

7 Sphere of Influence Determinations and Recommendations

Following are the determinations and recommendations regarding the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHFD), Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD), South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District (SCFD) and Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD). The LAHFD, CCFD and SCFD are dependent County districts governed by the County Board of Supervisors. The SFD is an independent special district with an elected board of directors.

7.1 Los Altos Hills County Fire District

7.1.1 Current District Boundary

The Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHFD) provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the Town of Los Altos Hills and to the unincorporated area adjacent (i.e., the Loyola and San Antonio Hills areas) to the Town through a contract with the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD). The district also provides fire protection service to the Los Trancos Woods area, which is adjacent to both San Mateo County and the City of Palo Alto.

7.1.2 Current SOI Boundary

LAHFD's SOI was established by LAFCO in 1983 and there have been no changes to its SOI since then. LAHFD's SOI is coterminous with its boundaries except that it includes some agricultural and open space unincorporated lands to the south that are outside the district's boundaries, and excludes the Los Trancos Woods area as well as the unincorporated area to the east of I-280 that is within the SOI of Los Altos. The district has not recommended any changes to its SOI.

7.1.3 SOI Boundary Recommendation

It is recommended that LAFCO retract the SOI for the District to exclude the lands annexed to the City of Los Altos and concurrently detached from the LAHFD in the June 19, 2006 annexation of *Los Altos Pocket No. 1: Blue Oak Lane* to the City of Los Altos. See Figure 68.

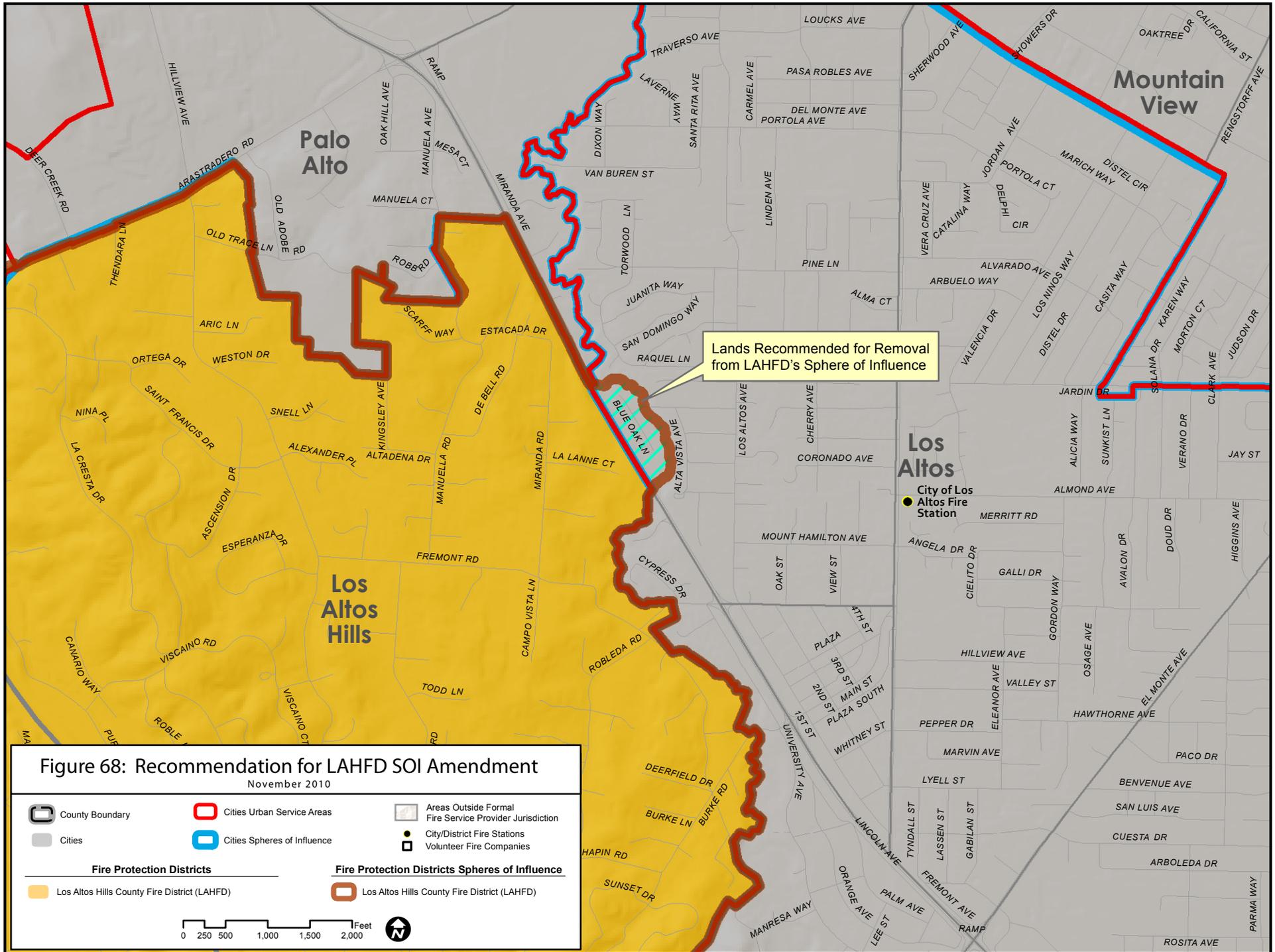


Figure 68: Recommendation for LAHFD SOI Amendment

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 County Boundary	 Circles Urban Service Areas	 Areas Outside Formal Fire Service Provider Jurisdiction
 Cities	 Circles Spheres of Influence	 City/District Fire Stations
Fire Protection Districts		Fire Protection Districts Spheres of Influence
 Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHFD)		 Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHFD)

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet 

7.1.4 SOI Determinations

1. The Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, including Agricultural and Open Space Lands

The district encompasses the Town of Los Altos Hills and unincorporated areas adjacent to the Town. The district also provides service to the unincorporated Los Trancos Woods area which is adjacent to both San Mateo County and the City of Palo Alto. Existing and planned land uses in the district are overwhelmingly residential, with some permanently preserved open space and parklands, and with no commercial or industrial facilities.

Finding: Planned land uses in the district are predominantly single-family residential. There are some agricultural and open space lands in the district's SOI.

2. The Present and Probable Need For Public Facilities and Services in the Area

The district provides fire protection service through a contract with CCFD. The district is nearly built out and contains lands permanently preserved as open space or parklands. Demand for service will remain fairly constant with the possibility of slight reductions as the City of Los Altos annexes their remaining unincorporated islands and these areas are detached from the district.

Finding: Fire protection service needs in the area will hold constant or decrease slightly in the future.

3. The Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services that the Agency Provides or is Authorized to Provide

The district contracts with CCFD for fire protection and emergency medical services. The district also provides on-site brush chipper service, garden debris drop off service, hillside weed clearance, fire prevention information materials, and is replacing undersized water mains and installing new water mains and fire hydrants where needed. One station is owned and maintained at 12355 El Monte Road on the campus of Foothill College. This station houses the apparatus, equipment, and tools used to support the district's fire, rescue, and emergency medical needs. The district serves land that has been largely developed or permanently preserved. The infrastructure serving the district's service area has the

capacity to serve the development. The district continues to upgrade and expand water distribution infrastructure.

Finding: The present capacity of public facilities and provision of service appears to be adequate.

4. The Existence of any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines that they are Relevant to the Agency

The district serves the Town of Los Altos Hills and adjacent unincorporated areas. Some of these unincorporated areas are also adjacent to the City of Los Altos and will someday be annexed into the City of Los Altos. The district also provides service to the unincorporated Los Trancos Woods area which is adjacent to both San Mateo County and the City of Palo Alto. Residents within the district's boundaries share strong ties with the cities of Los Altos and Palo Alto, as well as Los Altos Hills, which is where the majority of them reside.

Finding: The district is part of the social and economic community of the Cities of Los Altos and Palo Alto, and the Town of Los Altos Hills.

5. The Nature, Location, Extent, Functions and Classes of Services to be Provided

The district, through a contract with CCFD, provides fire protection services, emergency medical service response, on-site brush chipper service, garden debris drop off service, hillside weed clearance, fire prevention public education, and replacement and installation of water mains and hydrants.

7.2 Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District

7.2.1 Current District Boundary

The Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD) provides fire protection and emergency medical services to areas in the central and northern parts of the County, including the cities of Cupertino, Los Gatos, a part of Saratoga, Monte Sereno and other unincorporated areas. CCFD also provides fire protection and emergency medical service by contract to the cities of Campbell, Los Altos, Morgan Hill, the Los Altos Hills County Fire District (LAHFD) and the Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD). CCFD contracts with the cities of San José and Milpitas to provide fire service to the urbanized unincorporated islands that are surrounded by these cities and/or adjacent to these cities, as well as lands

within the lower foothills. CCFD is designated as the fire marshal for all unincorporated lands.

7.2.2 Current SOI Boundary

CCFD's sphere of influence was established by LAFCO in 1983. The district's SOI boundary generally follows the Los Altos Hills boundary agreement line on the north, the Santa Cruz County boundary on the west, the San José boundary agreement line on the south and the city limits of Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, and Cupertino on the east. The district's SOI boundary does not include the unincorporated islands or contract cities. In September 2010, LAFCO completed annexation of 22,000 acres to the CCFD. This annexation resulted in CCFD annexing all lands in the Santa Cruz Mountains which were located within its SOI except for lands located in the southeastern end of CCFD's SOI. These lands were excluded from the annexation due to lack of access for CCFD to serve the lands.

7.2.3 SOI Boundary Recommendation

It is recommended that LAFCO retract the SOI for CCFD to exclude lands on the southeastern edge to be consistent with the district's boundary as established by the annexation effective on September 28, 2010 (CCFD SOI Amendment & Annexation 2010-01) Additionally, the SOI for CCFD should be retracted to exclude the lands that were annexed to the City of Los Altos and concurrently detached from CCFD in the June 19, 2006 annexation of *Los Altos Pocket No. 2: Woodland Acres* to the City of Los Altos. See Figure 69.

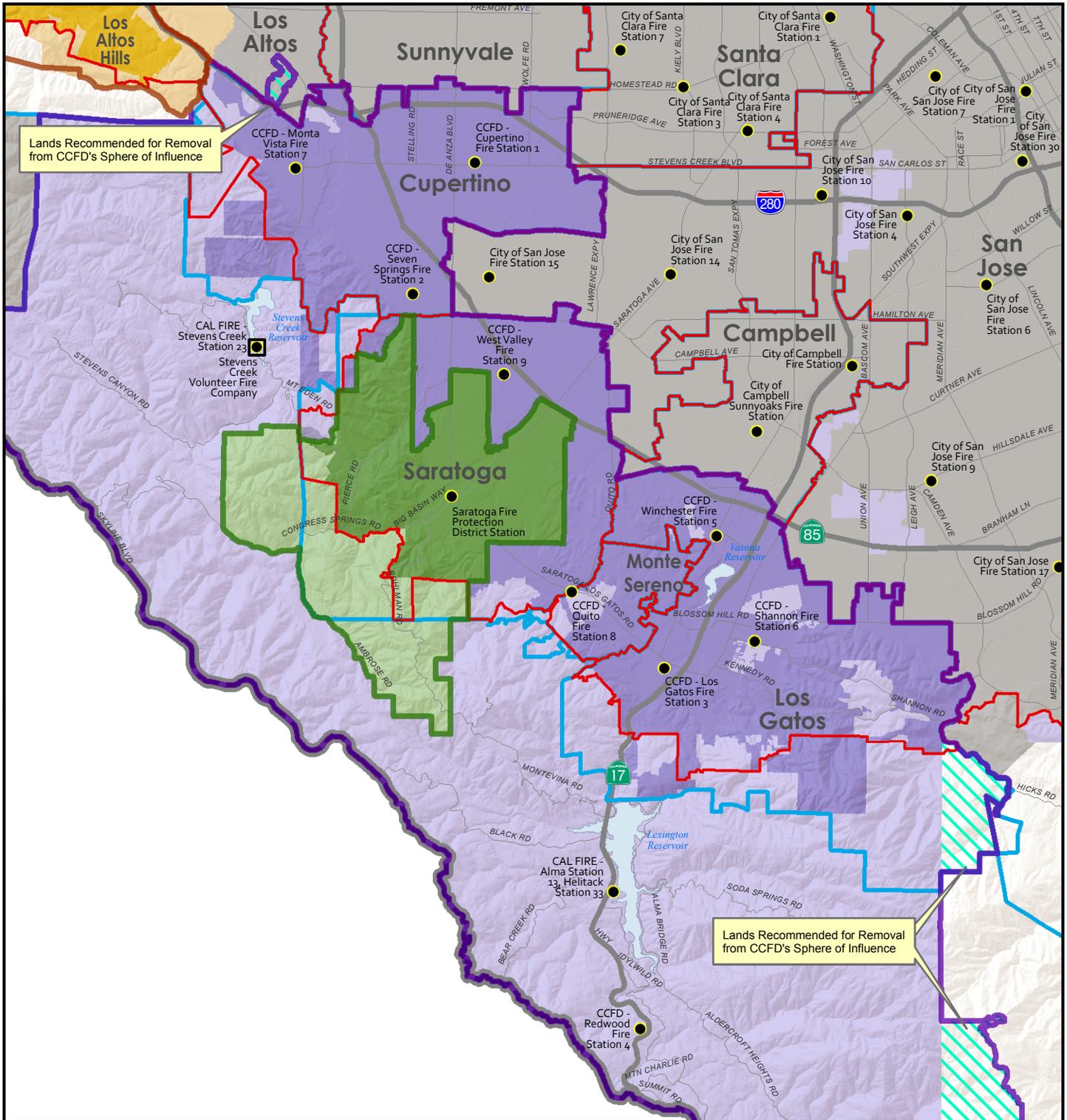


Figure 69: Recommendation for CCFD SOI Amendments

November 2010

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|
| County Boundary | Cities Urban Service Areas | Areas Outside Formal Fire Service Provider Jurisdiction |
| Cities | Cities Spheres of Influence | City/District Fire Stations |
| | | Volunteer Fire Companies |
-
- | Fire Protection Districts | | Fire Protection Districts Spheres of Influence | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|
| | Los Altos Hills County Fire District | | Los Altos Hills County Fire District |
| | Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD) | | Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD) |
| | Saratoga Fire Protection District | | Saratoga Fire Protection District |



7.2.4 SOI Determinations

1. The Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, including Agricultural and Open Space Lands

The district serves portions of the unincorporated area and the cities of Cupertino, Monte Sereno, Los Gatos and a portion of Saratoga. The district also provides fire protection service by contract to the cities of Campbell, Los Altos, Morgan Hill as well as the Los Altos Hills County Fire Protection District (LAHFD) and Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD). CCFD also contracts with the cities of San José and Milpitas to provide fire service to the urbanized unincorporated lands that are surrounded by these cities and adjacent to these cities.

Each city and the County will determine the types of land uses planned in their portions of the district's service area. Cupertino is the more densely developed of these communities and has the greatest employment-producing land uses. Saratoga, Los Gatos, and Campbell are predominantly residential with a well-defined downtown core and very limited industrial uses. Monte Sereno and the Los Altos Hills area are substantially low density residential. Morgan Hill is primarily residential, with a mixture of commercial and industrial land uses. The unincorporated islands consist of primarily residential land uses and limited commercial land uses. The remaining unincorporated lands that the district serves are more remote and are designated "hillsides" or "ranchlands" in the County General Plan. Under the various cities' existing General Plans and the County General Plan, land uses in the district are not expected to change.

Finding: Planned land uses in the district are predominantly single-family residential, with limited commercial and industrial development. There are some agricultural and open space lands in the district's SOI.

2. The Present and Probable Need For Public Facilities and Services in the Area

The district serves portions of the unincorporated area and the cities of Cupertino, Monte Sereno, Los Gatos, and a portion of Saratoga. Each of these cities is considered built-out and their land use policies do not call for increases in development densities. The district also provides fire protection service by contract to the cities of Campbell, Los Altos, Morgan Hill as well as the Los Altos Hills County and Saratoga Fire Protection Districts. These areas, with the exception of the City of Morgan Hill are

expected to experience minimal growth. CCFD also contracts with the cities of San José and Milpitas to provide fire service to the urbanized unincorporated areas that are surrounded by these cities and adjacent to these cities. These areas are considered built-out or limited in development potential under the County's policies. Under the cities, the County, and LAFCO's policies, the islands will eventually be annexed into their respective city.

There are lands inside the district's SOI boundary that are outside of its service boundary. These lands are unincorporated and are subject to the County's strict policies that only allow for very low-density development. Given the low level of development and difficulty in accessing these areas, they will remain outside the district boundaries. It is unlikely that County Fire will experience significant service population growth in the lands that they directly serve.

Finding: Fire protection service needs in the area will hold constant in the future.

3. The Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services that the Agency Provides or is Authorized to Provide

CCFD provides fire protection, emergency medical service and various related services. The district has comprehensively identified infrastructure needs. The district has 17 fire stations, 16 front line fire engines, two front line trucks, three front line rescue units and one Type 1 hazardous materials unit. There are no significant infrastructure needs identified by CCFD.

Finding: The present capacity of public facilities and provision of service appear to be adequate.

4. The Existence of any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines that they are Relevant to the Agency.

The district serves the cities of Cupertino, Monte Sereno, Los Gatos, a portion of Saratoga, and portions of the unincorporated County. The district also provides fire protection service by contract to the cities of Morgan Hill, Campbell, Los Altos, the Los Altos Hills County Fire Protection District and the Saratoga Fire Protection District. Residents within the district's boundaries share strong ties with their respective cities and the County. The district also interacts with cities of San José,

Milpitas and contracts with these cities to serve the “unincorporated islands” and adjacent lands in the lower foothills. The unincorporated islands share a community of interest with the city that will ultimately annex them. Residents of the lands within the lower foothills share a community of interest with the adjacent cities.

Finding: The district is part of the social and economic community of the cities of Campbell, Cupertino, Los Altos, Los Gatos, Milpitas, Monte Sereno, Morgan Hill, San José, Santa Clara, Saratoga, and the Los Altos Hills County Fire Protection District.

5. The Nature, Location, Extent, Functions and Classes of Service to be Provided

The district provides fire protection services, emergency medical service response, hazardous materials response, technical rescue response, arson investigations, public education, communication/dispatch, training, fire code and law enforcement, engineering services, vehicle/fleet maintenance services, and regional incident command resources.

7.3 South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District

7.3.1 Current District Boundary

The South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District (SCFD) provides fire protection and emergency medical services to unincorporated areas in the southern portion of Santa Clara County. The northern part of SCFD consists of an area known as “Coyote Valley.” The southern part of SCFD consists of the unincorporated area directly surrounding the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy, the unincorporated rural residential community of San Martin, the Corde Valle estate development, the remote area of the Santa Cruz Mountains and a portion of the remote area of the Diablo Range.

7.3.2 Current SOI Boundary

SCFD’s SOI was established by LAFCO in 1983. There have been only minor changes made to its SOI boundary since then. SCFD’s SOI is not coterminous with the existing boundaries of the district. The district’s SOI includes all of South County except the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy and the more remote areas of the Diablo Range. The district’s SOI is located generally south of Bailey Avenue along Little Uvas Creek and extends southeast along Pacheco Highway to the County line, extends east along the Diablo Range ridge line up to the San José boundary agreement line and extends west to the Santa Clara County/Santa Cruz County border.

7.3.3 SOI Boundary Recommendation

It is recommended that LAFCO reaffirm the existing SOI for the South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District.

7.3.4 SOI Determinations

1. The Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, including Agricultural and Open Space Lands

The district's boundary and SOI boundary include unincorporated lands designated by the County General Plan as "agriculture, public open space lands, rural residential, and regional parks." The district also includes remote areas of the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range that are designated "hillsides" and "ranchlands" in the County General Plan. The boundaries also include the unincorporated rural residential community of San Martin and rural residential estate development of Corde Valle, a semi-private golf course, and a winery. Some limited commercial and industrial uses are located in San Martin and along Pacheco Pass Highway.

Finding: Under the existing County of Santa Clara policies, the unincorporated area within the District's boundary and SOI will remain non-urban in character and predominantly in rural residential, agricultural, and open space uses.

2. The Present and Probable Need For Public Facilities and Services in the Area

The district provides fire protection and emergency medical services by contracting with CAL FIRE, the operating unit of the State Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF). The district serves unincorporated lands directly surrounding the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy. These lands are developed with mostly low-density rural-residential development, consistent with the County's minimum lot size requirements. The County, cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy, and LAFCO all have policies that require urban development to occur within a city and not within the unincorporated area. Therefore, cities must annex lands before they can be developed with an urban use. SCFD also includes the unincorporated rural residential community of San Martin and the Corde Valle Estate development. The district also includes some remote areas of the Santa Cruz Mountains and the Diablo Range that are difficult to access and hard to serve and therefore have limited

development potential. The district does not serve lands within the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy.

SCFD is expected to see very little growth within its existing boundaries. Demand for service will remain fairly constant with the possibility of slight reductions as the cities of San José, Morgan Hill and Gilroy annex land and these lands are detached from the district. It is also possible that in the future service needs may increase slightly if additional remote lands are annexed to the district. However, these remote lands can only be developed at very low densities (120 acres minimum lot size based on slope density) under the County's policies.

Finding: Fire protection service needs in the area will hold constant or decline in the future due to annexation to cities or may increase slightly if additional remote lands are annexed to the district.

3. The Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services that the Agency Provides or is Authorized to Provide

SCFD contracts with CAL FIRE for fire protection and emergency medical services. The district utilizes four stations. Station 1 (in Morgan Hill on Monterey Street) is the CAL FIRE Headquarters Station. The district owns Station 2 (south of San Martin and north of Gilroy on No Name Uno) and leases Station 3 (west of Gilroy on Hecker Pass). A fourth station, owned by CAL FIRE and located on Pacheco Pass Highway, opened in 1985.

The district serves lands that are largely developed with low-density rural residential, agricultural, and open space uses. The infrastructure serving the district's service area has the capacity to serve the development and residents within the district.

Finding: The present capacity of public facilities and provision of service appears to be adequate and the district is replacing and installing new fire protection infrastructure where warranted.

4. The Existence of any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines that they are Relevant to the Agency

The South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District serves all of South County with the exception of the cities of Morgan Hill and Gilroy and the remote area of the Diablo Range and Santa Cruz Mountains. Within the district's boundaries are areas such as the community of San Martin that

functions as a social and economic unit. The vast portion of the district, however, consists of patchwork of low-density rural residential development that is socially and economically independent of one another. Areas of the district that are inside a city's Urban Service Area share a community of interest with the city that will ultimately annex them.

Finding: Portions of the district are socially and economically a part of the South County cities and the community of San Martin.

5. The Nature, Location, Extent, Functions and Classes of Services to be Provided

The district, through a contact with CAL FIRE provides fire protection services, emergency medical service response, hazardous materials response, water rescues, arson investigations, public education, communication/dispatch, fire code and law enforcement, and engineering services.

7.4 Saratoga Fire Protection District

7.4.1 Current District Boundary

The Saratoga Fire Protection District (SFD) provides fire protection and emergency medical services to approximately half of the City of Saratoga and to the adjacent unincorporated lands west and southwest of the City. In 2008 the SFD contracted with CCFD for all fire and emergency medical services. Under the contract, the SFD maintains ownership of the single station and CCFD staffs the station with an engine and rescue.

7.4.2 Current SOI Boundary

SFD's sphere of influence (SOI) was established by LAFCO in 1983 and is coterminous with its boundaries. There have not been any changes to its SOI since then. The district has not requested any changes to its SOI. The SOI generally follows Mt. Eden and Pierce Road to Highway 9, follows Highway 9 to Sanborn Road and then follows Sanborn Road to the Saratoga/Monte Sereno Boundary Agreement Line. With the annexation of 22,000 acres by the CCFD effective September 2010, the SFD will be completely surrounded by the CCFD; there is no potential for the district or for its SOI boundary to expand.

7.4.3 SOI Boundary Recommendation

It is recommended that LAFCO establish a zero SOI for the SFD as it is appropriate for the district to be dissolved and included in the Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District.

7.4.4 SOI Determinations

1. The Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area, including Agricultural and Open Space Lands

Existing and planned land uses in the district are overwhelmingly residential, with some educational, municipal, and commercial facilities as well as parklands and permanently preserved open space. The area is substantially developed. No new major development is anticipated.

Finding: Planned land uses in the district are predominantly single-family residential. There are no agricultural lands or preserves in the district's SOI.

2. The Present and Probable Need For Public Facilities and Services in the Area

The Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District provides fire and emergency medical services through a contract. The district is nearly built-out and contains largely residential development. New development in the unincorporated area will continue to be very limited due to the County's very strict land use policies that require large minimum lot sizes (5 acres, 20 acres, or 160 acres depending on the location and slope) for new residential development. Demand for fire protection service will remain fairly constant.

Finding: Fire protection service needs in the area will hold constant in the future.

3. The Present Capacity of Public Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services that the Agency Provides or is Authorized to Provide

The district contracts with the CCFD for fire protection and emergency medical services. District lands are served primarily by the fire station in Saratoga, at 14380 Saratoga Avenue. The station is staffed with two 3-person companies operating an engine and rescue. The station was completed in fall 2004 and meets current seismic, health and safety standards. Nearby CCFD stations provide additional response.

The district serves land that has been largely developed or permanently preserved. The infrastructure serving the district's area has the capacity to serve the development and residents within the district.

Finding: The present capacity of public facilities and provision of service appears to be adequate.

4. The Existence of any Social or Economic Communities of Interest in the Area if the Commission Determines that they are Relevant to the Agency

The district has a long history of social and economic interdependence and interaction with the City of Saratoga. The district administers an Early Warning Alarm System (EWAS) for the City of Saratoga. The EWAS is a city-mandated ordinance that requires a fire detection system in newly constructed homes over 5,000 square feet, remodeled homes expanded over 50% of the original square footage, any new construction in the Hazardous Hillside Area, and new commercial construction. The system detects fires in the incipient stage and immediately notifies the CCFD. There are approximately 700 alarm accounts on-line.

Finding: The district has historically been part of the social community of the City of Saratoga. The presence of the district in the community has been reduced with the service contract with the CCFD.

5. The Nature, Location, Extent, Functions and Classes of Service to be Provided

The district, through a contract with CCFD, provides fire protection services, emergency medical service response, rescue response, arson investigations, and public education. Communication and dispatch services are provided by County Communications, also as part of the CCFD contract.