 9 - 40 years). The Fire Department's Capital Improvement Plan has identified a major gap in not having a funding source for major infrastructure needs for stations 1, 5, 7, and 9.	Pages 384-385, 389	Santa Clara	No response received.	Awaiting a response from the City of Santa Clara.
8H Sunnyvale: With five of Sunnyvale's six stations being over fifty years old, there should be a facility replacement plan in place. (Station 1 - 62 years), (Station 2 - 62 years), (Station 3 - 62 years), (Station 4 - 62 years), (Station 6 - 62 years). Sunnyvale's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) states the following: "The advancement of fire service standards and continued population growth of the city establishes the recognition for the need to begin replacing or expanding older, smaller fire stations built in the 1960s. The current facilities are becoming functionally inadequate and driving the need for a master	Pages 419-420, 424	Sunnyvale	A Master Plan of Sunnyvale's six fire stations (five of which were built in the 1960s) was completed in September 2021. The Fire Station Master Plan reviewed the existing conditions, current program requirements, and assessed the stations against current best practices for optimum operation and staff health and safety. With the exception of the Fire Training Facility at Fire Station 2, the fire stations were designed to be code compliant at the time of construction and are therefore not required to be upgraded to current code. Based on the deficiencies identified in the study, options for replacement or remodeling the deficient stations were presented in the Master Plan. All stations, except Station 5, were recommended to be replaced or substantially remodeled. Fire Station 2, including the training facility, was identified for replacement and the highest priority. The recommended sequence of addressing the other stations' deficiencies was as follows: Station 1, followed by Stations 4, 3 and 6.	Already implemented. Sunnyvale adopted a 20-Year Capital Projects Plan in June 2022 to replace and remodel existing fire stations in accordance with a Fire Station Master Plan that was completed in September 2021.

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<p>plan. The master plan's recommendations will be utilized to develop a project plan which will be brought forward for consideration during the next CIP budget cycle." At this time, there appears to be funding identified to replace Station 2 but there are only remodels listed for the remaining stations.</p>			<p>In June 2022, City Council adopted a 20-year capital projects plan which included future projects to replace and remodel existing fire stations per the recommendations in the Fire Station Master Plan.</p> <p>Fire Station 2, including the training center, was identified for replacement as the highest priority. The existing single-story fire station, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) building, and classroom building will be rebuilt and consolidated into a sustainably designed two-story structure. Following completion of the Fire Station 2 project, the new Fire Station 2 will be code-compliant, meet current best practices, and will create additional capacity to help maintain services as other stations are remodeled.</p> <p>The existing Station 1 is of sufficient size to incorporate key best practices with a substantial renovation, including but not limited to, a new kitchen, SCBA refilling room, ADA bathroom, ADA parking, cleaning stations, HVAC, fire sprinklers, painting, roofing, and finish upgrades. Once completed, the renovated Fire Station 1 will be code-compliant and meet or marginally meet current best practices.</p> <p>Stations 3, 4, and 6 are identical, and separate renovation projects have been planned. These 3 stations can be remodeled to incorporate key best practices including, but not limited to, a new kitchen, ADA bathroom, ADA parking, cleaning stations, HVAC, fire sprinklers, painting, roofing, and finish upgrades. An addition will be made to house a new exercise room. Once completed, the renovated Fire Stations 3, 4, and 6 will also be code-compliant and meet most current best practices.</p> <p>Additionally, the current timing of design and construction for the 5 stations:</p> <p>FS2: start Design FY23/24, Construction FY 24/25 and FY 25/26 FS1: start Design FY25/26, Construction FY 26/27 FS3: start Design FY28/29, Construction FY 29/30</p>	

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				FS4: start Design FY3 1/32, Construction FY 32/33 FS6: start Design FY34/35, Construction FY 35/36	
8I	LAHCFD: A facility replacement plan should be established for the Station 74 (El Monte) Fire Station. While it is only 26 years old, it has been rated in fair condition and does not meet the needs of a modern fire station. It does, however, have seismic protection.	Pages 447, 450	LAHCFD	LAHCFD is reviewing replacement or refurbishing of El Monte Fire Station in collaboration with CCFD. Funds have been allocated for upgrades to the station (i.e., new flooring in 2023). The timeline for the refurbishment of El Monte Fire Station is ongoing and implemented as needed in coordination with CCFD. Funds for future remodel or replacement of El Monte Fire Station will be budgeted and planned in coordination with CCFD.	LAHCFD and CCFD are jointly reviewing replacement or refurbishment of El Monte Fire Station. Timeline for implementation is ongoing and as needed. Funds will be budgeted and planned in coordination with CCFD.
8J	CCFD, Los Altos, Campbell, Los Gatos: The majority of CCFD's fire stations are older and do not meet the requirements of modern firefighting. With seven of CCFD's stations over fifty years old, a facility replacement plan should be in place. [Station 75 (City of Los Altos) - 54 years]), [Station 78 (CCFD) - 74 years]), [Station 79 (CCFD) - 57 years]), [Station 80 (City of Campbell) - 53 years]), [Station 82 (City of Los Gatos - 62 years]), [Station 83 (City of Los Gatos) - 58 years]), [Station 85 (CCFD) - 57 years)]. In reviewing the current Capital Improvement Plan, CCFD has identified that most facilities need some sort of update, repair, or replacement. CCFD established a capital fund in 2020 that will assist in funding the necessary improvements. Also, some facilities are not owned by the district and rely on each city or district to maintain or replace them. Most stations need a remodel to create gender separation in both sleeping areas and restrooms/shower areas.	Pages 527-528, 535	Campbell	The City will review its current fire station conditions and determine what steps to take next. A comprehensive facility replacement plan and maintenance plan will be assessed in the future.	Campbell will review fire station conditions and determine next steps, including the need for comprehensive planning. No specific timeframe identified.
			Los Altos	City of Los Altos agrees with the recommendation. As stated previously, the City Council has identified planning for all of the city's public safety facilities as a priority for 2024.	Los Altos agrees with recommendation and City Council has identified planning for all of city's public safety facilities as a priority for 2024. No further details provided.
			Los Gatos	Maintenance and repair of fire stations are the responsibility of the County Fire according to the Annexation Agreement.	Los Gatos informs that CCFD is responsible for maintenance and repair of fire stations per Annexation Agreement.
			CCFD	Accepted: Capital Improvement ongoing. CCFD continues to work through the department's Capital Improvement Plan under the guidance of the Director of Support Services to update, repair and/or replace facilities identified in the CIP. The organization will continue to strive to create gender separation in both sleeping areas and restroom/shower areas of all stations and facilities owned by the CCFD. CCFD will continue to work through contracts with	CCFD is already implementing recommendation on an ongoing basis through implementation of its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), including updating, repairing and/or replacing facilities identified in the CIP. Renovations have been made to

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			<p>the city of Campbell, the City of Los Altos, the Saratoga Fire District, and the Los Altos Hills County Fire District to work towards the goals identified.</p> <p>In lieu of full capital replacement of facilities, CCFD has delivered kitchen, bathroom, flooring and dormitory renovations to many of the fifteen (15) fire stations and Training Center. These renovations support firefighter healthy in and healthy out initiatives and increased productivity.</p>	<p>many of the 14 fire stations and Training Center to address known deficiencies.</p>
<p>8K SCFD: The majority of fire stations, including SCFD's, are older and do not meet the requirements of modern firefighting. With two of the four stations serving SCFD being over 50 years old, there should be a facility replacement plan in place. [Headquarters (Shared with CAL FIRE) - 69 years)], and [Masten (owned by SCFD) - 57 years]. The difficulty for SCFD is the mix of state-owned and local government-owned facilities and some with shared staffing. Getting the right funding at the right time for a multiagency building project is challenging. We did not identify any existing capital projects in the current SCFD budget documents.</p>	<p>Pages 590-591, 595</p>	<p>SCFD</p>	<p>South Santa Clara County Fire District received funding from the County of Santa Clara to have repairs completed at its Masten Station. The Commissioners in coordination with staff have identified repairs to be addressed in SSCCFD 5-year plan.</p>	<p>SCFD will implement recommendation and has received funding from the County to complete repairs at its Masten Station. SCFD has identified repairs to be addressed in its 5-year plan.</p>
FIRE PREVENTION & PUBLIC EDUCATION RECOMMENDATIONS				
<p>9 Coordinate Consistency in Fire Codes: The Santa Clara County Fire Marshals Association should continue to work toward consistency in its fire codes through coordination or reduction of amendments. Amendments to vegetation management and fire sprinkler requirements should receive special attention as inconsistencies have the greatest impact on</p>	<p>Pages xiii, 25, 43</p>	<p>Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association</p>	<p>The Fire Marshals Association work collaboratively to provide consistency in the recently adopted fire code. The 2022 code adoption cycle commenced early in 2022 with the published California Fire Code in July 2022. Regular meetings were held with representatives from all jurisdictions. The effort included assignment of all sections of the fire code for evaluation and collaborative discussion for amendments from base code with appropriate justification. This resulted in a master draft document that was utilized as the base document for each AHJ to present</p>	<p>Association has already implemented recommendation through the joint development of a master draft fire code for each Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) to utilize as the base document and to present to their governing bodies for review, amendment, and</p>

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residents and the development community.			<p>to their respective governmental bodies within Santa Clara County for review, amendment and adoption.</p> <p>Amendments are necessary and created to appropriately and effectively address the climactic, topographical or geologic hazards of a specific city or county. The Fire Marshals Association should continue to work to align amendments to best suit the needs and conditions of the local cities or county rather than simply reduce the number of amendments.</p>	<p>adoption.</p> <p>Association notes that amendments are sometimes necessary, and that they will continue to work to align amendments to best suit local needs and conditions rather than reducing the number of amendments.</p>
<p>10 Report on Status of Fire Inspections: Each jurisdiction should annually report the status of mandated inspections to its governing body in accordance with state law (California Health & Safety Code 13146.4). This will allow the governing body to assess and make decisions regarding resources and corrective action. A similar report should be submitted to the State Fire Marshal per the 2020 letter of request from the State Fire Marshal.</p>	<p>Pages xiv, 37, 44</p>	<p>Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association</p>	<p>Reports to the respective governing bodies are provided on an annual basis in accordance with state law.</p>	<p>Association is already implementing requirement for reporting of status of mandated inspections to the governing bodies.</p> <p>Seeking clarification on whether this reporting also includes submittal to State Fire Marshal, as recommended.</p>
<p>11 Provide Information on Plan Review and Construction Requirements: The Santa Clara County Fire Marshals Association should consider creating processes like the one used for hazardous materials for plan reviews and construction inspections. Unidocs is an excellent way to clearly convey who is responsible, where to go, and what is required for service. Updates on requirements and/or turnarounds times, and other relevant information can be kept current on this living, web-based document.</p>	<p>Pages xiv, 44</p>	<p>Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association</p>	<p>The intent of the recommendation is unclear. Unidocs is a repository for standardized forms and guidelines. The functionality described in the recommendation would likely require a records management system (RMS) to track the workflow of a project. Individual agencies implement and manage unique instances of records management systems, typically shared with other departments, that track workflows of the plan review and inspections processes. A tool possessing the functionality to capture workflows for plan review and hold standardized forms and guidelines across agencies would likely require a shared RMS with all requisite management, maintenance and administration at the State or County level.</p>	<p>Association will not implement recommendation and notes that implementation would be difficult given the unique needs of each service provider and the requirements to use a shared records management system that would have to be managed, maintained, and administered at the State or County level.</p>

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<p>12 Service Provider Transparency for Cities and Districts with Fire Prevention Services provided by other agencies: Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Los Altos, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, Campbell, SFD, LAHCFD, SCFD should all provide an explanation and links on their websites to connect community members with the agency providing fire prevention services. Those providing the service should consider adding guidelines and checklists used by staff to assist customers.</p>	<p>Pages xiv, 38, 44</p>	Campbell	<p>The City will review its current website content and determine what, if any, updates are needed. Content that is needed will be added to the City’s website.</p>	<p>Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, Saratoga, LAHCFD, SCFD have already implemented the recommendation.</p> <p>Campbell (no timeframe), Los Gatos (this year), and SFD (no timeframe) will implement the recommendation.</p>
		Cupertino	<p>The City of Cupertino complies with Recommended Action #12 from report with a webpage dedicated to the Santa Clara County Fire Department.</p>	
		Los Altos	<p>Los Altos has already implemented this recommendation. The City’s website has contained a prominent page identifying the fire and medical services provider for a number of years. This link can be found at https://www.losaltosca.gov/police/page/fire-and-medical.</p>	
		Los Altos Hills	<p>The Town has already implemented this recommendation. The Town has several links to the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHCFD) on its homepage, and throughout several other interior pages of the website, for the public to explore available programs for fire prevention services.</p>	
		Los Gatos	<p>The Town will work with County Fire to include this information on our website this year.</p>	
		Monte Sereno	<p>The City of Monte Sereno already provides links from City website for resident to contact service provider and has been practicing this for about 4 years.</p>	
		Morgan Hill	<p>The City of Morgan Hill website has a City Government tab which takes the user to a list of City departments. Under this section the MHFD can be located which identifies the services provided including Fire Prevention Services. The website is routinely updated with current information.</p>	
		Saratoga	<p>The City of Saratoga’s website has always contained an explanation and website links to the fire district that serves our community. No additional action is needed.</p>	
		LAHCFD	<p>This recommendation is complete. www.lahcfid.org has a link to CCFD Fire Prevention Services on the homepage. LAHCFD has also added a link to Fire Prevention Services on the Chart of Services.</p> <p>LAHCFD can advise the Town of Los Altos Hills to add a link to CCFD’s Fire</p>	

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			Prevention Services page to the Town of LAH Development Services webpage; however, LAHCFD does not manage this webpage and cannot guarantee that the update will be implemented.	
		SCFD	South Santa Clara County Fire District has their own website and will continue to work with their web developers to enhance the features while providing a user-friendly platform to the public as they navigate the web.	
		SFD	The SFD Board will provide an explanation and links on the district website to connect community members with the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District with whom SFD contracts for fire protection services. The SFD anticipates development not only of guidelines to assist customers but enforceable standards relating to work performed in designated emergency response and evacuation routes as described above.	
<p>13 Provide Access to Incident Data: CCFD and CAL FIRE should provide access to the incident database for every fire agency in Santa Clara County. The Fire Investigation Task Force is a best practice, and the data collected can be used to identify the fire problem countywide. The data quality must be high enough to determine what caused the fire (ignition source and material first ignited), where it occurred (fire origin in specific occupancy type, as well as geographic location), who caused it, if applicable (age, sex, etc.), and why it occurred (the action that brought the ignition source and material first ignited together). A shared database/geocoded map would facilitate the creation of programs that target specific populations and occupancies in areas at risk.</p>	<p>Pages xiv, 40, 44</p>	CAL FIRE	<p>Regarding Recommendation 13 in the Report, CAL FIRE appreciates the recommendation. While the recommendation would require each agency to enter into some type of a JPA with a monetary impact to each agency, CAL FIRE supports exploring opportunities for increased efficiencies for the investigation of origin and cause of unwanted fires.</p>	<p>CAL FIRE appreciates recommendation and supports exploring opportunities for increased efficiencies for the investigation of origin and cause of unwarranted fire.</p>
		CCFD	<p>Accepted: Implementation TBD: Implementation of a shared Records Management System (RMS) where data between multiple agencies could be compiled and shared would be beneficial. Not all fire agencies within the county operate on the same system so technological challenges still exist. With the projected move to National Emergency Response Information System (NERIS) this could be feasible in the future. https://www.usfa.fema.gov/nfirs/neris/</p>	<p>Implementation to be determined. CCFD accepts recommendation but informs that there are technological challenges with compiling and sharing data between multiple agencies currently. CCFD informs that implementation of recommendation could be more feasible in the future with the anticipated move to a national level information system.</p>

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<p>14 Coordinate Public Education re. Community Risk Reduction: Public education regarding community risk reduction is sparse and distinct among the agencies. Many rely on their websites to provide information and links. Creating a set of coordinated materials, programs, and messages, based on the identified fire (and EMS) problem(s), would go a long way in providing a clear, consistent message to targeted occupancies and populations throughout the county. A Public Education Task Force, working with local CERT and Red Cross groups, would be a best practice in efficiency as well as maximize the potential for behavior change in impacted populations. The Santa Clara County Fire Marshals Association should coordinate this recommendation with all the fire agencies in the County.</p>	<p>Pages xv, 44</p>	<p>Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association</p>	<p>The fire agencies have collaboratively worked together for past and ongoing combined campaigns. Fireworks safety or "Ready, Set, Go" are examples of combined campaigns that are coordinated through the Community Education of the fire agencies in the County.</p>	<p>Association already implementing recommendation. An example is the fireworks safety "Ready, Set, Go" campaign.</p>
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS				
<p>15 Emergency Operations Plan Updates: The County Office of Emergency Management should develop a schedule for regular updates of the Emergency Operations Plan.</p>	<p>Pages xv, 49</p>	<p>County Office of Emergency Management</p>	<p>The current January 2022 Santa Clara County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) is reviewed every 2 years and revised every 5 years. This year Santa Clara County has been selected by CalOES to participate in their review and approval process for Operational Area EOP's. Beginning in June/July 2024, the Office of Emergency Management will be utilizing the new CalOES EOP Crosswalk in the next revision to the County's Emergency Operations Plan to ensure alignment between the County and the State's procedures. This initiative ensures compliance with CalOES' 2024 Updates to the County Emergency Plan Legislation Content, Submission, and Review. Key topics covered include Access and Functional Needs, cultural</p>	<p>County EOM is already implementing recommendation.</p>

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			competency, emergency sheltering, transportation between shelters and community resilience centers, and animal care during disasters.	
<p>16 Emergency Management Outreach: The County Office of Emergency Management should build community resiliency to disasters through regular outreach and scheduled drills.</p>	Pages xv, 49	County Office of Emergency Management (County EOM)	<p>The Office of Emergency Management will continue its efforts to build community resilience to emergencies and disasters by focusing on enhancing public messaging across communication channels, conducting community outreach initiatives, and effectively coordinating the Operational Area Joint Information System. The Office of Emergency Management also maintains the following programs to ensure building community resiliency to disasters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Outreach Events • AFN & Cultural Competency Workgroup • NGO/VOAD Liaison • Training & Exercise <p>This year’s planned exercises are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Attacker TTX • Regional Supply Chain TTX • Supply Chain Resilience TTX • Commodities Point of Distribution (CPOD) Full-Scale Exercise. <p>Emergency Management Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivered 38 trainings. • Held quarterly Alert and Warning Alert SCC Basic Notifier Training. 	County EOM is already implementing recommendation.

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<p>17 Fire Safe Council Representation: The County Office of Emergency Management should consider adding a representative from the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council as a partner in plan updates and revisions.</p>	<p>Pages xv, 49</p>	<p>County Office of Emergency Management (County OEM)</p>	<p>The County Office of Emergency Management continues engagement with our Fire Safe Council, some of the most recent larger endeavors were the Wildfire Annex to the Emergency Operations Plan, the 2023 Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP).</p> <p>The Wildfire Annex was initially completed in 2019. The OEM underwent a planning endeavor inviting Op Area, Regional, State and Federal partners/stakeholders this included members from the Fire Safe Council who were also invited to all sub-working group meetings and planning endeavors in effort to gain their insight and experience.</p> <p>The Community Wildfire Protection Plan was updated concurrently with the MJHMP. The OEM and Fire Safe Council collaborated for 15 months to integrate the two planning efforts in a meaningful and effective way. A representative from the Office of Emergency Management and the Santa Clara County Fire Department actively participated in the CWPP planning process. Conversely, the CWPP leadership team (OEM, SCCFD, Fire Safe Council) was involved and informed the MJHMP planning process. There were several public meetings for each planning initiative, and each meeting included presentations about the Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Fire Safe Council will be included in the upcoming EOP review.</p>	<p>County OEM has already implemented the recommendation.</p>
<p>18 Reference Community Wildfire Protection Plan: The County Office of Emergency Management should include references to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in the wildfire threat summary portion of the Santa Clara County Emergency Operations Plan to help ensure coordination.</p>	<p>Pages xv, 49</p>	<p>County Office of Emergency Management (County OEM)</p>	<p>The Santa Clara County Office of Emergency Management collaborated with the Santa Clara Fire Safe Council with development of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). When the current Emergency Operations Plan is revised appropriate CWPP references will be added.</p>	<p>County EOM will implement recommendation when it revises the Emergency Operations Plan.</p>

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EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS					
19	CAD-to-CAD Interoperability: Establish a CAD-to-CAD connection between dispatch centers to enhance interoperability. This connection would enable the transfer of information and real-time monitoring of neighboring agency resource status. It would streamline the process of requesting resources from neighboring centers and facilitate the determination of available resources outside the center for specific incidents. Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA) should provide the coordination with all the Fire Dispatch Centers to meet this recommendation.	Pages xv, 57	Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA) to coordinate with the fire agencies and dispatch centers.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> SVRIA can assist and support fire agencies who seek to advance CAD-to-CAD Interoperability. Resource limitations currently exist, and new financial and staff resource investments would be needed to implement this recommendation. SVRIA is a lean organization by design. Its annual budget is approximately \$5M and contract personnel do not total 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) in staff. The SVRIA Executive Director has already contacted a leading CAD-to-CAD solution provider, Emerging Digital Concepts, and the CAD vendor for several fire agencies in Santa Clara County, Hexagon, to fully understand the project scope and cost. These details have been shared with SVRIA's Working Committee which is made up of staff from Santa Clara County and member cities. The timeframe for implementation would be three to five years. SVRIA intends to support fire agencies if they decide to move forward with the recommendation. 	<p>SVRIA will support fire agencies if they want to implement this recommendation.</p> <p>SVRIA has contacted a leading service provider and a vendor to understand the scope, cost, and timeframe for achieving CAD-to-CAD interoperability.</p>
20	AVL Dispatch of Resources: Gilroy, Morgan Hill, San Jose, Sunnyvale, CCFD, and SCFD are not currently utilizing Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) technology to dispatch the closest available resource for emergencies. By integrating AVL into the CAD system through GIS mapping, the system can identify and dispatch the nearest unit to the incident. AVL Dispatch can help improve overall response times, potentially making a significant difference in critical calls. Each of these agencies should implement AVL dispatch in their dispatch center.	Pages xvi, 57	<p>Gilroy</p> <p>Morgan Hill</p> <p>San Jose</p> <p>Sunnyvale</p>	<p>Implementation of the recommendation depends on the policy and funding directions of the Gilroy City Council. In the end, City Council direction is achieved through ongoing budget and policy discussions concerning any service in and for the City of Gilroy.</p> <p>The Morgan Hill Fire Department has received software and hardware for AVL. We are currently testing the AVL technology with a launch date in 2024.</p> <p>The City is in the process of implementing this recommendation by Fall 2024.</p> <p>The City began its CAD update project as part of the approved budget in FY 18/19. This project was a major undertaking that involved DPS, the Department of Public Works that manages fleet, IT, and the Community</p>	<p>Defers to Gilroy City Council, without a substantive response. LAFCO staff inquired further and were informed that the City will not be providing any additional information.</p> <p>Morgan Hill will implement recommendation in 2024.</p> <p>San Jose implementing this recommendation and completion is expected by Fall 2024.</p> <p>Sunnyvale will not implement recommendation. City is currently completing a major CAD update</p>

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			<p>Development-Building Division. The project is now well underway and expected to go-live in the near future.</p> <p>The project as designed and scoped in 2018 did not include emerging technology such as AVL. CAD is expected to be re-studied in 10-year increments. DPS staff may choose to study AVL technology in the next CAD upgrade project. A significant financial investment and commitment of staff time would be required to implement this recommendation.</p>	<p>project, which was designed and scoped in 2018 and did not include emerging technology such as AVL. City may choose to study AVL in 10 years, as part of the next CAD update.</p>
		CCFD	<p>Accepted: CCFD AVL implementation goal of Q3 of 2024. CCFD and Santa Clara County Communications worked together for a successful implementation of the COTs CAD in Q3 of 2023. The second phase of the CAD implementation for CCFD is for AVL based dispatching that is planned to go live in Q3 of 2024, allowing for 9 months of data before the AVL implementation. CCFD will continue working with executive leadership at Santa Clara County Communications for opportunities to integrate CAD with other PSAPs and/or discuss AVL based unit sharing capabilities with other fire jurisdictions within the County.</p>	<p>CCFD is implementing the recommendation and expects to complete the first phase by Q3 of 2024. A second phase of CAD implementation would then begin with AVL based dispatching. CCFD is also working with County Communications to find opportunities to integrate CAD with other PSAPs and/or to discuss AVL based unit sharing capabilities.</p>
		SCFD	<p>South Santa Clara County Fire District will be looking for funding options to budget for AVL. Once identified it will be presented to the Board of Commissioners as an agenda item for recommendations.</p>	<p>SCFD will be looking for funding options to budget for AVL and any identified options will be presented to Board of Commissioners for recommendations.</p>
<p>21 Data Quality and Access: The Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs should coordinate data standardization among the fire agencies, promote a single CAD system for the County with access for each agency to review their data sets, and all agencies should review the quality of inputs by their personnel.</p>	<p>Page xvi</p>	<p>Santa Clara County Fire Chiefs Association</p>	<p>The recommendation may be on face value cost prohibitive. The SCCFCA supports exploring opportunities for increased efficiencies for Computer Aided Dispatch Systems.</p>	<p>Association says specific recommendation may be too costly to implement. Supports exploring increased efficiencies for CAD systems.</p>

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<p>22 Communications Feasibility Study: Due to their existing Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the service providers, Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA) should commission a comprehensive feasibility study to address weaknesses in the overall emergency communications system in the county. The study should focus on reducing the number of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), establishing a common Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) platform for fire and EMS agencies, and evaluating the benefits and challenges of combining fire and EMS dispatch centers, at least virtually. This study will provide valuable insights to improve services for individual agencies and the entire county. SVRIA's mission aligns with the goal of this proposed study, and it can facilitate collaboration and support for implementing improvements.</p>	<p>Pages xvi, 58</p>	<p>Silicon Valley Regional Interoperability Authority (SVRIA)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> SVRIA can assist and support elected officials and fire agencies who seek to regionalize Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and 9-1-1 emergency communications centers. SVRIA's success as a JPA is based on its mission, fiscal and voting equity, and is a model for regional cooperation. SVRIA's annual budget is approximately \$5M and contract personnel do not total 1.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) in staff. No resources are currently identified to complete the feasibility study. An estimate to complete the study would be \$75K to \$125K. SVRIA has already identified nearly \$50 million in lifecycle replacement of the existing radio system over the next 10 years just to maintain the current service level. Significant fiscal resource limitations, technical challenges, and public policy decisions currently exist to implement a regional fire, rescue, and EMS communications center. Substantial, unidentified, and unbudgeted new financial and staff resource investments would be needed to implement a regional PSAP, likely exceeding \$125M. The timeframe for implementation of the feasibility report would be one to two years. SVRIA intends to support its members if they move forward with the recommendation. 	<p>SVRIA can assist and support agencies that want to implement this recommendation.</p>
<p>WUI HAZARD MITIGATION IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY RECOMMENDATIONS</p>				
<p>23 Coordinate Community Wildfire Protection Plan Updates: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should coordinate CWPP updates with particular emphasis on ensuring all communities within Santa Clara County are participating (Milpitas does not have an Annex).</p>	<p>Pages xvi, 74</p>	<p>Santa Clara County FireSafe Council (SCCFSC)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Participation in the CWPP by any county entity such as a town or municipality is totally voluntary and up to the specific town or municipality to participate or not. SCCFSC does not have the authority to mandate or compel a town or municipality to participate. That said, as was the case in the 2016 CWPP lead by SCCFSC and in this 2023 update, also led by SCCFSC, we solicited and requested participation in the CWPP. At the time in late 2021 or early 2022, Milpitas was not able to participate. Subsequently, since the start of 2024, SCCFSC has worked closely with 	<p>SCCFSC is already implementing recommendation. SCCFSC is working with the Milpitas to create an Annex for Milpitas. If SCCFSC receives the necessary funding and commitments by July 1, 2024, then the Milpitas Annex update process could start in July of 2024 and be completed by March 31, 2025. After which, the</p>

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			<p>Milpitas’ new Fire Chief, Jason Schoonover, on collaborating with Milpitas to create an annex for Milpitas. Chief Schoonover is very supportive of this effort. On February 7, 2024, Santa Clara FireSafe Council’s CEO, Seth Schalet and Amanda Brenner Cannon, FireSafe’s Program Director and County Wildfire Coordinator presented our plans for continuing with the CWPP update for individual annexes. As the President of the County Fire Chiefs Association, Chief Schoonover of Milpitas participated in that presentation. Subsequently, Both Amanda and Seth held a follow-up meeting with Milpitas’s Deputy Chief, Fire Operations, Galahad, Zamora and the Milpitas Emergency Management Coordinator, Toni Charlop, on how to best move forward with the Milpitas annex process. Milpitas is currently involved in several tasks including updating and seeking formal adoption of their Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. We agreed that Milpitas will take time to assess the annex process.</p> <p>2. Santa Clara County FireSafe Council is willing to start this process as soon as reasonably possible. To do so requires specific, dedicated funding for SCCFSC to create a Scope of Work , Budget and Timeline estimate with the buy-in from the Milpitas team with respect to dedicating resources to support this effort. SCCFSC is confident that should the needed funding be provided by July 1, 2024, then SCCFSC would start work on the Milpitas annex update in July of 2024, and look to complete its annex work by March 31, 2025, or earlier if possible. Once SCCFSC completes its annex for Milpitas, in order to be adopted and incorporated within the CWPP Story Map and Project Tracker Dashboard (See here for these: https://santa-clara-cwppscfc.hub.arcgis.com/), Milpitas will need its governing body to formally approve the annex for adoption to be placed in the CWPP. The timeline for the Milpitas governing body is not within SCCFSC to determine, and it is our hope that it could take place within 90 days after we complete our annex work for Milpitas.</p>	<p>City Council would need to formally approve the Annex for adoption to be placed in the CWPP.</p>

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<p>24 Multi Party Fuel Mitigation, monitoring and outreach: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should concentrate on multi-party mitigation, monitoring, and outreach in the CWPP update. Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should consider combining mitigation strategies from city Annexes into a single list that can be used to locate fuel breaks and fuel modifications to protect multiple jurisdictions, recognizing efficiencies of scale. The list should be prioritized to fund the most significant risks to the County first. The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should also develop public messages and online tools for all fire agencies to echo and make available to residents. Grants are available to fund projects. Implementation of projects should involve staff of impacted fire agencies, cities, and County OES, as well as hired contractors. Napa, Marin, and San Diego counties have already implemented this best practice and can serve as examples.</p>	<p>Pages xvi, 74</p>	<p>Santa Clara County FireSafe Council</p>	<p>1. The current CWPP update, and deliverables is based upon a \$250,000 one-time grant awarded to Santa Clara County FireSafe Council by CAL FIRE’s SCU Unit. As such, CAL FIRE specified the terms associated with the deliverables as set forth in the grant application and awarded grant agreement. As per LAFCO’s stated request in #24, “Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should concentrate on multi-party mitigation, monitoring, and outreach in the CWPP update.” While SCCFSC agrees with that stated goal, we are required to adhere to the deliverables specified in the grant award, by the funder CAL FIRE. That is not one of the specific deliverables in the grant application. SCCFSC is more than willing to take on this task and supports this strategy. In our County Coordinator grant award provided by CAL FIRE through the California Fire Safe Council, one of the deliverables is a GIS based Story Map and Project Tracker Database that we are currently working on. (See here for these: https://santa-clara-cwpp-sccfc.hub.arcgis.com/)</p> <p>Also, LAFCO #24 requests “The list should be prioritized to fund the most significant risks to the County first. The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should also develop public messages and online tools for all fire agencies to echo and make available to residents. Grants are available to fund projects. Implementation of projects should involve staff of impacted fire agencies, cities, and County OES, as well as hired contractors. Napa, Marin, and San Diego counties have already implemented this best practice and can serve as examples.” Santa Clara County FireSafe Council agrees with this recommendation by LAFCO. Our County Coordinator grant referenced above is a one-time, nonrenewable grant through the California Fire Safe Council. This grant and its funding will expire on or before December 31, 2024, pending the remaining balance to complete the grant deliverables. SCCFSC is familiar with the work of Napa, Marin, and San Diego, and each of those entities receive some level of dedicated funding, and in the case of Marin specifically through Measure C funds and a Joint Powers</p>	<p>SCCFSC agrees with recommendation. SCCFSC is willing to implement recommendation, provided the County funds the effort over a period of 5-years at \$250K annually.</p> <p>SCCFSC notes if the County funds the effort over a period of 5-years at \$300K, they would be able to hire a grant writer to apply for and secure grants to fund high priority fire prevention and protection projects.</p>

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			<p>Agreement (JPA), they established the Marin Wildfire Protection Authority that in part, through dedicated property tax assessments, provides approximately \$20 million a year dedicated to a variety of hazardous fuel reduction programs along with community outreach and education initiatives. Please see the funding allocation and related deliverables for the Marin Wildfire Protection Authority here: https://www.marinwildfire.org/about-mwpa/funding-allocation. Santa Clara County FireSafe Council’s CEO has an effective professional collaboration with MWPA’s CEO, Mark Brown.</p> <p>2. Santa Clara County FireSafe Council requests that the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors fund the renewal of SCCFSC’s County Coordinator role for a period of five (5) years at \$250,000 per year, and such funding would be dedicated to supporting all the recommendations specified in number #24. This will enable SCCFSC to cover staff costs and retention, the support of the ArcGIS database and the costs of working and collaborating with all county agencies to achieve the recommendations outlined in #24 and in #25, the annual update of the Countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). LAFCO recommendations number #24 and #25 are interrelated tasks and objectives and the two can and should be managed in tandem.</p> <p>With dedicated funding of \$250,000 per year, over a five (5) year contract award, Santa Clara County FireSafe Council can combine LAFCO objectives #24 and #25 and achieve an integrated, unified countywide messaging and project tracking, prioritized to mitigate risks across the county’s Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas. Should the County award SCCFSC an annual contract of \$300,00 per year for a period of five (5) years, SCCFSC would be able to also hire and retain a dedicated grant writer, specifically dedicated to research, applying for and securing grants to fund and support identified project priorities such as fuel breaks, escape routes, tree removal, FireWise USA</p>	

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			<p>program funding, Hazardous Impact Zone (HIZ) defensible space inspections and other countywide priorities for vegetation management and risk reduction as set forth in SCCFSC’s collaboration with Cannon be appointed as a non-voting member of the association and LAFCO’s Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), solely for the purpose of the CWPP updates and objectives of both LAFCO #23 and #24 recommendations. Santa Clara County FireSafe Council recommends commencing this funding by July 1, 2024, and a Scope of Work (SOW) and project milestones will be established collaboratively between SCCFSC and the County Fire Chiefs Association. Santa Clara County FireSafe Council would submit quarterly reporting on the use of funds to the County Fire Chiefs Association and County Board of Supervisors, create a KPI dashboard for public access (adding on to the Story Map and Project Tracker Database) to track expenditures against deliverables. SCCFSC’s CEO would attend regular Board of Supervisor meetings to report out and answer BOS questions.</p>	
<p>25 Annual Updates of the CWPP: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should conduct annual CWPP and fire agency updates regarding project planning, implementation, and maintenance.</p>	<p>Pages xvi, 74</p>	<p>Santa Clara County FireSafe Council</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SCCFSC fully endorses this LAFCO request. The key would be to clearly define what constitutes an “annual CWPP and fire agency updates” for the purposes of this objective. SCCFSC believes this is not a wholesale update for the purposes of creating a new CWPP document, but rather, building upon the current CWPP and updating it, and adding “project planning, implementation, and maintenance” components. SCCFSC would continue to maintain the countywide CWPP under its role as the County Wildfire Coordinator and through the Project Tracker Database and CWPP Story Map, add new projects, new annex updates, keep the Project Tracker Database updated, using ArcGIS to visually display project connectivity and gaps that could then be used by the County Fire Chiefs Association to establish countywide risk mitigation project priorities. 2. SCCFSC is willing to commence this work as soon as dedicated funding is allocated and available for use. We believe this can also be rolled 	

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			<p>into the costs SCCFSC has already identified in our response to LAFCO numbers #23 and #24, and the deliverables of #25 will be incorporated into the requested \$250/\$300,000 per year annual funding over the course of a new five (5) year contract for SCCFSC. We believe the timeframe to implement this could start on July 1, 2024, upon securing the dedicated funding request and the implementation timeline would be determined in the SOW and project milestones as approved by the County Fire Chiefs Association, who would oversee SCCFSC’s efforts.</p>	
<p>26 Annual CWPP Project Coordination Meetings: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should conduct annual project coordination meetings between fire agencies, land management agencies, local non-profits, and the Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council to evaluate project priorities and review project accomplishments.</p>	<p>Pages xvi, 74</p>	<p>Santa Clara County FireSafe Council</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SCCFSC fully supports this LAFCO request. In part, this is one of the deliverables of our California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator grant, the one-time grant funding for our County Coordinator role that expires December 31, 2024. SCCFSC would implement this and role this objective into the combined LAFCO number #23, #24 and #25 deliverables. We see this not as a standalone objective in and of itself, but rather, part of the integrated countywide Wildfire County Coordinator role that SCCFSC currently serves under the grant. 2. SCCFSC is willing to commence this work as soon as dedicated funding is allocated and available for use. We believe this can also be rolled into the costs SCCFSC has already identified in our response to LAFCO numbers #23 and #24, and the deliverables of #25 will be incorporated into the requested \$250/\$300,000 per year annual funding over the course of a new five (5) year contract for SCCFSC. We believe the timeframe to implement this could start on July 1, 2024, upon securing the dedicated funding request and the implementation timeline would be determined in the SOW and project milestones as approved by the County Fire Chiefs Association, who would oversee SCCFSC’s efforts. We believe the first Annual CWPP Project Coordination Meeting could take place before December 31, 2024, should SCCFSC’s funding request be granted and made available by July 1, 2024. 	

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<p>27 Maintain CWPP Project Database: Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council should maintain an extensive project database available to the community.</p>	<p>Pages xvi, 74</p>	<p>Santa Clara County FireSafe Council</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SCCFSC fully supports this LAFCo request. In part, this is one of the deliverables of our California Fire Safe Council County Coordinator grant, the one-time grant funding for our County Coordinator role that expires December 31, 2024. SCCFSC would implement this and role this objective into the combined LAFCO number #23, #24, #25 and #26 deliverables. We see this not as a standalone objective in and of itself, but rather, part of the integrated countywide Wildfire County Coordinator role that SCCFSC currently serves under the grant. 2. SCCFSC is willing to commence this work as soon as dedicated funding is allocated and available for use. We believe this can also be rolled into the costs SCCFSC has already identified in our response to LAFCO numbers #23 and #24, and the deliverables of #25 and #26 and will be incorporated into the requested \$250/\$300,000 per year annual funding over the course of a new five (5) year contract for SCCFSC. We believe the timeframe to implement this could start on July 1, 2024, upon securing the dedicated funding request and the implementation timeline would be determined in the SOW and project milestones as approved by the County Fire Chiefs Association, who would oversee SCCFSC’s efforts. Should SCCFSC’s funding request be granted and made available by July 1, 2024, SCCFSC can make its initial deliverable for this by December 31, 2024, using our current Project Tracker Database as a template for the County Fire Chiefs Association to ultimately adopt. 	
<p>28 Funding Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council: The Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council is actively working at a countywide level to improve mitigation efforts. While the FireSafe Council has access to some grant funding, the FireSafe Council needs sustainable funding to provide consistent long-term service. AP Triton recommends Santa Clara County</p>	<p>Pages xvi, 74</p>	<p>Santa Clara County (County Executive's Office or other Dept.)</p>	<p>The County of Santa Clara has provided one-time funding to support the Santa Clara County FireSafe Council over the years at the direction of the Board of Supervisors through the County's annual budget process. The County, however, is facing a significant structural deficit that will have a negative impact on core safety net services. The County appreciates AP Triton's recommendation that funding for projects within a fire agency's jurisdiction should be budgeted by the fire agency in accordance with CWPP timeframes.</p>	<p>Implementation uncertain given that County is facing a significant structural deficit that will have a negative impact on core safety net services.</p> <p>County agrees that fire agencies should budget and fund projects within their jurisdiction consistent</p>

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	provide some level of consistent funding each year to the Fire Safe Council. In addition, funding for projects within a fire agency's jurisdiction should be budgeted by the fire agency in accordance with CWPP timeframes.				with CWPP timeframes.
GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE ALTERNATIVES RECOMMENDATIONS					
29	SFD: 11-16: There are potential alternatives with regards to SFD's governance and administration, where duplicated efforts could be minimized, as identified in LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review in 2010 and in Section III: Governance Structure Alternatives of this report. The review affirms that there are redundancies in SFD's current service structure that could be more efficient with just one fire district serving the area. It is recommended that SFD's receptiveness to reorganization to enhance services efficiencies be assessed.	Page xviii, Page 562	CCFD	CCFD agrees that there may be potential alternatives for SFD, CCFD however, will continue to work collaborative with SFD in the delivery of operational assets, fire prevention product delivery, CERRS delivery and fuels reduction efforts through the Pre-Fire Management and Wildfire Resilience Program. These services are delivered through contract by CCFD to SFD.	CCFD agrees that there are potential alternatives for SFD but will continue to provide services to SFD. SFD disagrees with recommendation and will not implement it.
			SFD	SFD does not agree with alternatives purportedly identified in LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review in 2010 or in section III: Governance Structure Alternatives in the present report. The SFD is not receptive to reorganization/ dissolution as SFD maintains that neither would enhance service efficiencies already being provided under contract.	
30	Gilroy, Morgan Hill and SCFD: Exploring options for alternative service structures, such as joint powers authorities combining operations of two or more neighboring agencies, could potentially bring efficiencies and value-added services to Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SCFD. While CAL FIRE provides contractual service of a large-scale fire agency to Morgan Hill and SCFD, creating a larger local entity consisting of Morgan Hill, Gilroy,	Page xviii, Page 135, Page 201	Gilroy	Implementation of the recommendation depends on the policy and funding directions of the Gilroy City Council. In the end, City Council direction is achieved through ongoing budget and policy discussions concerning any service in and for the City of Gilroy.	Morgan Hill and SCFD will not implement recommendation. Both report that they already have agreements with neighboring fire service providers and sufficient coordination with them. Gilroy defers to Gilroy City Council, without a substantive response. LAFCO staff inquired further and
			Morgan Hill	MHFD, South Santa Clara County Fire District, and Gilroy Fire Department have Boundary Drop Agreements, Mutual Aid Agreements, and Auto Aid Agreements in place to support each other while serving the Community. We've established common communications, standardized operating guidelines, and have routine interagency trainings.	

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<p>and SCFD with a unified structure could offer benefits such as increased accountability, improved efficiency, and enhanced effectiveness in delivering fire services to the community. While reorganization, consolidation, and other shared service structures will likely have efficiencies from which agencies can benefit, if they are facing service-related constraints, these structure alternatives do not provide a singular solution to all constraints to services and must be combined with other strategies. It is recommended that SCFD and the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy enter into a Memorandum of Understanding, in coordination with CAL FIRE, outlining the agencies' commitment to providing long-term cooperative fire services and establishing a joint strategic planning team to assess potential cooperative service elements for implementation.</p>		CAL FIRE	<p>CAL FIRE does not have the authority to speak or act on behalf of three local government jurisdictions related to forming a joint powers authority. CAL FIRE is obligated via the public resources code to evaluate official requests for proposal to enter into Cooperative Fire Protection Agreements with local government agencies. Exploring options for alternative service delivery models among local government agencies is a local initiative.</p>	<p>were informed that the City will not be providing any additional information.</p> <p>CAL FIRE defers to local government agencies on such matters.</p>
		SCFD	<p>Morgan Hill FD, South Santa Clara County Fire District and Gilroy FD have Boundary Drop Agreements, Mutual Aid Agreements, and Auto Aid Agreements in place to support each other while serving the community. We've established common communications, standardize operating guidelines, and have routine interagency trainings.</p>	
<p>30A Gilroy: Considering the staffing and facility constraints specific to the City of Gilroy, collaborating with the City of Morgan Hill and SCFD to establish a larger entity may hold particular value.</p>	Page 135	Gilroy	<p>Implementation of the recommendation depends on the policy and funding directions of the Gilroy City Council. In the end, City Council direction is achieved through ongoing budget and policy discussions concerning any service in and for the City of Gilroy.</p>	<p>Defers to City Council, without a substantive response. LAFCO staff inquired further and were informed that the City will not be providing any additional information.</p>

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE A: RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE FIRE SERVICE DELIVERY AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

	RECOMMENDATIONS	PAGE # IN THE REPORT	POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES	AGENCY RESPONSES	LAFCO STAFF COMMENTS
30B	Morgan Hill: While Morgan Hills’ services are satisfactory and appear to be sustainable, there are facility capacity constraints and regionalization could offer opportunities to pool resources, share expertise, and optimize operations, leading to improved service delivery	Page 201	Morgan Hill	The MHFD appreciates the study identifying that our services are sustainable, and we believe meeting the Santa Clara County EMSA requirements of ensuring we meet 95% of our EMS calls within 7 minutes and 59 seconds is above a satisfactory standard. With the addition of our third station, we anticipate our percentage to increase thus providing a greater service to the Community and our residents.	Morgan Hill will not implement. Believes that with the addition of a third fire station, their ability to timely respond to EMS calls will increase, and thus provide greater service to the residents.
30C	SCFD: SCFD has the economies of scale through its contract with CAL FIRE that allow for greater efficiency and effectiveness. However, due to financing constraints, and the need to either enhance revenues or reduce service costs, there may be further opportunities for regionalization between Morgan Hill, Gilroy, and SCFD to form a larger local entity.	Page 597	SCFD	SSCCFD Commissioners appreciates LAFCO’s thorough review of the countywide fire service and will continue to work with County Executive and the Board of Directors/Supervisors to ensure we are providing the best service possible to our community.	SCFD will not implement but will continuing to work with the County to ensure District is providing best service possible to community.
31	Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and CCFD: Exploring options for alternative structures, such as joint powers authorities combining two or more neighboring agencies (Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and CCFD), could potentially bring efficiencies and value-added services to Mountain View and other smaller fire service providers in Santa Clara County. Creating a larger entity with a unified structure can offer benefits such as increased accountability, improved efficiency, and enhanced effectiveness in delivering fire	Page 237 (Mountain View); Page 279 (Palo Alto); Page 391 (Santa Clara); Page 426 (Sunnyvale); and Page 537 (CCFD)	Mountain View	<p>The City enjoys a very collaborative and cooperative relationship with our neighboring fire agencies, including Palo Alto, Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, and Central County Fire Department (CCFD). This includes participating in regional trainings, providing and receiving mutual aid during critical incidents, and frequently sharing resources and knowledge. The City is proud to provide a well-run, transparent, and effective fire service for the community, as the report noted.</p> <p>The City recognizes the work that has been conducted in prior years to explore alternative fire service structures, including combining agencies. Ultimately, it has been determined that moving toward a combined fire service or a Joint Powers Authority is not in the best financial or operational interest of the City of Mountain View.</p> <p>The City will not be implementing this recommendation; however, we are</p>	<p>Mountain View, Palo Alto, and Sunnyvale will not implement the recommendation.</p> <p>CCFD willing to explore recommendation and other opportunities to share resources to improve efficiencies.</p> <p>Awaiting response from City of Santa Clara.</p>

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE A: RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE FIRE SERVICE DELIVERY AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

RECOMMENDATIONS	PAGE # IN THE REPORT	POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES	AGENCY RESPONSES	LAFCO STAFF COMMENTS
<p>services to the community. While Mountain View’s services are satisfactory and appear to be sustainable, there could be opportunities to pool resources, share expertise, and optimize operations, leading to improved service delivery.</p>			<p>dedicated to working collaboratively with our partners to ensure the best possible outcomes for our community and the region, and we look forward to the opportunity to engage in further discussions on this and other important matters with LAFCO and our neighboring agencies.</p>	
		Palo Alto	<p>The decision to combine with a neighboring fire agency would have to come from the direction of the governing bodies over the identified agencies. The City is satisfied with the proven effectiveness of the current auto-aid and mutual-aid agreements with neighboring fire departments. Efficiencies have been utilized with Mountain View with a shared computer automated dispatch system.</p>	
		Santa Clara	<p>No response received.</p>	
		Sunnyvale	<p>DPS was formed in 1950 as a public safety model, where all sworn personnel are trained as police officers, firefighters, and EMTs. This factor alone would make the formation of a JPA difficult, if not impossible, to incorporate existing staff from other jurisdictions as shared employees of the JPA without great expense to taxpayers to re-train all JPA employees in all three disciplines.</p>	
		CCFD	<p>CCFD will continue to be willing to explore the ability to share resources to improve on efficiencies in service delivery to the community.</p>	
<p>32 Contract County. Six counties in California have opted to provide contract services to the State to fill CAL FIRE's obligations with their counties. Given the changes to fire service that have occurred over the last two decades, reassessing the possibility of Santa Clara County transitioning to a “contract county” may be warranted. Inclusion of Alameda County and Contra Costa County in the restructuring, should their fire agencies express interest, would create a more cohesive fire service structure in the Bay Area</p>	<p>Pages xix, 94</p>	<p>Santa Clara County (County Executive's Office or other Dept.)</p>	<p>The County appreciates that this recommendation may bring significant service enhancements to our community and will explore this possibility in future analyses.</p>	<p>County will explore this possibility in future analyses. No specific timeframe identified.</p> <p>CAL FIRE has special concerns with recommendation and provides further information on what “contract county” status means and how it is achieved.</p>
		<p>CAL FIRE</p>	<p>CAL FIRE has special concerns about Recommendation 32 in the Report, which states that the County should evaluate the possibility of Santa Clara County becoming a “contract county” by assuming fire protection responsibility for State Responsibility Area (SRA) lands within Santa Clara County where CAL FIRE currently provides fire protection and other services. Since the Report provides only a few sentences explaining this proposal, CAL FIRE would like to take this opportunity to better explain what “contract county” status is and how it is achieved.</p>	

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE A: RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE FIRE SERVICE DELIVERY AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

RECOMMENDATIONS	PAGE # IN THE REPORT	POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES	AGENCY RESPONSES	LAFCO STAFF COMMENTS
<p>and likely enhance bargaining power with the State. A challenge may be CAL FIRE’s long-term established presence in the County and existing infrastructure that is in place.</p>			<p>Sections 4129, et seq., of the California Public Resources Code (PRC) provide that a County Board of Supervisors may, by ordinance, elect “to assume responsibility for the prevention and suppression of all fires on all land in the county, including lands within state responsibility areas when the Director of Forestry and Fire Protection concurs in accordance with criteria adopted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection.” (PRC § 4129.) Upon entering into a contract with the State, “the county shall exercise for the duration of the contract all the duty, power, authority, and responsibility for the prevention and suppression of all fires on all land in the county for which the county is authorized by this section to elect to assume responsibility.” (Ibid.) The County and the State must then enter into a contract, for a term of not more than three years, which is subject to approval by the California Department of General Services (DGS) and which provides for payment by the State to the County assuming responsibility for SRA lands. (PRC §§ 4133, 4134.) The cost that the State pays to the Contract County shall be at least equal to the cost of providing those services by the State directly, as such cost is fixed by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (State Board) pursuant to section 4130 of the PRC. (PRC § 4132.) Thus, a “Contract County” is one that has assumed responsibility for fire prevention and suppression over SRA lands from the State and that the State pays for such services, roughly in accordance with the State’s costs of providing those services itself.</p> <p>As provided in section 4129, the Director of CAL FIRE must review any application to become a Contract County in accordance with regulations promulgated by the State Board. The State Board has codified these requirements in article 2, chapter 11, division 1.5 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. Section 1856 (“Criteria for County Assumption of SRA”) provides the criteria by which the Director must review an application by a County for Contract County status. This regulation requires that a County submit to the Director of CAL FIRE a detailed plan that: (1) delineates placement of facilities, equipment, and</p>	

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE A: RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE FIRE SERVICE DELIVERY AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

RECOMMENDATIONS	PAGE # IN THE REPORT	POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES	AGENCY RESPONSES	LAFCO STAFF COMMENTS
			<p>personnel for protection of SRA lands; (2) provides a method for orderly disposition of any state owned land and equipment, and placement of state personnel; (3) identifies State-supported equipment and personnel that the Contract County shall make available to the State for mutual aid, within or outside the Contract County; (4) identifies SRA lands within the county and provides the same or higher intensity of fire protection to these SRA lands as is provided under existing levels of State protection in other comparable areas of the State; and (5) provides a contingency plan for the State to re-assume protection of SRA lands if the Contract County does not provide required minimum levels of protection as required by the State. (Tit. 14, Cal. Code Regs. § 1856(b).) The Director must also make findings that the proposed assumption of fire protection over SRA lands will “not have a significant cumulative adverse effect on the ability of [CAL FIRE], either geographically or organizationally, to provide the level of fire protection mandated statewide by the State Fire Plan” or have a significant adverse impact on agreements with the federal government or any contracts that the State has with local governments for State assumption of local fire protection responsibility (commonly known as Schedule A Contracts). (Tit. 14, Cal. Code Regs. § 1856(c) & (d).)</p> <p>Pursuant to subsection 1856(b)(2), the County of Santa Clara’s detailed plan would need to account for the maintenance or disposition of the State personnel, equipment, and properties currently maintained by the State for fire protection of SRA and Schedule A lands in Santa Clara County. This means that Santa Clara County’s plan must provide for the assumption of the approximately 375 CAL FIRE personnel in the County, as well as the purchase or replacement of approximately 70 pieces of equipment and 14 fire stations and other facilities currently owned and maintained by the State, as detailed in the attached spreadsheet. In addition, pursuant to section 1856(d)(1), the County would also need to assume the Schedule A contracts that CAL FIRE currently maintains with the following local governments: City of Morgan Hill and South Santa Clara</p>	

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE A: RECOMMENDATIONS TO ENHANCE FIRE SERVICE DELIVERY AND RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

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			<p>County Fire District. The Director of CAL FIRE would need to be assured that this assumption by the County of those Schedule A contracts would not negatively impact those local governments.</p> <p>Finally, Recommendation 32 of the Report suggests that “inclusion of Alameda County and Contra Costa County in the restructuring, should their fire agencies express interest, would create a more cohesive fire service structure in the Bay Area and likely enhance bargaining power with the State.” Please be advised that CAL FIRE disagrees that this is a possibility. Section 4129 states that “the board of supervisors of any county” may provide, by ordinance, for the assumption of fire protection responsibility for SRA lands within the County. Given the clear language of the statute, and given that a contract found to be in violation of State contracting laws is void, CAL FIRE would not be willing to entertain a multi-County application for Contract County status in the absence of a legislative change to section 4129 explicitly allowing for such an arrangement or an official Opinion of the Attorney General of the State of California that such a multi-County application and subsequent contract is within the authority provided by section 4129. Therefore, as the law currently stands, CAL FIRE would not accept a multi-County application and would only consider applications from individual Counties. The Report’s conclusion that a multi-County arrangement would “likely enhance bargaining power with the State” is also, therefore, incorrect.</p>	

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE B: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING AREAS OUTSIDE OF IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDERS

#	AREA DESCRIPTION	PAGE ON REPORT	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTOR(S)	AGENCY RESPONSES
1	<p>Area # on Map: 1, 2, 3</p> <p>Area: 6.26 sq. miles</p> <p>Land Use: Hillside, large lot residential, regional park</p> <p>Location: Within Milpitas SOI, outside Milpitas USA, adjacent to CCFD boundaries</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: City of Milpitas/ Spring Valley Volunteer Fire Department</p> <p>Nearest Station: Milpitas Station 2, Spring Valley VFD Station</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: Mostly SRA, some LRA, large lot residences and few other structures</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	Pages 82-82, 86, 90, 538	Annexation by CCFD with SOI expansion and contract with Milpitas.	CCFD and Milpitas	<p>Milpitas: The Fire Department agrees with the LAFCO recommendations to ensure that all territory in the County lies within the boundaries of a local fire protection provider; however, for the areas identified for comment by Milpitas In Table B- Recommendation #1, annexations would be at the County’s and fire district’s discretion.</p> <p>CCFD: For all Annexation recommendations identified above, CCFD supports annexation, or consolidation of lands in which fire protection service responsibility is not clearly identified or defined. The risk of wildfire or structure fire exposures is not confined within jurisdictional boundaries and as such it is important to have identified Fire resources and Fire resource responsibility identify throughout Santa Clara County. This county has a rich history of annexations and consolidations that created efficiencies, economies of scale, and ultimately cohesive fire response as the County developed and grew. Annexations and consolidations will continue to create efficiencies and ultimately improved response capabilities, especially for areas that do not have an identified fire jurisdictional authority.</p> <p>CCFD believes that areas in which the closest appropriately identified jurisdiction for these areas that currently do not have identified fire protection authority would not significantly change the current fire response model.</p>
2	<p>Area # on Map: 4</p> <p>Area: 3.1 sq. miles</p> <p>Land Use: Hillside with residences on 1+ acre.</p> <p>Location: Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to CCFD boundaries and San José city limit</p>	Pages 82-83, 86, 90, 538	Annexation by CCFD with SOI expansion and contract with San José.	CCFD and San Jose	<p>San Jose: The Department agrees with the LAFCO recommendations to ensure that all territory in the County lies within the boundaries of a local fire protection provider; however, for the areas identified for comment by San José, recommended annexations would be at the County’s and fire district’s discretion.</p> <p>CCFD: See CCFD’s response under Item #1 above.</p>

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE B: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING AREAS OUTSIDE OF IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDERS

#	AREA DESCRIPTION	PAGE ON REPORT	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTOR(S)	AGENCY RESPONSES
	<p>Current Initial Responder: San Jose FD</p> <p>Nearest Station: San José Station 19</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA—Hillside development with ~30 residences and equine facilities.</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>				
3	<p>Area # on Map: 5</p> <p>Area: 0.33 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Hillside with ranch and 1 residence</p> <p>Location: Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to CCFD boundaries</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: San José FD/CAL FIRE</p> <p>Nearest Station: San José Station 2, CAL FIRE Station 12</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA—One residence</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	Pages 82-32, 86, 90, 538	Annexation by CCFD with SOI expansion and contract with San José.	CCFD and San Jose	<p>San Jose: See San Jose’s response under Item #2 above.</p> <p>CCFD: See CCFD’s response under Item #1 above.</p>
4	<p>Area # on Map: 6</p> <p>Area: 0.27 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Agricultural ranchlands and Hillside, United Technologies Corp.</p> <p>Location: Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to CCFD boundaries</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: San José FD/CAL FIRE</p>	Pages 82-83, 86, 90, 538	Annexation by CCFD with SOI expansion and contract with San José.	CCFD and San Jose	<p>San Jose: See San Jose’s response under Item #2 above.</p> <p>CCFD: See CCFD’s response under Item #1 above.</p>

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE B: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING AREAS OUTSIDE OF IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDERS

#	AREA DESCRIPTION	PAGE ON REPORT	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTOR(S)	AGENCY RESPONSES
	<p>Nearest Station: San José Station 21, CAL FIRE Station 12</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA—3 residences</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>				
5	<p>Area # on Map: 7</p> <p>Area: 38.9 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Agricultural ranchlands and Hillside, United Technologies Corp.</p> <p>Location: Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to CCFD and SCFD boundaries and San José city limit</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: San José FD/CAL FIRE and contracts</p> <p>Nearest Station: San José Station 11, CAL FIRE Station 12</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA—few structures</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	Pages 82-83, 86, 90, 538, 598	Annexation by CCFD of the northern half and annexation by SCFD of southern half with SOI expansions and contract service by San José or CAL FIRE.	CCFD, SCFD, San Jose, and CAL FIRE	<p>San Jose: See San Jose’s response under Item #2 above.</p> <p>CAL FIRE: Local government agencies hold the responsibility for fire, rescue and EMS response within the LRA. CAL FIRE does not have authority regarding annexation of sphere of influence determination on a local government agency. Entering into a Cooperation Fire Service Agreement including an Amador Agreement would require a request for proposal from the local government agency.</p> <p>CCFD: See CCFD’s response under Item #1 above.</p> <p>SCFD: SCFD feels that rather than split the responsibility of Area 7, the entirety of Area 7 should be included in the SCFD’s SOI for three reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuity of existing district boundaries 2. Continuity of existing district service area 3. Geographic proximity of existing SCFD resources <p>CCFD’s existing SOI on the east side of San Jose (near Area 7) have been contracted out to other agencies for over 30 years. There are no staffed CCFD resources on the east side of San Jose. (per SCFD’s comment letter dated August 1, 2023).</p>
6	<p>Area # on Map: 8</p> <p>Area: 284.4 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Agricultural ranchlands</p>	Pages 82-83, 86, 90	Annexation into SCFD as area is already located within its SOI. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks.	County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.) and CAL FIRE	<p>CAL FIRE: See CAL FIRE’s response under Item #5 above.</p> <p>County of Santa Clara, Office of the County Executive: The County will work with CAL FIRE to understand the number of calls for service on an annual basis. The cost per call of service under an Amador Contract may be an inefficient approach to providing</p>

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE B: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING AREAS OUTSIDE OF IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDERS

#	AREA DESCRIPTION	PAGE ON REPORT	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTOR(S)	AGENCY RESPONSES
	<p>Location: Outside city SOIs and USAs, adjacent to San José City boundaries, outside FPD SOIs, adjacent to CCFD boundaries and SCFD SOI</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: CAL FIRE (only during fire season)</p> <p>Nearest Station: CAL FIRE Stations 12 and 25 in area</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: Entirely SRA, few to no structures, recreation related service calls</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>				<p>year-round service. A mutual aid arrangement with CAL FIRE and the nearest local fire service provider may be preferable to respond to those calls received during the offseason.</p>
7	<p>Area # on Map: 9</p> <p>Area: 0.2 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Hillside, Rosendin County Park</p> <p>Location: Inside Morgan Hill SOI, outside USA, inside SCFD SOI, adjacent to Morgan Hill city limits, adjacent to SCFD</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: Morgan Hill FD</p> <p>Nearest Station: Morgan Hill Station 58 (Dunne Hill)</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA, no structures, State park</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	<p>Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91</p>	<p>Annexation into SCFD as area is already located within its SOI. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks.</p>	<p>SCFD and County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)</p>	<p>SCFD: No response received. Awaiting an official affirmative response from District.</p> <p>County of Santa Clara, Office of the County Executive: Since County Parks are property tax-exempt, there is no revenue generated for fire and emergency services for facility users.</p>
8	<p>Area # on Map: 10</p> <p>Area: 138.5 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Agricultural Ranchlands/ Henry W. Coe State Park</p>	<p>Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91</p>	<p>Annexation into SCFD.</p>	<p>SCFD</p>	<p>SCFD: No response received. Awaiting an official affirmative response from District.</p>

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE B: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING AREAS OUTSIDE OF IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDERS

#	AREA DESCRIPTION	PAGE ON REPORT	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTOR(S)	AGENCY RESPONSES
	<p>Location: Outside SCFD boundaries, inside SOI</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: CAL FIRE</p> <p>Nearest Station: CAL FIRE Station 21 and 31</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: Entirely SRA, few to no structures</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>				
9	<p>Area # on Map: 11</p> <p>Area: 37.6 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Agricultural ranchlands</p> <p>Location: Outside SCFD boundaries and SOI</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: CAL FIRE</p> <p>Nearest Station: CAL FIRE Station 31</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: Entirely SRA, few to no structures</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 598-599	Annexation by SCFD (SOI expansion needed) including entirety of highway, with contract services provided by CAL FIRE.	SCFD and CAL FIRE	<p>CAL FIRE: See CAL FIRE’s response under Item #5 above.</p> <p>SCFD: Agrees with recommendation (per SCFD’s comment letter dated August 1, 2023).</p>
10	<p>Area # on Map: 12</p> <p>Area: 0.08 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Ranchlands, no structures (1 parcel)</p> <p>Location: Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to San José city limits and SCFD boundaries</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: Unknown</p> <p>Nearest Station: Casa Loma VFA Station</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA, no structures</p>	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 598-599	Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion with contract for services if necessary.	SCFD	<p>SCFD: Agrees with recommendation (per SCFD’s comment letter dated August 1, 2023).</p>

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE B: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING AREAS OUTSIDE OF IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDERS

#	AREA DESCRIPTION	PAGE ON REPORT	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTOR(S)	AGENCY RESPONSES
	<i>Wildland Urban Interface:</i> Yes				
11	<p>Area # on Map: 13</p> <p>Area: 0.24 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Hillside, about 8 residential structures with some ag (10 parcels)</p> <p>Location: Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to San José city limits and SCFD boundaries</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: Unknown</p> <p>Nearest Station: Casa Loma VFA Station</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 598-599	Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion with contract for services if necessary.	SCFD	SCFD: Agrees with recommendation (per SCFD’s comment letter dated August 1, 2023).
12	<p>Area # on Map: 14</p> <p>Area: 0.28 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Hillside with ag, some residential structures (2 parcels)</p> <p>Location: Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to San José city limits and SCFD boundaries</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: Unknown</p> <p>Nearest Station: Casa Loma VFA Station</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA</p>	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 598-599	Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion with contract for services if necessary.	SCFD	SCFD: Agrees with recommendation (per SCFD’s comment letter dated August 1, 2023).

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE B: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING AREAS OUTSIDE OF IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDERS

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	<i>Wildland Urban Interface:</i> Yes				
13	<p>Area # on Map: 15</p> <p>Area: 0.26 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Hillside, agricultural no structures (1 parcel)</p> <p>Location: Inside San José SOI, adjacent to San José city limits and CCFD boundaries</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: San Jose FD</p> <p>Nearest Station: San José Station 28, CAL FIRE Station 22</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA, no structures</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	Pages 82-83, 87, 90, 539	Annexation by CCFD with SOI expansion and contract service by San José for consistency of response with all territory in the region regardless of city SOI.	CCFD and San Jose	<p>San Jose: See San Jose’s response under Item #2 above.</p> <p>CCFD: See CCFD’s response under Item #1 above.</p>
14	<p>Area # on Map: 16</p> <p>Area: 0.23 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Hillside with residence and agricultural activities (1 parcel)</p> <p>Location: Surrounded by CCFD boundaries, inside San José SOI, outside San José USA</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: San Jose FD</p> <p>Nearest Station: San José Station 28, CAL FIRE Station 22</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA, few structures</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 539	Annexation by CCFD with SOI expansion and contract service by San José for consistency of response with all territory in the region regardless of city SOI.	SCFD and San Jose	<p>San Jose: See San Jose’s response under Item #2 above.</p> <p>CCFD: See CCFD’s response under Item #1 above.</p>

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE B: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING AREAS OUTSIDE OF IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDERS

#	AREA DESCRIPTION	PAGE ON REPORT	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTOR(S)	AGENCY RESPONSES
15	<p>Area # on Map: 17</p> <p>Area: 6.73 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Calero Reservoir County Park, and Hillside with ~10 residences</p> <p>Location: Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to SCFD boundaries and San José city limits</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: Likely San Jose FD</p> <p>Nearest Station: San José Station 28, CAL FIRE Station 22, Casa Loma VFA Station</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA, few structures, regional park</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 598-599	Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion and contract service by San José for consistency of response with all territory in the region regardless of city SOI. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks.	SCFD, San Jose, and County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)	<p>County of Santa Clara, Office of the County Executive: See County of Santa Clara's response under Item #7 above.</p> <p>SCFD: Agrees with recommendation (per SCFD's comment letter dated August 1, 2023).</p>
16	<p>Area # on Map: 18</p> <p>Area: 9.2 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Hillside with ~11 Residences, Almaden Quicksilver County Park, Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve</p> <p>Location: Inside San José SOI, outside San José USA, adjacent to SCFD boundaries, and San José city limits</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: Likely San Jose FD</p> <p>Nearest Station: San José Stations 22 and 28, CAL FIRE Station 22</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA, few structures, regional park</p>	Pages 82-83, 86, 90-91, 598-599	Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion and contract service by San José for consistency of response with all territory in the region regardless of city SOI. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks.	SCFD, San Jose, and County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)	<p>County of Santa Clara, Office of the County Executive: See County of Santa Clara's response under Item #7 above.</p> <p>San Jose: See San Jose's response under Item #2 above.</p> <p>SCFD: Agrees with recommendation (per SCFD's comment letter dated August 1, 2023).</p>

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE B: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING AREAS OUTSIDE OF IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDERS

#	AREA DESCRIPTION	PAGE ON REPORT	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTOR(S)	AGENCY RESPONSES
	<i>Wildland Urban Interface:</i> Yes				
17	<p>Area # on Map: 19</p> <p>Area: 0.17 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve</p> <p>Location: Outside of Los Gatos and San José SOI, outside USA of Los Gatos and San José</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: Likely San Jose FD</p> <p>Nearest Station: San José Station 22, CCFD Station 82, CAL FIRE Station 22</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA, no structures, open space</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	Pages 82-83, 87, 92-93, 598-599	Midpen ensure structure in place with provider for fire suppression of fires on district properties until CAL FIRE is on scene. Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion and contract service by San José for consistency of response with all territory in the region regardless of city SOI. Identify funding structure for emergency services in recreational areas.	MROSD, SCFD, and San Jose	<p>San Jose: See San Jose’s response under Item #2 above.</p> <p>SCFD: Agrees with recommendation (per SCFD’s comment letter dated August 1, 2023).</p> <p>MROSD: Midpen disagrees with the assertion that it should be responsible for entering into an agreement with and provide funding to local fire service providers that already provide services to open space preserve lands within the SRA. Midpen believes that CAL FIRE has primary wildland fire responsibility in the SRA and that no action is needed on this recommendation because it is unclear why additional funding is necessary to continue existing service levels.</p> <p>Midpen also disagrees with assertion that it should be responsible for all emergency medical response.</p>
18	<p>Area # on Map: 20</p> <p>Area: 1.05 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve</p> <p>Location: Inside Los Gatos SOI, Outside Los Gatos USA, adjacent to CCFD and SCFD</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: Likely San Jose FD</p> <p>Nearest Station: San José Station 22, CCFD Station 82, CAL FIRE Station 22</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA, no structures, open space</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	Pages 82-83, 87, 92-93, 598-599	Midpen ensure structure in place with provider for fire suppression of fires on district properties until CAL FIRE is on scene. Annexation by SCFD with SOI expansion and contract services by San José FD for consistency of response with all territory. Identify funding structure for emergency services in recreational areas.	MROSD, SCFD, San Jose	<p>San Jose: See San Jose’s response under Item #2 above.</p> <p>MROSD: See MROSD’s response under Item #17 above.</p> <p>SCFD: Agrees with recommendation (per SCFD’s comment letter dated August 1, 2023).</p>

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE B: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING AREAS OUTSIDE OF IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDERS

#	AREA DESCRIPTION	PAGE ON REPORT	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTOR(S)	AGENCY RESPONSES
19	<p>Area # on Map: 21</p> <p>Area: 0.41 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Skyline Ridge Open Space Preserve, Hillside, and private residences</p> <p>Location: Inside Palo Alto SOI, outside Palo Alto USA, adjacent to Palo Alto city limits</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: CAL FIRE San Mateo/Santa Cruz Cal Fire Units (CZU)</p> <p>Nearest Station: CAL FIRE Saratoga Summit and Skylonda Stations, Palo Alto Station 68</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: Mostly LRA - 65 acres private ownership, including residences, 163 acres Midpen ownership, and 12 acres public right-of-way. 14 acres of SRA.</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	Pages 82-83, 88, 92-93	Midpen ensure structure in place with appropriate provider, for fire suppression of fires on district properties. City of Palo Alto FD is nearest local fire provider; however, CAL FIRE has the nearest stations that are operated year-round. Structure be put in place to enable contract or mutual aid agreement with CAL FIRE CZU.	MROSD and CAL FIRE	<p>CAL FIRE: No response received.</p> <p>MROSD: There is no action needed on this recommendation because Cal Fire stations in the Santa Cruz/ San Mateo Unit CZU at Saratoga Summit and Skylonda stations actively respond to calls in that area and are staffed year-round. Midpen provides initial fire response with staff trained in initial wildfire response and coordinates with Palo Alto Fire and Cal Fire on all emergency response on District lands. The closest fire agency continues to respond for both fires and medical calls. If Cal Fire is open to considering inclusion of the entirety of area 21 in the SRA, the District would support adding area 21 to the SRA.</p>
20	<p>Area # on Map: 22</p> <p>Area: 3.07 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve, private non-profit Hidden Villa, Hillside</p> <p>Location: Inside Los Altos Hills SOI, Outside LAHCFD SOI, outside CCFD SOI, adjacent to Palo Alto city limits and CCFD boundaries, outside Los Altos Hills USA</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: LAHCFD/ CCFD</p> <p>Nearest Station: CCFD Stations 74</p>	Pages 82-83, 88, 92-93, 453	Annexation by LAHCFD with SOI expansion. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks and open space.	LAHCFD, MROSD, and County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)	<p>County of Santa Clara, Office of the County Executive: See County of Santa Clara's response under Item #7 above.</p> <p>LAHCFD: Dual jurisdiction structure is in place with CCFD / CALFIRE for fire suppression. Coordinating efforts to analyze feasibility, complexities & impacts with SCC County Executive Office.</p> <p>MROSD: The District will work with Los Altos Hills County Fire District if it decides to implement the recommendation for Annexation by LAHCFD for portions of preserve lands managed by the District within areas 22 and 23. Midpen disagrees with the recommendation that changes should be made to fire agencies' funding of their response in recreational areas. There is no Midpen action needed on this recommendation because it is not</p>

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE B: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING AREAS OUTSIDE OF IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDERS

#	AREA DESCRIPTION	PAGE ON REPORT	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTOR(S)	AGENCY RESPONSES
	<p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA, no structures, regional park</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>				<p>apparent why Midpen would or should provide funding to continue existing levels of service.</p>
21	<p>Area # on Map: 23</p> <p>Area: 0.31 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Rancho San Antonio Open Space Preserve, Hillside</p> <p>Location: Inside Los Altos Hills SOI, inside LAHCFD SOI, adjacent to Los Altos Hills city limits, outside Los Altos Hills USA</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: LAHCFD/ CCFD</p> <p>Nearest Station: CCFD Stations 74, 77, 76</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA, no structures, regional park</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	<p>Pages 82-83, 88, 92-93</p>	<p>Annexation by LAHCFD. Identify funding structure for emergency services in County parks and open space.</p>	<p>LAHCFD, MROSD, and County of Santa Clara (County Executive's Office or other dept.)</p>	<p>County of Santa Clara, Office of the County Executive. See County of Santa Clara's response under Item #7 above.</p> <p>LAHCFD: See LAHCFD's response under Item #20 above.</p> <p>MROSD: See MROSD's response under Item #20 above.</p>
22	<p>Area # on Map: 24</p> <p>Area: 0.33 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Private nonprofit – Hidden Villa</p> <p>Location: Inside Los Altos Hills SOI, inside LAHCFD SOI, adjacent to Los Altos Hills and Palo Alto city limits, outside Los Altos Hills USA</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: LAHCFD/ CCFD</p> <p>Nearest Station: CCFD Stations 76, 77, 74</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: SRA, structures</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface:</p>	<p>Page 82-83, 88, 90-91</p>	<p>Annexation by LAHCFD.</p>	<p>LAHCFD</p>	<p>LAHCFD: See LAHCFD's response under Item #20 above.</p>

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO TABLE B: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING AREAS OUTSIDE OF IDENTIFIED LOCAL FIRE SERVICE PROVIDERS

#	AREA DESCRIPTION	PAGE ON REPORT	RECOMMENDATIONS	IMPLEMENTOR(S)	AGENCY RESPONSES
23	<p>Area # on Map: 25</p> <p>Area: 0.05 sq. mi.</p> <p>Land Use: Roadway – Interstate 280</p> <p>Location: Inside City of Palo Alto SOI, adjacent to City of Los Altos Hills city limits, adjacent to Los Alto Hills FPD boundaries, outside of Los Altos Hills FPD SOI, outside Los Altos Hills USA</p> <p>Current Initial Responder: LAHCFD/CCFD</p> <p>Nearest Station: CCFD Station 74, 76, 75, 77</p> <p>Necessity/Fire Hazard: Interstate with demand for emergency services</p> <p>Wildland Urban Interface: Yes</p>	Page 82-83, 88, 90-91, 453	Annexation by LAHCFD with SOI expansion for logical service boundaries along the interstate.	LAHCFD	LAHCFD: Coordinating efforts to analyze feasibility, complexities & impacts with SCC County Executive Office.

Figure 17: Map of Areas Outside of an Identified Local Fire Service Provider

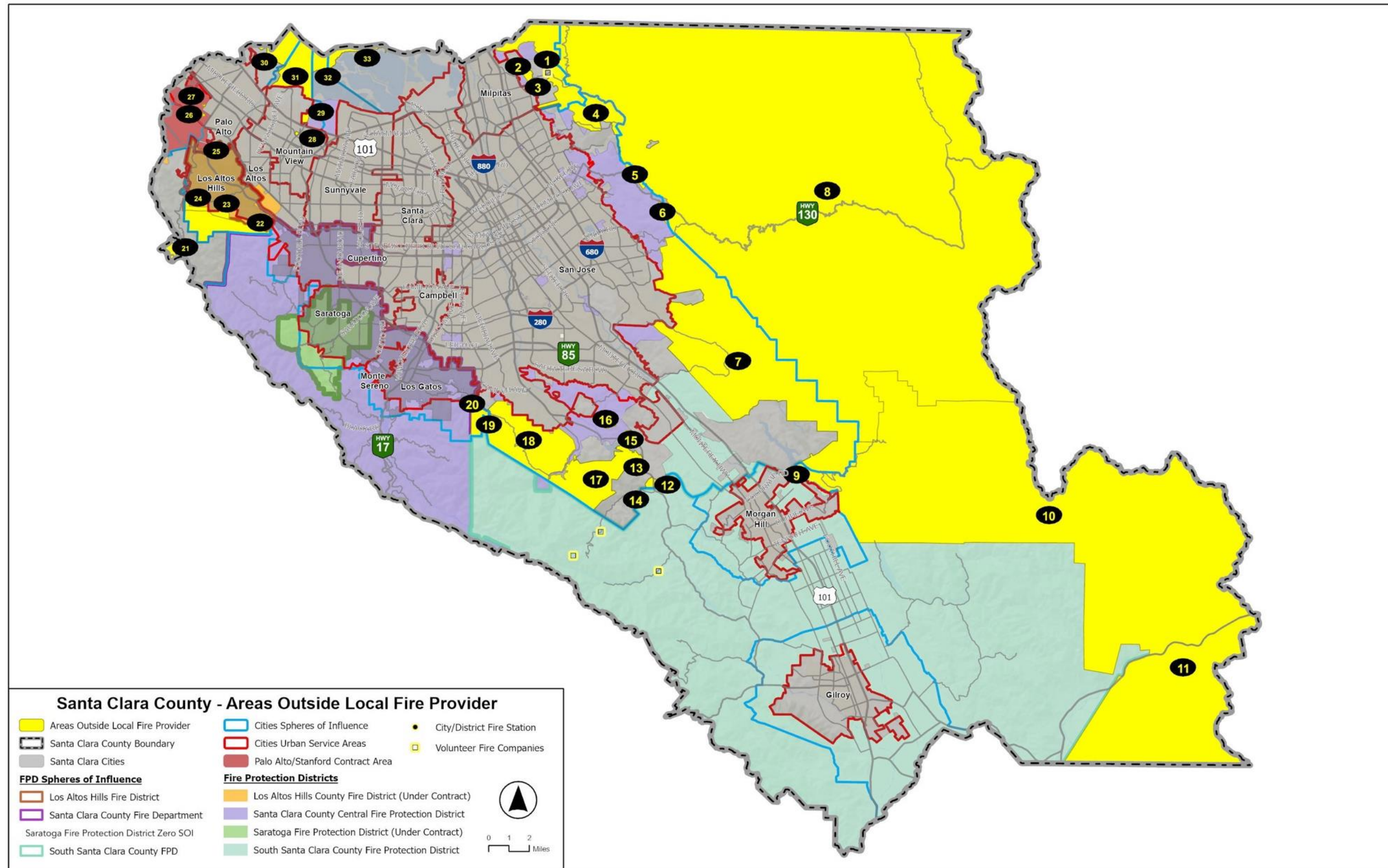
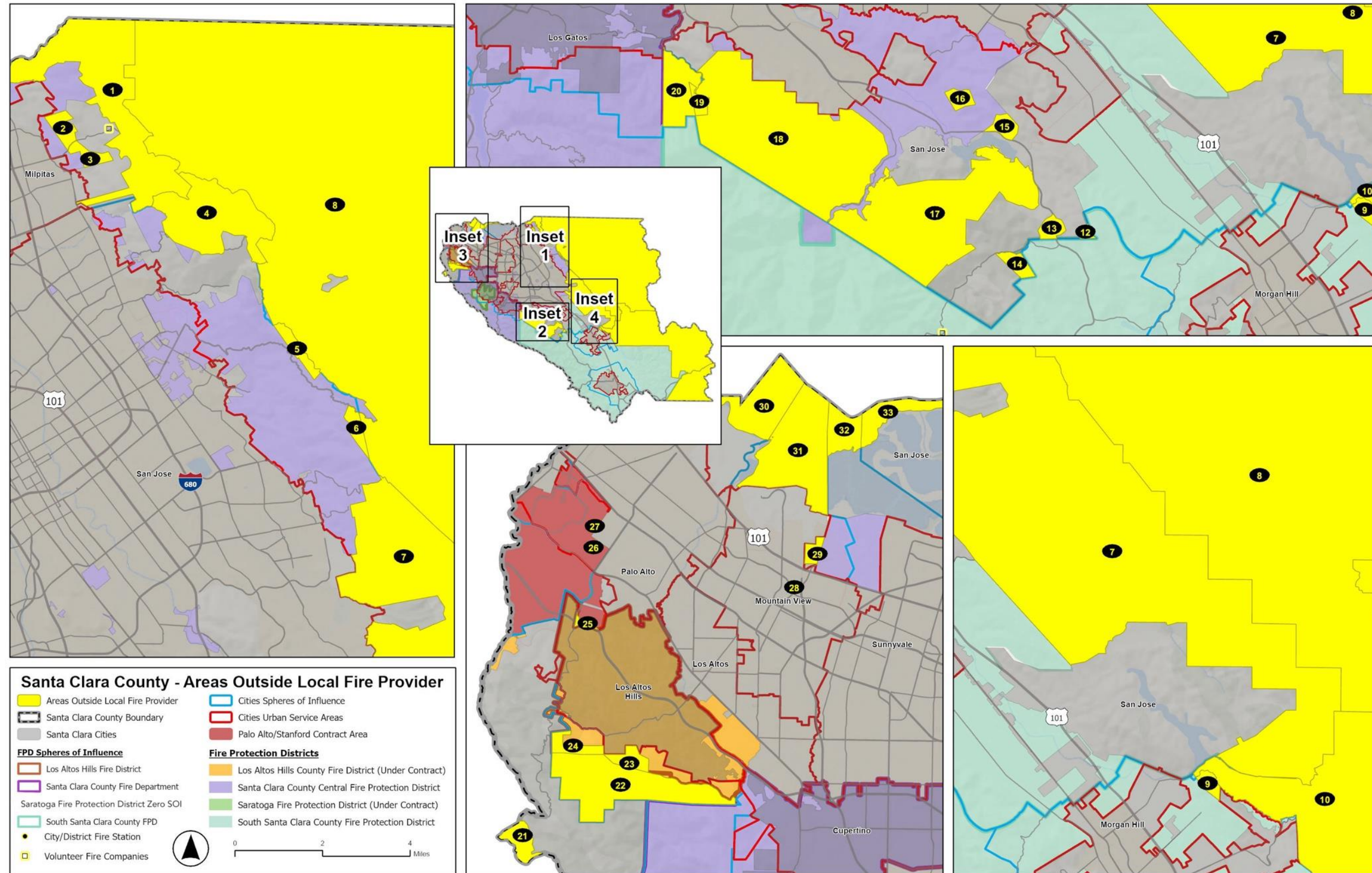


Figure 18: Map of Areas Outside of an Identified Local Fire Service Provider (cont.)



ITEM #6
Attachment E

From: [evamiranda](#)
To: [Supervisor Simitian](#); [LAFCO](#)
Cc: [Zanardi, Kristine](#); [Marc Hynes](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Submission for LAFCO April 3, 2024 public hearing: Keep Saratoga's Fire Protection District
Date: Friday, March 22, 2024 12:15:06 PM
Attachments: [Joe Simitian LTR.pdf](#)

I am re-submitting the letter attached below for the LAFCO April 3, 2024 public hearing being held at 1:15 pm in the Board of Supervisors Chambers at 70 West Hedding Street, San Jose.

Thank you, Eva Miranda

Begin forwarded message:

From: evamiranda <evamiranda@comcast.net>
Subject: **Vote to Keep Saratoga's Fire Protection District**
Date: February 8, 2024 at 5:58:59 PM PST
To: supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org
Cc: Marc Hynes <hynes.marc@gmail.com>, Ernest Kraule <ekraule@saratogafire.org>, Trina Whitley <twhitley@saratogafire.org>

February 8, 2024

Supervisor Joe Simitian, District 5
County Government Center, East Wing
70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110
supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org

Dear Supervisor Simitian,

I am writing to request that you reject the recent Santa Clara LAFCO Fire Service Review recommendation to dissolve the independent Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD) ([LAFCO report](#), page 103). I, and many of my neighbors, are working directly with SFD and can attest to SFD's importance in ensuring fire safety for The City of Saratoga (Saratoga). For reference, roughly half of Saratoga is in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and Very High Fire Hazard Zone.

The Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD) plays a crucial role in ensuring the fire services that Saratoga has contracted with SCCFD are delivered appropriately in Saratoga, particularly, in WUI/ Very High Fire Hazard Zones.

While not comprehensive, below are specific instances of SFD's value that I have witnessed in joint SFD and SCCFD meetings over the past year, they include:

1. SFD is ensuring the CCFD is updating their maps of Saratoga's fire hydrants and ensuring they are compatible with SCCFD equipment. Several hydrants in Saratoga are privately managed by residents, but the SCCFD should still map them as most of these are in the WUI/High Hazard Fire Zones and, therefore, form a first line of defense for fire fighters.
2. SFD is ensuring the SCCFD is engaged in and monitoring the Traffic Calming measures being installed in Saratoga along Emergency Response Routes in WUI/Very High Fire Hazard Zones. SCCFD admitted in a SFD meeting that they issue conditional permits which specifically restrict the placement of speed humps on Emergency Response Routes per Fire Code [SD&S A-2 PAGE 1-3](#) , but that they do not check if the road being permitted is an emergency route nor do they inspect the final work to ensure the code is followed. Residents and the SFD are working to change this oversight.
3. SFD is developing an up-to-date map of Emergency Response and Resident Evacuation Routes to be used by SCCFD. Despite the recent SCU Lightning Complex fire and prior rapidly moving fires in California WUI zones, the SCCFD representatives serving Saratoga could not name any Emergency Response Routes in Saratoga. This is concerning as many of Saratoga's WUI/Very High Fire Zones are reachable by only one road, which must be shared by emergency vehicles and evacuating residents.
4. SFD is encouraging the SCCFD to adopt the best practices developed and adopted by other CA fire departments which operate in WUI/Very High Fire Zones after the devastating fires (e.g. Oakland Hills, Santa Rosa, etc). When asked about this at a recent SFD meeting, the SCCFD Fire Representatives said that they serve a large population and that Saratoga's WUI/Very High Hazard Zones represent a small resident pool versus their total service area. SCCFD bluntly said the WUI/Very High Hazard Zone is not a priority. However, they indicated if Saratoga identified and adopted new City requirements, SCCFD would follow them. A group of residents is working with SFD on this, starting with the mapping of critical Emergency Response Routes and Resident Evacuation Routes. This work is critical for Saratoga residents living in the WUI/Very High Hazard Zones.

Please reject the LAFCO recommendation to dissolve the Saratoga Fire Protection District. SFD is crucial to Saratoga's fire safety. Finally, without SFD, there will be no oversight of the SCCFD, which is unacceptable to residents

Respectively Submitted,

Eva Miranda | 415-531-2626
20151 Rancho Bella Vista, Saratoga

Supervisor Joe Simitian, District 5
County Government Center, East Wing
70 West Hedding Street, 10th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110
supervisor.simitian@bos.sccgov.org

February 8, 2024

Dear Supervisor Simitian,

I am writing to request that you reject the recent Santa Clara LAFCO Fire Service Review recommendation to dissolve the independent Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD) ([LAFCO report](#), page 103). I, and many of my neighbors, are working directly with SFD and can attest to SFD's importance in ensuring fire safety for The City of Saratoga (Saratoga). For reference, roughly half of Saratoga is in the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI) and Very High Fire Hazard Zone.

The Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD) plays a crucial role in ensuring the fire services that Saratoga has contracted with SCCFD are delivered appropriately in Saratoga, particularly, in WUI/ Very High Fire Hazard Zones. The "financial savings" cited by LAFCO would not be used by SCCFD to improve Saratoga's fire safety issues.

While not comprehensive, below are specific instances of SFD's value that I have witnessed in joint SFD and SCCFD meetings over the past year, they include:

1. SFD ensuring the CCFD is updating their maps of Saratoga's fire hydrants and ensuring they are compatible with SCCFD equipment. Several hydrants in Saratoga are privately managed by residents, but the SCCFD should still map them as most of these are in the WUI/High Hazard Fire Zones and, therefore, form a first line of defense for fire fighters.
2. SFD ensuring the SCCFD is engaged in and monitoring the Traffic Calming measures being installed in Saratoga along Emergency Response Routes in WUI/Very High Fire Hazard Zones. SCCFD admitted in a SFD meeting that they issue conditional permits which specifically restrict the placement of speed humps on Emergency Response Routes per Fire Code [SD&S A-2 PAGE 1-3](#) , but that they do not check if the road being permitted is an emergency route nor do they inspect the final work to ensure the code is followed. Residents and the SFD are working to change this oversight.
3. SFD is developing an up-to-date map of Emergency Response and Resident Evacuation Routes to be used by SCCFD. Despite the recent SCU Lightening Complex fire and prior rapidly moving fires in California WUI zones, the SCCFD representatives serving Saratoga could not name any Emergency Response Routes in Saratoga. This is concerning as many of Saratoga's WUI/Very High Fire Zones are reachable by only one road, which must be shared by emergency vehicles and evacuating residents.
4. SFD is encouraging the SCCFD to adopt the best practices developed and adopted by other CA fire departments which operate in WUI/Very High Fire Zones after the devastating fires (e.g. Oakland Hills, Santa Rosa, etc). When asked about this at a recent SFD meeting, the SCCFD Fire Representatives said that they serve a large population and that Saratoga's WUI/Very High Hazard Zones represent a small resident pool versus their total service area. SCCFD bluntly said the WUI/Very High Hazard Zone is not a priority. However, they indicated if Saratoga identified and adopted new City requirements, SCCFD would follow them. A group of residents is working with SFD on this, starting with the mapping of critical Emergency Response Routes and Resident Evacuation Routes. This work is critical for Saratoga residents living in the WUI/Very High Hazard Zones.

Please do not dissolve the Saratoga Fire Protection District. SFD is crucial to Saratoga's fire safety. Finally, without SFD, there will be no oversight of the SCCFD, which is unacceptable to residents

Respectively Submitted,

Eva Miranda | 415-531-2626
20151 Rancho Bella Vista, Saratoga



**Local Agency
Formation Commission
of Santa Clara County**

777 North First Street
Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

SantaClaraLAFCO.org

Commissioners
Sylvia Arenas
Jim Beall
Rosemary Kamei
Yoriko Kishimoto
Otto Lee
Russ Melton
Terry Trumbull

ITEM # 7

Alternate Commissioners
Domingo Candelas
Helen Chapman
Cindy Chavez
Teresa O'Neill
Mark Turner

Executive Officer
Neelima Palacherla

LAFCO MEETING: April 4, 2024

TO: LAFCO

**FROM: Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
Dunia Noel, Assistant Executive Officer
Emmanuel Abello, Associate Analyst**

**SUBJECT: LEGISLATIVE REPORT – UPDATE AND POSITION
LETTERS**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

1. Accept report and provide direction to staff, as necessary.
2. Take a support position and authorize staff to send support letters to the appropriate parties on the following bills:
 - a. AB 3277 (Assembly Committee on Local Government) Omnibus Bill
 - b. SB 1209 (Cortese) Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Act of 2000: Indemnification

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Legislature reconvened on January 3, 2024 for the second year of the two-year legislative cycle. CALAFCO is sponsoring two bills – the annual omnibus bill, AB 3277, which includes a non-controversial clarifying change to LAFCO law, and SB 1209 relating to indemnification. In addition, CALAFCO is currently tracking 13 bills. Please see **Attachment E** for the CALAFCO Legislative Update, as of March 27, 2024.

CALAFCO has issued a call for legislative action requesting that each LAFCO send letters in support of two bills – AB 3277 (Committee on Local the Government), and SB 1209 (Cortese) which are both being considered by the Legislature.

**AB 3277 (Committee on Local Government) Local Agency Formation
Commissions: districts: property tax**

AB 3277 was introduced by the Committee on Local Government on February 27, 2024 and is sponsored by CALAFCO.

Currently, if a proposal includes the formation of a new special district, Government Code Section 56810(a)(2) provides that LAFCO must determine the amount of property tax revenue to be exchanged by the affected local agency.

AB 3277 seeks to amend Government Code §56810(a)(2) to add language (*italics below*) and qualify that the determination of property tax revenues by a LAFCO for applications involving the formation of a special district is only required when a share of the ad valorem property taxes is sought by the affected district. No such determination of taxes would be needed in instances when a tax share is not desired.

56810. (a) (1) If the proposal includes the incorporation of a city, as defined in Section 56043, the commission shall determine the amount of property tax revenue to be exchanged by the affected local agency pursuant to this section and Section 56815.

(2) If the proposal includes the formation of a district, as defined in Section 2215 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, *and if the applicant is seeking a share of the 1 percent ad valorem property taxes*, the commission shall determine the amount of property tax to be exchanged by the affected local agency pursuant to this section.

A draft letter of support (**Attachment A**) and a copy of AB 3277 (**Attachment B**) are attached for the Commission's consideration.

SB 1209 (Cortese) CKH Act of 2000: Indemnification

SB 1209 was introduced by Senator Cortese on February 15, 2024, and is sponsored by CALAFCO.

This bill addresses a 2022 decision of the Second District Court of Appeals, which found that existing State law does not provide explicit authority to require indemnification. Absent explicit indemnification authority - and because LAFCO funding is statutorily required in a specified ratio from the county, cities, and special districts within a county - the costs to defend litigation must be absorbed by all of LAFCO's funding agencies if indemnification is not required of the applicant.

SB 1209 would add a new section (*italics below*) into the Government Code specifically authorizing LAFCOs to enter into an indemnification agreement with an applicant. Counties and cities are already empowered to require indemnification, and routinely do so with respect to discretionary land-use approvals. SB 1209 would merely provide LAFCOs with the same statutory authority.

56383.5. The commission may require, as a condition for processing a change of organization or reorganization, a sphere amendment or a sphere update, or any other action or determination requested from the commission, that the applicant agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the commission, its agents, officers, and employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the commission, its agents, officers, or employees arising from or relating to the action or determination by the commission.

A draft letter of support (**Attachment C**) and a copy of SB 1209 (**Attachment D**) are attached for your consideration.

NEXT STEPS

Pursuant to LAFCO Bylaws #6.1, upon approval by the Commission, the Chair will sign the support letters and LAFCO staff will send them to the appropriate parties as both bills move through the State Legislature's review and approval process.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment A: Draft Letter in Support of AB 3277
- Attachment B: AB 3277
- Attachment C: Draft Letter in Support of SB 1209
- Attachment D: SB 1209
- Attachment E: CALAFCO Legislative Update



**Local Agency
Formation Commission
of Santa Clara County**

777 North First Street
Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

SantaClaraLAFCO.org

Commissioners

Sylvia Arenas
Jim Beall
Rosemary Kamei
Yoriko Kishimoto
Otto Lee
Russ Melton
Terry Trumbull

**ITEM #7
Attachment A**

Alternate Commissioners

Domingo Candelas
Helen Chapman
Cindy Chavez
Teresa O'Neill
Mark Turner

Executive Officer

Neelima Palacherla

April 3, 2024

Honorable Juan Carrillo, Chair
Assembly Local Government Committee
1020 N St., Rm. 157
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 3277 Support Letter

Dear Senator Carrillo,

The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of Santa Clara County is pleased to **Support Assembly Bill 3277**, sponsored by the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO), which makes a clarifying change to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (the Act).

Under existing statute, a commission must perform a financial analysis of ad valorem property taxes when a proposal is received that includes the incorporation of a city and the formation of a district. The only purpose of the analysis is to determine how best to apportion the property taxes between the agencies. However, occasionally, an application is received in which the district waives any portion of the ad valorem taxes. In those situations, no analysis is needed for the process, yet it remains required by statute.

This bill will add language that clarifies that the performance of the financial analysis in that situation only needs to be performed in those instances where a portion of the ad valorem property taxes is being sought.

By making this minor change, AB 3277 will apply this time-intensive process only to those applications that require it.

For the reasons noted above, Santa Clara LAFCO Supports AB 3277. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns about our position.

Yours sincerely,

Russ Melton
Chairperson

Cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Local Government Committee
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus
René LaRoche, Executive Director, CALAFCO

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 3277

Introduced by Committee on Local Government

February 27, 2024

An act to amend Section 56810 of the Government Code, relating to local government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 3277, as introduced, Committee on Local Government. Local agency formation commission: districts: property tax.

Existing law, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, establishes the sole and exclusive authority and procedures for the initiation, conduct, and completion of changes of organization and reorganization for cities and districts. Existing law requires proceedings for the formation of a district to be conducted as authorized by the principal act of the proposed district, and authorizes the local agency formation commission in each county to serve as the conducting authority, as specified. Existing law requires a commission to determine the amount of property tax revenue to be exchanged by an affected local agency, as specified, if the proposal includes the formation of a district, as defined.

This bill would, instead, require a commission to determine the amount of property tax revenue to be exchanged by an affected local agency if the proposal includes the formation of a district and the applicant is seeking a share of the 1% ad valorem property taxes. By adding to the duties of a local agency formation commission, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to the statutory provisions noted above.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 56810 of the Government Code is
2 amended to read:

3 56810. (a) (1) If the proposal includes the incorporation of a
4 city, as defined in Section 56043, the commission shall determine
5 the amount of property tax revenue to be exchanged by the affected
6 local agency pursuant to this section and Section 56815.

7 (2) If the proposal includes the formation of a district, as defined
8 in Section 2215 of the Revenue and Taxation Code, *and if the*
9 *applicant is seeking a share of the 1 percent ad valorem property*
10 *taxes*, the commission shall determine the amount of property tax
11 to be exchanged by the affected local agency pursuant to this
12 section.

13 (b) The commission shall notify the county auditor of the
14 proposal and the services which the new jurisdiction proposes to
15 assume within the area, and identify for the auditor the existing
16 service providers within the area subject to the proposal.

17 (c) If the proposal would not transfer all of an affected agency’s
18 service responsibilities to the proposed city or district, the
19 commission and the county auditor shall do all of the following:

20 (1) The county auditor shall determine the proportion that the
21 amount of property tax revenue derived by each affected local
22 agency pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 93 of the Revenue
23 and Taxation Code bears to the total amount of revenue from all
24 sources, available for general purposes, received by each affected
25 local agency in the prior fiscal year. For purposes of making this
26 determination and the determination required by paragraph (3),
27 “total amount of revenue from all sources available for general
28 purposes” means the total amount of revenue which an affected

1 local agency may use on a discretionary basis for any purpose and
2 does not include any of the following:

3 (A) Revenue which, by statute, is required to be used for a
4 specific purpose.

5 (B) Revenue from fees, charges, or assessments which are levied
6 to specifically offset the cost of particular services and do not
7 exceed the cost reasonably borne in providing these services.

8 (C) Revenue received from the federal government which is
9 required to be used for a specific purpose.

10 (2) The commission shall determine, based on information
11 submitted by each affected local agency, an amount equal to the
12 total net cost to each affected local agency during the prior fiscal
13 year of providing those services which the new jurisdiction will
14 assume within the area subject to the proposal. For purposes of
15 this paragraph, “total net cost” means the total direct and indirect
16 costs that were funded by general purpose revenues of the affected
17 local agency and excludes any portion of the total cost that was
18 funded by any revenues of that agency that are specified in
19 subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of paragraph (1).

20 (3) The commission shall multiply the amount determined
21 pursuant to paragraph (2) for each affected local agency by the
22 corresponding proportion determined pursuant to paragraph (1) to
23 derive the amount of property tax revenue used to provide services
24 by each affected local agency during the prior fiscal year within
25 the area subject to the proposal. The county auditor shall adjust
26 the amount described in the previous sentence by the annual tax
27 increment according to the procedures set forth in Chapter 6
28 (commencing with Section 95) of Part 0.5 of Division 1 of the
29 Revenue and Taxation Code, to the fiscal year in which the new
30 city or district receives its initial allocation of property taxes.

31 (4) For purposes of this subdivision, in any county in which,
32 prior to the adoption of Article XIII A of the California
33 Constitution, and continuing thereafter, a separate fund or funds
34 were established consisting of revenues derived from the
35 unincorporated area of the county and from which fund or funds
36 services rendered in the unincorporated area have been paid, the
37 amount of property tax revenues derived pursuant to paragraph
38 (3), may, at the discretion of the commission, be transferred to the
39 proposed city over a period not to exceed 12 fiscal years following
40 its incorporation. In determining whether the transfer of the amount

1 of property tax revenues determined pursuant to paragraph (3)
2 shall occur entirely within the fiscal year immediately following
3 the incorporation of the proposed city or shall be phased in over
4 a period not to exceed 12 full fiscal years following the
5 incorporation, the commission shall consider each of the following:
6 (A) The total amount of revenue from all sources available to
7 the proposed city.
8 (B) The fiscal impact of the proposed transfer on the transferring
9 agency.
10 (C) Any other relevant facts which interested parties to the
11 exchange may present to the commission in written form.
12 The decision of the commission shall be supported by written
13 findings setting forth the basis for its decision.
14 (d) If the proposal would transfer all of an affected agency's
15 service responsibilities to the proposed city or district, the
16 commission shall request the auditor to determine the property tax
17 revenue generated for the affected service providers by tax rate
18 area, or portion thereof, and transmit that information to the
19 commission.
20 (e) The executive officer shall notify the auditor of the amount
21 determined pursuant to paragraph (3) of subdivision (c) or
22 subdivision (d), as the case may be, and, where applicable, the
23 period of time within which and the procedure by which the
24 transfer of property tax revenues will be effected pursuant to
25 paragraph (4) of subdivision (c), at the time the executive officer
26 records a certificate of completion pursuant to Section 57203 for
27 any proposal described in subdivision (a), and the auditor shall
28 transfer that amount to the new jurisdiction.
29 (f) The amendments to this section enacted during the 1985–86
30 Regular Session of the Legislature shall apply to any proposal
31 described in subdivision (a) for which a certificate of completion
32 is recorded with the county recorder on or after January 1, 1987.
33 (g) For purposes of this section, "prior fiscal year" means the
34 most recent fiscal year for which data on actual direct and indirect
35 costs and revenues needed to perform the calculations required by
36 this section are available preceding the issuance of the certificate
37 of filing.
38 (h) An action brought by a city or district to contest any
39 determinations of the county auditor or the commission with regard
40 to the amount of property tax revenue to be exchanged by the

1 affected local agency pursuant to this section shall be commenced
2 within three years of the effective date of the city's incorporation
3 or the district's formation. These actions may be brought by any
4 city that incorporated or by any district that formed on or after
5 January 1, 1986.

6 (i) This section applies to any city that incorporated or district
7 that formed on or after January 1, 1986.

8 (j) The calculations and procedures specified in this section
9 shall be made prior to and shall be incorporated into the
10 calculations specified in Section 56815.

11 SEC. 2. If the Commission on State Mandates determines that
12 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to
13 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made
14 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division
15 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.

O



**Local Agency
Formation Commission
of Santa Clara County**

777 North First Street
Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

SantaClaraLAFCO.org

Commissioners

Sylvia Arenas
Jim Beall
Rosemary Kamei
Yoriko Kishimoto
Otto Lee
Russ Melton
Terry Trumbull

ITEM #7

Attachment C

Alternate Commissioners

Domingo Candelas
Helen Chapman
Cindy Chavez
Teresa O'Neill
Mark Turner

Executive Officer

Neelima Palacherla

April 3, 2024

Honorable David Cortese
California State Senate
1021 O St., Suite 6630
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1209 Support Letter

Dear Senator Cortese:

The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of Santa Clara County is pleased to **Support Senate Bill 1209**, sponsored by the California Association of Local Agency Formation Commissions (CALAFCO). SB 1209 would add a new section into Government Code specifically authorizing LAFCOs to enter into an indemnification agreement with an applicant. Counties and cities are already empowered to require indemnification, and routinely do so with respect to discretionary land-use approvals. SB 1209 would merely provide LAFCOs with the same statutory authority.

This bill addresses a 2022 decision of the Second District Court of Appeals, which found that existing State law does not provide explicit authority to require indemnification. Absent explicit indemnification authority - and because LAFCO funding is statutorily required in a specified ratio from the county, cities, and special districts within a county - the costs to defend litigation must be absorbed by all of LAFCO's funding agencies if indemnification is not required of the applicant.

Consequently, SB 1209 will:

- Provide LAFCOs with the ability to use a tool already in use by counties and cities;
- Prevent costs to defend litigation from being shifted to a county, its cities, and its special districts; and
- Remove the possibility that an applicant threatens litigation to coerce a desirable LAFCO determination.

Thus, for the above reasons, LAFCO of Santa Clara County is in support of SB 1209.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns about our position.

Yours sincerely,

Russ Melton
Chairperson

Cc: Honorable Maria Elena Durazo, Chair, and Members, Senate Local Government Committee
Anton Favorini-Csorba, Chief Consultant, Senate Local Government Committee
Ryan Eisberg, Consultant, Senate Republican Caucus
René LaRoche, Executive Director, CALAFCO

Introduced by Senator Cortese

February 15, 2024

An act to add Section 56383.5 to the Government Code, relating to local government.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1209, as introduced, Cortese. Local agency formation commission: indemnification.

Existing law, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, provides the exclusive authority and procedure for the initiation, conduct, and completion of changes of organization and reorganization for cities and districts, except as specified. The act continues in existence in each county a local agency formation commission (LAFCO) that consists of members appointed, as specified, and oversees those changes of organization and reorganization. The act authorizes a LAFCO to, among other things, review and approve with or without amendment, wholly, partially, or conditionally, or disapprove proposals for changes of organization or reorganization, as specified.

This bill would authorize a LAFCO to require, as a condition for, among other things, processing a change of organization or reorganization, that the applicant agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the LAFCO, its agents, officers, and employees from and against any claim, action, or proceeding, as specified, arising from or relating to the action or determination by the LAFCO.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 56383.5 is added to the Government
2 Code, to read:
3 56383.5. The commission may require, as a condition for
4 processing a change of organization or reorganization, a sphere
5 amendment or a sphere update, or any other action or determination
6 requested from the commission, that the applicant agrees to defend,
7 indemnify, and hold harmless the commission, its agents, officers,
8 and employees from any claim, action, or proceeding against the
9 commission, its agents, officers, or employees arising from or
10 relating to the action or determination by the commission.

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**CALAFCO List of Current Bills
3/27/2024**

**ITEM #7
Attachment E**

AB 805 (Arambula D) Sewer service: disadvantaged communities.

Current Text: Amended: 1/22/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/13/2023

Last Amend: 1/22/2024

Status: 1/30/2024-Read third time. Urgency clause adopted. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 76. Noes 0.). In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Location: 1/30/2024-S. RLS.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Under current law, the State Water Resources Control Board and the 9 California regional water quality control boards regulate water quality in accordance with the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and the federal Clean Water Act. Current law authorizes a regional board to order the provision of sewer service by a receiving sewer system, as defined, to a disadvantaged community served by an inadequate onsite sewage treatment system, as defined. This bill would authorize the state board to require a sewer service provider to contract with an administrator designated or approved by the state board for administrative, technical, operational, legal, or managerial services to assist a designated sewer system with the provision of adequate sewer service, as defined. The bill would also authorize the state board to order a designated sewer system to accept those services, including full management and control of all aspects of the designated sewer system, from an administrator. The bill would define "designated sewer system" for these purposes as a sewer system that serves a disadvantaged community and that the state board finds to be either an inadequate sewage treatment system or a sewer system that has demonstrated difficulty in maintaining technical, managerial, and financial capacity to prevent fraud and mismanagement, or a sewer system that voluntarily accepts financial assistance for the provision of adequate sewer service.

Position

Support if Amended

Subject

Disadvantaged Communities, Waste Water

CALAFCO Comments: 1/26/2024: Support, if amended, approved. Amendment requested is the inclusion of language requiring the state board to consult with the local LAFCO.

1/22/2024: Gutted and amended. No longer addresses consolidation of waste water systems but, rather, would set up a program in which the state would provide technical, managerial, administrative, and financial assistance, where applicable, to disadvantaged communities. Position changed to support if amended to include a provision requiring the state board to consult with the local LAFCO regarding the system.

As introduced, this bill would have authorized the state board, if sufficient funds are available, to order consolidation of sewer service along with an order of consolidation of drinking water systems when both of the receiving and subsumed water systems provide sewer service and after the state board engages in certain activities. It failed to meet 2023 deadlines and became a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

AB 817 (Pacheco D) Open meetings: teleconferencing: subsidiary body.

Current Text: Amended: 1/17/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/13/2023

Last Amend: 1/17/2024

Status: 1/25/2024-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 54. Noes 8.) In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Location: 1/25/2024-S. RLS.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The Ralph M. Brown Act requires, with specified exceptions, each legislative body of a local agency to provide notice of the time and place for its regular meetings and an agenda containing a brief general description of each item of business to be transacted. The act also requires that all meetings of a legislative body be open and public, and that all persons be permitted

to attend unless a closed session is authorized. The act generally requires for teleconferencing that the legislative body of a local agency that elects to use teleconferencing post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and have each teleconference location be accessible to the public. Existing law also requires that, during the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction. Current law authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternate teleconferencing provisions during a proclaimed state of emergency (emergency provisions) and, until January 1, 2026, in certain circumstances related to the particular member if at least a quorum of its members participate from a singular physical location that is open to the public and situated within the agency’s jurisdiction and other requirements are met (nonemergency provisions). This bill, until January 1, 2026, would authorize a subsidiary body, as defined, to use similar alternative teleconferencing provisions and would impose requirements for notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed. In order to use teleconferencing pursuant to this act, the bill would require the legislative body that established the subsidiary body by charter, ordinance, resolution, or other formal action to make specified findings by majority vote, before the subsidiary body uses teleconferencing for the first time and every 12 months thereafter.

Position

Watch

Subject

Brown Act

CALAFCO Comments: 1/25/2024; Moved out of the Assembly. Waiting on assignment from Senate Rules Committee.

1/17/2024: Amended to add a Sunset date of January 1, 2026.

3/16/2023: The bill was amended to speak specifically to teleconferenced meetings of subsidiary bodies, defined as a body that serves exclusively in an advisory capacity, and is not authorized to take final action on legislation, regulations, contracts, licenses, permits, or any other entitlements. For qualifying bodies, this bill would remove the requirement to post an agenda at the location of the subsidiary body member who was participating from off site- providing that the legislative body that formed the subsidiary body has previously made findings noting that teleconferenced meetings of the subsidiary body would enhance public access, and would promote the attractions, retention and diversity of the subsidiary body. The superior legislative body would need to revisit the matter and repeat those finding every 12 months thereafter. This bill also reaffirms that other provisions of the Brown Act are applicable to subsidiary bodies.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

AB 828

(Connolly D) Sustainable groundwater management: managed wetlands.

Current Text: Amended: 1/11/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/13/2023

Last Amend: 1/11/2024

Status: 1/29/2024-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 47. Noes 15.) In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Location: 1/29/2024-S. RLS.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House				Conc.			

Summary: The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires all groundwater basins designated as high- or medium-priority basins by the Department of Water Resources to be managed under a groundwater sustainability plan or coordinated groundwater sustainability plans, except as specified. Current law defines various terms for purposes of the act. This bill would add various defined terms for purposes of the act, including the terms “managed wetland” and “small community water system.”

Position

None at this time

Subject

Water

CALAFCO Comments: 1/11/24: Amended to strike provisions regarding small community water systems serving disadvantaged communities and pivots to groundwater sustainability agencies with provisions that go into effect on January 1, 2028, that address spacing requirements on new groundwater wells, extraction controls, authorization for temporary and permanent transfers with an agency's boundaries, and to establish accounting rules.

4/17/2023: Amended to define agencies and entities required or excluded from existing 10726.4 (a)

(4). Amends Water Code section 10730.2 to add language regarding fees, and amends Water Code section 10733 to address groundwater sustainability plans.

Failed to make April policy committee deadline and now cannot be acted upon until January 2024.

As introduced, would add definitions for Managed Wetlands, and Small community water system to Water Code Section 10721.

AB 930 **(Friedman D) Local government: Reinvestment in Infrastructure for a Sustainable and Equitable California (RISE) districts.**

Current Text: Amended: 1/22/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/14/2023

Last Amend: 1/22/2024

Status: 1/29/2024-Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate. (Ayes 52. Noes 16.) In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.

Location: 1/29/2024-S. RLS.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Would authorize the legislative bodies of 2 or more cities or counties to jointly form a Reinvestment in Infrastructure for a Sustainable and Equitable California district (RISE district) in accordance with specified procedures. The bill would authorize a special district to join a RISE district, by resolution, as specified. The bill would require the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to develop guidelines for the formation of RISE districts no later than November 30, 2026. The bill would provide for the establishment of a governing board of a RISE district with representatives of each participating local government.

Position

Neutral

Subject

Special District
Principle Acts

CALAFCO Comments: 1/22/2024 Amended to remove section of definitions, change the word "standards" to "guidelines", and to strike section 62412 relative to the elements of a RISE development plan to be reviewed.

Missed 2023 deadlines and became a 2 year bill.

This bill has a similar overtone to SB 852 Dodd in 2022 regarding the formation of climate resilience districts outside of the LAFCo process. As introduced, it focuses on the generation of funding and the governance of the expenditure of those funds. However, it should be carefully tracked in case that mission is expanded.

AB 1928 **(Sanchez R) Worker classification: employees and independent contractors.**

Current Text: Amended: 3/4/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/25/2024

Last Amend: 3/4/2024

Status: 3/6/2024-Re-referred to Com. on L. & E.

Location: 2/12/2024-A. L. & E.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Current law, as established in the case of Dynamex Operations W. v. Superior Court (2018) 4 Cal.5th 903 (Dynamex), creates a presumption that a worker who performs services for a hirer is an employee for purposes of claims for wages and benefits arising under wage orders issued by the Industrial Welfare Commission. Current law requires a 3-part test, commonly known as the "ABC" test, to determine if workers are employees or independent contractors for those purposes. Current law establishes that, for purposes of the Labor Code, the Unemployment Insurance Code, and the wage orders of the Industrial Welfare Commission, a person providing labor or services for remuneration is considered an employee rather than an independent contractor unless the hiring entity demonstrates that the person is free from the control and direction of the hiring entity in connection with the performance of the work, the person performs work that is outside the usual course of the hiring entity's business, and the person is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, or business. This test is known as the "ABC" test, as described above. This bill would repeal the above-described provisions that codify the ABC test. The bill would declare that its purpose is to suspend and nullify the California Supreme Court's decision in Dynamex and provide that this decision does not apply for purposes of California law.

Position**Subject**

CALAFCO Comments: Of interest to CALAFCO because of its potential effect on operations. 1/25/2024, bill introduced. AB 1928 would repeal the provisions that were enacted by the passage of AB 5 in 2019. Known as the Gig Worker law, AB 5 reclassified which workers could be considered as contractors. A limited number of professional categories were set aside and excluded from the law. However, those not included in the exclusions were required, under new reclassification requirements, to be considered as employees regardless of whether they were performing the services in connection to an ongoing business. The shift required CALAFCO to amend its internal practices to re-classify its contractors to employees, resulting in increased costs, as well as extra reporting requirements.

AB 1987 (Bennett D) Local government.

Current Text: Introduced: 1/30/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 1/30/2024

Status: 1/31/2024-From printer. May be heard in committee March 1.

Location: 1/30/2024-A. PRINT

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Current law sets forth provisions for the formation, duties, and other authorizations, among other things, relating to cities, counties, cities and counties, and other local agencies. This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to enact legislation relating to local government.

Position

None at this time

Subject

CALAFCO Comments: Spot holder bill relative to local government. Monitoring because of its topic.

AB 2302 (Addis D) Open meetings: local agencies: teleconferences.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/12/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/12/2024

Status: 2/26/2024-Referred to Com. on L. GOV.

Location: 2/26/2024-A. L. GOV.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Calendar: 4/10/2024 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 447 ASSEMBLY LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CARRILLO, JUAN, Chair

Summary: The Ralph M. Brown Act generally requires for teleconferencing that the legislative body of a local agency that elects to use teleconferencing post agendas at all teleconference locations, identify each teleconference location in the notice and agenda of the meeting or proceeding, and have each teleconference location be accessible to the public. Current law also requires that, during the teleconference, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participate from locations within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction. The act provides an exemption to the jurisdictional requirement for health authorities, as defined. Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing in specified circumstances if, during the teleconference meeting, at least a quorum of the members of the legislative body participates in person from a singular physical location clearly identified on the agenda that is open to the public and situated within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction, and the legislative body complies with prescribed requirements. Current law imposes prescribed restrictions on remote participation by a member under these alternative teleconferencing provisions, including establishing limits on the number of meetings a member may participate in solely by teleconference from a remote location, prohibiting such participation for a period of more than 3 consecutive months or 20% of the regular meetings for the local agency within a calendar year, or more than 2 meetings if the legislative body regularly meets fewer than 10 times per calendar year. This bill would revise those limits, instead prohibiting such participation for more than a specified number of meetings per year, based on how frequently the legislative body regularly meets.

Position

Watch

Subject

Brown Act

CALAFCO Comments: Introduced on 2/12/2024, this bill would enact changes to Brown Act provisions that allow members of legislative bodies to teleconference for meetings. Currently, the

law limits teleconferencing to no more than 3 consecutive months, 20% of the regular meetings in a calendar year, or 2 meetings for bodies that meet less than 10 times in a calendar year. This bill redefines those limits as 2 meetings per year for bodies meeting monthly or less; 5 meetings per year for those meeting twice per month; or 7 meetings per year if the body meetings three times or more per month.

[AB 2715](#) (Boerner D) Ralph M. Brown Act: closed sessions.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/14/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/14/2024

Status: 3/4/2024-Referred to Com. on L. GOV.

Location: 3/4/2024-A. L. GOV.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: The Ralph M. Brown Act generally requires that all meetings of a legislative body of a local agency be open and public and that all persons be permitted to attend and participate. Current law authorizes a legislative body to hold a closed session on, among other things, matters posing a threat to the security of essential public services, as specified. This bill would additionally authorize a closed session to consider or evaluate matters related to cybersecurity, as specified, provided that any action taken on those matters is done in open session.

Position

None at this time

Subject

Brown Act

CALAFCO Comments: As introduced on 2/14/2024, would make minor changes in the Brown Act. Monitoring.

[AB 2986](#) (Carrillo, Wendy D) Local Agency Formation Commission for the County of Los Angeles: East Los Angeles Task Force.

Current Text: Amended: 3/21/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/16/2024

Last Amend: 3/21/2024

Status: 3/21/2024-Referred to Com. on L. GOV. From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on L. GOV. Read second time and amended.

Location: 3/21/2024-A. L. GOV.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Summary: Would require the Local Agency Formation Commission for the County of Los Angeles (LALAFCO) to establish the East Los Angeles Task Force for the purposes of identifying and evaluating the potential impacts of incorporation of, or the establishment of special districts within, East Los Angeles, as defined. The bill would require the task force to be composed of 11 members appointed by LALAFCO in consultation with the County of Los Angeles. The bill would require the task force to meet quarterly, incorporating robust community engagement, to discuss the potential impacts of incorporation or the establishment of special districts in East Los Angeles, as specified. The bill, by December 1, 2026, would require the task force to complete and submit a report to the Legislature on the potential impacts of city and special district incorporation in East Los Angeles, including an analysis of advantages, disadvantages, and recommendations for future actions. The bill would repeal these provisions on January 1, 2027.

Position

None at this time

Subject

Special District Consolidations

CALAFCO Comments: 3/21/2024, the bill was gutted and amended and now requires the LA LAFCO to develop an East Los Angeles Formation Task Force. Not a statewide issue; however, awaiting response from LA LAFCO.

[AB 3277](#) (Committee on Local Government) Local agency formation commission: districts: property tax.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/27/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/27/2024

Status: 3/18/2024-Referred to Com. on L. GOV.

Location: 3/18/2024-A. L. GOV.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered

1st House	2nd House	
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Calendar: 4/10/2024 1:30 p.m. - State Capitol, Room 447 ASSEMBLY LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CARRILLO, JUAN, Chair

Summary: The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 establishes the sole and exclusive authority and procedures for the initiation, conduct, and completion of changes of organization and reorganization for cities and districts. Current law requires proceedings for the formation of a district to be conducted as authorized by the principal act of the proposed district, and authorizes the local agency formation commission in each county to serve as the conducting authority, as specified. Current law requires a commission to determine the amount of property tax revenue to be exchanged by an affected local agency, as specified, if the proposal includes the formation of a district, as defined. This bill would, instead, require a commission to determine the amount of property tax revenue to be exchanged by an affected local agency if the proposal includes the formation of a district and the applicant is seeking a share of the 1% ad valorem property taxes.

Position
Sponsor

Subject
Incorporation
Proceedings

CALAFCO Comments: CALAFCO's 2024 Omnibus bill.

SB 537 (Becker D) Open meetings: multijurisdictional, cross-county agencies: teleconferences.

Current Text: Amended: 9/5/2023 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/14/2023

Last Amend: 9/5/2023

Status: 9/14/2023-Ordered to inactive file on request of Assembly Member Bryan.

Location: 9/14/2023-A. INACTIVE FILE

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House				Conc.			

Summary: Current law, until January 1, 2024, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternate teleconferencing provisions during a proclaimed state of emergency or in other situations related to public health that exempt a legislative body from the general requirements (emergency provisions) and impose different requirements for notice, agenda, and public participation, as prescribed. The emergency provisions specify that they do not require a legislative body to provide a physical location from which the public may attend or comment. Current law, until January 1, 2026, authorizes the legislative body of a local agency to use alternative teleconferencing in certain circumstances related to the particular member if at least a quorum of its members participate from a singular physical location that is open to the public and situated within the agency’s jurisdiction and other requirements are met, including restrictions on remote participation by a member of the legislative body. These circumstances include if a member shows “just cause,” including for a childcare or caregiving need of a relative that requires the member to participate remotely. This bill would expand the circumstances of “just cause” to apply to the situation in which an immunocompromised child, parent, grandparent, or other specified relative requires the member to participate remotely. The bill would authorize the legislative body of a multijurisdictional, cross-county agency, as specified, to use alternate teleconferencing provisions if the eligible legislative body has adopted an authorizing resolution, as specified. The bill would also require the legislative body to provide a record of attendance of the members of the legislative body, the number of community members in attendance in the teleconference meeting, and the number of public comments on its internet website within 10 days after a teleconference meeting, as specified. The bill would require at least a quorum of members of the legislative body to participate from one or more physical locations that are open to the public and within the boundaries of the territory over which the local agency exercises jurisdiction.

Position
Watch

Subject
Brown Act

CALAFCO Comments: This is a spotholder bill that states an intent to expand local government’s access to hold public meetings through teleconferencing and remote access.

3/22/2023: was amended and fleshed out to add teleconferencing provisions to allow legislative bodies of multijurisdictional agencies to meet remotely. Multijurisdictional agencies are defined as boards, commissions, or advisory bodies of a multijurisdictional, cross county agency, which is composed of appointed representatives from more than one county, city, city and county, special district, or a joint powers entity.

The bill is sponsored by Peninsula Clean Energy, a community choice aggregator with a board comprised of local elected officials from the County of San Mateo and its 20 cities, as well as the City of Los Banos.

4/24/2023: The bill was amended to further clarify definitions and the requirements needed for members of an eligible legislative body to meet remotely.

The bill passed Senate Judiciary on 5/2/23, and had its third reading in the Senate on 5/30/2023. 7/12/23: The bill passed the Assembly Local Government Committee.

Amended on August 14, 2023, to require eligible legislative bodies that receive compensation to participate from a physical location that is open to the public.

9/14/2023, the bill was moved into the inactive file.

[SB 768](#) (Caballero D) California Environmental Quality Act: State Air Resources Board: vehicle miles traveled: study.

Current Text: Amended: 1/11/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/17/2023

Last Amend: 1/11/2024

Status: 1/29/2024-Read third time. Passed. (Ayes 34. Noes 4.) Ordered to the Assembly. In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

Location: 1/29/2024-A. DESK

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House				Conc.			

Summary: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a lead agency to prepare a mitigated negative declaration for a project that may have a significant effect on the environment if revisions in the project would avoid or mitigate that effect and there is no substantial evidence that the project, as revised, would have a significant effect on the environment. Current law requires the Office of Planning and Research to prepare, develop, and transmit to the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency for certification and adoption proposed revisions to guidelines establishing criteria for determining the significance of transportation impacts of projects within transit priority areas to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, the development of multimodal transportation networks, and a diversity of land uses. Current law creates the State Air Resources Board as the state agency charged with coordinating efforts to attain and maintain ambient air quality standards, to conduct research into the causes of and solution to air pollution, and to systematically attack the serious problem caused by motor vehicles, which is the major source of air pollution in many areas of the state. Existing law authorizes the state board to do those acts as may be necessary for the proper execution of the powers and duties granted to, and imposed upon, the state board. This bill would require the state board, by January 1, 2026, to conduct and submit to the Legislature a study on how vehicle miles traveled is used as a metric for measuring transportation impacts pursuant to CEQA, as specified.

Position

Subject
CEQA

CALAFCO Comments: Introduced as a spotholder bill that noted an intent to enact subsequent legislation that would create a new transportation impact analysis for rural areas for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act.

3/22/2023: The bill was amended and would add language into the Public Resource Code to provide that a public agency, in approving or carrying out certain types of projects, is not required to issue a statement of overriding consideration for significant effects on the environment identified by a project's vehicle miles traveled if the lead agency has imposed all feasible mitigation measures on the project and it finds no feasible alternatives to the project.

Failed to meet deadlines and now a 2 year bill that cannot be acted upon until January, 2024.

1/11/2024: Gutted and Amended. Topic now specific to a study by the state regarding vehicle miles traveled in CEQA studies. Continuing to monitor for any detrimental changes to CEQA but, at this time, bill is not a concern to CALAFCO.

[SB 1209](#) (Cortese D) Local agency formation commission: indemnification.

Current Text: Introduced: 2/15/2024 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Introduced: 2/15/2024

Status: 3/20/2024-From committee: Do pass. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.) (March 20).

Location: 2/29/2024-S. L. GOV.

Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Desk	Policy	Fiscal	Floor	Conf. Conc.	Enrolled	Vetoed	Chaptered
1st House				2nd House							

Calendar: 4/1/2024 #20 SENATE THIRD READING

Summary: The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 continues in existence in each county a local agency formation commission (LAFCO) that consists of members appointed, as specified, and oversees those changes of organization and reorganization. The act authorizes a LAFCO to, among other things, review and approve with or without amendment, wholly, partially, or conditionally, or disapprove proposals for changes of organization or reorganization, as specified. This bill would authorize a LAFCO to require, as a condition for, among other things, processing a change of organization or reorganization, that the applicant agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the LAFCO, its agents, officers, and employees from and against any claim, action, or proceeding, as specified, arising from or relating to the action or determination by the LAFCO.

Position

Sponsor

Subject

LAFCo
Administration

CALAFCO Comments: CALAFCO sponsored bill in response to a 2022 appellate decision out of San Luis Obispo that held that LAFCOs could not use indemnification provisions in applications because indemnifications are a form of agreement that LAFCOs are currently not authorized to enter into. As introduced, the bill would allow LAFCOs to use provisions similar to counties and cities.

Total Measures: 13

Total Tracking Forms: 13

3/27/2024 7:08:56 PM



Local Agency
Formation Commission
of Santa Clara County

777 North First Street
Suite 410
San Jose, CA 95112

SantaClaraLAFCO.org

Commissioners

Sylvia Arenas
Jim Beall
Rosemary Kamei
Yoriko Kishimoto
Otto Lee
Russ Melton
Terry Trumbull

ITEM # 8

Alternate Commissioners

Domingo Candelas
Helen Chapman
Cindy Chavez
Teresa O'Neill
Mark Turner

Executive Officer

Neelima Palacherla

LAFCO MEETING: April 3, 2024

TO: LAFCO

**FROM: Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
Dunia Noel, Asst. Executive Officer**

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Accept report and provide direction, as necessary.

8.1 PRESENTATION ON LAFCO TO COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

At the invitation of the County Planning Office, EO Palacherla and Asst. EO Noel gave a joint presentation on Santa Clara LAFCO to the County Planning Commission on February 22, 2024. The 40-minute presentation included an overview of LAFCO and a discussion on how LAFCO's work to steer growth to areas where urban services can be delivered efficiently and to protect farmland and open space benefits the whole county and was followed by a question-and-answer session. LAFCO staff also provided the County Planning Commission with LAFCO's County and Cities Boundaries Map and the "What is LAFCO" Brochure.

8.2 PRESENTATION ON LAFCO TO LEADERSHIP MORGAN HILL

At the invitation of Harpreet Vittal (Board Member, Leadership Morgan Hill), EO Palacherla and Asst. EO Noel gave a joint presentation on Santa Clara LAFCO to Leadership Morgan Hill class members on March 4, 2024, as part of their "Regional Government Day 2024" activities. The 35-minute presentation included an overview of LAFCO and was followed by a question-and-answer session. Please see **Attachment A** for an email from Ms. Vittal thanking staff for the presentation and an email that we received from grateful participant.

8.3 SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION MEETING

Commissioner Kishimoto, Alternate Commissioner Chapman, and EO Palacherla attended the March 4, 2024 quarterly meeting of the Santa Clara County Special Districts Association which was held by video conference.

EO Palacherla provided updates on LAFCO activities, including implementation of recommendations from LAFCO's Countywide Fire Service Review.

There was no guest presenter for this meeting, but Association members discussed ideas and priorities for future presentations. Meeting attendees, including various district staff and board members, provided reports and shared information on current projects or issues of interest. The next meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2024.

8.4 JOINT VENTURE SILICON VALLEY'S 2024 STATE OF THE VALLEY CONFERENCE

EO Palacherla and Asst. EO Noel attended the Joint Venture (JV) Silicon Valley's 2024 State of the Valley Conference, held online on March 1, 2024. The Conference highlighted the findings of JV's 2024 Silicon Valley Index Report and the indicators tracking key factors of the Silicon Valley ecosystem, including economic and social challenges. This year's Report takes an even closer look at equity issues in the Valley. Russell Hancock (JV President/CEO) reported on tech sector lay-offs and other changes in the industry; and the exponential widening of the income disparity in the region and its adverse impacts on children and families, specifically increased food insecurity, education losses, continued rise in housing costs, and reduced quality of life.

A diverse panel consisting of Leslie Bacho (CEO of Second Harvest Silicon Valley), Tom Lounibos (President of Accenture Ventures), Jasneet Sharma (Director of County of Santa Clara Office of Sustainability), and Regina Williams (Executive Direct of SV@Home) then discussed these issues and potential strategies to better address them. Erica Orange, Executive VP/CEO of the Future Hunters, then closed the conference by discussing the macro trends that are impacting today's landscape.

8.5 SANTA CLARA COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF PLANNING OFFICIALS MEETING

EO Palacherla attended the February 7, 2024 virtual meeting of the Santa Clara County Association of Planning Officials (SCCAPO). The meeting began with an update from the Santa Clara County Planning Collaborative and from MTC/ABAG representatives. Attendees provided updates on whether their agency's housing element was certified and whether they had received any builder's remedy projects. Lastly, with the assistance of SCCAPO, LAFCO staff was finally able to update its contact information for City/County Community Development Directors and Planning Managers in Santa Clara County.

ATTACHMENT

Attachment A: Email from Leadership Morgan Hill re. Leadership Morgan Hill Regional Government Day 2024 (March 5, 2024) and email from a participant (March 11, 2024)

ITEM #8
Attachment A

From: [Harpreet Vittal](#)
To: [Palacherla, Neelima](#); [Noel, Dunia](#)
Cc: [Steve Tate](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Leadership Morgan Hill- LAFCO @ Regional Government Day 2024
Date: Tuesday, March 5, 2024 2:50:27 PM

Hi Neelima and Dunia,

Thank you so much for your presentation yesterday. There was a lot of new, interesting information that was presented about LAFCO. I have to say that most of us were not aware of the history, purpose and the partnerships that LAFCO has with the county and the cities. With all the urban development going on, it was interesting to learn about LAFCO's role in the county.

Please share your presentation with me so I can forward it to the class. Thanks so much for your support of Leadership Morgan Hill.

Regards
Harpreet

ITEM #8.2
Attachment A

From: [Cindy Adams](#)
To: [Palacherla, Neelima](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Thank You!
Date: Monday, March 11, 2024 10:12:01 AM

Dear Neelima,

Thank you so much for taking time out of your busy schedule to talk to our Leadership Morgan Hill members Monday evening. We appreciated your expertise and information. Most of us had no idea what LAFCO was when we walked in but your explanations and examples were easy to understand. You gave us a new appreciation of an area that is vitally important to the workings of our community.

Again, we appreciate all you and LAFCO do to make Morgan Hill an amazing place to live and work and thank you again for your time and expertise.

Sincerely,
Cindy Adams
Leadership Morgan Hill



**Local Agency
Formation Commission
of Santa Clara County**

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Commissioners

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ITEM # 9

Alternate Commissioners

Domingo Candelas
Helen Chapman
Cindy Chavez
Teresa O'Neill
Mark Turner

Executive Officer

Neelima Palacherla

LAFCO MEETING: April 3, 2024

TO: LAFCO

**FROM: Neelima Palacherla, Executive Officer
Dunia Noel, Asst. Executive Officer**

**SUBJECT: LAFCO COMMISSIONER REAPPOINTMENTS BY CITY
SELECTION COMMITTEE**

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

On February 8, 2024, the City Selection Committee of Santa Clara County reappointed Russ Melton (Councilmember, City of Sunnyvale) as Commissioner and reappointed Mark Turner (Mayor, City of Morgan Hill) as Alternate Commissioner on LAFCO. Commissioner Melton and Alternate Commissioner Turner are each reappointed to 4-year terms that will expire on May 31, 2028.

Item #11

From: [Council Member Zachary Hilton](#)
To: [Palacherla, Neelima](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] April 3rd Agenda Newspaper Articles
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 6:54:44 AM
Attachments: [Letter Eager to support LAFCO policies Gilroy Dispatch Gilroy, California.pdf](#)

Neelima,

I'd like to submit the attached article for the April 3rd agenda under Newspaper Article.

Zach Hilton

Gilroy City Council Member

www.zachhilton.com

#HiltonForCouncil @zachhilton_ca

Letter: Eager to support LAFCO policies

BY ZACH HILTON - March 1, 2024



Thank you to the Cities Selection Committee (Mayors of Santa Clara County), and I am grateful for the opportunity to apply for the Cities Association's Alternate Commissioner to Santa Clara County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

LAFCO is where cities go to expand their boundaries. Gilroy continues to be pressured into expanding their city boundaries by developers and local electeds who want to build expensive single family homes. Those of us that want to prevent sprawl, value smart growth, know sprawl would be costly for our city – which can't afford to provide urban services to these new developments – will continue to apply to be in these positions.



Zach Hilton

I have been watching and participating in LAFCO meetings since I was Chair of the Gilroy Bicycle Pedestrian Commission from 2017-20 and elected as an At-Large Gilroy City Council Member in 2020. I value LAFCO's mission of minimizing sprawl, preserving open space, encouraging efficiency of services, fiscal sustainability and accountability and transparency.

I have been deeply involved with Gilroy's General Plan 2040 implementation and getting our Housing Element certified with State HCD. I promote the values of smart growth in Santa Clara County, and we will need to continue to examine the ways in which land use patterns can be the limiting factor as we work toward affordability and equity.

As a firefighter/paramedic, I bring a unique and valuable perspective to the service review process that LAFCO conducts for each of our cities. I have hands-on experience with what it takes to provide these services efficiently and effectively, as required by LAFCO. I believe my independent third-party perspective would be of great benefit for all the cities of Santa Clara County, and I'm excited to be able to serve you all in this way.

I am also a firm believer in LAFCO's policies of protecting agricultural lands and open space from premature conversion to development. While many cities in our county are built out, I see Morgan Hill, San Martin and Gilroy as areas that we need to protect from further urban sprawl. As a council member for the City of Gilroy, I represent those in Gilroy and the rest of South County who support sustainable land use planning in line with LAFCO policies.

I was proud to publicly support LAFCO staff's recommendation in 2023 for the City of Gilroy to focus its future housing growth in our downtown and transit corridors, rather than through the city's application to expand the Urban Service Area to allow single-family home sprawl on adjacent unincorporated farmland. I supported the staff recommendation not only because Gilroy has eight years of capacity for building in infill areas and thus has no need to expand our city boundaries for housing, but also because more sprawl would be costly for our city, which cannot afford to provide urban services to this new development.

At least once a year the Cities Selection Committee (Mayors of Santa Clara County) appoints local electeds to many other regional bodies, including the Association of Bay Area (ABAG) Executive Board and Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Regional Planning Committee.

ABAG is the official comprehensive planning agency for the San Francisco Bay Area region and Plan Bay Area 2050, which connects the elements of housing, the economy, transportation and the environment. ABAG's mission is to strengthen cooperation and coordination among local governments. In doing so, ABAG addresses social, environmental and economic issues that transcend local borders.

[Gilroy has a seat](#) at the table through General Assembly (GA) meetings which are held in the spring and fall each year as part of the GA Conference, where they determine policy and adopt the annual budget and work program. In addition, the GA reviews policy recommendations from the ABAG Executive Board (made up of local electeds) and reviews the bylaws of the ABAG Association.

Every year a General Assembly and Business Meeting conference are held. Their annual conference explores vital issues that impact our region and any official delegate or alternate may propose a subject of consideration. Business and civic leaders, elected officials, academic scholars, city planners and private citizens attend this popular conference as well.

It's never too late to get involved, and please vote March 5.

Zach Hilton

Gilroy City Council

ZACH HILTON