

## **4.9 South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District**

### **4.9.1 Overview**

The South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District (SCFD) provides fire protection and emergency medical service to the southern unincorporated areas of the County with a population of approximately 24,533. Figure 55 is a map depicting the boundaries and fire station locations of the South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District. The district contracts for service delivery with CAL FIRE. The Santa Clara unit of CAL FIRE also serves other areas outside the South County District boundaries that are designated SRAs. SCFD is governed by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. A seven-member Board of Fire Commissioners appointed by the County Board of Supervisors manages all affairs of the district, except land use, acquisition, or disposal, contracts with other public agencies, and employment of counsel<sup>10</sup>.

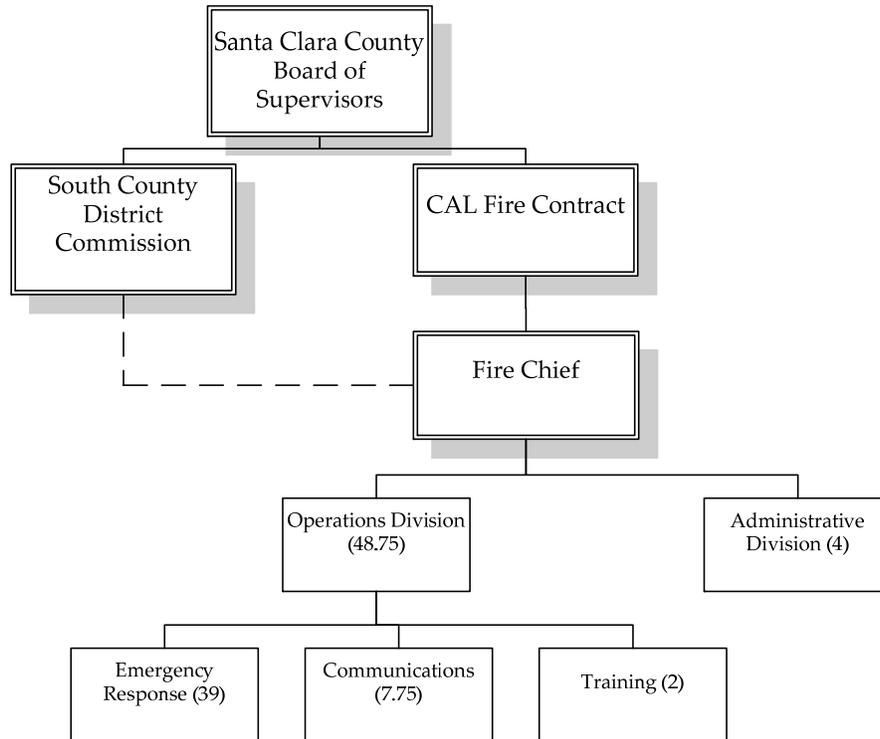
As the cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill have annexed new areas, one SCFD station has become included within the Gilroy city limits and one within the Morgan Hill city limits. The SCFD has automatic aid agreements with the Gilroy Fire Department, CCFD, San Jose Fire Department and the Pajaro, San Benito and Merced/Mariposa departments. A multi-agency group comprised of SCFD, CCFD and the cities of Gilroy and Morgan Hill is studying regionalization options.

The department organization chart is shown in Figure 50 below.

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<sup>10</sup> Pursuant to Resolution adopted by the Board of Directors on June 17, 1980.

Figure 50: South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District Organization Chart



#### 4.9.2 Budget

The SCFD is funded primarily by property tax. Expenditures by function and type are shown in Tables 65 and 66, as reported by the FY 2010-11 budget.<sup>11</sup>

Table 65: Expenditures by Function

Function	Expenditure
<b>Administrative and Management</b>	\$1,051,713
<b>Operations</b>	\$3,459,170
<b>Fire Prevention</b>	\$95,000
<b>Other</b>	\$1,293,437
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$5,899,320</b>

<sup>11</sup> Not all departments report expenditures by function. Where such a distribution was not included in budget documents, Management Partners asked departments to sort expenditures into functions to provide a basis for comparing department expenditures on emergency response activities.

Table 66: Expenditures by Type

Function	Expenditure
Salaries and Benefits	\$0
Operations and Maintenance	\$5,804,320
Subtotal Operations	\$5,804,320
Capital	\$95,000
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$5,899,320</b>

Table 67 shows revenues for FY 2010-11.

Table 67: Revenues

Source	Revenue
Property Tax	\$3,859,000
Fees, EMS	\$189,777
Fire Prevention	\$80,000
Contracts – Mitigation Fee	\$51,000
Other	\$184,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$4,363,777</b>

The unreserved fund balance on June 30, 2010 for the SCFD was \$2,285,624 for the General Fund; this is a decrease of \$473,166 from the previous year. The unreserved fund balance for the General Fund is 39% of its general fund expenditures for the year. As SCFD budgets major maintenance and apparatus in the year purchased, expenditures can fluctuate significantly between years; the department uses its reserve as necessary to fund such expenditures.

### 4.9.3 Stations

The district has four fire stations. The Morgan Hill station is owned by CAL FIRE. Masten station is owned by the SCFD district and is a converted house that the district obtained in 1980; ADA repairs and remodeling is budgeted for FY 2010-11. Treehaven is leased from Gilroy Gardens and needs work. Funding for repairs and remodeling for this station will be negotiated with the City of Gilroy. The Pacheco Pass station is owned by CAL FIRE.

### 4.9.4 Staffing

The department has 36.25 FTEs (of which 32.75 are sworn) and ten volunteers. Table 68 shows the budgeted personnel for FY 2010-11. All apparatus are staffed with companies of three, including a paramedic. The initial response to a single

alarm structure fire is 19 personnel in the summer and 14 personnel in the winter.

Table 68: Staffing

	Sworn	Non-Sworn	Total
<b>Administrative and Management</b>	0.00	1.50	1.50
<b>Operations</b>	29.75	1.00	30.75
<b>Fire Prevention</b>	0.00	1.00	1.00
<b>Other (FC/P Amador)</b>	3.00	0.00	3.00
<b>Total FTEs</b>	<b>32.75</b>	<b>3.50</b>	<b>36.25</b>

#### 4.9.5 Labor Agreements

Table 69 lists labor agreements for the district. The SEIU and CAUSE labor agreements have both expired. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and International Union of Operating Engineers both have tentative agreements.

Table 69: Labor Agreements

Labor Agreements	Term	Expires
SEUI 1000	2 years	June 30, 2010
CAUSE State Law Enforcement Association	3 years	June 30, 2008
CA Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (tentative)	3 years	July 1, 2013
Intl' Union of Operating Engineers (tentative)	2 years	July 1, 2012

#### 4.9.6 Benefits

Table 70 shows pension and health benefits for sworn personnel.

Table 70: Benefits

Benefits	
<b>Pension</b>	CalPERS 3% @ 50 (safety staff)
<b>Health</b>	State's 85-80 plan

#### 4.9.7 Apparatus

The district has four engines, one truck and one rescue apparatus. One engine is in reserve. Engines are replaced at 12 years due to the high mileage needed to cover the district. Replacements are funded through the General Fund and reserves. Table 71 displays the district’s apparatus.

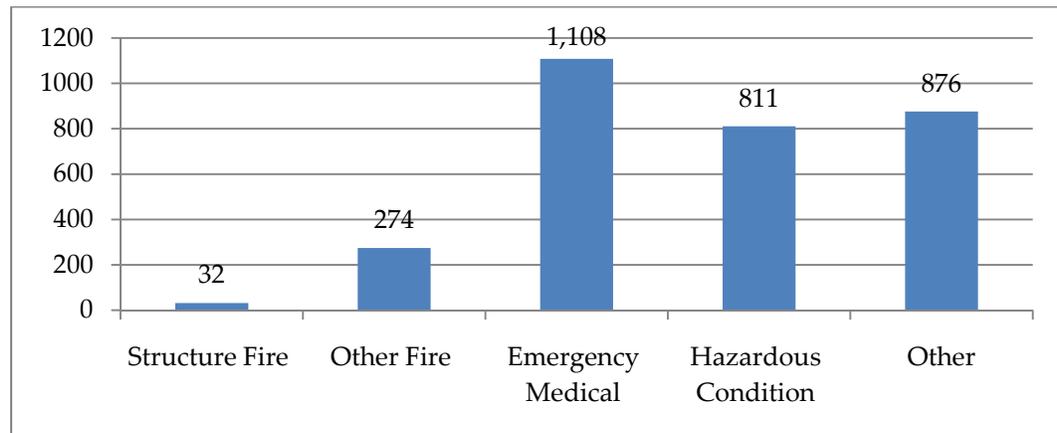
Table 71: Apparatus

Apparatus	Year	Type
SCC-LITL-U02	2005	Heavy Rescue Trailer
Admin1617	2010	SUV
B1617	2010	Pick Up
BS 1	2002	Trailer
Engine 1	2008	Type 1
Engine 2	2010	Type 1
Engine 3	2003	Type 1
Reserve Engine 4	1994	Type 1
Reserve Engine 5	1998	Type 1
Repair 1632	2009	Pick Up
SQ 2	2004	Pick Up
Truck 2	1987	Ladder Truck
Utility 1617	2003	Pick Up
Utility 1627	2008	Stakeside
Water tender 1	2000	Type 1
Water tender 2	2002	Type 1

#### 4.9.8 Service Delivery

Santa Clara County Communications is the public safety answering point for emergency calls within the service area of the South County Fire District. The call is initially received by County Comm and then is transferred to the CAL FIRE Emergency Communications Center for fire dispatch. Emergency medical dispatch is provided by County Comm. During 2009, 3,101 calls for service were reported with 1,108 (36%) for EMS. Figure 51 shows all calls for service in 2009 according to type of call.

Figure 51: Calls for Service in 2009



Mutual aid and automatic aid agreements are in place with the City of Gilroy, CCFD, Pajaro Valley Fire District and the San Benito County Fire Department. There is also an agreement to share a battalion chief between SCFD, Gilroy Fire Department, and CCFD. The regionalization study group mentioned above is analyzing the utilization of a full boundary drop service protocol for South County, Gilroy and Morgan Hill. Table 72 lists automatic aid given and received in 2009. The district combines mutual and automatic aid.

Table 72: Mutual and Automatic Aid in 2009

Agency	Mutual Aid Received	Automatic Aid Received	Mutual Aid Given	Automatic Aid Given
Gilroy Fire		367		234
CCFD		323		531
San José		183		22
Pajaro Fire		40		24
San Benito		56		48
Merced/Mariposa		0		17
<b>Total</b>		<b>969</b>		<b>876</b>

Table 73 shows response standards and performance in 2009.

Table 73: Response Standards and Performance for 2009

Measure	Standard*	Actual Performance
<b>Emergency calls – non-medical</b>	Meet response time standard on 90% of calls	90%
<b>Emergency calls - medical</b>	90% standard	97.53%

\* Response standards for non-medical emergency calls are established by the department. The County EMS agency has established the 90% compliance standard for medical emergency calls; this standard applies to each category, i.e., urban, suburban, etc.

The district has established non-medical emergency response time standards depending upon the nature of the call.

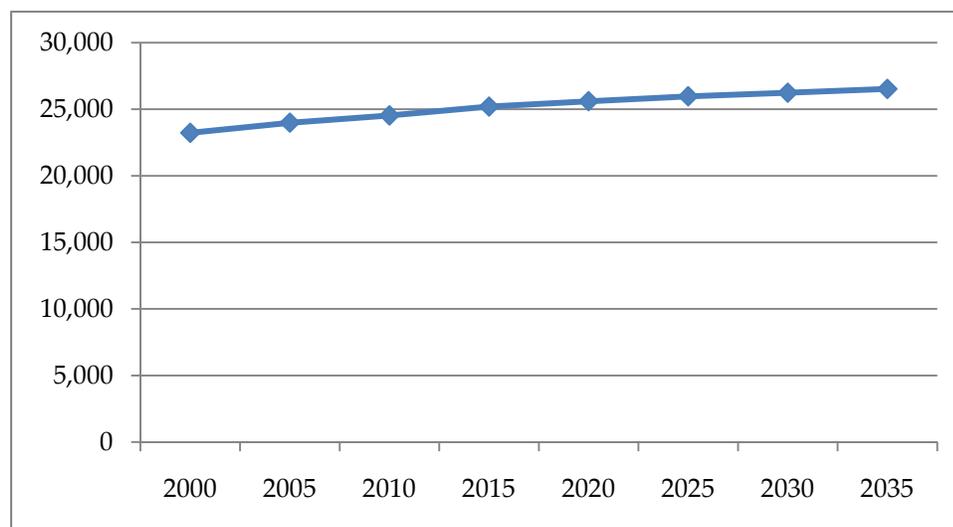
The District’s ISO rating is a 5 within five miles of a district station or a station with an auto aid agreement. Outside of these areas the rating is an 8.

The district utilizes a contract employee to conduct fire inspections and community education. Development review services are provided by CCFD. Training is provided by CDF.

#### 4.9.9 Trends and Projections

Projections show that the district’s population will increase by an estimated 8% to approximately 26,500 between 2010 and 2035 (an annualized rate of .3%), as shown in Figure 52.

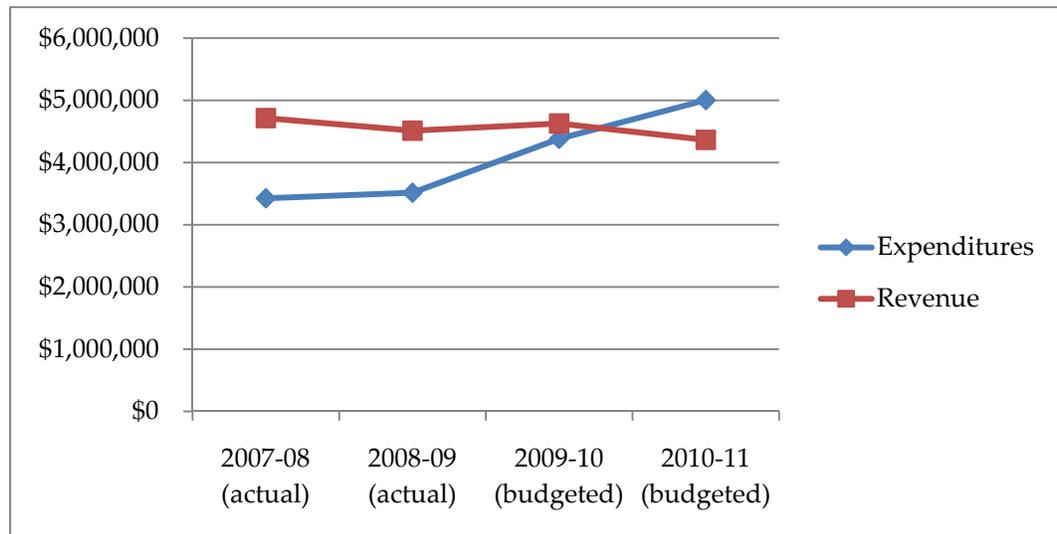
Figure 52: Projected Population South Santa Clara County 2000 to 2035



Source: Prepared by LAFCO based upon the 2000 census and ABAG projections 2009.

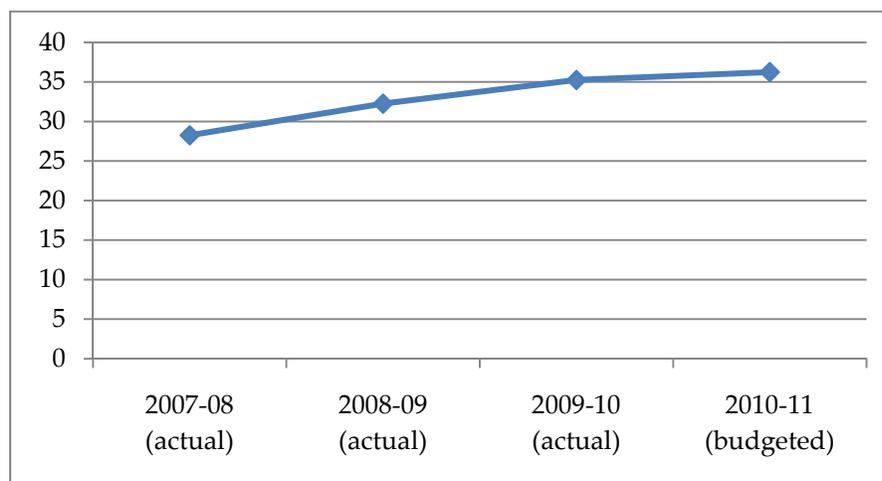
Fire Department expenditures have increased significantly (by 65%) during the past four fiscal years. This primarily reflects the purchase of replacement apparatus. Figure 53 shows department expenditures between FY 2007-08 and FY 2010-11.

Figure 53: Expenditures and Revenues 2007-08 to 2010-11



Staffing levels have increased from 28.25 budgeted FTEs in FY 2007-08 to 36.25 budgeted FTEs in FY 2010-11, an increase of 28%. The increase reflects going to three person companies on all apparatus. Staffing levels are shown in Figure 54, below.

Figure 54: Staffing



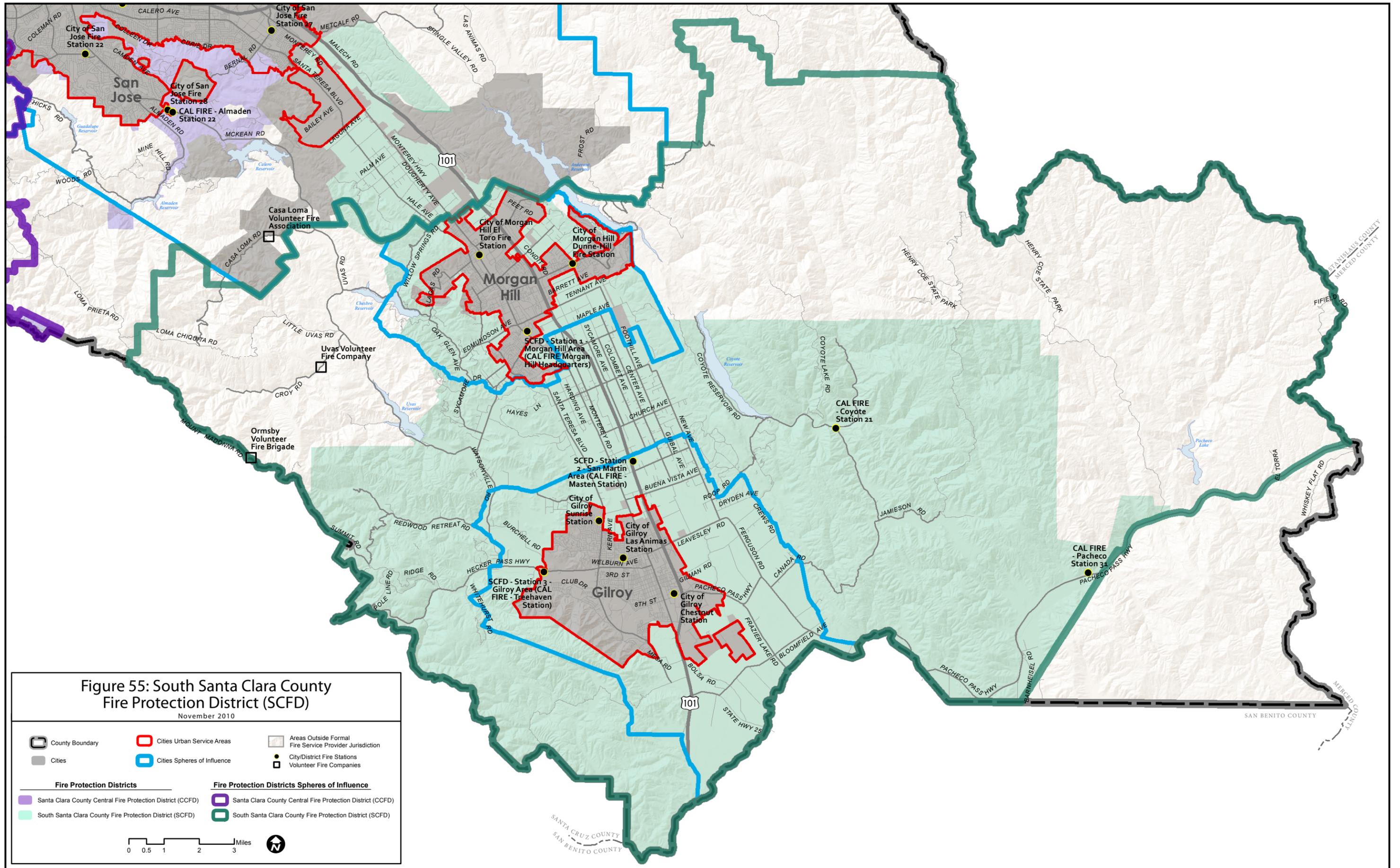


Figure 55: South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District (SCFD)

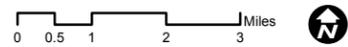
November 2010

- 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**

- Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD)
- South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District (SCFD)
- Santa Clara County Central Fire Protection District (CCFD)
- South Santa Clara County Fire Protection District (SCFD)



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