



AGENDA ITEM 7B

MEETING: May 25, 2016
TO: Humboldt LAFCo Commissioners
FROM: Colette Metz, Administrator
SUBJECT: **South County Regional Fire Protection Services Municipal Service Review**
The Commission will consider adopting the South County Regional Fire Protection Services Municipal Service Review (MSR), including sphere of influence recommendations for each agency.

The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act directs Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCos) to regularly prepare municipal service reviews in conjunction with establishing and updating each local agency's sphere of influence. The legislative intent of the municipal service review is to proactively assess the availability and sufficiency of local governmental services. Municipal service reviews may also lead LAFCos to take other actions under their authority, such as forming, consolidating, or dissolving one or more local agencies in addition to any related sphere changes.

BACKGROUND

At the March 16, 2016 meeting, the Commission reviewed draft agency profiles for the majority of the districts included in the South County Fire MSR. The profiles largely incorporate technical information collected and analyzed by staff from agency questionnaires and follow up interviews. The report also draws on recent fire planning efforts, including the 2013 Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan and the 2014 Humboldt County Fire Chief's Association Annual Fire Report. These profiles have been distributed to each agency for their internal review and comment to identify any technical corrections or related edits before final Commission review and approval.

DISCUSSION

The draft report and its analysis of current fire protection services largely focuses on the out of district response services provided by each district to areas surrounding their district boundaries. Out of district response area boundaries were developed by Humboldt County Planning staff, in close coordination with the Districts as part of regional fire planning efforts. Additionally, a series of planning meetings have been conducted with local fire departments within the Avenues focus area in coordination with County staff. These meetings have focused on discussing the range of potential options for addressing service challenges and prioritizing which options have the most potential and merit further exploration.

The report recommends that the spheres of influence for each district be expanded to match the out of district response areas in order to facilitate annexation or other organizational changes in the future. Updated spheres of influence to match out of district response areas will support formalizing fire protection services in unincorporated areas not covered by local fire districts.

Staff respectfully seeks Commission input with regards to content, conclusions, and recommendations provided in the South County Fire MSR.

RECOMMENDATION

This item has been agendized for consideration as part of a noticed public hearing. The following procedures are recommended with respect to the Commission's consideration of this item:

- 1) Receive verbal report from staff;
- 2) Open the public hearing and invite testimony (mandatory); and
- 3) Discuss item and – if appropriate – close the hearing and consider action on recommendation:

"I move to approve the South County Regional Fire Services Municipal Service Review and adopt Resolution No. 16-05, updating the spheres of influence for each fire-related district studied in the MSR."

Attachments

Attachment A: South County Regional Fire Services MSR

Attachment B: Resolution No. 16-05

SOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE SERVICES

Municipal Service Review

PUBLIC HEARING DRAFT
MAY 25, 2016



HUMBOLDT LOCAL AGENCY FORMATION COMMISSION

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Acknowledgements:

LAFCo staff would like to thank the contributors to this Municipal Service Review. Input instrumental in completing this report was provided by: Jim Fulton, Mike and Debra Lake, Robert Richardson, George Monroe, Brian Anderson, Sue Sack, Sal Guerrerri, Peter Lawsky, Christine Conn, Lou Iglesias, and Hank Toburg. Special thanks to John Miller and Cybelle Immitt from Humboldt County Planning and Public Works Departments.

South County Regional Fire Services *Municipal Service Review*

Public Hearing Draft
May 25, 2016

Briceland Fire Protection District
Fruitland Ridge Fire Protection District
Garberville Fire Protection District
Miranda Community Services District
Myers Flat Fire Protection District
Redway Fire Protection District
Resort Improvement District No.1
Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District
Weott Community Services District
Whitethorn Fire Protection District

Prepared by
Humboldt LAFCo



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INTRODUCTION

The mandate for Local Agency Formation Commissions (LAFCOs) to conduct service reviews is part of the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 (CKH Act), California Government Code Section 56000 et seq. LAFCOs are required to conduct service reviews prior to or in conjunction with sphere of influence updates and are required to review and update the sphere of influence for each city and special district as necessary, but not less than once every five years. The service review must include an analysis of the service issues and written determinations in each of the following categories:

- Growth and population projections for the affected area;
- The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere;
- Present and planned capacity of public facilities, adequacy of public services, and infrastructure needs or deficiencies;
- Financial ability of the agency to provide services;
- Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities;
- Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies; and
- Any other matter affecting or related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by Commission policy.

The preparation of a municipal service review for fire protection service providers in the south county region serves to determine the best approaches for improving service levels and addressing the mismatch between fire-related district boundaries and response areas. The service review provides an overview of fire protection services along with profiles of each agency. The report also includes service review determinations and sphere of influence recommendations for each of the following fire-related agencies:

1. **Briceland Fire Protection District**
2. **Fruitland Ridge Fire Protection District**
3. **Garberville Fire Protection District**
4. **Miranda Community Services District**
5. **Myers Flat Fire Protection District**
6. **Redway Fire Protection District**
7. **Resort Improvement District No. 1 (Shelter Cove VFD)**
8. **Telegraph Ridge FPD**
9. **Weott Community Services District**
10. **Whitethorn Fire Protection District**

1.1 Uses of the Report

A regional approach for conducting this service review provides the opportunity identify shared trends relating to the adequacy, capacity, and cost of providing fire protection services to southern Humboldt County. Most local fire departments report having insufficient funding to adequately respond to the demands placed on their service. There are large populated areas of the county that do not fall within the boundaries of any fire-related district. These areas receive what is referred to as “goodwill service” from nearby district fire departments or non-district fire companies that do not have an official jurisdictional boundary. This goodwill service is not supported by any sustainable revenue source and requires district resources to respond outside of their jurisdictional boundary which puts additional strain on already overburdened resources.

This service review process serves to identify ways to expand fire district boundaries where appropriate to match their true response areas, to form new districts where non-governmental fire companies currently provide service, evaluate the feasibility of consolidations where appropriate, and identify and implement other measures to address the lack of complete community coverage and sustainable revenue. The potential uses of this report are described below.

To Update Spheres of Influence

This service review serves as the basis for updating the spheres of influence for the 10 fire districts included in the report. Specifically, a sphere of influence designates the territory LAFCo believes represents a district’s appropriate future jurisdiction and service area. All boundary changes, such as annexations, must be consistent with an affected district’s sphere of influence with limited exceptions.

To Consider Jurisdictional Boundary Changes

This service review contains a discussion of various alternative government structure options for efficient service provision. LAFCo is *not* required to initiate any boundary changes based on service reviews. However, LAFCo, other local agencies (including cities, special districts or the County) or the public may subsequently use this report together with additional research and analysis, where necessary, to pursue changes in jurisdictional boundaries.

Resource for Further Studies

Other entities and the public may use this report for further study and analysis of issues relating to fire protection and emergency medical services in southern Humboldt County.

1.2 Review Methods

The following information was gathered from the fire-related districts to understand the current status of district operations and services:

1. Governance and Organization
2. Financial
3. Personnel
4. Training
5. Calls for Service
6. Response Standards and Performance

7. Mutual/Automatic Aid
8. Stations and Apparatus

In addition, LAFCo obtained call data from annual reports published by the Fire Chief's Association, response mapping from County Planning staff, and regional fire service information from the Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Other source documents include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan
- Humboldt County General Plan Update
- Humboldt County Community Infrastructure and Services Technical Report
- Humboldt County Fire Chief's Association Annual Reports
- Humboldt County General Plan 2014 Housing Element

Information gathered was analyzed and applied to make the required determinations for each agency and reach conclusion about the focus issues identified in the service review. All information gathered for this report is filed by LAFCo for future reference.

FIRE PROTECTION OVERVIEW

This chapter provides a summary of fire protection services in Humboldt County and, more specifically, a comparative overview of the fire protection capabilities of the local agencies covered by this service review.

2.1 Humboldt County Fire Services

Fire and emergency services delivery in Humboldt County is complex. There are 45 fire departments providing fire protection to cities and unincorporated communities throughout the county. The majority of local fire service providers are associated with a special district, including one (1) County Service Area (CSA); eight (8) Community Service Districts (CSDs); 19 Fire Protection Districts (FPDs), and one (1) Resort Improvement District (RID), with the remainder consisting of two (2) city fire departments, and 13 fire companies not associated with local government agencies. There are also four (4) state, federal, or tribal fire departments providing seasonal wildland fire protection that also work in cooperation with local fire departments.

The districts were formed to provide fire services within a specific jurisdictional boundary and are supported by revenue from a combination of taxes, fees, and fundraising. Many of these jurisdictional boundaries were created as far back as the 1930's. Since that time, neighborhoods, scattered subdivisions, and rural residential development have emerged outside of district boundaries. This newer development requires year-round fire protection and emergency services, which it receives in a variety of ways.

Some areas outside the boundaries of an established district receive fire protection from district resources responding outside of their jurisdictional areas. This type of out of district service is often referred to as "goodwill service." District fire departments provide service to these areas even though they are under no obligation to do so and receive no compensation for their service, other than donations. This practice can put a strain on already limited resources. Furthermore, property owners within the district may question why the services funded through their taxes are benefiting out of district residents, particularly if they pay a special tax or benefit assessment specifically for fire protection.

Many areas outside the boundaries of an established district receive fire protection from a fire company that is not affiliated with a district. These fire companies receive no tax revenue and depend solely on revenue generated from community donations, fundraisers, and grants. Some communities are more supportive of their local fire companies than others, and support can fluctuate dramatically depending on local economic conditions.

2.2 Measure Z Fire Services Planning

In November 2014, Humboldt County voters passed Measure Z, a half-cent sales tax to fund essential public safety services. Sales tax measures, by law, expire after five years. A Citizen's Advisory Committee was formed to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors as to the expenditure of funds raised by Measure Z, anticipated to be \$8.9 million in fiscal year 2015-16.

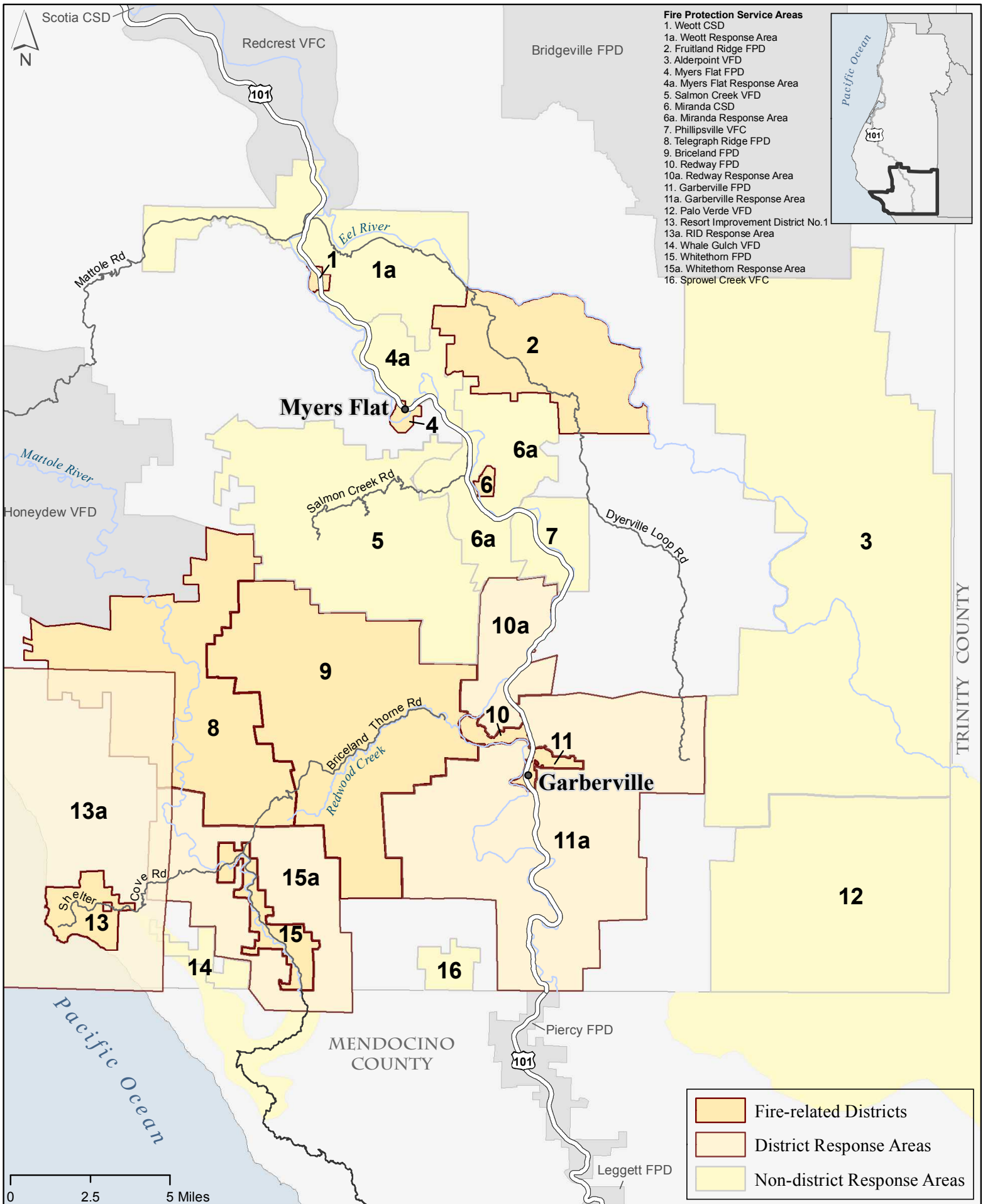
The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association was granted \$2.2 million in Measure Z funds for fiscal year 2015-16, and is proposed to receive approximately \$1.8 million in fiscal year 2016-17. These funds have been used to purchase basic essential safety equipment and communication services to ensure there will not be a reduction or degradation in current fire service responses. In addition, a portion of funds granted to the Chiefs Association have been used to support a formal planning effort led by County staff to address the mismatch between fire-related district boundaries and where goodwill services are provided but not supported by a sustainable revenue source. These funds may also be used to cover costs associated with the LAFCo process related to receiving, reviewing, and approving applications for fire-related district formation and expansion, as well as the election process. These costs, as well as the lack of administrative staff and expertise to start and complete the district formation and expansion process, have previously prohibited local fire-related districts from addressing the challenges identified in this report.

2.3 Service Providers and Service Areas

The study area for this service review is the south county region where a significant portion of the unincorporated area is located outside local fire-related district boundaries. Community fire protection services are provided in this area by 10 special districts and 6 volunteer fire companies, all of which are the subject of this report. The following table summarizes the district and out of district response areas, fire stations, equipment available, and number of firefighters for each district. As shown in Table 2-1, the combined out of district response areas for these districts cover approximately 146,012 acres (or 228 square miles), which represents an area over two times larger than the total district areas combined. While the district boundaries define the geographical extent of the authority and responsibility of a district, the district response areas have been established over time in areas where no fire-related district exists.

Table. 2-1 South County Fire Service Provider Summary

Service Provider	Total Calls for Service 2014	Area in Square Miles		Stations	Apparatus	Firefighters
		District	Non-District Response Area			
Briceland FPD	64	44	0	2	8	0 paid 28 volunteer 22 auxiliary
Fruitland Ridge FPD	21	20	0	1	3	0 paid 7 volunteer 10 auxiliary
Garberville FPD	279	1.1	56.5	1	4	0 paid 15 volunteer 6 auxiliary
Miranda CSD	112	0.5	8.5	1	5	0 paid 15 volunteer 5 auxiliary
Myers Flat FPD	85	0.7	1.9	1	2	0 paid 2 volunteer 0 auxiliary
Redway FPD	150	1.12	11	1	5	0 paid 11 volunteer 0 auxiliary
RID No. 1	118	4.2	90	1	10	1 paid 11 volunteer 1 auxiliary
Telegraph Ridge FPD	25	39	0	2	5	0 paid 13 volunteer 3 auxiliary
Weott CSD	46	0.5	39	1	2	0 paid 8 volunteer 0 auxiliary
Whitethorn FPD	42	4.7	19.5	2	6	0 paid 12 volunteer 5 auxiliary



Southern Humboldt Regional Fire Districts

Figure
1

SERVICE AGENCY PROFILES

This chapter provides an overview of the 10 fire-related districts and 6 volunteer fire companies providing fire protection services in southern Humboldt County. Included is a description of each agency's organizational development, tables listing key service information, and maps of each agency's jurisdictional and response area boundaries.

3.1 BRICELAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

3.2 FRUITLAND RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

3.3 GARBERVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

3.4 MIRANDA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

3.5 MYERS FLAT FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

3.6 REDWAY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

3.7 RESORT IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (SHELTER COVE VFD)

3.8 TELEGRAPH RIDGE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

3.9 WEOTT COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

3.10 WHITETHORN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

3.1 Briceland Fire Protection District

INTRODUCTION

Table 3-1. Contact Information

Contact:	Jim Fulton, Fire Chief
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 1240, Redway, CA 95560
Phone Number:	(707) 932-0023
Email	bricelandfire@gmail.com
Website	www.bricelandfire.org
Types of Services:	Fire Suppression; Rescue Services; Basic Life Support
Population Served:	603 residents
Size of Service Area:	28,177 acres
Number of Staff	28 volunteer, 22 auxiliary

Background

The Briceland Fire Protection District (FPD or District) is located in southwestern Humboldt County, west of Redway along Briceland-Thorne Road and serves the Redwood Creek watershed. Briceland VFD, formerly known as the Beginnings VFD, has been serving the Briceland area since 1976 and provides wildland and structural fire suppression, emergency medical aid, and other emergency response services. As a part of the District formation process, LAFCo conducted a municipal service review (MSR) for the District in 2011.

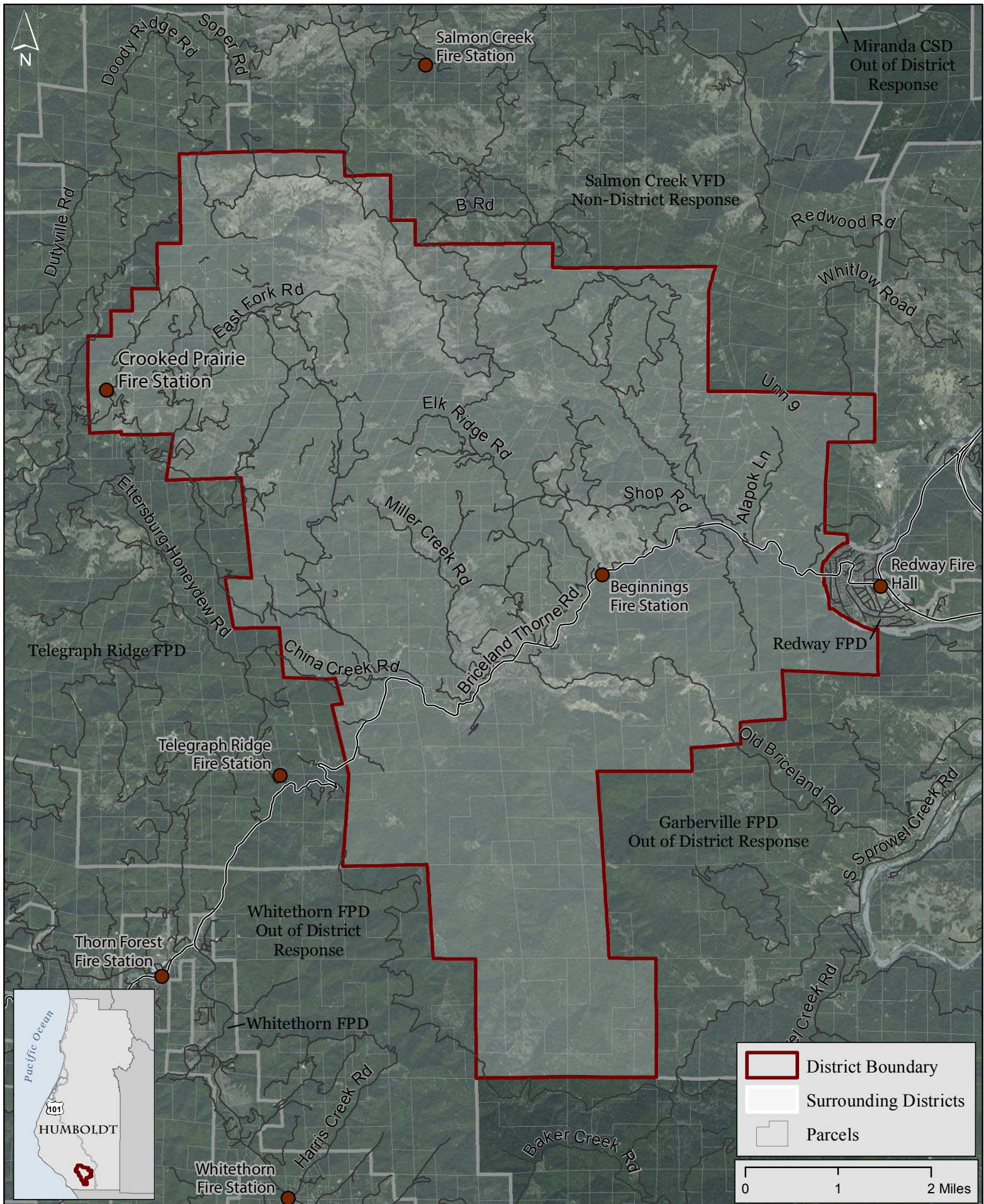
Formation

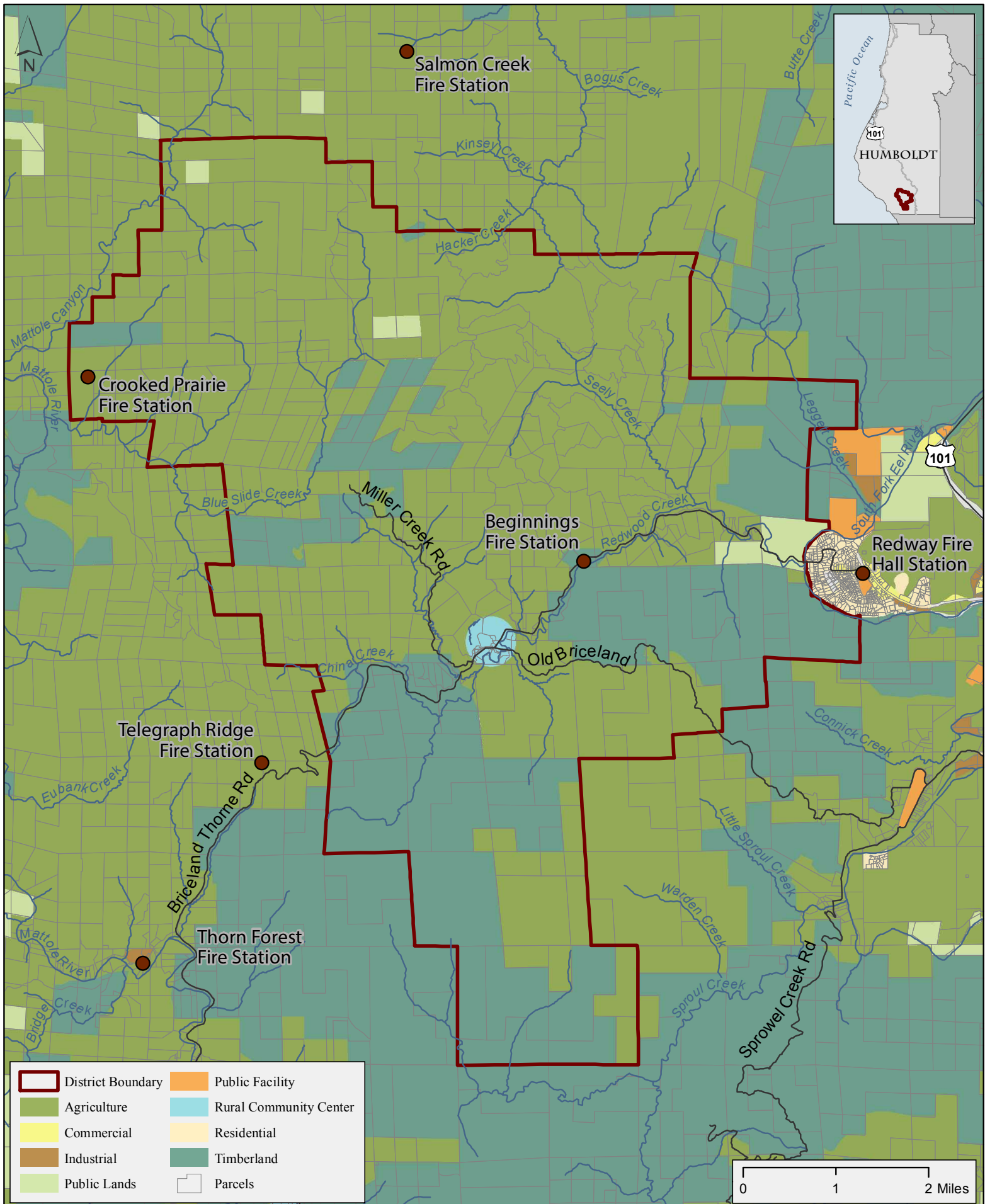
Briceland FPD was formed in September 2012 in order to establish a long-term community based funding source to support the continued delivery of fire protection services by the Briceland Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). A successful special election was held on August 28, 2012, which included voter approval of a special tax on property. The District now provides fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (Division 12, Part 2.7 of the California Health and Safety Code, Sections 13800-13970). It is governed by a five-member Board of Directors who are elected by registered voters that live within the District. The District contracts for all fire-related services with the Briceland VFD, which is governed by a separate Board of Directors.

District boundary

The Briceland FPD boundaries were drawn to match the historic response area of the Briceland VFD. The District covers approximately 44 square miles (28,172 acres) in area and contains the unincorporated town of Briceland and the surrounding rural residential areas (2011 MSR). While the boundaries of the District coincide with the agency's response area, the Briceland FPD may be the most appropriate service provider for undeveloped timberlands south of the district boundaries if and when development and subdivision are proposed.

Additionally, the District has entered into an agreement with the neighboring Telegraph Ridge FPD for them to provide fire protection and related emergency services in the Crooked Prairie area (the northernmost part of the Briceland FPD). As a part of this formal agreement the Telegraph Ridge FPD also absorbed the Crooked Prairie fire station.





Growth and population

Based on the 2010 Census, the estimated population of Briceland FPD is 603 residents and 373 total housing units. The average density of Census Blocks that intersect the District boundaries is 0.02 persons per acre and the average density of housing units is 0.01 housing units per acre (2011 MSR). New residential development within the District boundary is expected to occur over time at current rates, which range from 0.25 to 1.0 percent per year. Significant levels of growth during the next ten years are not likely to occur (Humboldt County Legacy, 2014).

Existing and planned uses

The Briceland FPD boundary includes the Briceland Rural Community Center (defined pursuant to the Humboldt County Framework General Plan) and the surrounding rural residential areas (see Figure 3). A small portion of the area is within and subject to the land use policies the Garberville-Redway-Alderpoint-Benbow Community Plan, adopted June 30, 1987, in addition to the Framework Plan and Zoning Regulations. The Humboldt County Framework General Plan and proposed General Plan Update designate most lands within the district boundaries for agriculture, timber, and rural residential development.

All properties within District boundary use on-site septic systems; lot sizes must be large enough to accommodate the septic system, thereby reducing overall development density. The Briceland Community Services District (CSD) provides drinking water to a service area of approximately 70 acres of the District. The Briceland CSD water system is in poor condition, source capacity is unable to meet current maximum day demands. The treatment system is unable to meet turbidity performance standards during winter months, and storage capacity is barely able to meet even one day of maximum day demands. Briceland CSD is currently operating under a moratorium for new connections imposed by the District Board of Directors (Humboldt County Legacy, 2014). Therefore, little or no development is projected to occur within the 70 acres of the Briceland CSD service area over the next 20 years (2011 MSR).

Disadvantaged unincorporated communities

LAFCo is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) as part of this municipal service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. Per California Senate Bill 244, a DUC is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the median household income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide MHI. Within a DUC, three basic services are evaluated: water, sewage, and fire protection. Briceland FPD provides one of these services – fire protection, and is therefore responsible for assuring that this service is adequately provided to the community. Wastewater service is not provided by a local service provider, and the community relies upon individual private septic tanks for sewage disposal. As mentioned above, the Briceland Community Service District (CSD) provides drinking water to a service area of approximately 70 acres of the District.

The community is identified as an unincorporated legacy community (ULC) within the 2014 Humboldt County Housing Element. A legacy community is defined as a place that meets the following criteria:

- Contains 10 or more dwelling units in close proximity to one another;
- Is either within a city sphere of influence (SOI), is an island within a city boundary, or is geographically isolated and has existed for more than 50 years; and
- Has a median household income that is 80 percent or less than the statewide median household income.

The Briceland FPD is in Community Tract 06023011500, which the California Department of Water Resources identifies as a Disadvantaged Community Tract. The Tract has a MHI of \$38,617, which is 63 percent of the state average MHI (Census Quickfacts, 2013), thereby qualifying the area as disadvantaged. Should territory in the surrounding area be evaluated for annexation in the future, disadvantaged communities in the area should be considered further.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Service Demand and Service Levels

Fire protection services for the District are provided by the Briceland VFD. The Briceland VFD is an active member of the fire service in Humboldt County, is a participant in the countywide fire protection mutual aid agreement, is a member of the Humboldt County dispatch cooperative, and has an active role in the Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue Team. They provide a full range of fire protection services, including structure, wildland, and wildland-interface suppression, emergency medical services, technical rescue, and general public assistance responses. (Fire Chiefs Association, 2014).

The Briceland VFD responded to approximately 64 calls for service in 2014, of which approximately 22 calls, or 34 percent, were fires of various types and 23 calls, or 36 percent, were medical related. Other calls such as vehicle accidents, which comprise approximately 18 percent of total calls, may also involve the delivery of emergency medical services. Typically the Department's responses to fire calls have averaged between 30 and 40 percent of their total calls. Refer to Table 3-2 for an over view of Briceland VFD service calls.

Table 3-2. Department Numbers (2008-2014)

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	20	20	3	2	7	9	7
Struct. Fires	4	4	4	0	2	3	3
Other Fires	11	11	4	2	5	10	12
Veh. Acc.	13	13	16	6	12	14	12
Medicals	27	27	30	16	12	23	23
Haz/Menace	3	3	3	0	4	1	2
Public Assists	5	5	1	3	4	1	2
Others	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Total Responses	83	83	61	29	46	63	64
% Medical	33%	33%	49%	55%	26%	37%	36%
% Fire Response	42%	42%	18%	14%	30%	35%	34%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	3,210	3,210	201	1,140	1,540	1,720	1,230
Training	110	110	4,080	3,280	3,400	3,250	3,386
Maintenance	98	98	102	180	198	210	288
Fundraising	1,210	1,210	1,180	190	205	155	5,416
Total Hours	4,628	4,628	5,563	4,790	5,343	5,335	10,320

Personnel							
Volunteer	25	25	30	18	18	18	28
Auxiliary	5	5	-	-	7	8	22
Total Personnel	30	30	30	18	25	26	50

Source: CAL FIRE-Fortuna Interagency Command Center, Humboldt County Fire Services Annual Report

Personnel

The Briceland VFD has 28 volunteer firefighters and is assisted by 22 auxiliary personnel who are non-firefighters. They continually recruit new volunteers to join the Department. Over the last seven years the number of volunteer fire firefighters serving the Department has averaged around 20, but the number of auxiliary personnel has drastically increased from less than 10 in 2008 to 22 in 2014.

The Briceland VFD currently has two paramedics (MSR 2011), 8 EMTs, and 12 certified Medical First Responders (Fire Chiefs Association, 2014).

The North Coast Emergency Medical Services Agency (North Coast EMS) establishes certifications, the scope of practice, and procedures for departments and members of fire departments responding to medical emergencies. North Coast EMS has Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with First Responder Basic Life Support (BLS) and First Responder Advanced Life Support (ALS) departments. Most local fire organizations have personnel that are certified at the BLS level. The Briceland FPD is currently an ALS service provider (2011 MSR).

The Briceland area is a long distance from both ambulance service providers and hospital emergency departments. Having a fire department that is an ALS service provider increases the likelihood that local residents will survive serious medical incidents. ALS providers may perform invasive and non-invasive medical procedures that are in addition to the services that can be provided by BLS providers. It costs approximately \$2,000 per year for the Briceland VFD to purchase medications and supplies as well as maintain its ALS certification (2011 MSR).

Current Infrastructure and Facilities

The Briceland VFD operates from two fire stations, one located approximately 1.7 miles east of Briceland in the center of the District and the second located in Blue Slide Creek. The Briceland fire station, which has been used by the Department since 1978 (MSR 2011), is a three apparatus bay with the department office (Fire Chiefs Association, 2014). Blue Slide Creek is a two apparatus bay. The following table describes the apparatus utilized by the Briceland VFD and indicates where they are stationed.

Table 3-3. Facilities and Apparatus

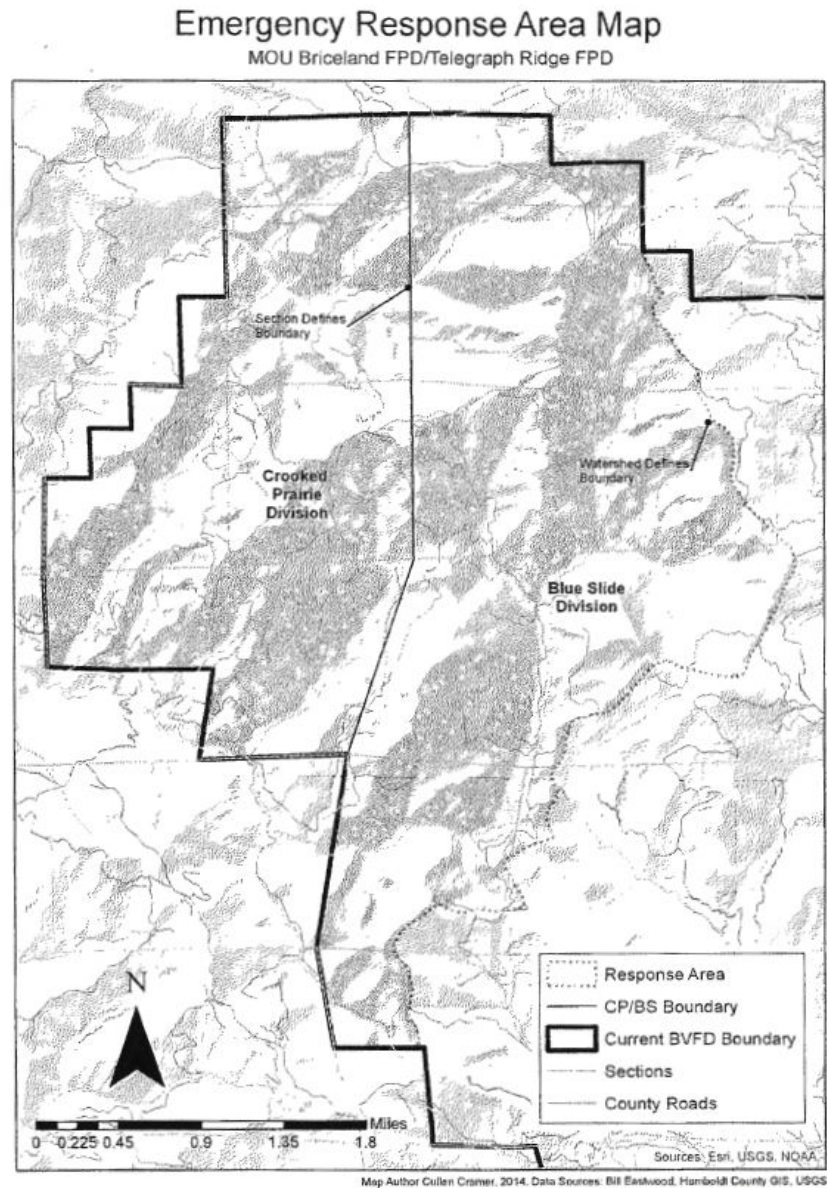
Station	Address	Apparatus (seats)	Common Name	Year	Type	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
1	Main Station 4440 Briceland-Thorne Road Redway CA 95560	E-5411 (5)	Engine	1989	I	1250	750
		E-5436 (5)	Engine	1994	III	1000	500
		A-5446 (3)	Attack	1992	IV	250	200
		WT-5463(2)	Water Tender		T2	250	1500
		R-5471 (2)	Rescue		III	n/a	n/a
		C-5400	Chief's Truck	1992	n/a	n/a	n/a

Station	Address	Apparatus (seats)	Common Name	Year	Type	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
2	Blue Slide Creek Station 4487 Blue Slide Creek Rd. Redway CA 95560	E-5437 (4)	Engine	1971	III	500	500
		A-5446 (3)	Attack		IV	250	200

The Briceland VFD used to operate from a third station- located in Crooked Prairie. In 2014 the District entered into a formal agreement with the Telegraph Ridge FPD (TRFPD) for them to provide fire protection and related emergency services in the Crooked Prairie area—the northernmost part of the Briceland FPD (Fire Chiefs Association, 2014). As a part of this process, TRFPD also absorbed the Crooked Prairie fire station and two pieces of equipment. The members of the Crooked Prairie crew now train with and have transferred to TRVFD (Fire Chiefs Association, 2014). TRFPD now contractually responds to the Crooked Prairie area and both agencies work closely together to ensure efficient response coverage. Briceland FPD compensates Telegraph Ridge FPD for their coverage of this area (Telegraph Ridge Fire Chief, personal communication, May 2016). See Figure 4 below.

The Briceland VFD has an equipment replacement plan, but equipment needs regularly exceed available funds. The Briceland VFD regularly pursues grant funding to address equipment and training needs. As a result, equipment and apparatuses are acquired as funds are available (MSR 2011).

Figure 4. Crooked Prairie Station MOU Agreement



ISO Rating

There are several benchmarks by which the level of fire service provided by an agency may be measured, and the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification, or ISO PPC, is one such measure. The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest is 10. Based on an ISO audit, the Briceland VFD has a "5" ISO rating in hydranted areas and a "5Y" in non-hydranted areas (Humboldt County Legacy 2014). Such a rating provides the residents of the Briceland community access to lower insurance rates, as opposed to a community with an agency who has a higher rating, such as a 9.

FINANCING

Current Revenues and Expenditures

The Briceland FPD is primarily supported through a voter-approved special tax, established during the formation of the District (~\$80 per parcel). Prior to District formation, the Briceland VFD supported its operations exclusively from fund raising, donations, and fees for providing emergency services by contract to CAL FIRE and other organizations. The Briceland VFD continues to carry out fund raising activities within the community and in most instances manage funds separate from the Briceland FPD (2011 MSR).

Table 3-4. Briceland FPD Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget	
Expenditures	
Salaries & Employee Benefits	\$10,898
Services & Supplies	\$69,290
Other Charges	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$0
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>\$80,188</i>
Revenues	
Special Tax	\$37,220
Contributions from Property Owners	\$8,500
Non-Tax Revenues	\$41,150
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$86,870</i>
Total Revenues	\$86,870
Total Expenditures	\$80,188
Total District Budget	\$6,682

ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

The District and Department have separate governing boards. The BVFD Board meets once a month, 4th Tuesday at Beginnings School 7 pm. Minutes and bodices are posted at the main station. The District board consists of five members and meets quarterly at Beginnings school. Meeting times and dates vary. The District reaches its constituents through its website (www.bricelandfire.org) and Facebook page.

Briceland FPD demonstrates accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Humboldt LAFCo. The District responded to the questionnaires, staff telephone calls, and cooperated with document requests.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

As set forth in Section 56430(a) of the CKH Act- In order to prepare and to update the SOI in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission. The commission shall include in the area designated for a service review the county, the region, the sub-region, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

(1) Growth and population projections for the affected area

- a) Briceland FPD serves an estimated population of 603 residents and 373 total housing units.
- b) The district boundaries include the Briceland Rural Community Center (defined pursuant to the Humboldt County Framework General Plan) and the surrounding rural residential areas.
- c) New development within the proposed district boundaries is expected to occur into the future at existing county-wide rates, which would likely range from 0.25 to 1.0 percent per year. Significant growth during the next ten years is not likely to occur.

(2) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence

- a) The Briceland FPD is in Community Tract 06023011500, which the California Department of Water Resources identifies as a Disadvantaged Community Tract.
- b) The Tract has a MHI of \$38,617, which is 63 percent of the state average MHI (Census Quickfacts, 2013), thereby qualifying the area as disadvantaged.
- c) Should territory in the surrounding area be evaluated for annexation in the future, disadvantaged communities in the area should be considered further.

(3) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies

- a) The formation of the district established a long-term dependable source of revenue which helps to stabilize the delivery of fire protection services to the Briceland area.

(4) Financing ability of agencies to provide services

- a) The Briceland FPD receives funding from a special tax that generates approximately \$41,000 per year and is used exclusively for fire protection purposes.
- b) The Briceland FPD Board of Directors are required to adopt an annual budget and administer its funds consistent with Fire Protection District Law and budgeting, accounting, and reporting procedures for special districts in California.

(5) Status of and, opportunities for, shared facilities

- a) The topography, natural boundaries, and drainage basins of the Briceland area were considered in the development of the Briceland FPD boundaries. These factors determine the areas that are accessed, or served, by the Briceland VFD, or that are served by adjacent fire departments.
- b) In 2015, it was determined that the Crooked Prairie area of Briceland FPD was better served by the Telegraph Ridge FPD. The two agencies now have a formal agreement in place for the Telegraph Ridge FPD to operate the Crooked Prairie Fire Station and to respond to calls for service in the surrounding territory.

(6) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

- a) The District collaborates with other fire service providers through countywide mutual aid agreements, an reciprocal arrangement that provides an increased level of service.
- b) The Briceland FPD is governed by an elected five-person Board of Directors.

c) The Briceland VFD maintains a website (www.bricelandfire.org) where it posts information about Department activities, documents and updates. At the present time, agenda, minutes and financial data are not posted.

(7) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery

a) Briceland FPD's boundary generally matches its response area. This corresponds with the District's sphere of influence that was established in 2011 as part of the district formation process. No change to the existing sphere of influence is recommended at this time.

3.2 Fruitland Ridge Fire Protection District

INTRODUCTION

Table 3-5. Contact Information

Contact:	Michael Lake, Chief
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 87, Myers Flat, CA 95554
Physical Address:	73 Kelsey Lane, Myers Flat, CA 95554
Phone Number:	707-943-3402
Email:	Lake_95554@yahoo.com
Website:	www.facebook.com/Fruitland-Ridge-Volunteer-Fire-Protection-District-294963422867/
Types of Services:	Fire Suppression; Rescue Services; Basic Life Support
Population Served:	338 residents (2010 Census)
Size of Service Area:	~12,671 acres
Number of Staff:	8 volunteer, 20 reserve

Background

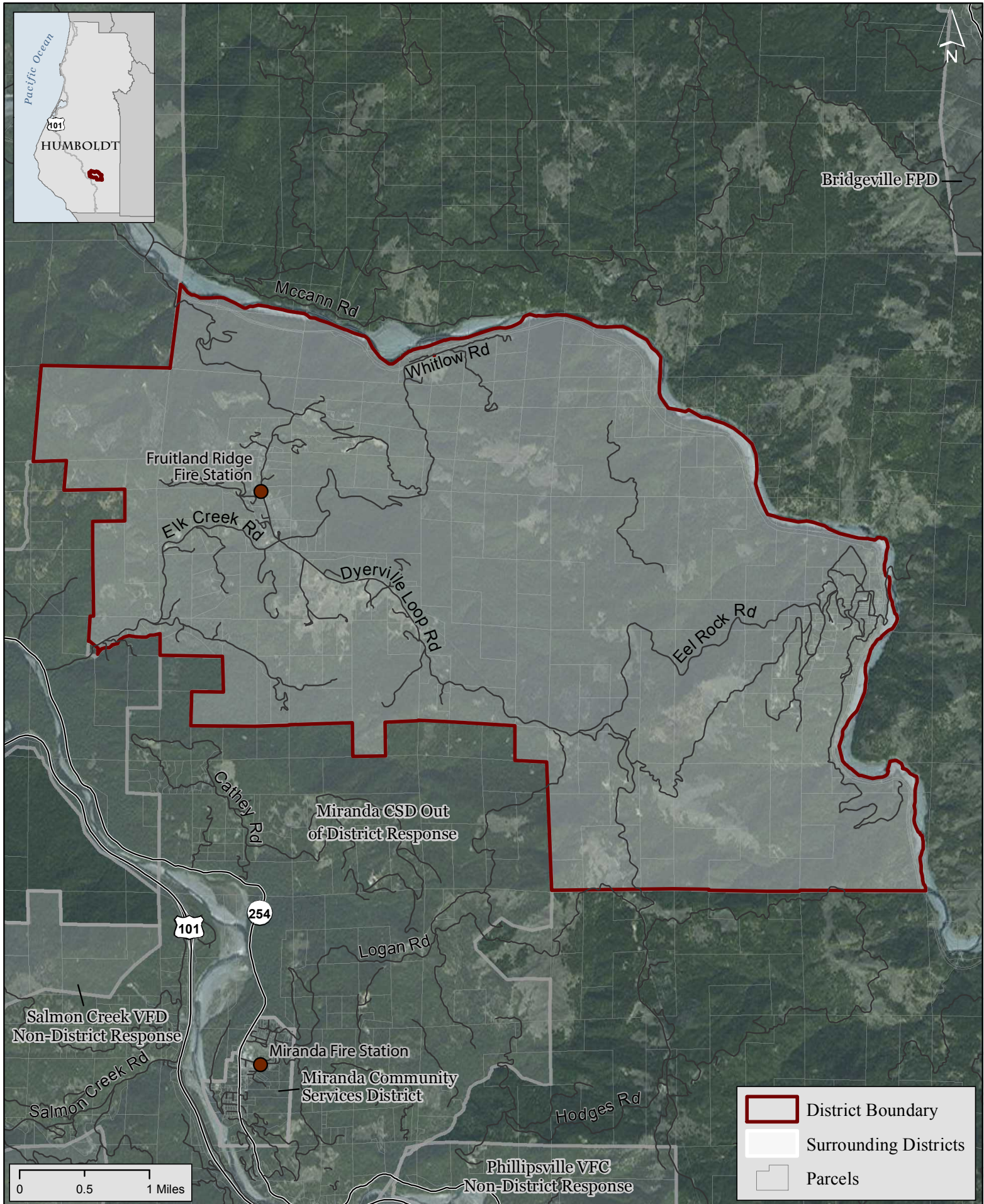
The Fruitland Ridge Fire Protection District (Fruitland Ridge FPD or District) provides fire suppression, emergency medical services, auto extrication, hazardous materials, and general public assistance responses. The District includes the Fruitland Ridge and Eel Rock communities. Services for the District are provided by the Fruitland Ridge Volunteer Fire Company (VFC). A municipal service review was conducted for the District as a part of the formation process in 2015. This profile will build upon and update the information in the 2015 document.

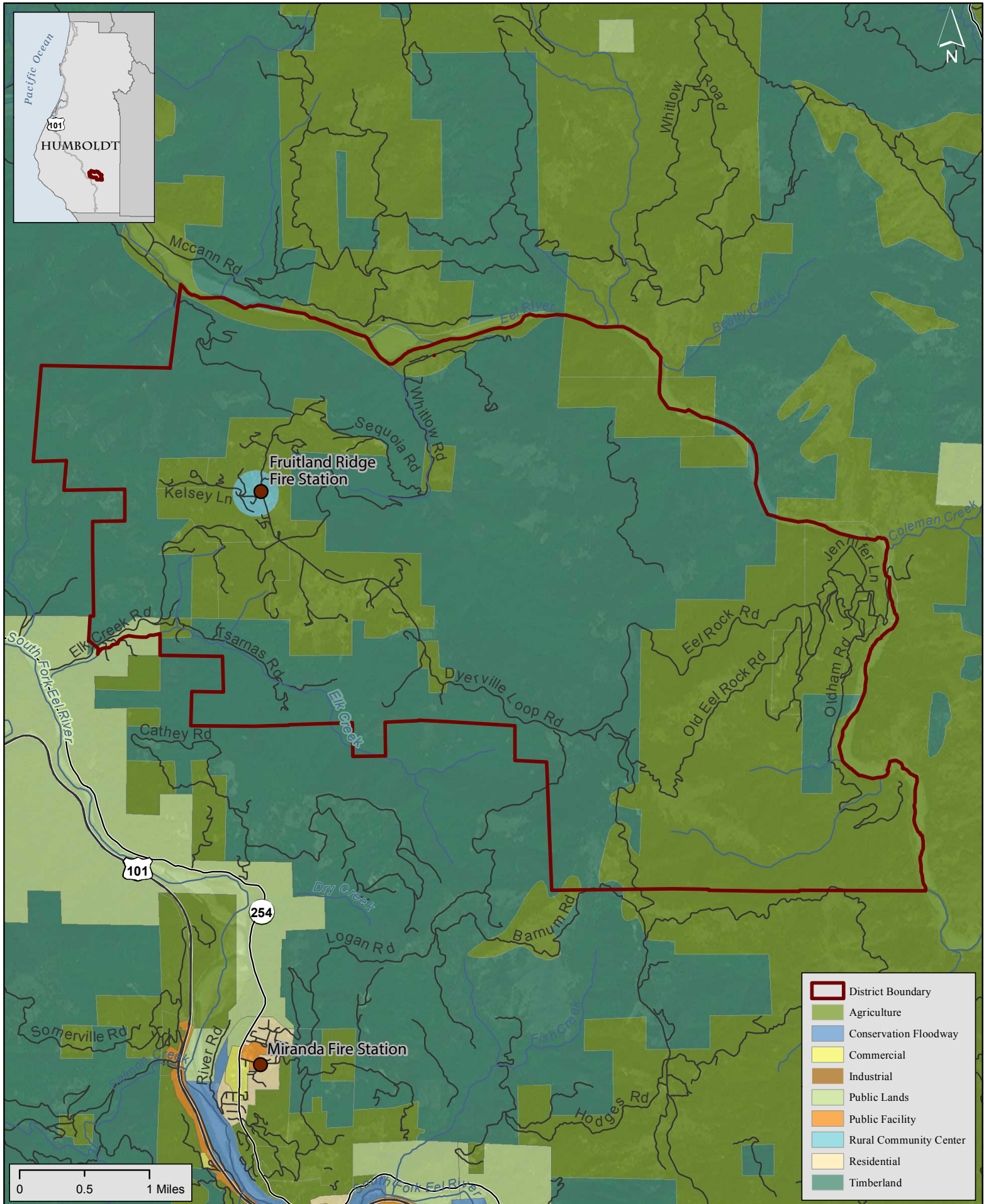
Formation

The Fruitland Ridge FPD formed in 2015 to support the continued operation of the Fruitland Ridge VFC. The District now provides fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (Division 12, Part 2.7 of the California Health and Safety Code, Sections 13800-13970). The District is governed by a three-member Board of Directors who are elected by registered voters that live within the District.

District Boundary

The Fruitland Ridge FPD boundaries cover approximately 12,671 acres (~20 square miles). The District's territory coincides with the Response Area into which the Fruitland VFC provides fire protection and emergency response services. The Myers Flat FPD and the Miranda CSD are the closest fire-related districts and are located one and two miles from the District boundaries, respectively. See Figure 5.





Growth And Population

Based on the 2010 Census, the Fruitland Ridge FPD includes a population of 327 residents and 195 total housing units. According to the Census of 2000 and 2010, the Fruitland Ridge area has decreased in population and gained housing units. Rather than indicate a significant change in population within the Fruitland Ridge area, these data more likely reflect a Census undercount, which is common in rural areas (MSR 2015).

Given uncertainties regarding past and future growth for the District, future District population has been estimated using a conservative growth rate of 1.0 percent per year. Assuming this growth rate and the Census 2010 population, the population of the Fruitland Ridge FPD could reach approximately 415 by the year 2030, or an increase of nearly four new residents per year. Therefore, the demand for fire protection service within the District boundaries is not expected to change significantly over the next 20 years (MSR 2015).

Existing And Planned Uses

All properties within District boundaries utilize on-site water and wastewater systems, which limits the maximum density of development. In addition, the Humboldt County Framework General Plan and Zoning Maps identify most land within District boundaries for timber production and grazing activities. However, rural residential uses (vacant and improved) occupy a significant portion of the District according to the Assessor (MSR 2015). The Fruitland and Eel Rock communities are also a part of the South Eel Fire Planning Compartment (Humboldt County Hazard Mitigation 2014).

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCo is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) as part of this municipal service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. Per California Senate Bill 244, a DUC is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the median household income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide MHI. Within a DUC, three basic services are evaluated: water, sewage, and fire protection. Fruitland FPD provides one of these services – fire protection – and is responsible for assuring that those services are adequately provided to the community.

The Fruitland community area, consisting of the proposed General Plan Update Rural Community Center boundary which generally follows parcels lines comprising the core of the community, is identified as an unincorporated legacy community (ULC) within the Humboldt County Housing Element (Humboldt County Legacy 2014). A legacy community is defined as a place that meets the following criteria:

- Contains 10 or more dwelling units in close proximity to one another;
- Is either within a city Sphere of Influence (SOI), is an island within a city boundary, or is geographically isolated and has existed for more than 50 years; and
- Has a median household income that is 80 percent or less than the statewide median household income.

The Fruitland community is in Census Tract 06023011600 which has an estimated household income of \$33,368 and qualifies as a DUC (Waterboard, 2016). There are currently no local agency service providers in Fruitland that provide water or sewer. Should territory in the surrounding area be evaluated for annexation, disadvantaged communities in the area may be considered further.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Service Demand and Service Levels

Fire protection services for the District are provided by the Fruitland Ridge VFC. The Fruitland Ridge VFC is an active member of the fire service in Humboldt County, and is a member of the Humboldt County dispatch cooperative.

Calls for service in the Fruitland Ridge area generally range from 15 to 30 per year. Typically between 30 and 50 percent of fire department's calls are emergency medical in nature. CAL FIRE provides seasonal wildland fire protection services throughout the State Responsibility Area (100 percent of the Fruitland Ridge FPD is State Responsibility Area). CAL FIRE may respond to other types of calls for service if they are available.

Refer to Table 3-6 for an over view of Fruitland Ridge VFC's service calls.

Table 3-6. Department Numbers (2008-2014)

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	9	0	5	0	8	7	1
Struct. Fires	3	2	0	0	1	1	0
Other Fires	3	1	0	2	2	3	5
Veh. Acc.	2	0	1	0	2	3	2
Medicals	8	5	6	3	8	8	7
Haz/Menace	3	0	1	1	5	1	3
Public Assists	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Others	1	8	1	0	1	0	2
Total Responses	29	16	14	6	27	23	21
%Fire Response	52%	19%	36%	33%	41%	48%	29%
% Medical	28%	31%	43%	50%	30%	35%	33%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	499	50	40	20	29	171	171
Training	589	74	82	100	325	350	330
Maintenance	100	100	75	20	20	35	35
Fundraising	463	508	440	430	580	620	610
Total Hours	1,651	732	637	570	954	1,176	1,146
Personnel							
Volunteer	8	8	7	7	8	7	7
Auxiliary	24	24	23	10	10	10	10
Total Personnel	32	32	30	17	18	17	17

Source: CAL FIRE-Fortuna Interagency Command Center, Humboldt County Fire Services Annual Reports

Personnel

The Fruitland VFC has eight active firefighters. The Fruitland VFC currently has one firefighter trained to the Emergency Medical Technician and two firefighters trained to the First Responder level. Other trainings indicated are indicated in the below table.

Table 3-7. Personnel and Training

Training Qualification	Number*
Fire Fighter I or above	3
Wildland (CICCS)	5
First Responder (Medical)	2
EMT	1
Paramedic	0
HazMat First Responder Ops.	0
Rope Rescue	0
Swift Water Rescue	0
Fire Investigation & Prevention	0

* Members trained to level

The Fruitland Ridge FPD boundaries are served by City Ambulance of Garberville (20 miles away from the western edge of the District boundary). It is also 20 miles to the nearest hospital (Jerold Phelps Community Hospital in Garberville) and approximately 35 miles to the closest comprehensive Emergency Department (Redwood Memorial Hospital in Fortuna). As a result, the Fruitland VFC plays a critical role in that it provides rapid response, carries out BLS medical interventions, and has patients ready for transport when ambulance personnel arrive (MSR 2015).

Current Infrastructure and Facilities

The Fruitland Ridge FPD operates from one fire station located 75 Kelsey Lane near its intersection with Dyerville Loop Road. The fire station houses a fire engine, rescue vehicle, and water tender.

Table 3-8. Facilities and Apparatus

Station	Address	Apparatus (seats)	Common Name	Year	Type	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
Fruitland Ridge Fire Hall	75 Kelsey Lane, Myers Flat, CA 95554	E-6226 (3)	Fire Engine	1974	II	450	900
		T-6262 (2)	Water Tender	1994	VI	250	2,250
		R-6271	Rescue Vehicle	1984	VII	NA	NA

ISO Rating

There are several benchmarks by which the level of fire service provided by an agency may be measured, and the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification, or ISO PPC, is one such measure. The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest is 10. Based on an ISO audit, Fruitland Ridge FPD has an ISO rating of "9/9X" (Humboldt County Legacy 2014).

FINANCING

Current Revenues and Expenditures

The Fruitland Ridge FPD was formed as a means to establish a dependable long-term source of revenue to support the Fruitland VFC into the future. Prior to 2015 the VFC supported its fire protection operations through fundraising and donations. As a part of the formation process, the District received voter-approval of a special tax that is apportioned to property at a rate of \$60 per parcel. The special tax generates approximately \$21,000 per year. See Table 3-9 for an overview of the District's budget.

Table 3-9. Fruitland Ridge FPD Adopted Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget	
Expenditures	
Salaries & Employee Benefits	\$0
Services & Supplies	\$15,00
Other Charges	\$0
Reserve	\$6,000
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>\$21,000</i>
Revenues	
Property Taxes (1%)	\$0
Special Tax	\$21,000
Non-Tax Revenues	
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$21,000</i>
Total Revenues	\$21,000
Total Expenditures	\$21,000
Total District Budget	\$0

ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

The Fruitland Ridge FPD is governed by a three member Board of Directors who are elected by registered voters that live within the district and serve four year terms. The Board meets quarterly on Tuesday at 7:00 pm at the District Fire Station. Upcoming meetings are posted to the District's Facebook page. Meeting notices and minutes are also posted to the fire hall door.

Fruitland Ridge FPD demonstrates accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Humboldt LAFCo. The District responded to the questionnaires, staff telephone calls, and cooperated with document requests.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

As set forth in Section 56430(a) of the CKH Act- In order to prepare and to update the SOI in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission. The commission shall include in the area designated for a service review the county, the region, the sub-region, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

(1) Growth and population projections for the affected area

- a) Based on the 2010 Census, the Fruitland Ridge FPD includes a population of 327 residents and 195 total housing units.
- b) Assuming 1.0 percent growth rate and the Census 2010 population, the population of the Fruitland Ridge FPD could reach approximately 415 by the year 2030, or an increase of nearly four new residents per year.
- c) Demand for fire protection service within the District boundaries is not expected to change significantly over the next 20 years.

(2) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence

- a) The Fruitland Ridge community area qualifies as a disadvantaged unincorporated community.
- b) There are currently no local agency service providers in the Fruitland Ridge area that provide water or sewer services.
- c) The recent formation of the Fruitland Ridge FPD provides a locally elected governing body to support the continued delivery of fire protection services to the community.

(3) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies

- a) The District received voter approval for a special tax to effectively manage recurring costs, such as those associated with insurance, utilities, fuel, and equipment.
- b) The special tax supports the combined efforts of the Fruitland Ridge FPD and VFC and serves to improve the level of fire protection and emergency response services to the community.

(4) Financing ability of agencies to provide services

- a) District revenues are approximately \$21,000 per year.
- b) The Fruitland Ridge FPD Board of Directors adopts an annual budget and administers its funds consistent with Fire Protection District Law and budgeting, accounting, and reporting procedures for special districts in California.

(5) Status of and, opportunities for, shared facilities

- a) The Fruitland FPD is a participant in the countywide fire protection mutual aid agreement and is a member of the Humboldt County dispatch cooperative.
- b) The Myers Flat FPD and the Miranda CSD are the closest fire-related districts and are located one and two miles from the District boundaries, respectively.

c) CAL FIRE provides seasonal wildland fire protection services throughout the State Responsibility Area (100 percent of the Fruitland Ridge FPD is State Responsibility Area). CAL FIRE may respond to other types of calls for service if they are available.

(6) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

a) Fruitland Ridge FPD is governed by an elected three member Board of Directors

b) The agency demonstrated accountability in its cooperation with LAFCo's information requests.

(7) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery.

a) Fruitland Ridge FPD's boundary generally matches its response area. This corresponds with the District's sphere of influence that was established in 2015 as part of the district formation process. No change to the existing sphere of influence is recommended at this time.

3.3 Garberville Fire Protection District

INTRODUCTION

Table 3-10. Contact Information

Contact:	Kent Scown, Fire Chief
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 288, Garberville, CA 95542
Site Address	680 Locust Street, Garberville, CA
Phone Number:	(707) 923-3196
Email	kscown@gmail.com
Website	None
Types of Services:	Fire suppression; emergency medical services; rescue services
Population Served:	818 residents
Size of Service Area:	36,144 acres
Number of Staff	15 volunteer, 6 auxiliary

Background

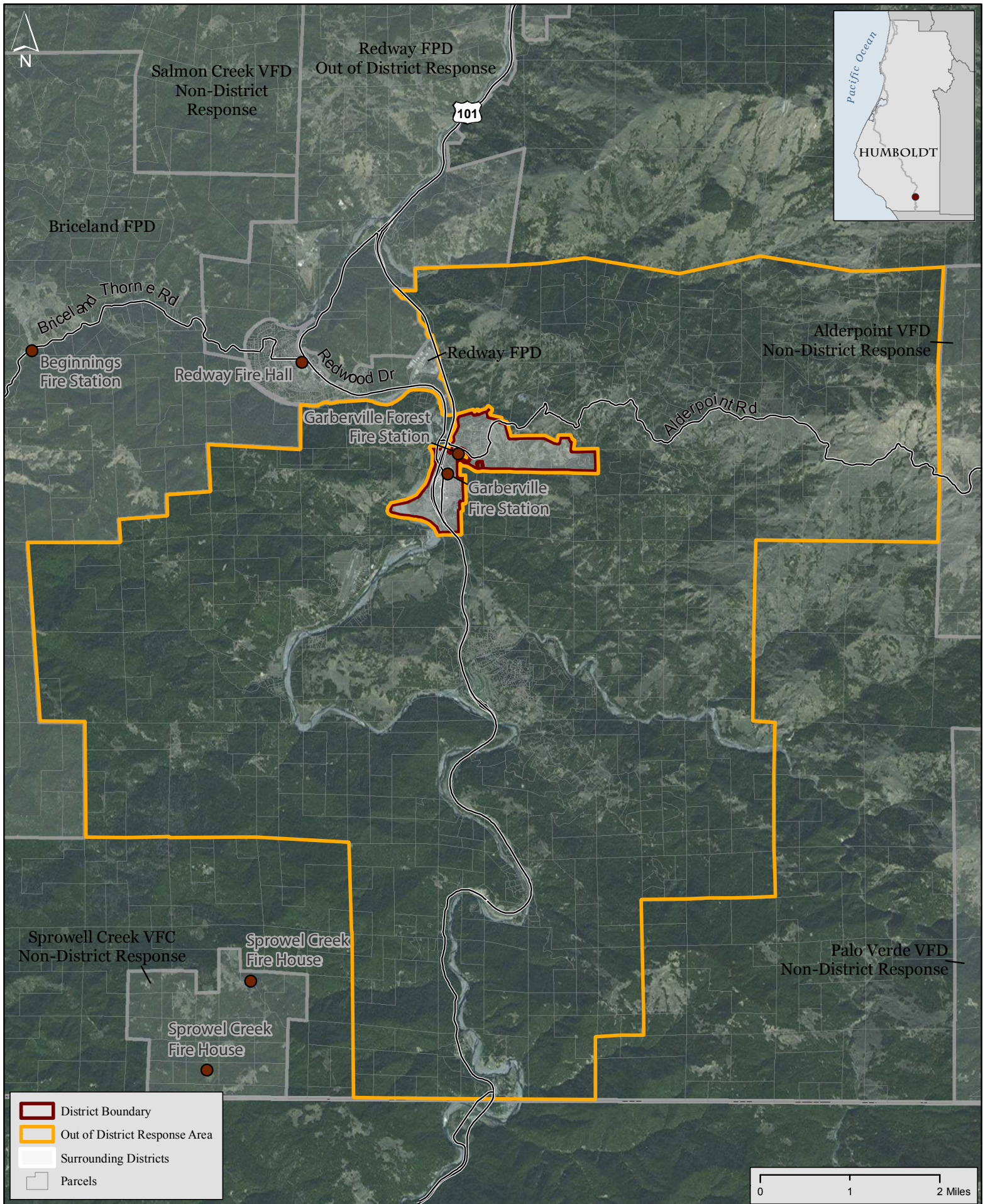
The Garberville Fire Protection District (FPD or District) is located along the South Fork of the Eel River in southern Humboldt County, approximately six miles north of the Humboldt-Mendocino County line. Firefighting services for the District are provided by the Garberville Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). Garberville VFD provides structural and wildland fire suppression, emergency medical aid, and other emergency response services.

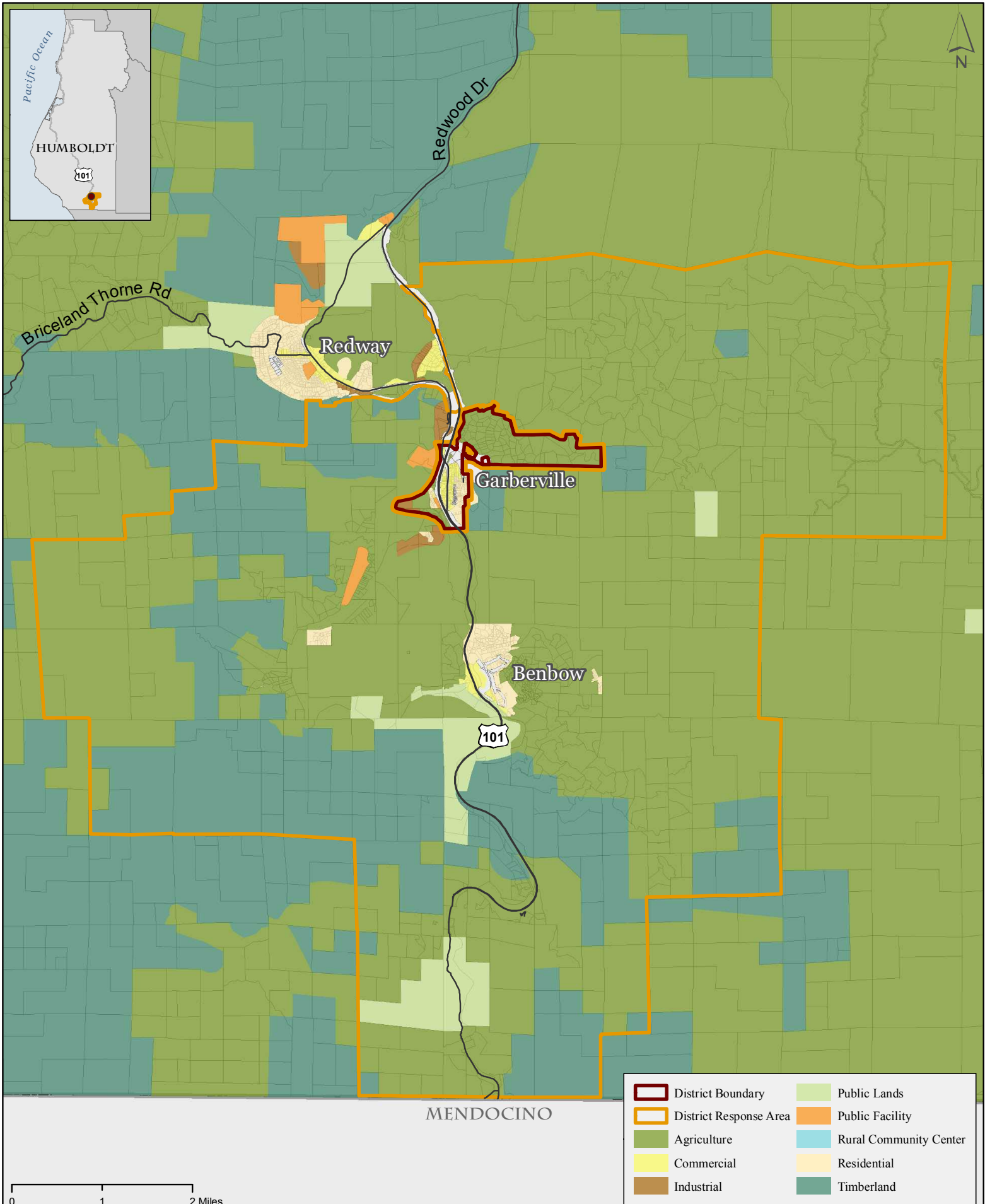
Formation

The Garberville FPD was formed in September 1940 and was subsequently reorganized under the provisions of the California Health and Safety Code in 1961. The Garberville FPD is an independent, single purpose special district authorized to provide fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (Division 12, Part 2.7 of the California Health and Safety Code, Sections 13800-13970), which supersedes prior fire protection district laws. The District is governed by a three member Board of Directors who are elected by registered voters that live within the district.

District Boundary

The Garberville FPD includes the town of Garberville and the old Wallen Ranch area. The District's boundary is 1.1 square miles (704 acres), with a total response area of 56.5 square miles (36,144 acres). The out of district good-will response area includes the rural residential areas east of Garberville along Alderpoint Road between the Garberville Sanitary District's tank site (located at 1081 Alderpoint Road) and Pratt Mtn. Road; the Connick Creek, Bear Canyon, and airport areas as well as areas approximately 4.25 miles beyond the airport along Sprowel Creek Road on the west side of the South Fork Eel River, and the Tooby flat and Kimtu Meadows area on the east side of the River; the communities of Benbow and the rural residences along the East Branch of the South Fork; as well as areas on either side of US 101 south to the County Line. The Garberville FPD responds to calls in these areas but does not receive property tax or other revenue for providing the service (See Response Area in Figure 7).





Growth and Population

The population of Garberville FPD is approximately 818, based on Census Tract data from 2010 Census with 340 housing units. The population of out of district “good will” service area is approximately 463, with 361 housing units. The town of Garberville is expected to continue growing at the historical growth rates, which could range from about 0.25 to 1.5 percent per year. The surrounding out of district area is larger in area with significant vacant rural residential land and may grow at a higher annual average rate.

Existing and Planned Uses

The existing district is comprised of a mixture of urban uses in the downtown Garberville area and large lot residential development in the Alderpoint Road area. Prominent development within the current Garberville FPD boundaries includes the downtown Garberville area with commercial development along Redwood Drive and the Gerald Phelps Hospital.

The most developed area within the out of district good will response area is the community of Benbow, which has a 54 room hotel and restaurant, golf course, and has a year-round population of nearly 200 people, and over 100 housing units. The out of district “good will” service area also includes the industrial area along Redwood Drive near Bear Canyon, as well as Kimtu Meadows and Rivercrest subdivisions each of which contains small privately operated water systems and are accessed from Sprowel Creek Road. The Humboldt County operated Garberville Airport on Sprowel Creek Road is also within the out of district “good will” service area and is surrounded by approximately 30 homes on large lots.

Approximately one-third of the existing Garberville FPD is planned Agricultural Lands (AL). Land planned AL is typically remote, steep and high natural hazards areas, and is expected to contain marginal timber, grazing, mining and quarrying, recreational areas, watershed and wildlife areas, occasional rural residences, according to the G-R-B-A CPA Section 2724. Land planned AL are located in the eastern extent of the district along Alderpoint Road. Land planned Agricultural Residential (AR) make up over one-third of the district and are typically outside of Urban/Rural Community Centers areas and require few public services according to G-R-B-A CPA Section 2725. Lands Planned AR are located on the lower slopes of Alderpoint Road. Urban land use types, such as single and multifamily residential and commercial comprise approximately 15 percent of the total area of the district and are located in the downtown core of Garberville.

Land uses within the existing district and of district good will response area boundaries are subject to the Humboldt County Framework General Plan (Framework Plan), Volume I, and Zoning Regulations (Humboldt County Code Title III, Division 1). Approximately 9,811 acres, or 650 Assessor’s parcels, are located within the Garberville-Redway-Alderpoint-Benbow Community Plan (G-R-B-A Plan) area and are subject to the land use policies contained in the G-R-B-A Plan, adopted June 30, 1987, in addition to the Framework Plan and Zoning Regulations.

Within the of district good will response area just less than 90 percent of land is planned for resource production: 34 percent is planned Agricultural Lands (AL); 29 percent is planned Agriculture General (AG); and 24 percent is planned Timber (T). Substantially smaller portions are planned Agriculture Rural (AR); approximately seven percent or other residential related uses (Agriculture Suburban, Residential Low Density), approximately 1.5 percent.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCo is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) as part of this municipal service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. Per California Senate Bill 244, a DUC is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the median household income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide MHI. Within a DUC, three basic services are evaluated: water, sewer, and fire protection. The Garberville FPD provides one of these services – fire protection – and is responsible for assuring that those services are adequately provided to the community. Wastewater and water services are provided by the Garberville Sanitation District.

The community is identified as an unincorporated legacy community (ULC) within the 2014 Humboldt County Housing Element. A legacy community is defined as a place that meets the following criteria:

- Contains 10 or more dwelling units in close proximity to one another;
- Is either within a city sphere of influence (SOI), is an island within a city boundary, or is geographically isolated and has existed for more than 50 years; and
- Has a median household income that is 80 percent or less than the statewide median household income.

The community of Garberville MHI is \$28,632, which is 47 percent of California's reported \$61,094 MHI (Census Quickfacts, 2013), thereby qualifying the area as disadvantaged. Should territory in the surrounding area be evaluated for annexation, disadvantaged communities in the area should be considered further.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Service Demand and Service Levels

Garberville FPD is an active member of the fire service in Humboldt County. Garberville FPD participates in the countywide fire protection mutual aid agreement, is a member of the Humboldt County dispatch cooperative, and has an active role in the Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue Team.

The Garberville FPD provides the full range of fire protection services, including emergency medical services. The Garberville FPD responded to approximately 279 calls for service in 2014, of which approximately 83 calls, or 30 percent, were fires of various types. 137 calls, or 49 percent, were medical related. Other calls such as vehicle accidents, which comprise approximately 14 percent of total calls, may also involve the delivery of emergency medical services. Typically the Department's response to fire calls has averaged between 20 and 30 percent of their total calls. Refer to Table 3-11 for an over view of Garberville VFD service calls.

In the 2008 MSR the District noted that they would like to expand their district boundary, construct one to two new fire stations, and obtain an additional engine to provide services to a greater area. This is in response to over 50 percent of their calls coming from outside their district boundary. It is important to note that approximately 56 percent of the population and over 90 percent of the land area of the Garberville FPD response area is located outside the district boundaries in Benbow, upper Alderpoint Road, Kimtu, Richardson Grove area, the Garberville Airport, and more.

Table 3-11. Department Numbers (2008-2015)

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Incident Responses								
Veg. Fires	7	5	6	1	12	14	11	15
Struct. Fires	11	0	10	1	9	6	5	12
Other Fires	20	13	37	30	37	34	67	63
Veh. Acc.	22	0	29	9	27	19	39	26
Medicals	92	118	110	91	120	106	137	146
Haz/Menace	9	12	9	3	9	10	9	6
Public Assists	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	4
Others	2	77	5	17	5	7	5	10
Total Responses	163	225	206	152	219	199	279	282
%Fire Response	23%	8%	26%	21%	26%	27%	30%	32%
% Medical	56%	52%	53%	60%	55%	53%	49%	52%
Volunteer Hours								
Incident	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	Unreported	1078	989	1,058	1,080
Training					490	532	946	972
Maintenance					163	170	162	153
Fundraising					335	298	143	138
Total Hours					2,066	1,989	2,309	2,343
Personnel								
Volunteer	17	17	17	17	12	12	12	15
Auxiliary	10	10	10	10	6	6	6	6
Total Personnel	27	27	27	27	18	18	18	21

Source: CAL FIRE-Fortuna Interagency Command Center, Humboldt County Fire Services Annual Reports

Personnel

The Garberville VFD has 15 volunteer firefighters and is assisted by 6 auxiliary personnel. The Garberville VFD/FPD is dispatched simultaneously to calls for emergency medical services within their response area with City Ambulance-Garberville. In most areas, fire departments arrive at the scene first and are expected to perform immediate lifesaving treatment, assess and stabilize the patient, prepare the patient for transport, and provide a verbal report and written documentation to ambulance personnel. The City Ambulance-Garberville station is located at 814 Redwood Drive in downtown Garberville and ambulance personnel may in some instances arrive prior to, or at the same time, as Garberville VFD/FPD personnel. There are two Garberville VFD volunteers trained at the EMT I level.

Current Infrastructure and Facilities

The Garberville FPD maintains one fire station which is located at 648 Locust Street in Garberville. District maintained equipment includes three fire engines (Engine No. 5725, 5717 and 5726) and one utility truck. The district also owns and operates other basic fire protection and rescue equipment including radios, self contained breathing apparatuses

(SCBA), and other equipment (MSR 2008). The following table describes the apparatus utilized by the Garberville VFD and indicates where they are stationed.

Table 3-12. Facilities and Apparatus

Station	Address	Apparatus (seats)	Common Name	Year	Type	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
1	Folz Station 680 Locust Street Garberville	E-5725 (3)	Engine	1999	II	1200	1000
		E-5717 (5)	Engine	1972	I	1200	750
		E-5726 (3)	Engine	2002	II	1200	1000
		U-5700 (2)	Utility Truck	2001	NA	NA	NA

All Garberville FPD vehicles including trucks, tenders and engines have a complete maintenance once per year and have routine checkups once per month. The District inspects and maintains Self Contained Breathing Apparatuses (SCBA) once per year. The District has also indicated that they need an additional water tender. (MSR 2008)

Currently, the water system is maintained by the Garberville Sanitary District, and pump testing station needs to be upgraded to provide additional capacity for fire protection (MSR 2008).

ISO Rating

There are several benchmarks by which the level of fire service provided by an agency may be measured, and the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification, or ISO PPC, is one such measure. The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest is 10. Based on an ISO audit, the Garberville FPD has an ISO PPC rating of 6/6X.

The ISO "6" rating is applied to the area within 5 road miles of the responding fire station and 1,000 feet of a creditable water supply, such as a fire hydrant. The "6X" is applied to the second number is the class that applies to properties *within* 5 road miles of a fire station but *beyond* 1,000 feet of a creditable water supply (ISO 2014).

FINANCING

Current Revenues and Expenditures

Garberville VFD is primarily supported through property taxes (also known as "ad valorem" taxes). Other funding sources include grants and interest revenue. As of the end of Fiscal Year 2014-15 the District reported approximately \$995,954 in general and special revenue funds (State Controller 2015).

Table 3-13. Garberville FPD Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2015-16

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget	
Expenditures	
Salaries & Employee Benefits	\$3,000
Services & Supplies	\$30,381
Other Charges	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$0
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>\$33,381</i>
Revenues	
Property Taxes (1%)	\$62,073
Contributions from Property Owners	\$0
Non-Tax Revenues	\$6,145
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$68,218</i>
Total Reserves	\$68,218
Total Expenditures	\$33,381
Revenues/Sources Over (or under)	
Expenditures/Uses	\$34,837

Financial records as reported to the California State Controller's Office

ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

The Garberville FPD is an independent district governed by a three member Board of Directors. The Board meets on an as needed basis, all meetings are held at the 680 Locus Street fire house and are noticed in advance.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

As set forth in Section 56430(a) of the CKH Act- In order to prepare and to update the SOI in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission. The commission shall include in the area designated for a service review the county, the region, the sub-region, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

(1) Growth and population projections for the affected area

a) The community of Garberville is a Census Designated Place with an estimated 2010 population of 818 residents. The District's response area has an estimated population of 463, for a total service area population of 1,281 residents.

b) The growth projections for the Garberville USA indicate that the Garberville area is expected to continue adding population.

(2) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence

a) The community of Garberville has a median household income of \$28,632, which is 47 percent of the statewide average, thereby qualifying the area as disadvantaged.

b) Should the non-district response area be evaluated for annexation, disadvantaged communities in the region should be considered further.

(3) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies

a) The District has noted that they would like to expand their district boundary, construct one to two new fire stations, and obtain an additional engine to provide services to the greater area.

(4) Financing ability of agencies to provide services

a) The majority of the District's income is derived from property taxes, but funding also comes from grants and interest revenue.

(5) Status of and, opportunities for, shared facilities

a) Greater effectiveness and efficient service delivery by the District may be gained through the consolidation of administrative functions or collectively pursuing grants or other funding with nearby fire service providers.

b) The District should continue coordination with CALFIRE from their station on Alderpoint Road, especially for training and shared facilities.

(6) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

a) The Garberville FPD is an independent district governed by a three member Board of Directors.

b) The District board should consider holding regularly scheduled and noticed board meetings, rather than on an as needed basis.

(7) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery.

a) It is recommended that Garberville FPD's sphere of influence be expanded to match its non-district good-will response area. This would allow the District to pursue annexation in the future.

3.4 Miranda Community Services District

INTRODUCTION

Table 3-14. Contact Information

Contact:	Robert Richardson, Chief
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 160, Miranda, CA 95553
Physical Address:	115 School Rd. Miranda, CA 95553
Phone Number:	(707) 943-3023
Email	rrdawg911@yahoo.com
Website	www.facebook.com/Miranda-Fire-Department-1436955429851294
Types of Services:	Fire protection services
Population Served:	520 residents (2010 Census)
Size of Service Area:	~5,755 acres
Number of Staff	15 volunteer, 5 auxiliary

Background

The Miranda Community Services District (Miranda CSD or District) provides water and fire protection services to the unincorporated community of Miranda. Fire protection services for the District are provided by the Miranda VFD. A municipal service review for Miranda CSD was previously conducted in 2009, which evaluated all services provided by the District. This document will update the previous MSR and will only discuss the District's fire protection services. Miranda CSD's water and wastewater services will be addressed separately in a future regional water and wastewater MSR.

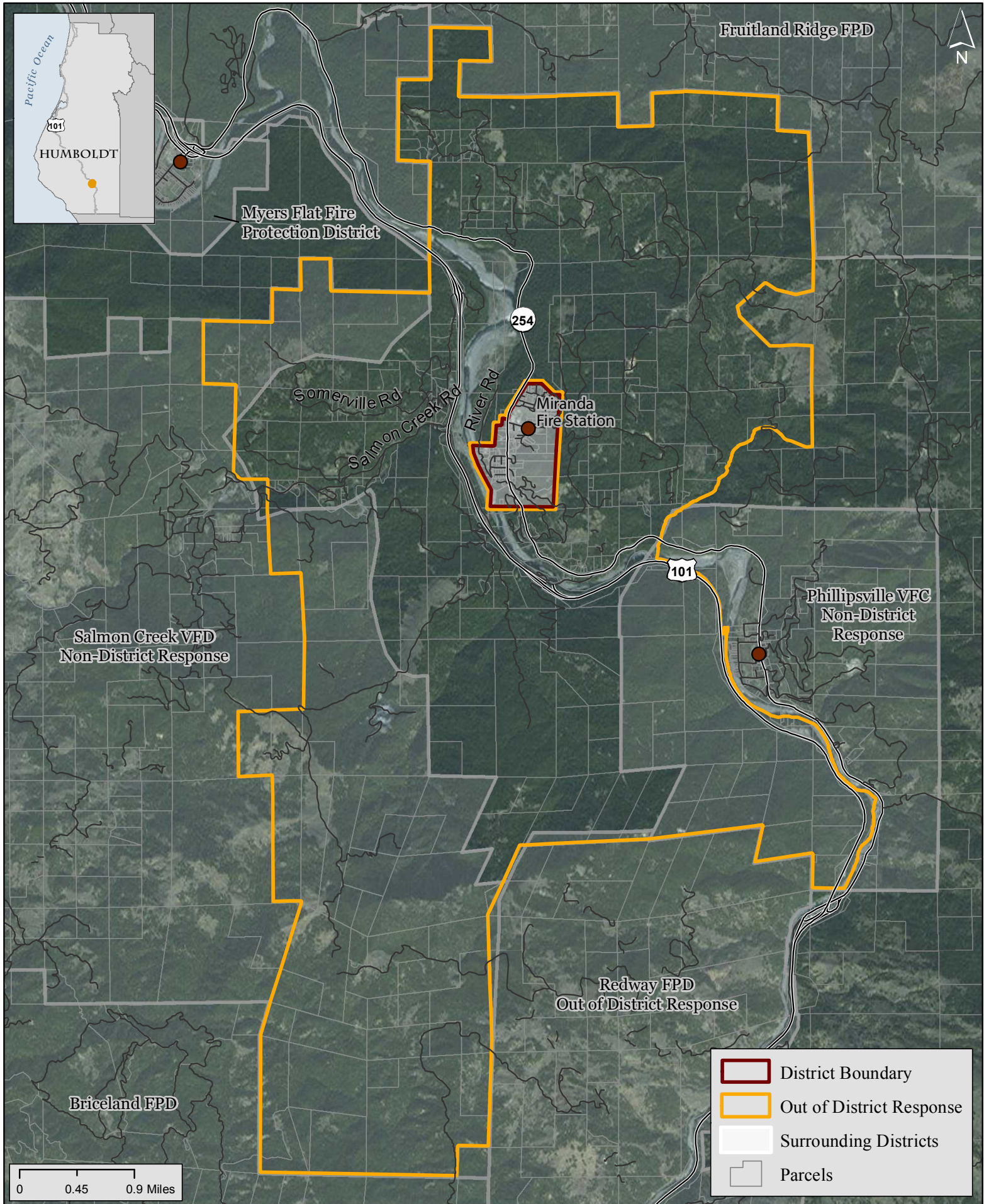
Miranda is located in southern Humboldt County just east of the South Fork of the Eel River and Highway 101, along the Avenue of the Giants. The District is bounded on its northwestern boundary by Humboldt Redwoods State Park and on the east by steep slopes and timberland. Neighboring fire service providers include Myers Flat FPD (currently non-operational), Fruitland Ridge FPD, Salmon Creek VFD, and Phillipsville VFC.

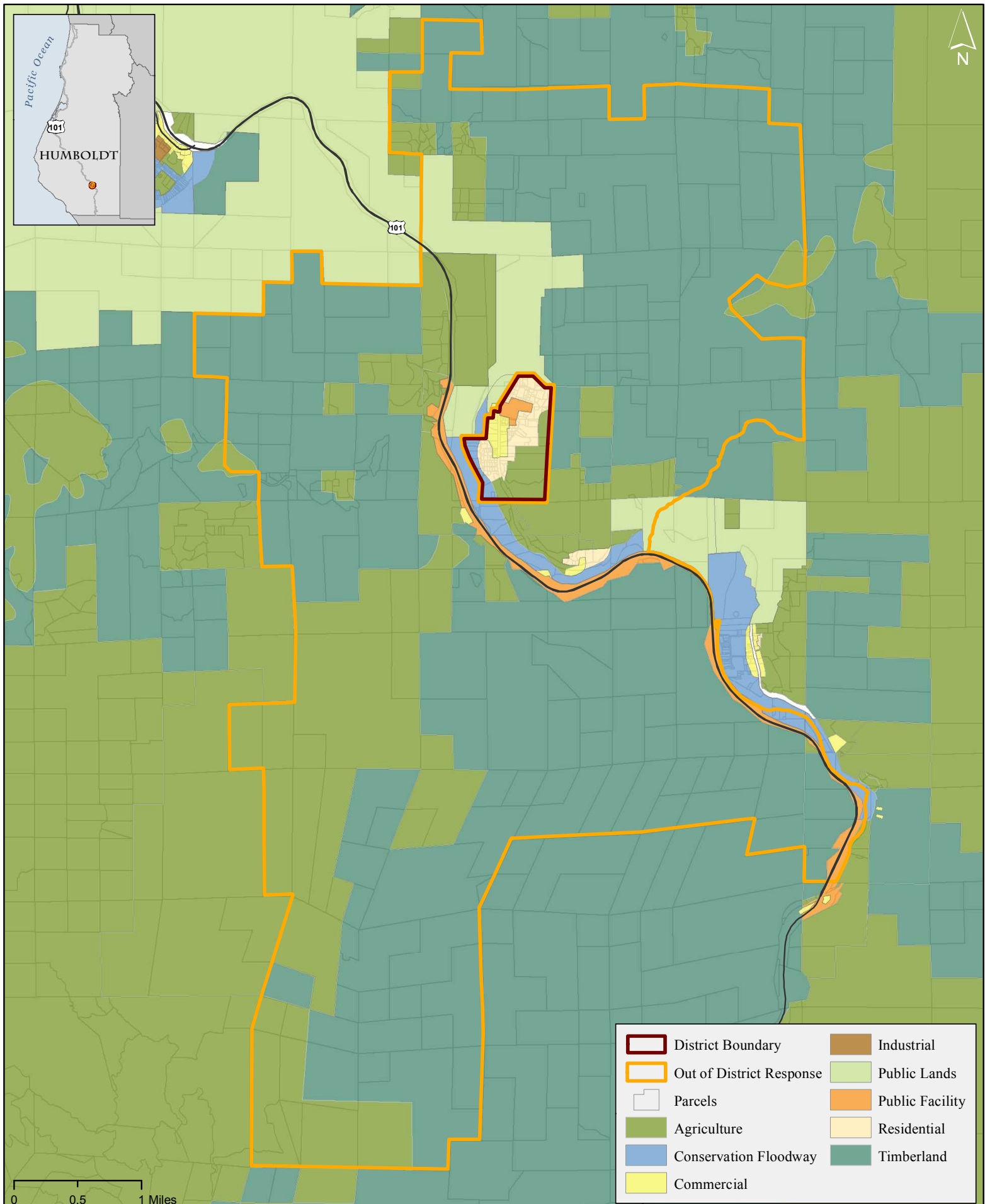
Formation

The Miranda CSD is an independent special district that was formed in 1964 pursuant to Community Services District Law (Government Code Sections 61000-61226.5). The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors who are elected by registered voters that live within the District.

District Boundary

The Miranda CSD's boundary includes the community of Miranda and is 314 acres (0.5 square miles) in area. The Miranda CSD provides good-will services to properties outside of the District's boundary. Properties within the existing District boundary largely subsidize the delivery of fire protection services to the Out of District Response Area. This Out of District Response Area is approximately 5,441 acres (8.5 square miles), creating a total District Service Area of 5,755 acres. See Figure 9. Recently the District has frequently been responding beyond its usual response area to cover calls occurring in the Myers Flat FPD Response Area, greatly increasing the strain on Department resources. Should the Miranda CSD were to annex the Response Area in the future, the District may propose that the annexation area would be a new service zone where only fire protection services would be authorized to be provided, in accordance with Government Code Section 61140-61226.5.





Miranda Community Services District Land Use Designation

Figure
10

Growth and Population

The estimated population of Miranda CDP is 520 residents and 185 total housing units (Census American Factfinders, 2010). Although the CDP is larger than the District, the District encompasses almost all of the residential development within the community and therefore the population is assumed to be close to that of the CDP estimate.

New development within district boundaries is expected to occur into the future at existing county-wide rates, which would likely range from 0.25 to 1.0 percent per year. Significant growth during the next ten years is not likely to occur (Humboldt County Legacy 2014).

Existing and Planned Uses

Land uses within the Miranda CSD boundary are subject to the Humboldt County Framework General Plan (Framework Plan), Volume I, and Zoning Regulations (Humboldt County Code Title III, Division 1). The primary land use in Miranda is residential. Other uses include South Fork High School and the Miranda CSD water, wastewater system, and fire department. The Miranda CSD boundaries include the Miranda portion of the Miranda Avenue of the Giants Community Planning Area in addition to the Framework Plan and Zoning Regulations. Miranda is also a part of the South Eel Fire Planning Compartment (Humboldt County Hazard Mitigation 2014).

A significant portion of the Miranda VFD's response area overlaps with Humboldt Redwoods State Park, additionally, the Department responds to calls along U.S. Route 101. Goodwill services to both of the areas are not reimbursed.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCo is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) as part of this municipal service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. Per California Senate Bill 244, a DUC is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the median household income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide MHI. Within a DUC, three basic services are evaluated: water, sewage, and fire protection. Miranda CSD provides all three of these services and is responsible for assuring that those services are adequately provided to the community.

The community of Miranda is identified as an unincorporated legacy community (ULC) within the 2014 Humboldt County Housing Element. A legacy community is defined as a place that meets the following criteria:

- Contains 10 or more dwelling units in close proximity to one another;
- Is either within a city Sphere of Influence (SOI), is an island within a city boundary, or is geographically isolated and has existed for more than 50 years; and
- Has a median household income that is 80 percent or less than the statewide median household income.

The community of Miranda is a CDP with an estimated MHI of \$26,250, which is 42 percent of the state average MHI (Census American FactFinder, 2010 estimate) and therefore the area is considered disadvantaged. Should territory in the surrounding area be evaluated for annexation in the future, disadvantaged communities in the area should be considered further.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Service Demand and Service Levels

Fire protection services for the District are provided by the Miranda VFD. The Miranda VFD is an active member of the fire service in Humboldt County, and is a part of a county-wide

mutual aide. Miranda VFD also works with *CAL FIRE* for mutual response inside and outside the Miranda boundaries (Fire Chiefs Report 2014).

The Miranda VFD responded to approximately 112 calls for service in 2014, of which approximately 31 calls, or 28 percent, were fires of various types and 51 calls, or 46 percent, were medical related. Other calls such as vehicle accidents, which comprise approximately 18 percent of total calls, may also involve the delivery of emergency medical services. Typically the Department's response to fire calls averages 27 percent of their total responses. Refer to Table 3-15 for an over view of Miranda VFD service calls.

Table 3-15. Department Numbers (2008-2014)

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	9	0	1	2	5	9	11
Struct. Fires	4	0	1	5	4	2	3
Other Fires	9	1	7	9	11	18	17
Veh. Acc.	14	0	12	23	14	17	20
Medicals	19	3	23	37	31	26	51
Haz/Menace	2	1	4	2	3	4	3
Public Assists	3	0	4	2	2	3	4
Others	-	-	-	-	-	2	3
Total Responses	60	5	52	80	70	81	112
%Fire Response	37%	20%	17%	20%	29%	36%	28%
% Medical	32%	60%	44%	46%	44%	32%	46%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	120	180	180	245	345	455	642
Training	234	340	432	642	642	767	625
Maintenance	60	52	52	72	92	126	156
Fundraising	60	80	80	88	122	132	141
Total Hours	474	652	744	1,047	1,201	1,480	1,564
Personnel							
Volunteer	10	10	10	11	12	14	14
Auxiliary	0	1	1	1	1	2	2
Total Personnel	10	11	11	12	13	16	16

Source: CAL FIRE-Fortuna Interagency Command Center, Humboldt County Fire Services Annual Reports

Personnel

The Miranda VFD has 15 volunteer personnel and 5 auxiliary personnel. The Department has 13 Certified First Responders and 8 EMTs.

Training Qualification	Number*
Fire Fighter I or above	5
Wildland (CICCS)	15
First Responder (Medical)	13
EMT	8
Paramedic	0
HazMat First Responder Ops.	5
Rope Rescue	1
Swift Water Rescue	1

Current Infrastructure and Facilities

The Miranda VFD operates from a fire station located in the community of Miranda on School Road. Specialized equipment consists of a 'Jaws-of-Life', rescue bags, a thermal imager, a 3000-gallon folding tank, and a floatable pump. The Miranda CSD water system contains fire hydrants, which serve an unknown portion of the District. The fire department must use water carried on fire engines and water tenders to extinguish structure fires that are located outside the hydranted area, and additionally may use water that may be available on site (Humboldt County Legacy 2014). Recently in 2015 the VFD was able to replace their self contained breathing apparatus that were over 20 years old.

The following table describes the apparatus utilized by the Miranda VFD.

Table 3-16. Facilities and Apparatus

Station	Address	Apparatus (seats)	Common Name	Year	Type	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
1	115 School Rd. Miranda	E 6036	Engine	1994	III	500	500
		E 6016	Engine	2004	I	1250	750
		R 6046	Dodge diesel	2005	IV	275	270
		E 6039	Engine	1999	III	500	500
		WT 6066	Water Tender	1997	I or II	375	2070

ISO Rating

There are several benchmarks by which the level of fire service provided by an agency may be measured, and the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification, or ISO PPC, is one such measure. The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest is 10. Based on an ISO audit, the Miranda VFD has a "7" ISO rating in hydranted areas and a "7X" in non-hydranted areas (Humboldt County Legacy 2014).

FINANCING

Current Revenues and Expenditures

The Miranda VFD reports strong support from the Miranda Community Services District and the citizens of Miranda. A majority of support funds are received from water and sewer fees, a Fourth of July event, and community donations (Fire Chief Report 2014). However, the

Department continues to lack adequate funding to cover basic expenses and relies on seasonal reimbursements from CAL FIRE (via strike team response, assistance by hire, or equipment rental). While the CAL FIRE reimbursements provide some relief, the wildfire season is unpredictable and is not a reliable source of funding to support the Department.

Table 3-17. Miranda CSD Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget	
Expenditures	
Salaries & Employee Benefits	\$22,117
Services & Supplies	\$36,645
Other Charges	\$
Fixed Assets	\$45,688
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>\$104,450</i>
Revenues	
Property Taxes (1%)	\$0
Contributions from Property Owners	\$2,105
Non-Tax Revenues	\$60,775
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$62,880</i>
Total Revenue	\$62,880
Total Expenditures	\$104,450
Revenues/Sources Over (Under)	
Expenditures/Uses	\$-41,570

Source: Financial records as reported to the California State Controller's Office

ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors that are elected by District residents for a term of four years. The Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Meeting notices are posted at the local store, post office, and the community meeting hall. The District employs three part-time staff and the District Office is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:00am – 2:00pm (MSR 2009).

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

As set forth in Section 56430(a) of the CKH Act- In order to prepare and to update the SOI in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission. The commission shall include in the area designated for a service review the county, the region, the sub-region, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

(1) Growth and population projections for the affected area

a) The estimated population within the District is assumed to be similar to that of the Miranda CDP, which contains 520 residents and 185 total housing units.

b) New development within district boundaries is expected to occur into the future at existing county-wide rates, which would likely range from 0.25 to 1.0 percent per year.

(2) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence

a) The community of Miranda is a CDP with an estimated MHI of \$26,250, which is 42 percent of the state average MHI (Census American FactFinder, 2010 estimate) and therefore the area is considered disadvantaged.

b) Should territory in the surrounding area be evaluated for annexation in the future, disadvantaged communities in the area should be considered further.

(3) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies

a) The Miranda CSD provides good-will services to properties outside of District boundaries.

b) Recently the District has frequently been responding beyond its usual response boundary to cover calls occurring in the Myers Flat FPD Response Area, greatly increasing the strain on Department resources.

c) In order to increase revenue to a sustainable level, the District could consider the following actions:

- Annex into the District those out of district services areas which receive good will services.
- Adopt an ordinance and fee schedule which charges out-of-District residents for services provided; especially for response to traffic accidents on Highway 101.
- Pursue a special tax or assessment which would require approval from registered voters or property owners within the existing and proposed boundaries.
- A formal Automatic Aid Agreement with Humboldt Redwoods State Park could be developed which spells out services to be provided and charges for such services.

(4) Financing ability of agencies to provide services

a) Miranda VFD reported that they lack adequate funding to cover basic expenses necessary to support the increasing demand for fire protection services.

b) Properties within the existing District boundary largely subsidize the delivery of fire protection services to the Out of District Response Area.

(5) Status of and, opportunities for, shared facilities

a) The District may benefit from an arrangement of shared resources, such as training, with other fire service providers along the Avenue.

b) Greater effectiveness and efficient service delivery by the District may be gained through the consolidation of administrative functions or collectively pursuing grants or other funding with nearby fire service providers.

(6) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

a) The District maintains a visible presence in the community, and participates in community activities and events.

b) The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors that are elected by District residents for a term of four years. The Board meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Meeting notices are posted at the local store, post office, and the community meeting hall.

c) The District does not have a website. Establishing a website and posting agendas, minutes, budgets, and financial data would provide improved transparency.

(7) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery.

a) It is recommended that Miranda CSD's sphere of influence be expanded to match its non-district good-will fire response area. This would allow the District to pursue annexation in the future.

b) Should the Miranda CSD propose annexation of its non-district response area in the future, the District may establish a service zone for the annexation area where only fire protection services would be authorized to be provided in accordance with Government Code Sections 61140-61226.5.

3.5 Myers Flat Fire Protection District

INTRODUCTION

Table 3-18. Contact Information

Contact:	N/A
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 131, Myers Flat, CA 95554
Site Address	54 Myers Ave. Myers Flat, CA 95554
Phone Number:	N/A
Email	N/A
Website	N/A
Types of Services:	Fire/Medical
Population Served:	146 residents
Size of Service Area:	~1,413 acres
Number of Staff	N/A

Background

The Myers Flat Fire Protection District (FPD) is located in south-central Humboldt County, along the Avenue of the Giants on the South Fork of the Eel River. Humboldt Redwoods State Park provides a contiguous boundary around Myers Flat. State Highway 101 creates the northern boundary for the District. A Municipal Service Review was previously prepared by LAFCo for the District in 2008.

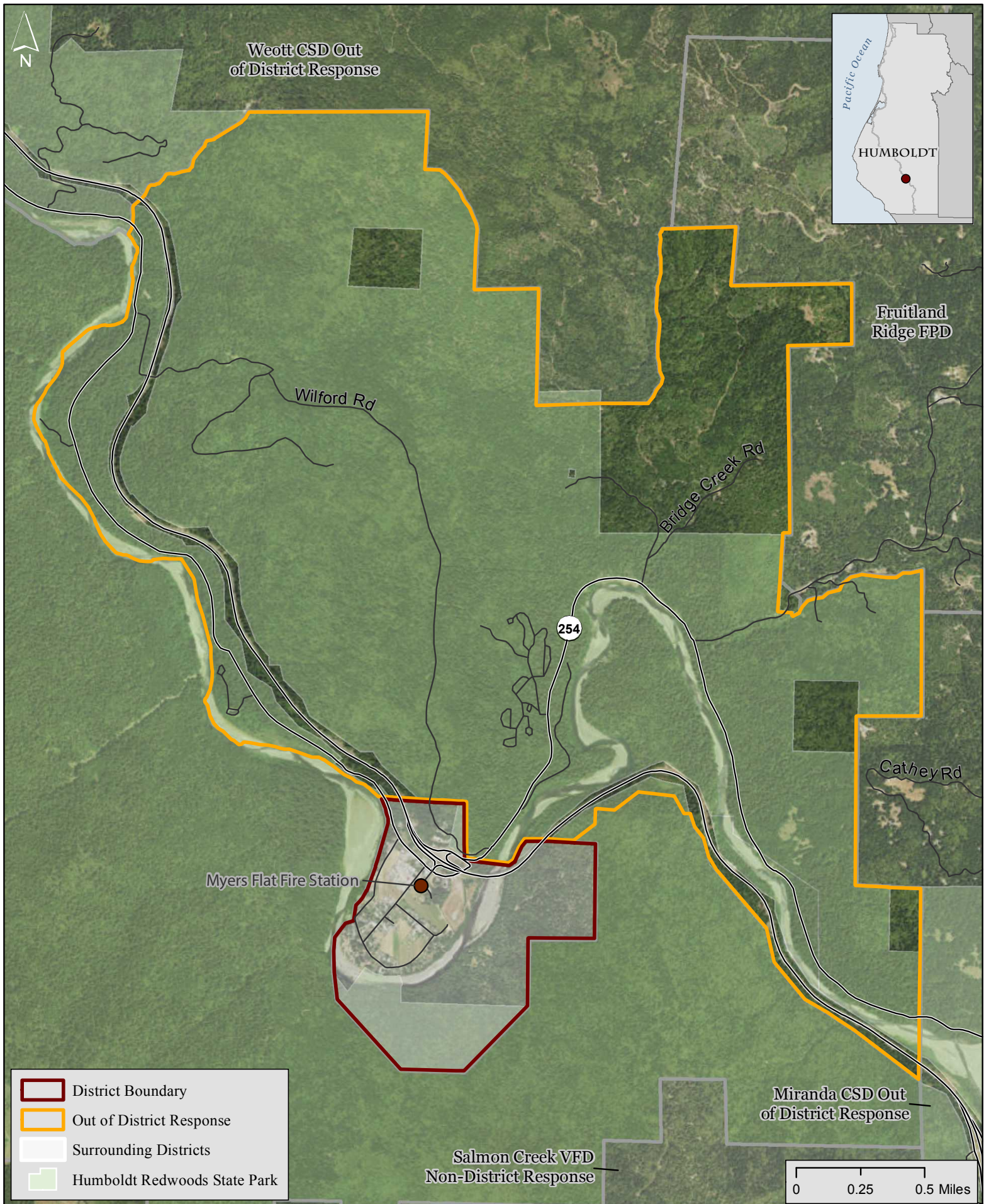
Recently the Myers Flat FPD has become non-operational due to lack of volunteer personnel available to maintain a functioning department. Presently, nearby fire service providers, including Miranda VFD, Weott VFD, and Weott-CAL FIRE are being dispatched to the Myers Flat community to provide fire protection services until a long-term solution can be found. As part of any reorganization process that explores shared personnel by contract, consolidation, or reorganization with nearby fire-related districts, there will be a need to address the lack of complete community coverage and sustainable revenue. Given the uncertain future of the District, this document will address department operations up to the present.

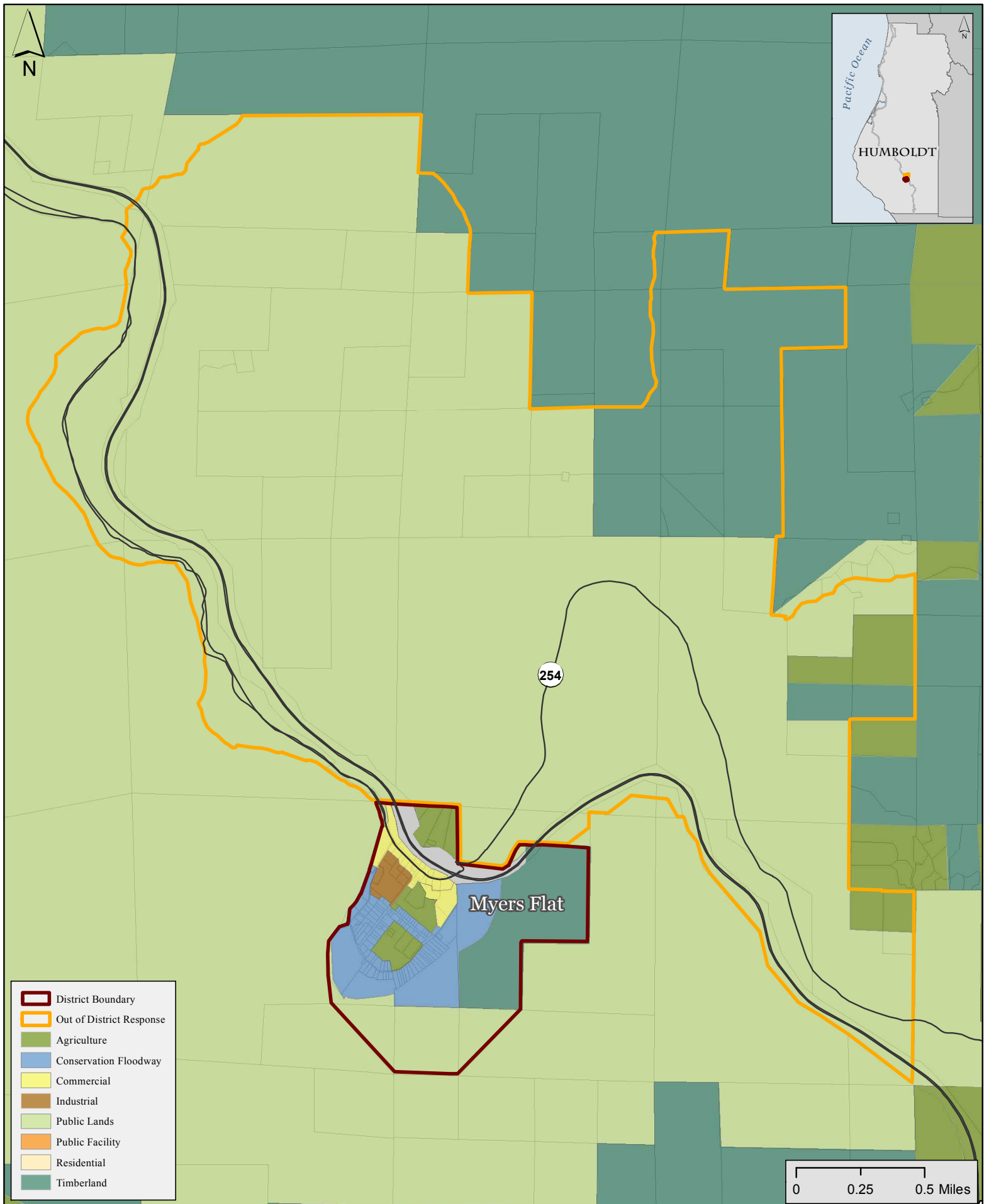
Formation

The Myers Flat FPD was formed on June 14, 1952 after a successful special election was held. The Myers Flat FPD is an independent single purpose special district authorized to provide fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (Division Part 2.7 of the California Health and Safety Code), which supersedes prior fire protection district laws. The District has a three-member Board of Directors that is elected by registered voters who live within the District.

District Boundary

The Myers Flat FPD's boundary includes the community of Myers Flat and contains approximately 450 acres (0.7 square miles). The District's historical Response Area extended beyond District boundaries to the north and south along Highway 101 and to the east around the Hidden Springs Campground. This out of district response area contains approximately 1,000 acres (1.9 square miles). See Figure 11.





Growth and Population

There are a total of 146 residents and 110 housing units located in the Myers Flat Census Designated Place (CDP), which encompasses the developed area of Myers Flat within district boundaries (Census Quickfacts 2014). According to the 2014 Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association Annual Report, the Myers Flat FPD serves approximately 200 residents. The rate of population growth in Myers Flat over the last 20-30 years has been negligible (Humboldt County Housing Element 2014).

Existing and Planned Uses

The Myers Flat FPD encompasses the Myers Flat Mutual Water Company and the Myers Flat portion of the Avenue of the Giants Community Planning Area. Larger facilities within Myers Flat include the Myers Inn, the Shrine Drive-Thru Tree, miscellaneous small commercial establishments, and an RV Park. The District's Response Area extends beyond District boundaries along Highway 101 and the Redwood Highway.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCo is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) as part of this municipal service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. Per California Senate Bill 244, a DUC is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the median household income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide MHI. Within a DUC, three basic services are evaluated: water, sewage, and fire protection. Myers Flat FPD provides one of these services – fire protection – and is responsible for assuring that those services are adequately provided to the community. Water services are provided by the Myers Flat mutual water company which consists of a two wells of unknown capacity and a surface water source on Pete's Creek (Humboldt County 2014). Community wastewater treatment and disposal is not available in Myers Flat. The nearest wastewater system is located in Weott approximately 5.5 miles north of Myers Flat, well beyond the feasible distance for service extension (Humboldt County 2014).

The Myers flat CDP is identified as an unincorporated legacy community (ULC) within the 2014 Humboldt County Housing Element. A legacy community is defined as a place that meets the following criteria:

- Contains 10 or more dwelling units in close proximity to one another;
- Is either within a city Sphere of Influence (SOI), is an island within a city boundary, or is geographically isolated and has existed for more than 50 years; and
- Has a median household income that is 80 percent or less than the statewide median household income.

The California Department of Water Resources identifies Myers Flat as a Disadvantaged Community Place. The CDP has a median household income of less than \$10,000, which makes an MHI difficult to calculate (Census Quickfacts, 2014). However, \$10,000 is 16 percent of the State MHI, thereby qualifying the area as disadvantaged. Should territory in the area be evaluated for annexation, disadvantaged communities within the vicinity may be evaluated further.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Service Demand and Service Levels

The Myers Flat FPD historically provided fire protection and emergency medical services with a volunteer force ranging from three to six volunteers. The District responded to approximately 50 calls per year, of which about two thirds were medical responses. The response time varied from a few minutes to up to 20 minutes.

The Myers Flat FPD responded to approximately 85 calls for service in 2014, of which approximately 26 calls, or 31 percent, were fires of various types and 31 calls, or 36 percent, were medical related. Other calls such as vehicle accidents, which comprise approximately 24 percent of total calls, may also involve the delivery of emergency medical services. Typically the Department's response to fire calls has averaged between 30 and 40 percent of their total calls. Refer to Table 3-19 for an over view of Myers Flat FPD service calls.

Table 3-19. Department Numbers (2008-2014)

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	12	6	2	2	3	6	5
Struct. Fires	6	3	0	0	0	1	0
Other Fires	15	16	4	5	7	8	21
Veh. Acc.	15	15	16	4	13	14	20
Medicals	24	14	18	10	21	28	31
Haz/Menace	3	1	1	0	1	2	3
Public Assists	-	-	-	-	-	5	5
Others	0	3	3	3	2	1	0
Total Responses	75	58	44	24	47	65	85
%Fire Response	44%	43%	14%	29%	21%	23%	31%
% Medical	32%	24%	41%	42%	45%	43%	36%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	120	70	55	No	100	110	110
Training	225	260	260	Report	400	250	250
Maintenance	42	75	75		75	60	60
Fundraising	98	500	500		200	400	400
Total Hours	485	905	890		775	820	820
Personnel							
Volunteer	2	5	4	4	3	3	3
Auxiliary	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Personnel	4	5	4	4	3	3	3

Source: CAL FIRE-Fortuna Interagency Command Center, Humboldt County Fire Services Annual Reports

Personnel

Historically, the District has been led by a Fire Chief with three to five volunteer firefighters and no paid personnel. Recently the Fire Chief has retired and the District is unable to find enough volunteers to provide for basic fire protection service operation.

Current Infrastructure and Facilities

There is one station with two engines. One engine is a type IV 400 gallon compressed foam air engine, and the other one is a Type III 1200 gallon fire engine. The Type III engine was pre-owned by Cal Fire. The District reports that it is in excellent condition and has been rented back to Cal Fire during peak fire season. Renting the vehicle provides the District with funding.

The fire station was constructed in 1962 and was renovated in the late 1990's to meet the District's needs. There are approximately 18 fire hydrants in the District (MSR 2008). Recently the District was able to replace their self-contained breathing apparatuses and other personal protective equipment through Measure Z funding. However, this equipment was re-distributed to other departments. The lack of updated equipment may further impede the recruitment of volunteers.

ISO Rating

There are several benchmarks by which the level of fire service provided by an agency may be measured, and the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification, or ISO PPC, is one such measure. The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest is 10. Based on an ISO audit, the Myers Flat FPD has an ISO rating of 10 for all areas of the District.

FINANCING

Current Revenues and Expenditures

Myers Flat FPD is primarily supported through their share of the 1% property tax (also known as "ad valorem" taxes). As of the end of Fiscal Year 2014-15 the District reported approximately \$16,209 in general and special revenue funds (State Controller 2015). The primary source of funding is the District's share of the one percent property tax. See Table 3-20 for all District revenues and expenditures as reported to the State Controller's Office.

The District reports that they receive additional revenues funds from renting the engine to CALFIRE during the summer. During the past three years they have earned around \$50,000 from the state. Additionally, they have earned around \$2,000 annually for providing fire protection to the Black Oak Ranch music festivals.

Table 3-20. Myers Flat FPD Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget	
Expenditures	
Salaries & Employee Benefits	\$600
Services & Supplies	\$20,122
Other Charges	\$
Fixed Assets	\$
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>\$20,722</i>
Revenues	
Property Taxes (1%)	\$14,721
Contributions from Property Owners	\$0
Non-Tax Revenues	\$888
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$15,609</i>
Total Revenue	\$15,609
Total Expenditures	\$20,722
Revenues/Sources Over (Under)	
Expenditures/Uses	\$-5,113

Source: Financial records as reported to the California State Controller's Office

Accountability and Governance

The District has a three member Board of Directors that is elected at large for a four year terms. Board meetings have historically been held the third week of each month.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

As set forth in Section 56430(a) of the CKH Act- In order to prepare and to update the SOI in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission. The commission shall include in the area designated for a service review the county, the region, the sub-region, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

(1) Growth and population projections for the affected area

a) There were a total of 146 residents and 110 housing units within the Myers Flat CDP, based on the 2010 Census.

b) The rate of population growth in Myers Flat over the last 20-30 years has been negligible (Humboldt County Housing Element 2014).

(2) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence

a) The Myers Flat CDP has a medium household income of less than \$10,000, which is 16 percent of the state average.

b) The Myers Flat FPD encompasses the Myers Flat CDP which is identified as disadvantaged unincorporated community.

(3) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies

- a) The Myers Flat FPDs engines, water tenders, and other utility vehicles are all in operable condition.
- b) The most pressing need of the District is recruiting and training volunteers to continue District operations.
- c) The District does not have the personnel capacity to adequately serve current demand within the District boundary and Out of District Response Area.

(4) Financing ability of agencies to provide services

- a) The District's main source of revenue is property taxes. The Myers Flat FPD does not have a special tax or assessment to support ongoing services.
- b) The District's total revenue is approximately \$15,000 per year.

(5) Status of and, opportunities for, shared facilities

- a) Myers Flat FPD has mutual and automatic aid agreements with neighboring fire departments. In addition, the District is a member of the Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs Association.
- b) A significant portion of Myers Flat FPD's response area overlaps with Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Additionally, the Department responds to calls along U.S. Route 101. Goodwill services to both of the areas are not reimbursed.
- c) Presently nearby fire service providers, including Miranda CSD, Weott VFD, and Weott-CAL FIRE, are being dispatched to Myers Flat to provide fire protection services until a long-term solution can be found.
- d) There may be opportunity for the District to explore shared personnel by contract, consolidation, or reorganization with nearby fire-related districts. As part of any reorganization process there will be a need to address the lack of complete community coverage and sustainable revenue.

(6) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

- a) The Myers Flat FPD has a three member board of directors elected by registered voters that live within the district.
- b) The Myers Flat FPD has supported the mutual social and economic interests of the Myers Flat community by sustaining community-based fire protection services and establishing local governance for such services.

(7) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery.

- a) While the Myers Flat FPD is struggling to recruit and retain sufficient volunteers to adequately respond to calls, the District is actively working to increase its financial and operational capacity. Until a long-term solution is found, it is recommended that Myers Flat FPD's sphere of influence be expanded to match its non-district good-will response area. This would allow the District to pursue changes or organization or reorganization in the future.

3.6 Redway Fire Protection District

INTRODUCTION

Table 3-21. Contact Information

Contact:	Brian Anderson, Chief
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 695, Redway, CA 95560
Physical Address:	155 Empire Avenue, Redway, CA 95560
Phone Number:	707-923-2617
Website	www.facebook.com/pages/Redway-Fire-Protection-District
Types of Services:	Fire suppression; emergency medical response
Population Served:	1,024 residents (2010 Census)
Size of Service Area:	~7,679 acres
Number of Staff	11 volunteers

Background

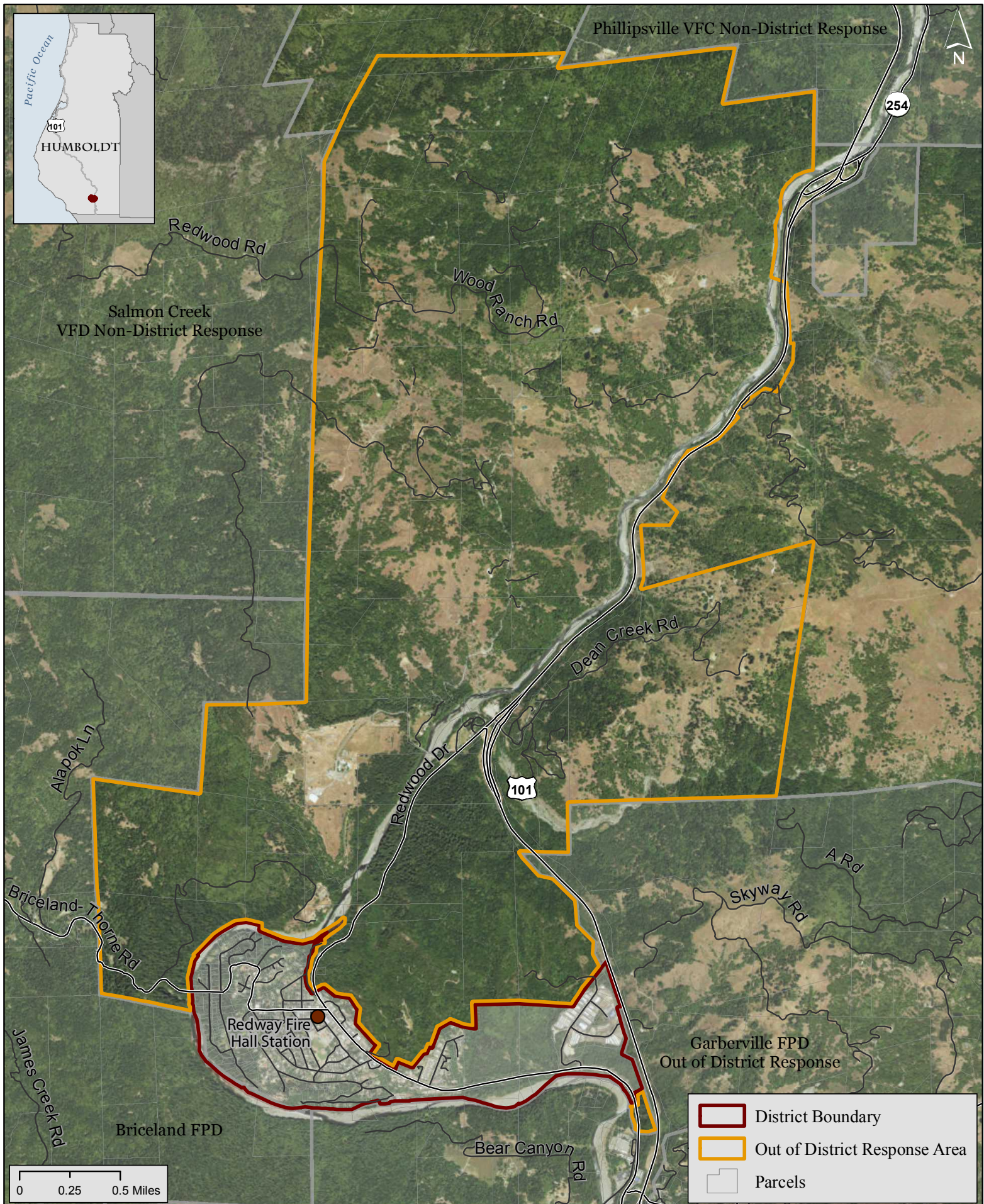
The Redway Fire Protection District (Redway FPD or District) provides year-round fire protection and emergency response services to the unincorporated community of Redway and surrounding communities in southern Humboldt County. Redway is located on the South Fork Eel River several miles north of Garberville. Fire protection services for the District are provided by the Redway Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). Neighboring fire service providers include Garberville FPD, Briceland FPD, Phillipsville VFC, and Salmon Creek VFD.

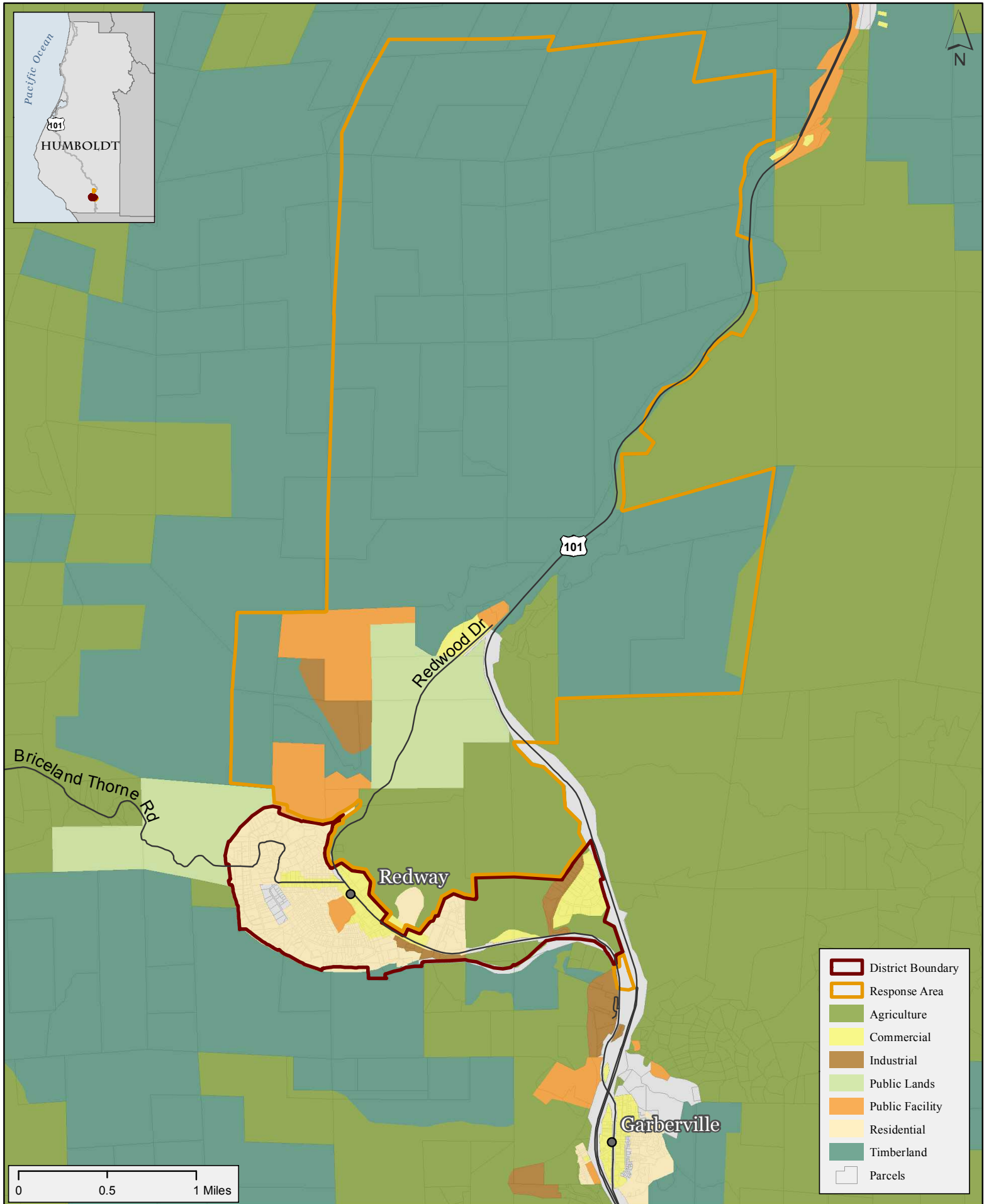
Formation

The Redway FPD was formed in 1958 for the purpose of providing fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (Division 12, Part 2.7 of the California Health and Safety Code, Sections 13800-13970), which supersedes prior fire protection district laws. The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, elected by registered voters who live within the district.

District Boundary

The District boundary includes the community of Redway and is 720 acres (1.12 square miles) in area. The District provides good-will services to properties outside of District boundaries. Properties within the existing District boundary largely subsidize the delivery of fire protection services to the Out of District Response Area. This Out of District Response Area is approximately 6,959 acres (11 square miles) See Figure 13.





Growth and Population

Based on the 2010 Census, the estimated population of Redway FPD is 1,024 residents and 492 total housing units (Census Quickfacts 2013). Future District population may be estimated using a conservative growth rate of 1.0 percent per year. Assuming this growth rate and the Census 2010 population, the population of the Fruitland Ridge FPD could reach approximately 1,238 by the year 2030, or an increase of roughly 10 new residents per year. Therefore, the demand for fire protection service within the District boundaries is not expected to change significantly over the next 20 years.

Existing and Planned Uses

Land uses within the Redway FPD boundaries are subject to the Humboldt County Framework General Plan (Framework Plan), Volume I, and Zoning Regulations (Humboldt County Code Title III, Division 1). The District contains the entire Redway Sanitary District (Redway CSD) and the Redway portion of the Garberville Redway-Benbow-Alderpoint (G-R-B-A) Community Planning Area (Humboldt County 2014).

Land uses within the District include Residential Low Density (RL), Agricultural Rural with a 5-20 acre minimum (AR 5-20), and Commercial Services (CS). The primary land use found in the Out of District Response Area is Timberland (T). In addition, the following are also found in the Area- Agricultural Rural with a 5-20 acre minimum (AR 5-20), Public Lands (P), Public Facility (PF), Agricultural Lands with 20 and 40 acre minimums (AL 20 and AL 40), Commercial Recreation (CR), and Industrial General (IG)

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCo is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) as part of this municipal service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. Per California Senate Bill 244, a DUC is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the median household income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide MHI. Within a DUC, three basic services are evaluated: water, sewage, and fire protection. Redway FPD provides one of these services –fire protection- and is responsible for assuring that those services are adequately provided to the community. Water and wastewater services are provided by the Redway Community Services District (CSD).

The community is identified as an unincorporated legacy community (ULC) by the 2014 Humboldt County Housing Element. A legacy community is defined as a place that meets the following criteria:

- Contains 10 or more dwelling units in close proximity to one another;
- Is either within a city sphere of influence (SOI), is an island within a city boundary, or is geographically isolated and has existed for more than 50 years; and
- Has a median household income that is 80 percent or less than the statewide median household income.

The community of Redway's MHI is \$27,188, which is 45 percent of California's reported \$61,094 MHI (Census Factfinder, 2010), thereby qualifying the area as disadvantaged. Should territory in the surrounding area be evaluated for annexation, disadvantaged communities in the area should be considered further.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Service Demand and Service Levels

Fire protection services for the District are provided by the Redway VFD. The Redway VFD is an active member of the fire service in Humboldt County, is a participant in the countywide

fire protection mutual aid agreement, and is a member of the Humboldt County dispatch cooperative.

The Redway VFD responded to approximately 150 calls for service in 2014, of which approximately 33 calls, or 22 percent, were fires of various types and 66 calls, or 44 percent, were medical related. Other calls such as vehicle accidents, which comprise approximately 7 percent of total calls, may also involve the delivery of emergency medical services. Typically the Department's response to fire calls averages 20 percent of their total calls. Refer to Table 3-22 for an over view of Redway VFD service calls.

Table 3-22. Department Numbers (2008-2014)

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	9	9	4	3	15	19	15
Struct. Fires	12	5	13	3	10	9	7
Other Fires	7	11	9	12	5	4	11
Veh. Acc.	4	1	1	6	11	9	11
Medicals	75	59	73	76	63	68	66
Haz/Menace	9	5	11	3	6	3	4
Public Assists	-	-	-	-	-	0	27
Others	9	15	4	7	19	19	9
Total Responses	125	105	115	110	129	131	150
%Fire Response	22%	24%	23%	16%	23%	24%	22%
% Medical	60%	56%	63%	69%	49%	52%	44%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	431	296	411	No	395	424	335
Training	280.5	258	371	Report	341	501	356
Maintenance	-	-	-		-	410	390
Fundraising	380	410	410		460	271	450
Total Hours	1,092	964	1,192		1,196	1,606	1,531
Personnel							
Volunteer	11	11	11	11	11	10	11
Career	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
Auxiliary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Personnel	12	12	12	12	12	11	11

Source: CAL FIRE-Fortuna Interagency Command Center, Humboldt County Fire Services Annual Reports

There are 53 fire hydrants on the Redway CSD water system that cover the entire developed area of the Redway CDP within 1,000 feet of the hydrants. The department must use water carried on fire engines and water tenders to extinguish structure fires that are located outside the hydranted area, as well as water that may be available on site (Humboldt County Legacy 2014).

Personnel

The Redway VFD has 11 volunteer firefighters. Over the last seven years the number of fire firefighters serving the department has remained consistently at 11 or 12 volunteers (Fire Chief Annual Report 2014).

Current Infrastructure and Facilities

The Department fleet includes one utility pickup, two Type-1 engines, one Type-4 Quick Attack, and one 2,000-gallon water tender. Providing adequate training facilities and equipment continues to be a financial challenge for the District. Additionally, the limited number and increased competition for federal grants has made it difficult to replace inventory of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The District is unable to comingle their personnel with other local departments at emergency scenes that have updated their SCBA (Fire Chief Annual Report 2014).

The following table describes the apparatus utilized by the Redway VFD.

Table 3-23. Facilities and Apparatus

Station	Address	Apparatus (seats)	Common Name	Year	Type	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
1	155 Empire Ave. Redway, CA 95560	C5800	Utility GMC Pickup	2015			
		E5814	Fire Engine Kenworth / Pierce	2002	I	1250	800
		E5813	Fire Engine Kenworth / Pierce	2003	I	1250	800
		A5841	Ford Quick Attack Engine	2000	IV	250	300
		WT5862	Peterbuilt Water Tender	2006	VI	500	2,000

ISO Rating

There are several benchmarks by which the level of fire service provided by an agency may be measured, and the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification, or ISO PPC, is one such measure. The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest is 10. Based on an ISO audit, the Redway VFD has a "5" ISO rating in hydranted areas and a "5X" in non-hydranted areas (Humboldt County Legacy 2014).

FINANCING

LAFCO must weigh a community's public service needs against the resources available to fund the services. During the municipal service review, the financing constraints and opportunities, which have an impact on the delivery of services, will be identified and enable LAFCO, local agencies, and the public to assess whether agencies are capitalizing on financing opportunities.

Current Revenues and Expenditures

The Redway FPD received \$87,484 in property tax revenue in the 2014-15 fiscal year (most recent reporting available through the State Controller's Office). All tax revenue is from one-percent property tax (also known as "ad valorem" taxes). The Redway FPD does not have a special tax or assessment to supplement its property tax (Humboldt County Legacy Communities 2014). As of the end of Fiscal Year 2014-15 the District reported approximately \$1,144,210 in general and special revenue funds (State Controller 2015).

Table 3-24. Redway FPD Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget	
Expenditures	
Salaries & Employee Benefits	\$38,413
Services & Supplies	\$23,019
Other Charges	\$5,576
Fixed Assets	\$13,802
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>\$80,810</i>
Revenues	
Property Taxes (1%)	\$87,484
Contributions from Property Owners	\$0
Non-Tax Revenues	\$25,391
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$112,875</i>
Total Revenue	\$112,875
Total Expenditures	\$80,810
Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	\$32,065

Source: Financial records as reported to the California State Controller's Office

ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

Meetings are generally held on the first Tuesday of the first month of the new quarter at 5:00 pm at our office, 155 Empire Avenue, Redway; meeting notices and minutes are posted at the same location.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

As set forth in Section 56430(a) of the CKH Act- In order to prepare and to update the SOI in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission. The commission shall include in the area designated for a service review the county, the region, the sub-region, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

(1) Growth and population projections for the affected area

- a) The estimated population of Redway FPD is 1,024 residents and 492 total housing units.
- b) Demand for fire protection service within the District boundaries is not expected to change significantly over the next 20 years.

(2) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence

- a) The community of Redway's MHI is \$27,188, which is 45 percent of California's reported \$61,094 MHI (Census Factfinder, 2010), thereby qualifying the area as disadvantaged.
- b) Should territory in the surrounding area be evaluated for annexation, disadvantaged communities in the area should be considered further.

(3) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies

- a) The Redway FPD provides good-will services to properties outside of District boundaries.
- b) Providing adequate training facilities and updating equipment continues to be a financial challenge for the District.
- c) The limited number and increased competition for federal grants has made it difficult to replace inventory of self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA). The District is unable to comingle their personnel with other local departments at emergency scenes that have updated their SCBA.

(4) Financing ability of agencies to provide services

- a) Based upon the State Controller's Report, current financing levels appear adequate to deliver services at the current level of service.
- b) The District has adequate reserve funds to deal with revenue short-falls in any given year.

(5) Status of, and opportunities for, shared facilities

- a) The District may benefit from an arrangement of shared resources (i.e., training) with other southern Humboldt fire service providers.
- b) No other opportunities for shared facilities were identified.

(6) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

- a) The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, elected by registered voters who live within the district.
- b) The District does not have a website. Establishing a website and the posting of agendas, minutes, budgets, and financial data would provide better transparency.

(7) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery.

- a) It is recommended that Redway FPD's sphere of influence be expanded to match its non-district good-will response area. This would allow the District to pursue annexation in the future.

3.7 Resort Improvement District No. 1

INTRODUCTION

Table 3-25. Contact Information

Contact:	Sal Gurreri, Chief Duty Officer
Mailing Address:	9126 Shelter Cove Rd. Whitethorn, CA 95589
Physical Address:	Same
Phone Number:	707- 986-7507
Email	scfd@sheltercove-ca.gov
Website	sheltercove-ca.gov/harbor/fire/fire.htm
Types of Services:	Fire protection and emergency services
Population Served:	693 residents (2010 Census)
Size of Service Area:	~3,753 acres
Number of Staff	1 paid, 11 volunteers, 1 auxiliary

Background

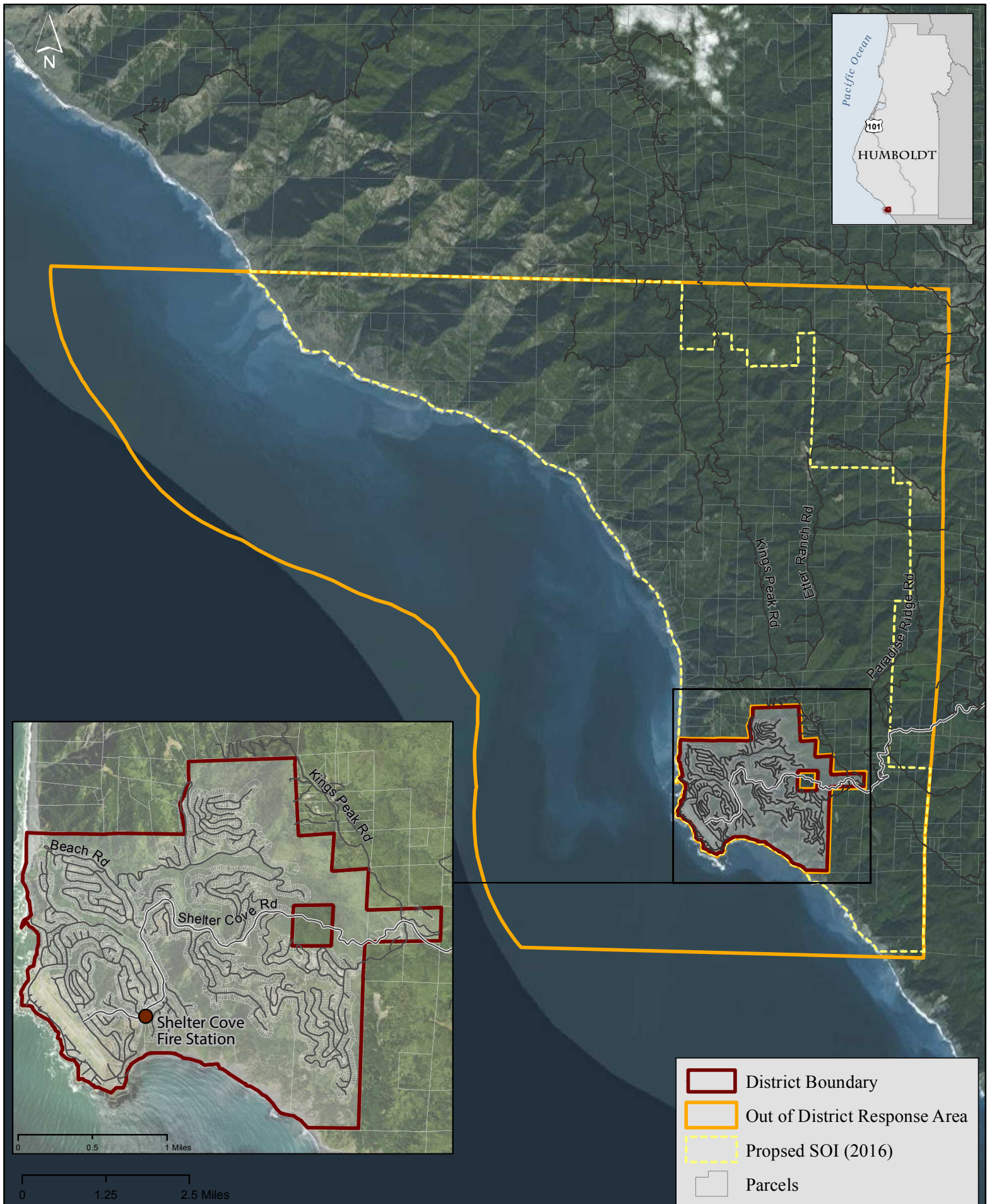
The Resort Improvement District No. 1 (RID No. 1 or District) provides year-round fire protection, emergency medical, and ocean rescue services to the unincorporated community of Shelter Cove. These services are provided on behalf of the District by the Shelter Cove Fire Department (SCFD or Department), which is an all-volunteer non-profit entity. A municipal service review (MSR) for the District was previously conducted in 2009, which evaluated all of the services provided by the District including water, wastewater, electric, airport, parks/ recreation, and fire protection/emergency services. This document will update the previous MSR related to the District's provision of fire protection services. RID No.1's water and wastewater services will be addressed separately in a future regional MSR.

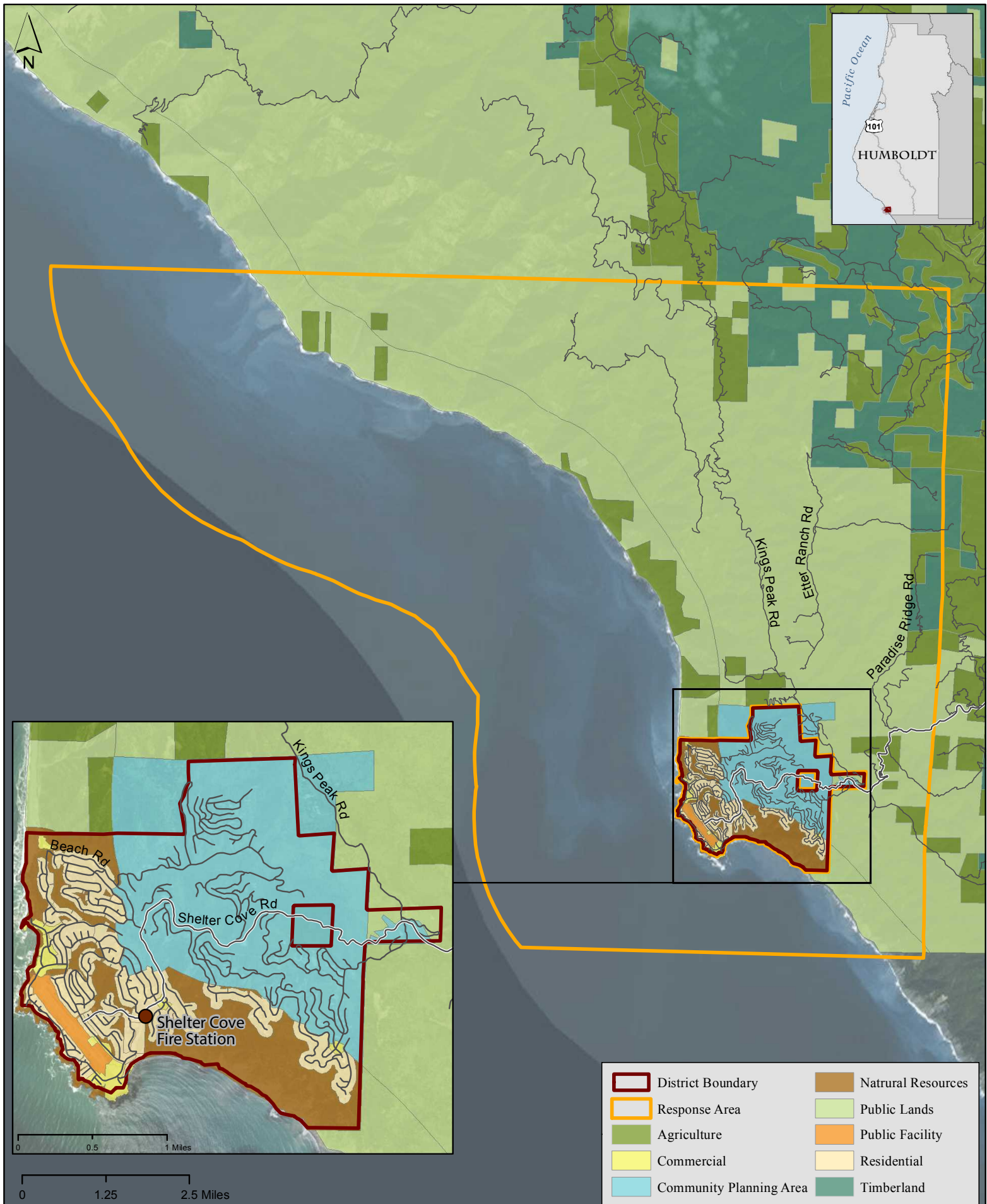
The District is located in the southwest corner of Humboldt County approximately 24 miles west of the town of Garberville. The Pacific Ocean forms the western and southern boundaries of RID No. 1. The District is also located within the King Range National Conservation Area and is surrounded by public lands (MSR 2009).

Formation

The RID No. 1 was formed in February 1965 pursuant to Resort Improvement District Law (Division 11 of the California Public Resources Code, Section 13000-13233). Only three such districts were created before this enabling legislation was amended by the State Legislature in 1975, thereby providing that no additional districts may be created or organized under this division. The RID No. 1 is the only remaining district of its type in California. The district was formed for the purpose of installing and maintaining facilities and providing services within the Shelter Cove Sea Park Subdivision (MSR 2009).

The area of the RID No. 1 was originally subdivided into 4,715 lots. Since that time several annexations to the District have occurred, however there are now fewer parcels than at the time of formation due to consolidation of undevelopable lots. The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors who are elected by registered voters who live within the District (MSR 2009).





District Boundary

The RID's boundary includes the community of Shelter Cove and includes approximately 2,692 acres (4.2 square miles). The District provides good-will services to properties outside of District boundaries. This Out of District Response Area, according to District maps, is approximately 57,482 acres (90 square miles) in area. The SCFD provides ocean rescue services and therefore a part of the aforementioned Response Area extends 3 miles into the Pacific Ocean. See Figure 15.

Growth and Population

The RID No. 1 serves approximately 1,500 people during the peak tourist season in the summer months. The estimated population of the Shelter Cove CDP is 693 residents and 631 total housing units (Census Factfinder, 2010). In 2010, of the 631 housing units, 348 units were occupied full time and 194 were used seasonally. The 89 remainder are considered vacant. Although the CDP is larger than the District, the District encompasses almost all of the residential developed area within the community and therefore the population is assumed to be close to that of the CDP estimate. The District reports an estimated 890 residents, 600 homes, 9 hotels, 2 beaches and a public airport within its service area (District response to questionnaire).

New residential development within the district boundaries is expected to occur over time at existing county-wide rates, which would likely range from 0.25 to 1.0 percent per year. Assuming this growth rate and the Census 2010 population, the population of Shelter Cove could reach approximately 771 by the year 2030, or an increase of two to seven new residents per year.

Existing and Planned Uses

The community is a census designated place (CDP) whose boundary contains the entirety of RID No. 1. Land uses within the District boundaries are subject to the Humboldt County Framework General Plan (Framework Plan), Volume I, and Zoning Regulations (Humboldt County Code Title III, Division 1). The area constitutes the Shelter Cove portion of the South Coast Area Plan (Humboldt County Legacy 2014). Shelter Cove is also a part of the Mattole-Lost Coast fire planning compartment (Humboldt County Hazard Mitigation 2014).

Shelter Cove is a part of the King Range National Conservation Area. Within the District boundary predominant land uses designations include Public, Commercial, and Open Space. A fair amount of the Single Family Residential land is vacant, representing potential growth for the area. Outside the District boundary in the Out of District Response Area the majority of the land is designated as Open Space with scattered Rural Residential designated properties.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCo is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) as part of this municipal service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. Per California Senate Bill 244, a DUC is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the median household income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide MHI. Within a DUC, three basic services are evaluated: water, sewage, and fire protection. RID No. 1 provides water, sewer, and fire protection services and is therefore responsible for assuring that those services are adequately provided to the community.

The community of Shelter Cove is identified as an unincorporated legacy community (ULC) within the 2014 Humboldt County Housing Element. A legacy community is defined as a place that meets the following criteria:

- Contains 10 or more dwelling units in close proximity to one another;
- Is either within a city Sphere of Influence (SOI), is an island within a city boundary, or is geographically isolated and has existed for more than 50 years; and
- Has a median household income that is 80 percent or less than the statewide median household income.

The Shelter Cove CDP was estimated to have a MHI of \$23,480, which is 38 percent of the state MHI average (American Factfinder, 2010), thereby qualifying the area as disadvantaged. Should territory in the area be evaluated for annexation, disadvantaged communities in the area should be considered further.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Service Demand and Service Levels

Fire protection services for the District are provided by the Shelter Cove Fire Department (SCFD). The SCFD responded to approximately 118 calls for service in 2014, of which approximately 21 calls, or 18 percent, were fires of various types and 50 calls, or 42 percent, were medical related. Other calls such as vehicle accidents (6 percent of total calls) and public assists (27 percent of total calls), may also involve the delivery of emergency medical services. Typically the Department's response to fire calls averages 20 percent of their total responses. Refer to Table 3-26 for an over view of SCFD service calls.

Table 3-26. Department Numbers (2008-2014)

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	26	10	0	0	2	5	1
Struct. Fires	2	1	1	2	1	2	4
Other Fires	3	1	13	16	18	14	16
Veh. Acc.	20	0	4	5	7	2	7
Medicals	42	48	34	37	33	46	50
Haz/Menace	5	0	1	0	1	2	4
Public Assists	24	16	8	27	24	20	32
Others	-	-	-	-	-	8	4
Total Responses	122	76	61	87	86	99	118
%Fire Response	25%	16%	23%	21%	24%	21%	18%
% Medical	34%	63%	56%	43%	38%	46%	42%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	750	425	767	No	739	623	899
Training	900	357	1,395	Report	1,359	1,204	1,243
Maintenance	200	200	200		-	140	96
Fundraising	60	60	20		-	72	32
Total Hours	1,910	1,042	2,382		2,098	2,039	2,270
Personnel							
Volunteer	14	14	17	12	12	11	11
Auxiliary	12	12	0	0	1	1	1
Total Personnel	26	26	17	12	13	12	12

Source: CAL FIRE-Fortuna Interagency Command Center, Humboldt County Fire Services Annual Reports

Agency Cooperation

The SCFD is an active member of the fire service in Humboldt County and participates in a countywide mutual aid agreement. The SCFD also has mutual aid agreements with neighboring departments, including Whale Gulch VFD, Whitethorn FPD, and Briceland FPD (District Questionnaire, 2014).

The SCFD has one Duty Officer in the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES). An OES Staff Duty Officer serves as the 24/7 point of contact and action agent for all threat notifications and public warning missions, as well as the on-scene OES liaison to County departments, municipalities, and special districts during emergencies of limited scope.

The SCFD interfaces with the community through free CPR classes, Firewise events and publications, and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) training. The Department also offers Emergency Medical Responder Training (40 hrs) to other local fire departments annually.

Personnel

The District's fire department has one paid part-time staff member (paramedic) and 11 volunteers. The SCFD continually recruits new volunteers to join the department and become firefighters. All firefighters are cross-trained in structure and wildland firefighting, and in high-angle rescue. Two personnel are certified as Fire-Fighter 1 or above, four are trained in HazMat First Responder Ops, seven are trained in HazMat Awareness, and six are trained in open-ocean/surf rescue. SCFD's ocean rescue team trains monthly (District Questionnaire 2014).

The SCFD currently has six members trained as Medical First Responders, and four members who are certified EMT-1, and two paramedics (District Response to Questionnaire, 2014). The North Coast Emergency Medical Services Agency (North Coast EMS) establishes certifications, the scope of practice, and procedures for departments and members of fire departments responding to medical emergencies. North Coast EMS has Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with First Responder Basic Life Support (BLS) and First Responder Advanced Life Support (ALS) departments. Most local fire organizations have personnel that are certified at the BLS level. The RID No. 1 is currently a BLS and ALS service provider.

The District's water utility personnel respond to fire department emergencies that require use of the hydrants and the multiple water storage tanks to coordinate the movement of water supplies within the system during a fire event. For this purpose, SCFD holds training sessions that are open to surrounding Fire Protection Districts and open to the public for observation (MSR 2009). SCFD, like all fire departments that are staffed exclusively by volunteers, needs to regularly recruit and train additional volunteers.

Current Infrastructure and Facilities

The Department has one fire station, located at 9126 Shelter Cove Road in Shelter Cove. The SCFD owns and operates a fleet of fire and emergency response vehicles including fire engines, an ambulance, all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), a jet ski, a rescue boat, and a Duty Officers' vehicle. See Facilities and Apparatus Table below for a complete listing of SCFD apparatus.

The Department also owns and operates other basic fire protection and rescue equipment including radios, self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA), hydraulic Jaws of Life, High Pressure Air Bags, protective clothing, and numerous other tools and firefighting equipment. All riding positions on Fire Apparatus are equipped with radios and SBCAs and all firefighters are equipped with protective clothing (MSR 2009).

The SCFD reports that it has grown out of its current housing space and that three of its oldest apparatus need to be replaced (District Response to Questionnaire, 2014). The Department has an informal equipment and apparatus replacement plan. The Department actively pursues grant funds for vehicle and equipment upgrades.

There are approximately 235 fire hydrants located throughout Shelter Cove. Fire hydrants, apparatus and other fire equipment are periodically serviced by the District (MSR 2009).

Table 3-27. Facilities and Apparatus

Station	Address	Apparatus	Type	Year	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
1	9126 Shelter Cove Road in Shelter Cove	Fire Engine 5131	Rescue Pumper: GMC Fast Attack	1984	1250	750
		Fire Engine 5111	Ford Boardman Fire Engine	1994	1250	1000
		Fire Engine 5146	Ford F350 4X4 Fire truck/utility body	2004	350	350
		Fire Engine 5116	Rosenbauer Timberwolf Engine	2009	250	200
		Ambulance	Ford EC350	2014	N/A	N/A
		ATV Rescue Unit	KAWK ATV	2001	N/A	N/A
		ATV Rescue Unit	N/A	2011	N/A	N/A
		Ocean Rescue Unit	Yamaha Jet Ski & Sled & Trailer	2005	N/A	N/A
		Ocean Rescue Unit	17' RIB Jet Boat	1999	N/A	N/A
		Duty Officer's Vehicle	Chevy Tahoe 4x4	2003	N/A	N/A

ISO Rating

There are several benchmarks by which the level of fire service provided by an agency may be measured, and the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification, or ISO PPC, is one such measure. The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest is 10. Based on an ISO audit, the District has an ISO PPC rating of "5". Such a rating provides the residents of Shelter Cove access to lower insurance rates, as opposed to a community with an agency who has a higher rating, such as a 9.

FINANCING

Current Revenues and Expenditures

RID No. 1 is primarily supported through property taxes (also known as "ad valorem" taxes). The RID No. 1 has a separate budget for their fire department. Within the District, the VFD's primary funding is a special tax (property assessment) of \$25 per parcel, which originates from "Measure L" passed in 1995. The total revenue is an estimated \$105,000 a year. Tax revenue for the Department has been declining every year as parcels are merged (District Questionnaire, 2014). An increase in special tax could address this concern.

The District has established a reserve fund and maintains six months operating revenues in reserve (District Questionnaire, 2014). As of the end of Fiscal Year 2014-15 the District reported approximately \$3,422,520 in general and special revenue funds (State Controller, 2015). The District reports that the Fire Department has no loans or current debt (District Questionnaire, 2014).

Table 3-28. RID No. 1 Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2014-15

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget	
Expenditures	
Salaries & Employee Benefits	\$117,019
Services & Supplies	\$74,126
Other Charges	\$5,233
Fixed Assets	\$211,133
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>\$407,511</i>
Revenues	
Property Taxes (1%)	\$347,724
Property Assessment	\$107,041
Contributions from Property Owners	\$0
Non-Tax Revenues	\$74,602
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$529,367</i>
Total Revenues	\$529,367
Total Expenditures	\$407,511
Revenues Over (or Under) Expenditures	\$74,602

Source: Financial records as reported to the California State Controller's Office

ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

The RID No. 1 is governed by a five-member Board of Directors who are elected to four year terms by registered voters that live within the District. Board members receive a \$50 stipend per monthly meeting. The Board meets on the third Thursday of each month at 9:00 am at the Fire Station in Shelter Cove. All meetings are accessible to the public and the agenda is posted on the Districts website at www.sheltercove-ca.gov. A District monthly newsletter is mailed out to customers and posted on the District website. The District has regular office hours Monday-Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm.

RID No. 1 demonstrates accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Humboldt LAFCo. The District responded to the questionnaires, staff telephone calls, and cooperated with document requests.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

As set forth in Section 56430(a) of the CKH Act- In order to prepare and to update the SOI in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission. The commission shall include in the area designated for a service review the county, the region, the sub-region, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

(1) Growth and population projections for the affected area

- a) The RID No. 1's boundaries include an estimated population of 693 residents and 631 total housing units (2010 Census).
- b) The RID No. 1's population fluctuates seasonally, with an influx of residents in the summer months.

(2) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence

- a) Shelter Cove is identified as a disadvantaged unincorporated community.
- b) The Shelter Cove CDP has a medium household income of \$23,480, which is 38 percent of the state average.
- c) Should territory in the area be evaluated for annexation, surrounding disadvantaged communities in the area should be considered further.

(3) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies

- a) The district's facilities, infrastructure, and services are sufficient to provide quality services to its residents.
- b) SCFD has grown out of its current housing space and reports that three of its oldest apparatus need to be replaced.
- c) Like all volunteer departments the SCFD needs to continually recruit additional volunteers and, as population increases in the future, additional volunteers will be needed to maintain the service capacity of the district.

(4) Financing ability of agencies to provide services

- a) The SCFD's primary source of income comes from an annual fire protection tax of \$25 per parcel, which originates from "Measure L" passed in 1995.
- b) Tax revenue for SCFD has been declining ever year as parcels are merged. An increase in the annual parcel tax could help alleviate this concern.
- c) The RID No. 1 Board of Directors adopts an annual budget and administers its funds consistent with Resort Improvement District Law and budgeting, accounting, and reporting procedures for special districts in California.

(5) Status of and, opportunities for, shared facilities

- a) The SCFD is an active member of the fire service in Humboldt County and participates in mutual aid agreements with neighboring departments. The Department also offers Emergency Medical Responder Training to other local fire departments annually.
- b) The non-district response area of the SCFD extends beyond the District's boundaries and overlaps with other agency response areas.
- c) SCFD works closely and cooperatively with neighboring fire departments and has mutual and automatic aid agreements with them. In addition, the SCFD is a member of the Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs Association.

(6) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

- a) The RID No. 1 efficiently provides its residents with water, wastewater, fire protection and emergency rescue, parks and recreation, and electric services.

- b) The RID No. 1 maintains a board of directors who are elected by the registered voters within the community served by the district.
- c) Board meetings are open to the public and are noticed in accordance with the Brown Act.
- d) District staff can be reached by phone, email, or at the district office during regular business hours.
- e) The district operates efficiently and is accountable for community service needs.

(7) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery.

- a) It is recommended that RID No. 1's sphere of influence be expanded to generally match its non-district good-will response area without overlapping the Telegraph Ridge FPD Boundary or the Whitethorn FPD's response area. This would allow the District to pursue annexation in the future.
- b) Should the RID No. 1 propose annexation in the future, the District may establish a service zone for the annexation area where only fire protection services would be authorized to be provided in accordance with Government Code Sections 61140-61226.5.

3.8 Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District

INTRODUCTION

Table 3-29. Contact Information

Contact:	Peter Lawsky (Chief)
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 1152 Redway, CA 95560
Physical Address:	515 Ettersburg Road, Garberville, CA 95542
Phone Number:	(707) 986-7488
Email	telegraphridgefpd@gmail.com
Website	None
Types of Services:	Fire Protection Services and Medical Response
Population Served:	235 residents
Size of Service Area:	~25,000 acres
Number of Staff	16 volunteers

Background

The Telegraph Ridge Fire Protection District (Telegraph Ridge FPD or District) provides year-round fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services to the unincorporated area of Telegraph Ridge and Ettersburg. The area is located in southwestern Humboldt County, west of Garberville and Briceland, and north of Whitethorn and Shelter Cove. Firefighting services for the District are provided by the Telegraph Ridge Volunteer Fire Department (VFD).

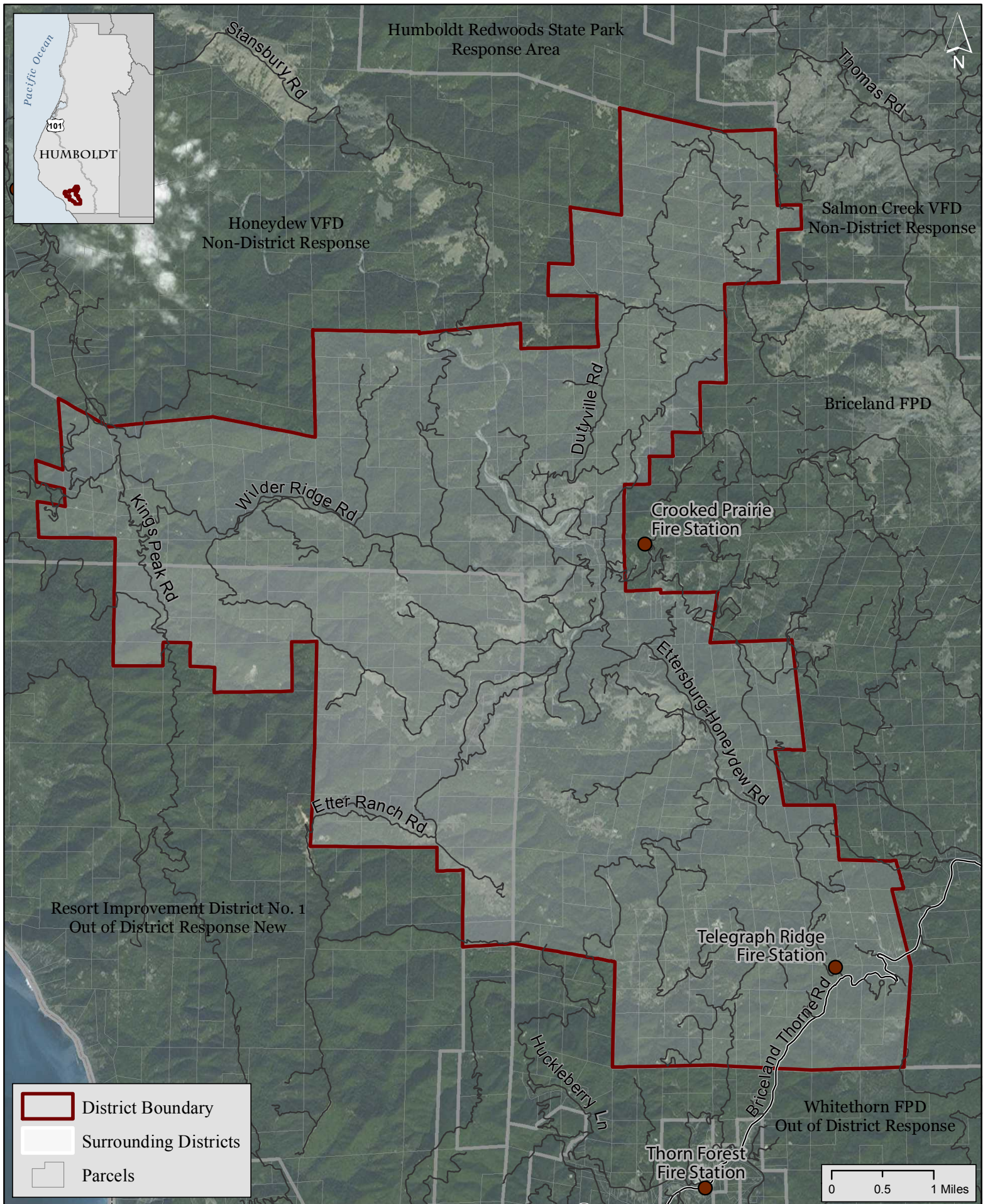
In 2015, the Telegraph Ridge FPD annexed approximately 8,911 acres of what was considered their out of district "good will" response area. An MSR was completed as a part of this process. This document contains much of the information provided in the 2015 MSR and updates information where appropriate.

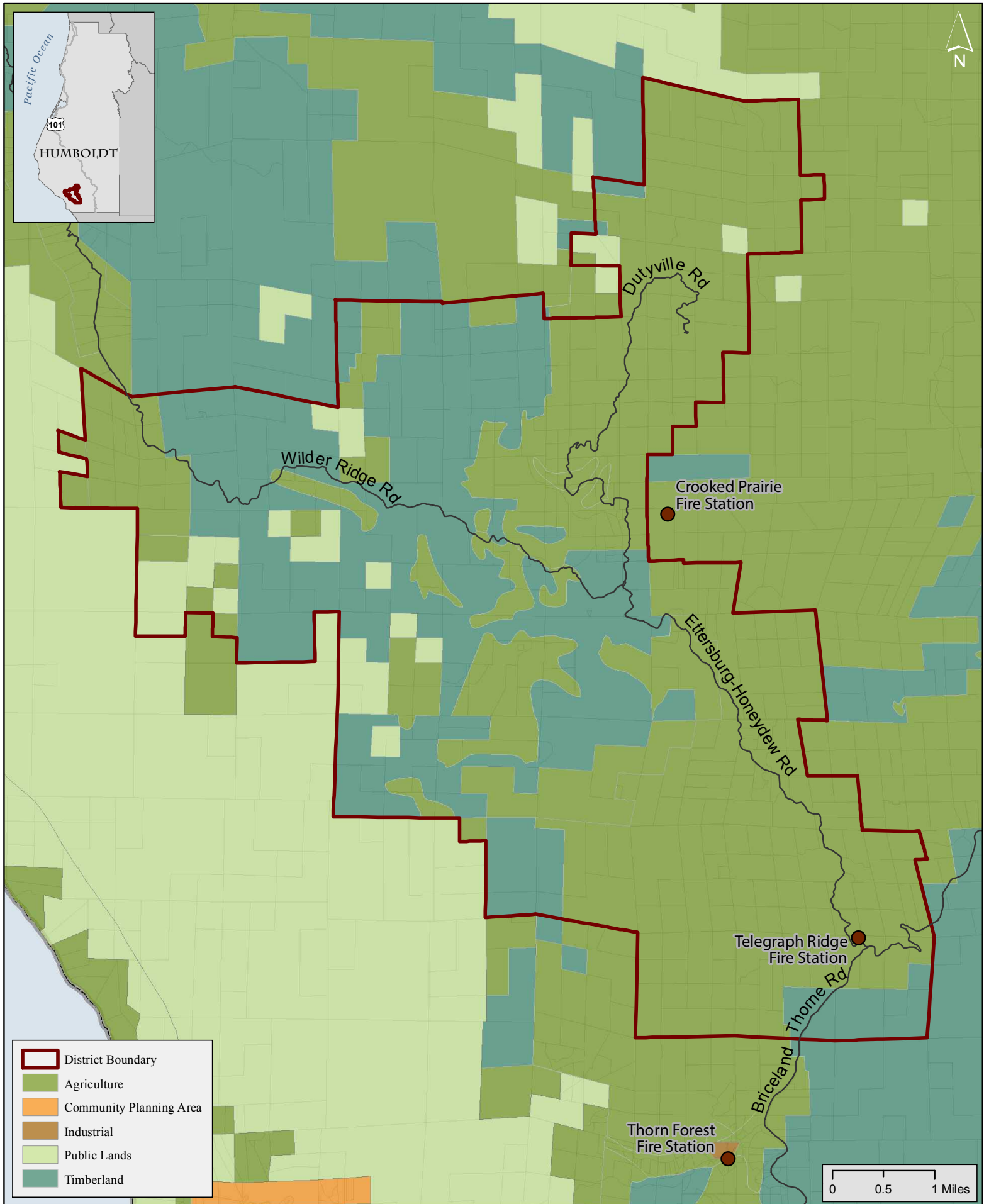
Formation

The Telegraph Ridge FPD was formed in March 1988 after a successful special election was held, which included the approval of a special assessment on property (Fire Services Annual Report 2014). The District was formed for the purpose of providing fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (Division 12, Part 2.7 of the California Health and Safety Code, Sections 13800-13970). The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors, elected by registered voters who live within the District.

District Boundary

The Telegraph Ridge FPD provides fire protection to the community of Ettersburg and to residents living along Telegraph and Wilder Ridges. The District generally follows along Ettersburg Road, Wilder Ridge Road, and Dutyville Road (see Figure 17). The District annexed the entirety of their response area into the District in 2015 and now encompasses approximately 25,000 acres (39 square miles). The District has entered into an agreement with the Briceland FPD to provide fire protection and related emergency services in the Crooked Prairie area (the northernmost part of the Briceland FPD). As a part of this expansion of services the Telegraph FPD also now utilizes the Crooked Prairie fire station, which historically has been used by Briceland FPD.





Growth and Population

Based on a review of census blocks there are approximately 235 residents living in 140 housing units within the District boundaries, according to the 2010 Census. Specific growth projections are not available for Telegraph Ridge and the surrounding area. Therefore, the expected growth rates for the County as a whole are the best measures of likely future growth for this area. If the population within the District boundaries were to grow at county-wide rates of 0.6 percent per year, the population of the District would increase by approximately 25 people in the next 20 years (MSR 2015).

Existing and Planned Uses

Land uses within the Telegraph Ridge FPD boundaries are subject to the Humboldt County Framework General Plan (Framework Plan), Volume I, and Zoning Regulations (Humboldt County Code Title III, Division 1). The area is comprised of timberland, grazing land, and rural residential land uses (see Figure 18). Telegraph Ridge FPD encompasses territory which is a part of the Mattole-Lost Coast fire planning compartment (Humboldt County Hazard Mitigation 2014).

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCo is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) as part of this municipal service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. Per California Senate Bill 244, a DUC is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the median household income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide MHI. Within a DUC, three basic services are evaluated: water, sewage, and fire protection. Telegraph Ridge FPD provides one of these services – fire protection – and is responsible for assuring that those services are adequately provided to the community. There are no community water or wastewater systems in Telegraph Ridge. Residential, commercial, and agricultural land uses produce drinking and agricultural water through on-site water systems (Humboldt County Legacy 2014).

The Telegraph Ridge FPD is in Community Tract 06023011500, which the California Department of Water Resources identifies as a Disadvantaged Community Tract. The Tract has a MHI of \$38,617, which is 63 percent of the state average MHI (Census Quickfacts, 2013), thereby qualifying the area as disadvantaged.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Service Demand and Service Levels

Fire protection services for the District are provided by the Telegraph Ridge VFD. The Telegraph Ridge VFD is an active member of the fire service in Humboldt County. The Department responded to approximately 25 calls for service in 2014, of which approximately 8 calls, or 32 percent, were fires of various types and 7 calls, or 28 percent, were medical related. Other calls such as vehicle accidents, which comprise approximately 24 percent of total calls, may also involve the delivery of emergency medical services. Typically the Department's response to fire calls averages 32 percent of their total responses. Refer to Table 3-30 for an over view of Telegraph Ridge VFD service calls.

Table 3-30. Department Numbers (2008-2014)

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	10	6	2	0	0	6	2
Struct. Fires	2	4	3	2	2	1	2
Other Fires	6	6	2	5	5	7	4
Veh. Acc.	9	14	7	5	8	10	6
Medicals	7	11	20	7	4	10	7
Haz/Menace	1	1	3	1	3	2	3
Public Assists	3	1	3	5	3	2	0
Others	-	-	-	-	-	0	1
Total Responses	38	43	40	25	25	38	25
%Fire Response	47%	37%	18%	28%	28%	37%	32%
% Medical	18%	26%	50%	28%	16%	26%	28%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	130	180	180	No	92	155	134
Training	310	300	300	Report	278	240	390
Maintenance	40	50	50		45	35	70
Fundraising	10	10	20		180	220	65
Total Hours	490	540	550	0	595	650	659
Personnel							
Volunteer	8	8	12	12	10	9	13
Auxiliary	3	3	3	3	2	2	3
Total Personnel	11	11	15	15	12	11	16

Source: CAL FIRE-Fortuna Interagency Command Center, Humboldt County Fire Services Annual Reports

Personnel

The Department is headed by a chief supported by two assistant chiefs. Telegraph Ridge FPD firefighters have received wide-ranging training and also participate as members of the Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue Team. Two personnel are trained as Fire Fighter 1 or above, nine are trained in Wildland (CICCS), one member is trained in HazMat First Responder Operations, four are trained in rope rescue, and two are trained in swift water rescue. The Department currently has six members trained as Medical First Responders. No personnel are trained as EMTs or paramedics (MSR 2015).

Current Infrastructure and Facilities

The Telegraph Ridge FPD fire station is located at 515 Ettersburg Road. The District expanded the fire station in 2009 in order to accommodate a newly purchased engine. There are no public water providers within the district and no fire hydrants. Water for firefighting is drafted from tanks, ponds, creeks, and pools (MSR 2015).

The Telegraph Ridge FPD also absorbed the Crooked Prairie fire station and two pieces of equipment. The members of the Crooked Prairie crew are now training with Telegraph Ridge VFD and have joined the department. This has provided the citizens of the area with more effective and efficient emergency services.

The District (with the addition of Crooked Prairie) has two stations and five apparatus (See Table 3-31). The water tender and one pumper are housed in Crooked Prairie; the rest in Telegraph Ridge. Most of the engines are from the 1980s and require time and money to maintain. The crew all have complete wildland gear with PPEs, but their structure gear is old and incomplete. There is not enough structure gear for all of the crew. Like the structure gear, the SCBAs are also very old hand-me-downs (Fire Services Annual Report, 2014).

Both the Crooked Prairie firehouse and the Telegraph Ridge firehouse are unheated, un-insulated metal buildings with no office or meeting areas. One engine is kept in a fabric temporary structure, and one engine is in a carport. The District is negotiating with the Southern Humboldt School District to purchase the closed Ettersburg School property, where they hold meetings and drills. If negotiations and fundraising are successful, the District hopes to eventually construct a new firehouse there.

Table 3-31. Facilities and Apparatus

Station	Address	Common Name	Apparatus (seats)	Year	Type	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
Telegraph Ridge	515 Ettersburg-Honeydew Road Whitethorn	500 Gallon Pumper	E-5533 (7)	1985	III	1000	1500
		Quick Response 4x4 Engine	A-5547 (3)	1985	IV		200
		Quick Response 4x4 Engine	A-5548 (3)	1990	IV	500	00
Crooked Prairie		500 Gallon Pumper	E-5432 (5)	1971	III	500	500
		1200-Gallon Water Tender	WT-5466 (2)	1968	II	500	1500

ISO Rating

There are several benchmarks by which the level of fire service provided by an agency may be measured, and the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification, or ISO PPC, is one such measure. The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest is 10. Based on an ISO audit, the Telegraph Ridge FPD has a PPC rating of "9" (MSR 2015).

FINANCING

Current Revenues and Expenditures

The Telegraph Ridge FPD received \$13,781 in total revenues in the 2014-15 fiscal year (most recent reporting available through the State Controller's Office). The District's primary source of revenue comes from a special assessment on property and averaged \$4,600 a year prior to the 2015 annexation. Financial reporting has not been completed for the 2015-16 fiscal year at the time of this document, but the 2015 annexation is anticipated to generate approximately \$3,100 a year. The District also receives transfer of property tax funds from other special districts through the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) process in the amount of approximately \$4,500. Generous donations from community members usually provide another \$3,000, although this number may change depending on how many historical donors were in the 2015 annexation area and are now a part of the regular tax base.

The below financial report reflects the District finances *prior* to annexation. The 2015-16 FY will be the first year which reflects the District's finances with the new annexation.

Table 3-32. Telegraph Ridge FPD Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2014-15

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget	
Expenditures	
Salaries & Employee Benefits	\$1,250
Services & Supplies	\$4,600
Other Charges	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$0
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>\$5,850</i>
Revenues	
Property Taxes (1%)	\$4,946
Property Assessment	\$4,232
Contributions from Property Owners	\$0
Non-Tax Revenues	\$6,145
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$13,781</i>
 Total Revenues	 \$13,781
Total Expenditures	\$5,850
Revenues/Sources Over (Under)	
Expenditures/Uses	\$7,931

Source: Financial records as reported to the California State Controller's Office

Current expenditures are on fire protection equipment and Volunteer personnel. With a remaining general and special fund balance of \$86,425 (as of June 30, 2015), the Telegraph Ridge FPD has sufficient budgeting practices, and does not have an immediate need to reduce costs. The District uses mutual and automatic aid agreements to ensure that resources are available to large and complex incidents or when multiple incidents occur simultaneously.

The Telegraph Ridge FPD periodically receives grant funds for specific purposes such as the purchase of equipment or training; however, the future grant revenue for the District is uncertain due to the availability of federal or state funds. In addition, the District carries over unexpected revenues from prior years which helps to maintain a modest reserve. The District is able to carry this reserve because it is frugal and many needed equipment purchases have been deferred. It is critical that some reserve is available to cover inevitable emergency costs and the additional revenue generated from the annexation will ensure that this practice continues.

Financing Constraints and Opportunities

The Telegraph Ridge FPD has sufficient budgeting practices, and does not have an immediate need to reduce costs. The District uses mutual and automatic aid agreements to ensure that resources are available to large and complex incidents or when multiple incidents occur simultaneously.

Accountability and Governance

The Telegraph Ridge FPD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. The District currently has four serving representatives and one vacancy. They meet as needed at the Fire Hall or the former Ettersburg School (MSR 2015).

Telegraph Ridge FPD demonstrates accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Humboldt LAFCo. The District responded to the questionnaires, staff telephone calls, and cooperated with document requests.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

As set forth in Section 56430(a) of the CKH Act- In order to prepare and to update the SOI in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission. The commission shall include in the area designated for a service review the county, the region, the sub-region, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

(1) Growth and population projections for the affected area

- a) The Telegraph Ridge FPD boundaries include an estimated population of 235 residents and 140 housing units.
- b) If the population within the District boundaries were to grow at county-wide rates of 0.6 percent per year, the population of the District would increase about 25 people in the next 20 years.

(2) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence

- a) The Telegraph Ridge FPD is in Community Tract Identified as a disadvantaged community.
- b) The Tract has a medium household income of \$38,617, which is 63 percent of the state average.

(3) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies.

- a) The District is in need of additional revenue to support the regular replacement of apparatus.
- b) Like all volunteer departments the Telegraph Ridge FPD needs to continually recruit additional volunteers and, as population increases in the future, additional volunteers will be required to maintain the service capacity of the district.

(4) Financing ability of agencies to provide services

- a) The District's primary source of revenue comes from a special assessment on property. The District also receives transfer of property tax funds from other special districts through the ERAF process. Total revenue is approximately \$15,000 per year.
- b) The District relies on grants and donations to close the gap between expenditures and revenue.
- c) The District carries over unexpected revenues from prior years which helps to maintain a modest reserve.
- d) The District Board of Directors adopts an annual budget and administers its funds consistent with Fire Protection District Law and budgeting, accounting, and reporting procedures for special districts in California.

(5) Status of and, opportunities for, shared facilities

a) The Telegraph Ridge FPD works closely and cooperatively with neighboring fire departments and has mutual and automatic aid agreements with them. In addition, the Telegraph Ridge FPD is a member of the Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs Association.

b) While the response area for Telegraph Ridge FPD is directly adjacent to the response areas of Honeydew VFC to the north, the Briceland FPD to the west, and Whitethorn FPD to the south, the response times of these providers could be long, due to the rural geography of the region.

(6) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

a) The Telegraph Ridge FPD maintains a board of directors who are elected by the registered voters that live within the district.

b) The District supports the mutual social and economic interests of the rural Telegraph Ridge and Ettersburg communities by sustaining community-based fire protection services and establishing local governance for such services.

(7) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy

a) Telegraph Ridge FPD's boundary generally matches its response area. This corresponds with the District's sphere of influence that was updated in 2015 as part of an annexation process. No change to the existing sphere of influence is recommended at this time.

3.9 Weott Community Services District

INTRODUCTION

Table 3-33. Contact Information

Contact:	Christine Conn, General Manager
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 269, Weott, CA 95571
Physical Address:	70 Lum Street, Weott, CA 95571
Phone Number:	(707) 946-2367
Email	weottcsd2010@att.net
Website	www.facebook.com/weottvfd
Types of Services:	Fire Protection, Fire Suppression & Medical Response
Population Served:	288 residents
Size of Service Area:	~23,918 acres
Number of Staff	8 volunteer, 0 auxiliary

Background

The Weott Community Services District (Weott CSD or District) provides water, wastewater, and fire protection services to the unincorporated community of Weott. A municipal service review for Weott CSD was previously conducted in 2012, which considered all of the services provided by the District. This document will update and discuss the District's fire protection services, which are provided by the Weott VFD. Weott CSD's water and wastewater services will be addressed separately in a future regional water and wastewater MSR.

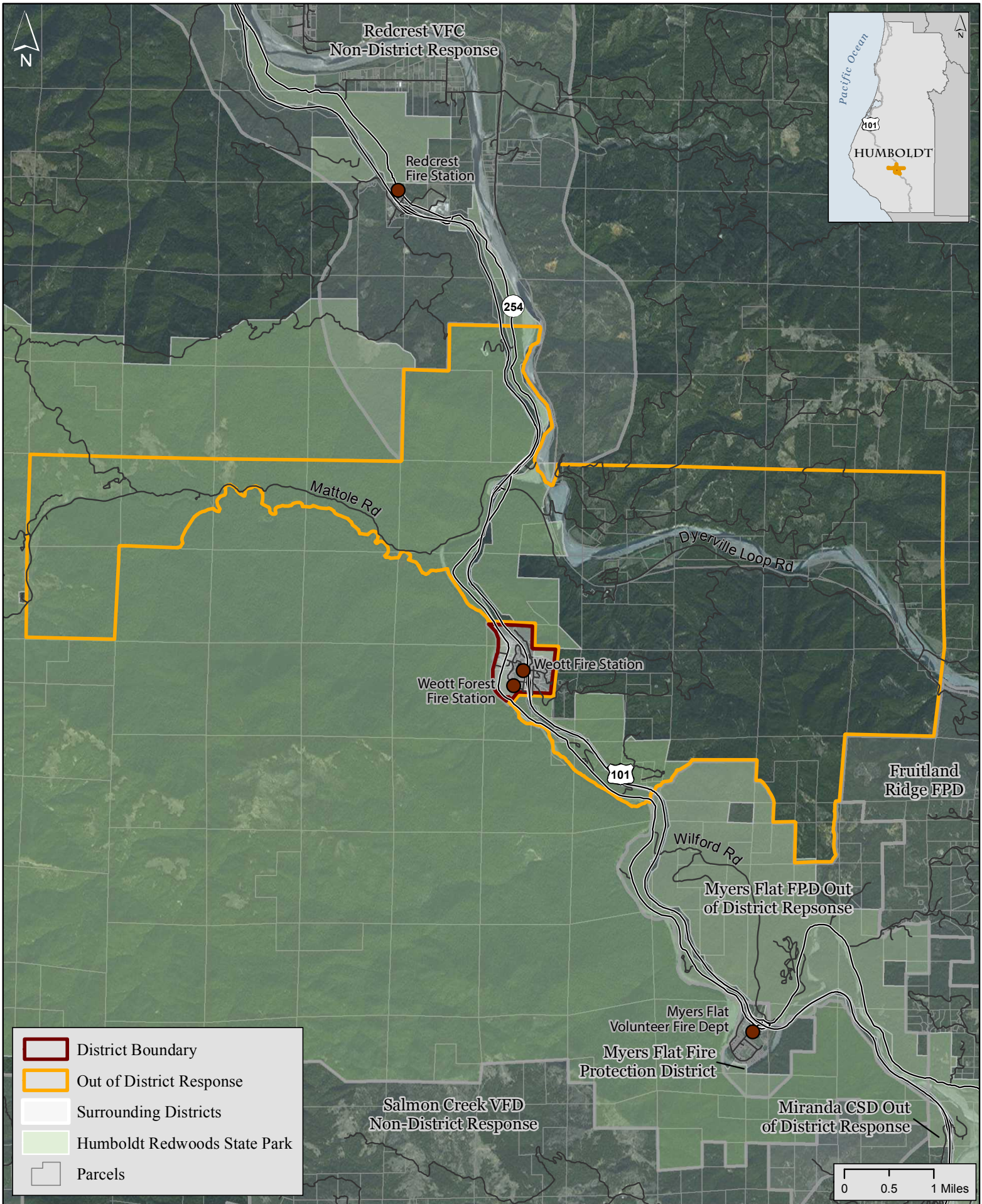
Weott is located in south-central Humboldt County along the Avenue of the Giants corridor. A seasonal CALFIRE station is located in Weott, and surrounding fire-related districts include Redcrest VFC, Myers Flat FPD, Miranda CSD, and Fruitland Ridge FPD. Recently Weott VFD has been responding beyond its Out of District Response Area to provide coverage to the Myers Flat region whose Department is now inactive.

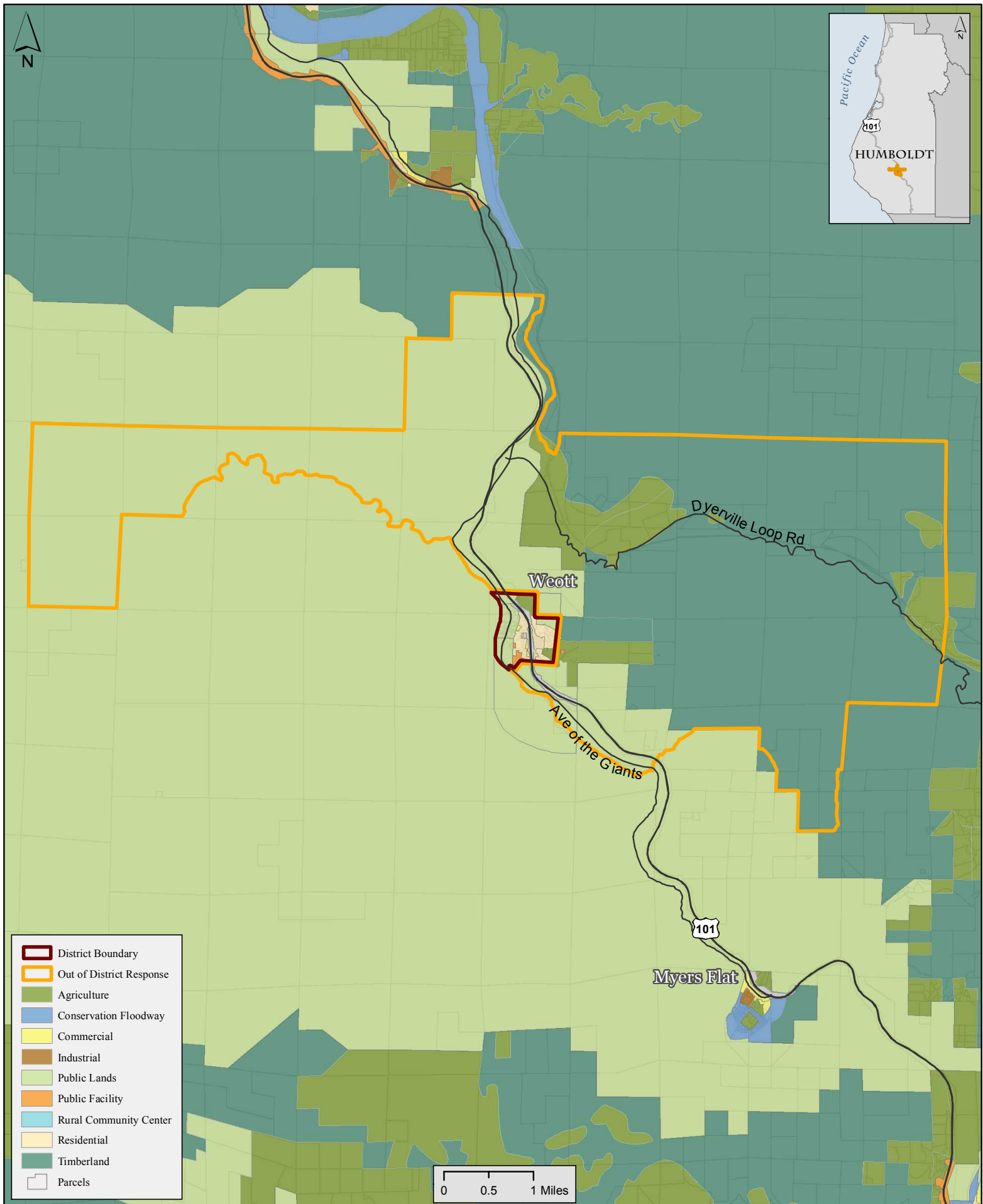
Formation

The Weott CSD was formed in 1965 following a disastrous flood in 1964 which destroyed over 90 percent of the buildings in Weott (MSR 2012). The Weott CSD is an independent special district that is governed pursuant to Community Services District Law (Government Code Section 61000-61226.5). The District has a five-member Board of Directors that is elected by registered voters that live within the District.

District Boundary

Weott CSD's boundary includes the community of Weott and is approximately 316 acres (0.5 square miles). The Weott CSD provides good-will services to properties outside of the District's boundary. Properties within the existing District boundary largely subsidize the delivery of fire protection services to the Out of District Response Area. This Out of District Response Area is approximately 23,602 acres (39 square miles), creating a total District Service Area of 23,918 acres. See Figure 19. The District has indicated that providing water and sewer services the Response Area would be a financial hardship, but that they plan to continue to provide fire protection services to the Area. Should the Weott CSD annex the Response Area in the future, the District may propose that the annexation area would be a new service zone where only fire protection services would be authorized to be provided, in accordance with Government Code Section 61140-61226.5.





Growth and Population

The Weott CSD boundaries include a population of 288 residents and 143 housing units (American FactFinder, 2010). According to the Census of 2000 and 2010, the Weott area gained population and housing units. In 2000, the Census enumerated 256 people and 135 housing units in Weott, indicating that the population has increased by 1.1 percent and housing units increased by 0.6 percent per year between 2000 and 2010.

New residential development within the District boundaries is expected to occur over time at existing county-wide rates, which would likely range from 0.25 to 1.0 percent per year. Assuming this growth rate and the Census 2010 population, the population of the Weott CSD could reach approximately 345 by the year 2030, or an increase of three to five new residents per year.

Existing and Planned Uses

The District's most prominent feature is the town of Weott, which is one of six unincorporated communities along the Avenue of the Giants and the closest town to the Humboldt Redwoods State Park campground and visitor center in Burlington. Weott contains the Agnes Johnson School, Milligan Community Center, a post office, and a seasonal CAL FIRE station.

Land uses within the Weott CSD boundaries are subject to the Humboldt County Framework General Plan (Framework Plan), Volume I, and Zoning Regulations (Humboldt County Code Title III, Division 1). The District is within and subject to the land use policies in the Avenue of the Giants Community Plan (General Plan, Volume II), adopted April 11, 2000, in addition to the Framework Plan and Zoning Regulations. Weott is also a part of the South Eel Fire Planning Compartment (Humboldt County Hazard Mitigation 2014).

As mentioned above, the majority of residential development is within the District's boundary. The District also contains land designated as public (Humboldt Redwoods State Park). External to the District boundary and within the Response Area, the predominant land use designations are Public and Timber Production with the exception of an area around Newtown Road which is designated as Rural Residential. See Figure 20.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCo is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) as part of this municipal service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. Per California Senate Bill 244, a DUC is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the median household income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide MHI. Within a DUC, three basic services are evaluated: water, sewage, and fire protection. Weott CSD provides all three of these services and is responsible for assuring that those services are adequately provided to the community.

The community of Weott is a Census Designated Place (CDP), is identified as an unincorporated legacy community (ULC) within the 2014 Humboldt County Housing Element. A legacy community is defined as a place that meets the following criteria:

- Contains 10 or more dwelling units in close proximity to one another;
- Is either within a city Sphere of Influence (SOI), is an island within a city boundary, or is geographically isolated and has existed for more than 50 years; and
- Has a median household income that is 80 percent or less than the statewide median household income.

The community of Weott's MHI was estimated as \$21, 250 by the 2010 census (American FactFinder 2010) which is below the 80 percent threshold referenced above, identifying the area as a DUC. Should the District pursue annexation, DUC communities within the District's vicinity may be examined further.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

The Weott VFD is an active member of the fire service in Humboldt County and participates in a countywide mutual aid agreement. The Weott VFD also has mutual aid agreements with neighboring departments including Redcrest VFD, Myers Flat VFD, and Miranda VFD (District General Manager, February 2016). Weott VFD also works with CAL FIRE for mutual response inside and outside the Weott boundaries (Fire Chiefs Report 2014).

Service Demand and Service Levels

Fire protection services for the District are provided by the Weott VFD. The Weott VFD responded to approximately 46 calls for service in 2014, of which approximately 7 calls, or 15 percent, were fires of various types and 21 calls, or 46 percent, were medical related. Other calls such as vehicle accidents, which comprise approximately 24 percent of total calls, may also involve the delivery of emergency medical services. Refer to Table 3-34 for an over view of Weott VFD service calls.

Table 3-34. Weott VFD Department Numbers (2008-2014)

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	6	4	3	3	3	2	0
Struct. Fires	3	0	2	2	1	2	2
Other Fires	5	6	0	17	8	8	5
Veh. Acc.	17	12	10	26	8	9	11
Medicals	19	23	22	44	15	21	21
Haz/Menace	-	1	1	2	3	2	1
Public Assists	1	1	3	12	7	3	6
Others	-	-	-	-	-	0	0
Total Responses	51	47	41	106	45	47	46
%Fire Response	27%	21%	12%	21%	27%	26%	15%
% Medical	37%	49%	54%	42%	33%	45%	46%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	400	500	450	450	450	376	160
Training	200	192	200	200	200	200	200
Maintenance	120	120	150	150	150	150	150
Service Hours	600	900	900	250	200	175	200
Total Hours	1,320	1,712	1,700	1,050	1,000	901	710
Personnel							
Volunteer	6	8	8	9	8	7	6
Auxiliary	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
Total Personnel	6	9	9	10	9	8	6

Source: CAL FIRE-Fortuna Interagency Command Center, Humboldt County Fire Services Annual Reports

Personnel

The Weott VFD has 8 volunteer personnel (District Manager, February 2016). The District reports that 2014 was a year of transition for the Department with the departure of their Chief and loss of their only remaining EMT. The Weott VFD started a recruitment program in association with the California State Firefighters' Association (CSFA) to help recruit much needed volunteers from the Weott community. Currently, the most pressing needs are continued training opportunities for mandatory certification (Fire Chief Annual Report 2014).

The Department has 5 personnel with Firefighter 1 or above training, 7 members trained as Medical First Responders, 1 personnel with Wildland (CICCS) training, and 7 who have participated in the Target Solutions Training program (District Response to Questionnaire, 2014).

Current Infrastructure and Facilities

The Weott VFD operates from a fire station located in the community of Weott. Specialized equipment consists of a Jaws-of-Life, rescue bags, a thermal imager, a 3000-gallon folding tank, and a floatable pump. The Weott CSD water system contains 22 fire hydrants, which serves the majority of the District. The fire department must use water carried on fire engines and water tenders to extinguish structure fires that are located outside the hydranted area, and additionally may use water that may be available on site (Humboldt County Legacy 2014).

Recently in 2015, the Weott VFD was able to replace their self-contained breathing apparatuses that were over 20 years old and other personal protective equipment through Measure Z funding. The District does not have an equipment replacement plan in place, and indicates that they pursue grant funding whenever possible to continue to upgrade equipment. The following table describes the apparatus utilized by the Weott VFD.

Table 3-35. Facilities and Apparatus

Station	Address	Apparatus (seats)	Type	Year	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
Weott VFD	70 Lum St. Weott, CA 95571	R-6871(6)	Light Rescue Chevrolet Suburban	1999	N/A	N/A
		E-682(3)	Type-2 Fire Engine	2005	1,250	800

ISO Rating

There are several benchmarks by which the level of fire service provided by an agency may be measured, and the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification, or ISO PPC, is one such measure. The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest is 10. Based on an ISO audit, the Weott VFD has an "8" ISO PPC rating in hydranted areas and an "8X" in non-hydranted areas (Humboldt County Legacy 2014).

FINANCING

Current Revenues and Expenditures

Fire protection services are funded by property taxes and a \$3.00 service charge placed on monthly water bills. The Weott FPD does not have a special tax or assessment in place to support fire protection services. The budget for the Weott VFD for the 2015-16 Fiscal Year was \$3,300.

Table 3-36. Weott CSD Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Financial Report	
Expenditures	
Salaries & Employee Benefits	\$0
Services & Supplies	\$17,434
Other Charges	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$0
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>\$17,434</i>
Revenues	
Property Taxes (1%)	\$6,008
Charges for Current Services	\$4,968
Contributions from Property Owners	\$310
Non-Tax Revenues	\$142
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$11,428</i>
Total Revenues	\$11,428
Total Expenditures	\$17,434
Revenues/Sources Over (Under)	
Expenditures/Uses	-\$6,006

Financial records as reported to the California State Controller's Office

Debt

In 1999 the District received a general obligation bond for \$290,000, to be paid by utility service revenue. The bond matures in 2025 and the State Controller's Office reports a principal amount obligation of \$224,999 as of FY 2014-15.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND GOVERNANCE

The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors who receive no compensation or benefits and are elected for four year terms. The Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Weott Community Center, excluding December (District Response to Questionnaire, 2014). All meetings are open to the public and meeting notices are posted at the District bulletin board located at the Weott Post Office.

Weott CSD demonstrates accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Humboldt LAFCo. The District responded to the questionnaires, staff telephone calls, and cooperated with document requests.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

As set forth in Section 56430(a) of the CKH Act- In order to prepare and to update the SOI in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission. The commission shall include in the area designated for a service review the county, the region, the sub-region, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

(1) Growth and population projections for the affected area

- a) The Weott CSD boundaries include a population of 288 residents and 143 housing units.
- b) Residential development is expected to occur over time at current growth rates, which range from 0.25 to 1.0 percent per year in Humboldt County.

(2) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUC) within or contiguous to the sphere of influence

- a) Weott CSD provides water, wastewater, and fire protection services to the community of Weott and is responsible for assuring that those services are adequately provided to the community.
- b) The community of Weott's medium household income was estimated at \$21,250 by the 2010 census, identifying the area as a disadvantaged.
- c) Should the District pursue annexation, disadvantaged unincorporated communities within the District's vicinity should be examined further.

(3) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies

- a) The Weott VFD's engines, water tenders, and other utility vehicles are all in operable condition. Recently the Weott VFD was able to replace their self-contained breathing apparatuses and other personal protective equipment.
- b) The most pressing need of the Department is continued training opportunities for mandatory certification. Increased requirements for training are becoming more difficult for volunteer firefighters and emergency responders to meet.
- c) The District's VFD has the capacity to adequately serve current demand within the 0.5 square mile District boundary.
- d) Fire protection services are provided by good-will outside of the District boundary to an additional 39 square mile Out of District Response Area. Properties within the existing District boundary largely subsidize the delivery of fire protection services to the Out of District Response Area.

(4) Financing ability of agencies to provide services

- a) Fire protection services are funded by property taxes and a \$3.00 service charge placed on monthly water bills. The Weott FPD does not have a special tax or assessment to supplement these revenue sources.

(5) Status of and, opportunities for, shared facilities

- a) The nearest town, Myers Flat, is located approximately five miles southeast of Weott and does not have community water, sewer services, or an active fire department. Weott CSD is one of several agencies being dispatched to the community to cover territory that has traditionally been a part of Myers Flat FPD's Response Area.
- b) The Weott VFD is a regional partner in the overall fire suppression and prevention effort in Humboldt County. The Department is a member of the county-wide mutual aid agreement.
- c) While CAL FIRE is responsible for wildland fire protection, the Weott VFD provides enhanced fire protection services in the local community for structure fire, medical aid, vehicle accidents and extraction, and similar traditionally local fire department type services.

(6) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

- a) The District is governed by a five-member Board of Directors who are elected for four year terms.
- b) The District Board meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at the Weott Community Center, excluding December.
- c) The agency demonstrated accountability in its cooperation with Humboldt LAFCo information requests.

(7) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy

- a) The District may consider consolidation, reorganization, or annexation to address regional concerns of under-served territory, shared facilities, and improved efficiency.
- b) It is recommended that Weott CSD's sphere of influence be expanded to match its non-district good-will response area. This would allow the District to pursue annexation or reorganization in the future.
- c) Should the Weott CSD propose annexation in the future, the District may establish a service zone for the annexation area where only fire protection services would be authorized to be provided in accordance with Government Code Sections 61140-61226.5.

3.10 Whitethorn Fire Protection District

INTRODUCTION

Table 3-37. Contact Information

Contact:	Robert Puno, Chief
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 485, Whitethorn, CA 95589
Physical Address:	N/A
Phone Number:	707-986-7561
Email	whitethorn.fire@gmail.com
Website	www.facebook.com/whitethorn.fire
Types of Services:	Fire protection and emergency response services
Population Served:	300 residents (District reported)
Size of Service Area:	~15,488 acres
Number of Staff	12 active, 5 auxiliary volunteers

Background

The Whitethorn Fire Protection District (Whitethorn FPD or District) provides year-round fire protection and emergency response services to the unincorporated community of Whitethorn. Whitethorn is located in south western Humboldt County near the Mattole River, approximately 19 miles west of Garberville and approximately 13 miles east of Shelter Cove. Fire protection services for the District are provided by the Whitethorn Volunteer Fire Department (VFD). Neighboring fire service providers include Telegraph Ridge FPD, Briceland FPD, Shelter Cove VFD (Resort Improvement District No. 1), and Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Company.

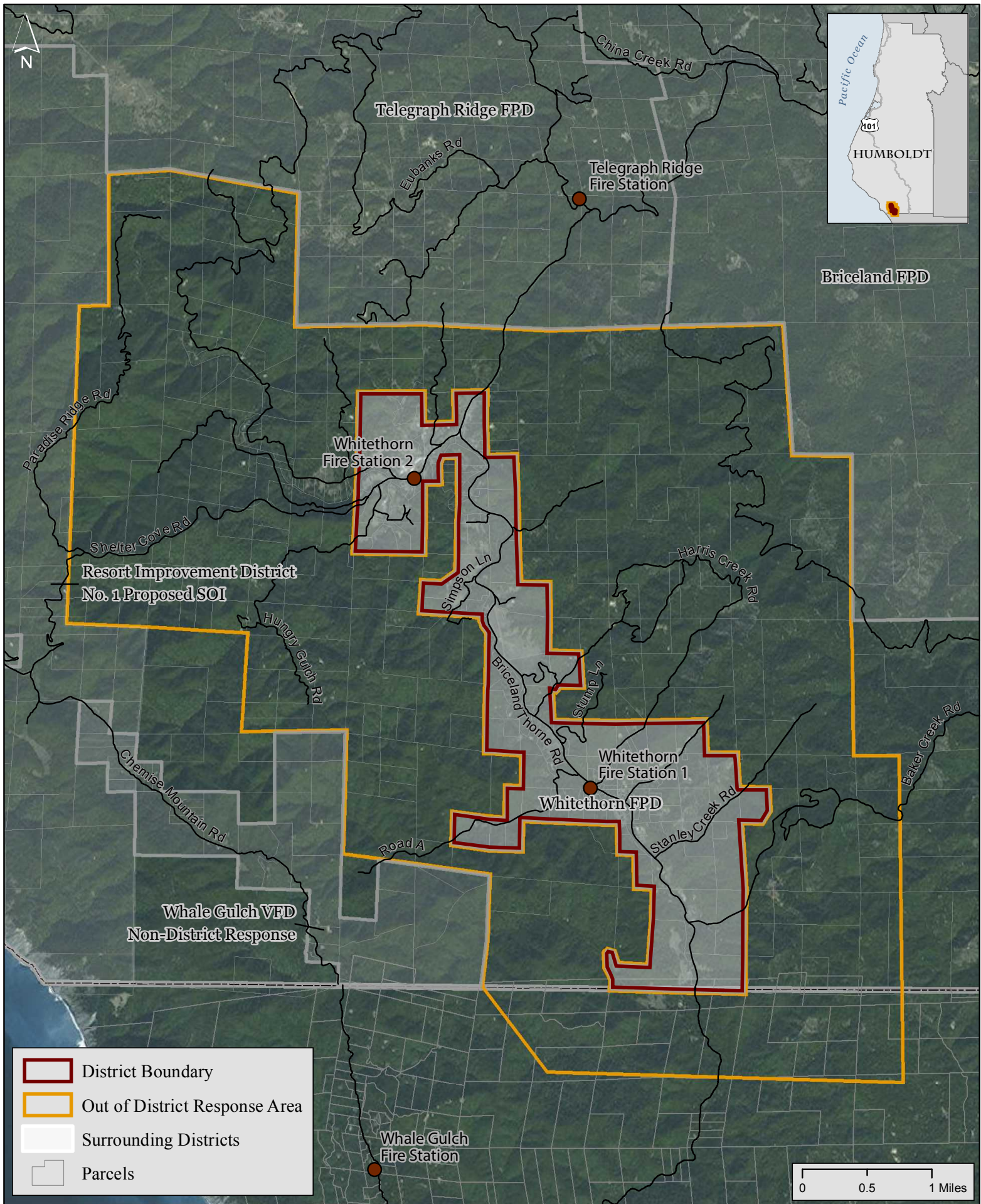
Formation

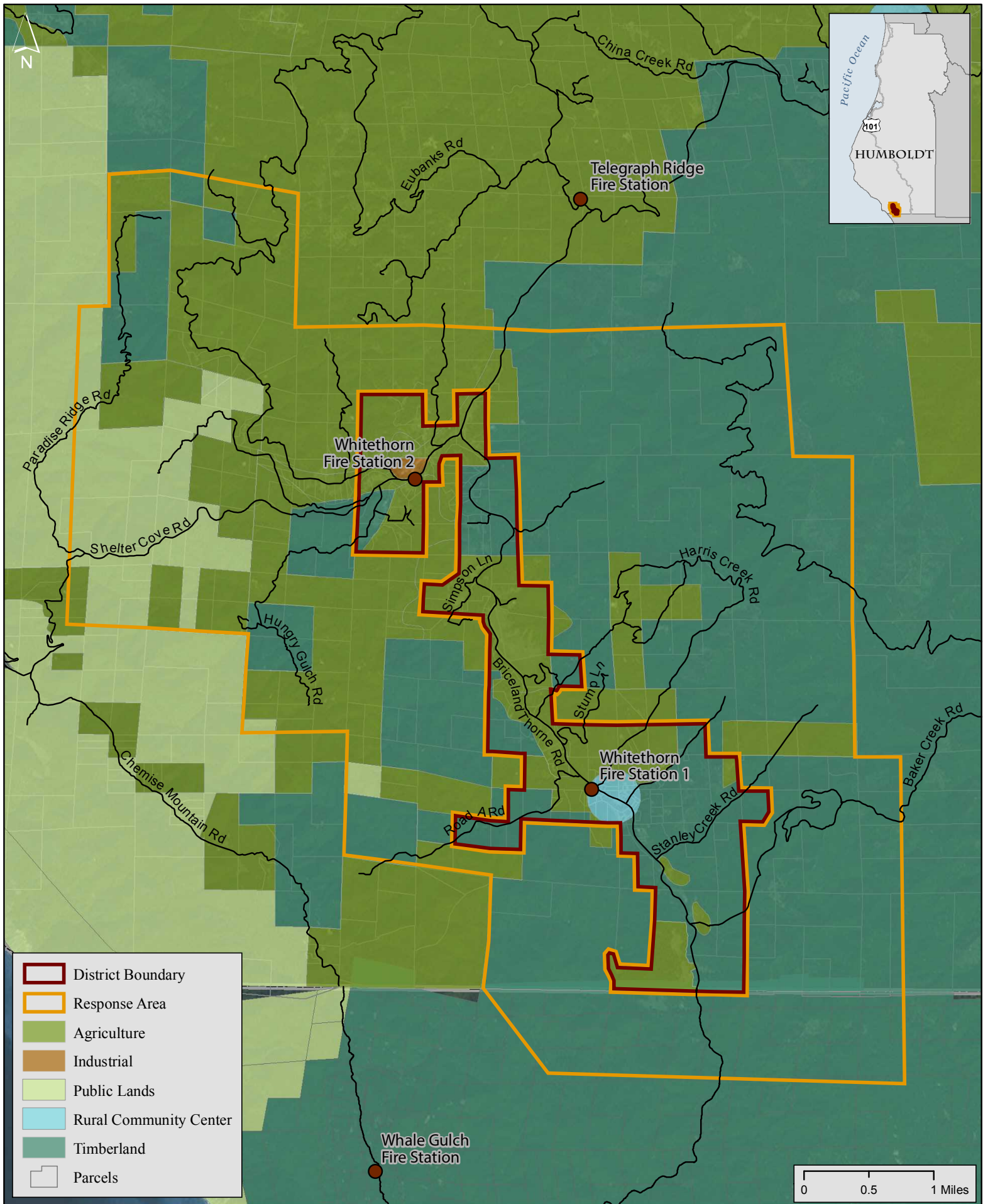
The Whitethorn FPD was formed in 1967 for the purpose of providing fire protection, rescue, and emergency medical services and any other services relating to the protection of lives and property pursuant to the Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (Division 12, Part 2.7 of the California Health and Safety Code, Sections 13800-13970), which supersedes prior fire protection district laws. The Whitethorn FPD is a dependent special district that is governed by the County Board of Supervisors; however, the Board of Supervisors appoints a five member Board of Commissioners to supervise the business of the District. The term of office of Fire Commissioners is at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors.

District Boundary

The Whitethorn FPD encompasses the community of Whitethorn. The District covers approximately 2,981 acres (4.7 square miles) in area, with a Response Area which extends beyond District boundaries in all directions, including south into Mendocino County. The Out of District Response Area covers approximately 12,507 acres (19.5 square miles). See Figure 21.

Whitethorn FPD reports that it already serves what would be its proposed annexation area (Response Area). Annexation would enable the district to expand its current funding sources to support existing service (including to the out of district area already served) and improve future service delivery. The District reports that being able to agree on boundary lines with neighboring departments as a possible obstacle to annexation (District questionnaire response 2014).





Growth and Population

The population of Whitethorn FPD is estimated to be 162 residents and 83 total housing units (Humboldt County Legacy Report 2014). The District reports an estimated 300 residents within the District boundary (District response to questionnaire, 2014).

New residential development within the District boundaries is expected to occur over time at existing county-wide rates, which would likely range from 0.25 to 1.0 percent per year. Assuming the 1 percent growth rate and the District estimated population, the population of the Whitethorn FPD could reach approximately 345 by the year 2030, or an increase of three new residents per year.

Existing and Planned Uses

Land uses within the Whitethorn FPD boundaries are subject to the Humboldt County Framework General Plan (Framework Plan), Volume I, and Zoning Regulations (Humboldt County Code Title III, Division 1). The District is not a part of a Community Planning Area (Humboldt County Legacy 2014). Whitethorn is however, a part of the Mattole-Lost Coast Fire Planning Compartment (Humboldt County Hazard Mitigation 2014).

The majority of lands within the District's boundary and response area are designated for agricultural or timber production uses (See Figure 22). The District has reported that Boyle Timber formally known as Barnum Timber Industry proposes selling approximately 50 parcels in the District's Response Area to the west of the District. Whitethorn FPD estimates an influx in new property owners and structures in the area which may require District services.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

LAFCo is required to evaluate disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) as part of this municipal service review, including the location and characteristics of any such communities. Per California Senate Bill 244, a DUC is defined as any area with 12 or more registered voters where the median household income (MHI) is less than 80 percent of the statewide MHI. Within a DUC, three basic services are evaluated: water, sewage, and fire protection. Whitethorn FPD provides one of these services -fire protection- and is responsible for assuring that those services are adequately provided to the community. There are no community water or wastewater systems in Whitethorn. Residential, commercial, and agricultural land uses produce drinking and agricultural water through on-site water systems (Humboldt County Legacy 2014).

The community is identified as an unincorporated legacy community (ULC) within the 2014 Humboldt County Housing Element. A legacy community is defined as a place that meets the following criteria:

- Contains 10 or more dwelling units in close proximity to one another;
- Is either within a city sphere of influence (SOI), is an island within a city boundary, or is geographically isolated and has existed for more than 50 years; and
- Has a median household income that is 80 percent or less than the statewide median household income.

The Whitethorn FPD is in Community Tract 06023011500, which the California Department of Water Resources identifies as a Disadvantaged Community Tract. The Tract has a MHI of \$38,617, which is 63 percent of the state average MHI (Census Quickfacts, 2013), thereby identifying the area as disadvantaged. Should territory in the surrounding area be evaluated for annexation, disadvantaged communities in the area may be analyzed further.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Service Demand and Service Levels

Fire protection services for the District are provided by the Whitethorn VFD. The Whitethorn VFD is an active member of the fire service in Humboldt County, and has mutual aid agreements with neighboring departments, including Whale Gulch VFD, Shelter Cove VFD (Resort Improvement District No. 1), Telegraph Ridge FPD, and Briceland FPD.

The Department responded to approximately 42 calls for service in 2014, of which approximately 9 calls, or 21 percent, were fires of various types and 12 calls, or 29 percent, were medical related. Other calls such as vehicle accidents, which comprise approximately 24 percent of total calls, may also involve the delivery of emergency medical services. Typically the Department's response to fire calls averages 25 percent of their total responses, however from 2008 to 2014, the annual number of fire-related responses fluctuated between 6 percent and 46 percent of total annual responses. Refer to Table 3-39 for an over view of Whitethorn VFD service calls.

Table 3-39. Department Numbers (2008-2014)

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	9	1	0	0	1	5	1
Struct. Fires	2	0	5	1	1	1	2
Other Fires	6	5	7	0	5	6	6
Veh. Acc.	5	0	11	3	8	10	10
Medicals	10	9	33	8	14	16	12
Haz/Menace	1	2	7	4	2	2	5
Public Assists	4	2	3	2	0	0	2
Others	-	-	-	-	-	0	4
Total Responses	37	19	66	18	31	40	42
%Fire Response	46%	32%	18%	6%	23%	30%	21%
% Medical	27%	47%	50%	44%	45%	40%	29%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	100	57	171	No Report	171	200	200
Training	96	96	100		100	250	250
Maintenance	70	70	140		140	150	150
Fundraising	0	0	0		80	250	250
Total Hours	266	223	411		491	850	850
Personnel							
Volunteer	11	11	15	15	13	13	12
Auxiliary	5	5	3	3	5	5	0
Total Personnel	16	16	18	18	18	18	12

Source: CAL FIRE-Fortuna Interagency Command Center, Humboldt County Fire Services Annual Reports

Personnel

The Whitethorn VFD has 12 active firefighters and 5 reserve firefighters, all of which are volunteer. The Department is always looking for volunteers, but reports that it presently has a very capable and responsive crew (District response to questionnaire, 2014). All of the volunteers have basic firefighter certifications (S-130, S-190, IS-200, CPR/First Aid), and 10 of

the 12 are certified First Responders. The District has two in-house trainings a month, and often attends monthly medical trainings at Shelter Cove. The District additionally frequently participates in local trainings provided by other departments (e.g., Emergency Mobile Equipment Operations, FireBlast 451 Live Fire, Radio Communications, etc.).

Current Infrastructure and Facilities

The Whitethorn VFD operates from a primary fire station located in the community of Whitethorn on Briceland Thorn Road (Station 1), and a second station located at Whitethorn Construction near Thorn Junction on Shelter Cove Road (Station 2). Each station houses a type III wildland fire engine and a type I or II structure “pumper” engine (District response to questionnaire, 2016).

The District reports that Station 2 is undergoing upgrades including a cement apron in front of its roll up doors and construction of a new storage area. Additionally they report that Station 1 is in need of a remodel and improvements to house engines and equipment. They plan to begin these projects later in 2016. Other long term needs include acquiring a water tender for fire suppression, Jaws-of-Life and extraction equipment for rescue and medicals, and updating the computer and monitor for trainings and documenting.

There is no municipal water system nor are there fire hydrants in the Whitethorn area. The fire department must use water carried on fire engines and water tenders to extinguish structure fires, as well as water that may be available on site (Humboldt County Legacy 2014). The following table describes the apparatus utilized by the Whitethorn VFD and indicates where they are stationed.

Table 3-40. Facilities and Apparatus

Station	Address	Apparatus (seats)	Common Name	Type	Year	Pump (GPM)	Tank (Gal)
1	16312 Briceland Thorn Road, Whitethorn, CA 95589	E5346	engine	IV	1993	50	350
		E5320	pumper engine	II	1986		1000
		R5370	rescue vehicle	BLS Rescue	2001		NA
		E5330	engine	III	1990		750
2	498 Shelter Cove Road, Whitethorn, CA 95589	E5331	engine	III	2000		500
		E5316	pumper engine	I	1976		1000

ISO Rating

There are several benchmarks by which the level of fire service provided by an agency may be measured, and the Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification, or ISO PPC, is one such measure. The ISO is a rating commonly used by insurance companies to determine fire insurance rates, with 1 being the best rating which indicates the highest level of fire protection and the lowest is 10. Based on an ISO audit, the Whitethorn VFD has a “9” ISO rating (Humboldt County Legacy 2014).

FINANCING

Current Revenues and Expenditures

The Whitethorn FPD received \$36,887 in revenue in the 2014-15 fiscal year (Most recent year reported to State Controller’s Office). Expenses for the same year totaled \$31,124. The District’s primary funding is property tax-based (1% property tax or ad valorem tax), along with donations and an annual dinner and dance fundraiser and donations (District

response to questionnaire, 2014). As of March 2016, the District has approximately \$92,000 in reserve.

Whitethorn FPD actively pursues grant funding. Recently they received the VFA grant in 2015 and will be submitting another application for 2017 application cycle.

Table 3-41. Whitethorn FPD Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2014-15

Fiscal Year 2014-15 Financial Report	
Expenditures	
Salaries & Employee Benefits	\$9,343
Services & Supplies	\$21,781
Other Charges	\$0
Fixed Assets	\$0
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>\$31,124</i>
Revenues	
Property Taxes (1%)	\$35,747
Contributions from Property Owners	\$0
Other Non-Tax Revenues	\$1,140
<i>Total Revenue</i>	<i>\$36,887</i>
Total Revenues	\$36,887
Total Expenditures	\$31,124
Revenues/Sources Over (Under)	
Expenditures/Uses	\$5,763

Accountability and Governance

The Whitethorn FPD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors. There are no vacancies on the board. While the District is considered "dependent" or serving at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors, the District functions independently with respect to annual budget adoption and management.

The District is an active community member and works with CERT members to establish Safe Zones in case of a major emergency situations. They also hold an annual Dinner & Dance fundraiser at Station 2. Whitethorn FPD maintains a Facebook page and a closed group Google page that hosts training videos and links.

Whitethorn FPD demonstrates accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Humboldt LAFCo. The District responded to the questionnaires, staff telephone calls, and cooperated with document requests.

MUNICIPAL SERVICE REVIEW DETERMINATIONS

As set forth in Section 56430(a) of the CKH Act- In order to prepare and to update the SOI in accordance with Section 56425, the commission shall conduct a service review of the municipal services provided in the county or other appropriate area designated by the commission. The commission shall include in the area designated for a service review the county, the region, the sub-region, or any other geographic area as is appropriate for an analysis of the service or services to be reviewed, and shall prepare a written statement of its determinations with respect to each of the following:

(1) Growth and population projections for the affected area

- a) The District reports an estimated 300 residents within the District boundary.
- b) Assuming the 1 percent growth rate and the District estimated population, the population of the Whitethorn FPD could reach approximately 345 by the year 2030, or an increase of three new residents per year.
- c) A land subdivision of timberland is proposed within the District's Out of District Response Area. Should the land be subdivided, an influx in new property owners and structures in the area may require District services.

(2) The location and characteristics of any disadvantaged unincorporated communities within or contiguous to the sphere of influence

- a) The community is identified as an unincorporated legacy community within the 2014 Humboldt County Housing Element.
- b) The Whitethorn FPD is in Community Tract 06023011500, which the California Department of Water Resources identified as a Disadvantaged Community Tract. The Tract has a MHI of \$38,617, which is 63 percent of the state average MHI, thereby identifying the area as disadvantaged.
- c) Should territory in the surrounding area be evaluated for annexation, disadvantaged communities in the area may be analyzed further.

(3) Present and planned capacity of public facilities and adequacy of public services, including infrastructure needs or deficiencies

- a) The District's engines, water tenders, and other utility vehicles are all in operable condition.
- b) The Whitethorn VFD operates two fire stations and each station houses a type III wildland fire engine and a type I or II structure "pumper" engine.
- c) The District is in the process of upgrading their Station #2 facilities and plans to remodel Station #1 later in 2016.
- d) There is no municipal water system nor are there fire hydrants in the Whitethorn area. The fire department must use water carried on fire engines and water tenders to extinguish structure fires, as well as water that may be available on site.
- e) The Department is always looking for volunteers, but reports that it has a very capable, responsive crew as is.
- f) The District has the capacity to adequately serve current demand within the 5 square mile District boundary.
- g) Fire protection services are provided outside of the District boundary to an additional 20 square mile Out of District Response Area. Properties within the existing District boundary are largely subsidizing the delivery of fire protection services to this Out of District Response Area.

(4) Financing ability of agencies to provide services

- a) The District's primary funding is tax-based (1% property tax), along with donations and an annual dinner and dance fundraiser and donations.
- b) As of March 2016 the District has approximately \$92,000 in reserve.
- c) Whitethorn FPD actively pursues grant funding.

(5) Status of and, opportunities for, shared facilities

a) Whitethorn FPD works closely and cooperatively with neighboring fire departments and has mutual and automatic aid agreements with them. In addition, the District is a member of the Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs Association.

(6) Accountability for community service needs, including governmental structure and operational efficiencies

a) The Whitethorn FPD supports the mutual social and economic interests of the Whitethorn community by sustaining community-based fire protection services and establishing local governance for such services.

b) Whitethorn FPD maintains a board who are appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors.

c) Board meetings are open to the public and are noticed in accordance with the Brown Act.

d) The District is an active community member and works with community organizations such as CERT.

e) Whitethorn FPD maintains a Facebook page to communicate with members of the public.

f) Whitethorn FPD demonstrates accountability in its disclosure of information and cooperation with Humboldt LAFCo. The District responded to the questionnaires, staff telephone calls, and cooperated with document requests

(7) Any other matter related to effective or efficient service delivery, as required by commission policy

a) It is recommended that Whitethorn FPD's sphere of influence be expanded to match its non-district good-will response area. This would allow the District to pursue annexation or in the future.

3.11 Volunteer Fire Companies

Several volunteer fire companies (VFC) also exist within southern Humboldt County which have no tax-based support and rely largely on donations and various fundraising efforts from within their communities. Though these organizations are not strictly under the purview of LAFCo, they provide vital services to their communities and merit inclusion in fire-related discussions. These entities provide fire protection, as well as medical and rescue services. They include:

3.11.1 Alderpoint Volunteer Fire Company

Table 3-42. Contact Information

Contact:	Michael Joe Valk
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 164, Alderpoint, CA 95511
Physical Address:	17440 Alderpoint Road, Alderpoint, CA 95511
Phone Number:	707- 923-1665
Email	apvfd@hughes.net
Website	facebook.com/Alderpoint-Volunteer-Fire-Dept-157784530935222/
Types of Services:	Fire protection and emergency services
Population Served:	186 (2010 Census)
Size of Service Area:	~68,878 acres
Number of Staff	13 volunteers, 3 auxiliary

Alderpoint Volunteer Fire Company (VFC) was established in November, 2007. The company is made up of 13 volunteers, 10 of which are first responders and 2 that are trained in basic first aid and CPR. Their response area is approximately 128 square miles square miles in south-eastern Humboldt.

Their apparatuses include: a 3-passenger, Ford900 Type-2 fire engine that holds 750 gallons of water and is stocked with firefighting and first aid equipment; a 5-passenger, 1990 Ford F800 Type-3 engine with a 500 gallon capacity that is fully stocked with firefighting and first aid equipment; a medical rescue truck; and a Chief's truck, stocked with medical equipment. Recently the VFC acquired a set of Jaws-of-Life (Fire Chiefs Association, 2014).

Table 3-43. Alderpoint VFC Service Calls

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	10	4	3	5	7	11	8
Struct. Fires	2	0	1	1	3	2	1
Other Fires	1	1	7	9	10	8	9
Veh. Acc.	1	6	4	4	6	10	10
Medicals	5	2	20	19	21	22	26
Haz/Menace	0	1	1	2	2	6	1
Public Assists	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Others	0	0	0	4	2	1	4
Total Responses	19	14	36	44	51	60	60
%Fire Response	68%	36%	31%	34%	39%	35%	30%
% Medical	26%	14%	56%	43%	41%	37%	43%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	100	100	240	-	304	375	250
Training	3445	2300	1848	-	240	360	750
Maintenance	50	150	65	-	50	147	75
Fundraising	705	1000	850	-	1500	1500	700
Total Hours	4,300	3,550	3,003	0	2,094	2,382	1,775
Personnel							
Volunteer	17	17	13	13	12	12	13
Auxiliary	3	3	0	0	0	0	3
Total Personnel	20	20	13	13	12	12	16

3.11.2 Palo Verde Volunteer Fire Company

Table 3-44. Palo Verde VFC Contact Information

Contact:	Christoph Fisher
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 1381, Redway, CA 95560
Physical Address:	2729 Island Mountain Road Garberville, CA 95542
Phone Number:	707-499-7570 and 707-499-4230
Website	facebook.com/Palo-Verde-Volunteer-Fire-Department-149374398428604/
Types of Services:	Fire protection and emergency services
Population Served:	3,000 (Fire Chiefs Report, 2014)
Size of Service Area:	~67,581 acres, 28,134 in Humboldt County
Number of Staff	13 volunteers, 3 auxiliary

The Palo Verde Volunteer Fire Company (PVVFC) was established May 3, 1983 by the residents of the “Rancho Palo Verde” subdivision in south-eastern Humboldt County (Fire Chiefs Association, 2014). Over the years the Company has grown into a professional year-round fire and emergency services agency committed to providing 24/7 Fire/Rescue/BLS services to a population of 3,000, covering 106 square miles (LAFCo GIS Analysis). The PVVFC has a membership of 12 first responders and 25 wildland firefighters, eight of whom have structural firefighting training. See Table 3-45 for details of the Company’s responses and volunteers. Today, the Company covers territory stretching over three counties- Humboldt, Trinity, and Mendocino.

The Palo Verde VFC receives department support from donations, fundraisers, and also federal assistance through USFS (surplus fire engines) and the BLM (funding for fire shelters, webbing gear and fire hose (Chapter IV.13 Southern Humboldt Planning Unit Action Plan).

In August 2012, residents in the area voted on the issue of whether or not to transform this VFC into an official fire protection district, which would be funded via a special tax. The Palo Verde VFC was not able to secure enough votes and the proposal did not pass (Chapter IV.13 Southern Humboldt Planning Unit Action Plan).

They have two fire engines in service; a Federal surplus 1991, Type-3, wildland fire engine (E5231), and a 1978, Dodge Pumper, 4x4, quick attack/brush truck (A5246), which also serves as the medical response vehicle. A community fundraiser in 2014 provided the Company with four 5,000-gallon fire water tanks for placement throughout the community. The 2014 Fire Chiefs Report noted that the Department needs to replace their 1978 Dodge (E5231); and also needs to acquire hand-held radios, structural turn-outs, and high-pressure SCBA packs.

Table 3-45. Palo Verde VFC Service Calls

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	7	6	0	1	0	2	3
Struct. Fires	0	0	0	0	0	1	-
Other Fires	3	2	2	0	2	5	10
Veh. Acc.	3	4	1	1	0	4	3
Medicals	5	7	1	2	3	8	5
Haz/Menace	1	2	0	0	1	1	1
Public Assists	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Others	0	0	0	3	0	-	5
Total Responses	19	21	4	7	6	21	28
%Fire Response	53%	38%	50%	14%	33%	38%	46%
% Medical	26%	33%	25%	29%	50%	38%	18%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	554	608	406	-	200	300	450
Training	750	602	402	-	500	900	700
Maintenance	104	94	94	-	30	400	200
Fundraising	412	170	250	-	250	400	600
Total Hours	1,820	1,474	1,152	0	980	2,000	1,950
Personnel							
Volunteer	12	12	12	12	10	25	25
Auxiliary	32	32	32	32	30	10	15
Total Personnel	44	44	44	44	40	35	40

3.11.3 Phillipsville Volunteer Fire Company

Table 3-46. Phillipsville VFC Contact Information

Contact:	Hank Toborg
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 39 Phillipsville, CA 95559
Physical Address:	2937 CA-254 Phillipsville CA 95559
Phone Number:	(707) 616-3107
Email	ruger@asis.com
Website	facebook.com/pages/Phillipsville-Volunteer-Fire-Dept/489681834531192
Types of Services:	Fire protection and emergency services
Population Served:	140 (2010 Census)
Size of Service Area:	~4,185 acres
Number of Staff	3 volunteers, 5 auxiliary

The Phillipsville Volunteer Fire Company (PVFC) was formed in March of 1973. They provide medical and fire services for the town of Phillipsville and surrounding areas along the southern portion of the Avenue of the Giants in southern Humboldt County. Using their water tender, the PVFC also responds to wildland fires throughout Southern Humboldt. The PVFC exists solely on fundraising efforts by members of the community and the company for continued operations. The PVFC actively recruits for additional volunteers (Fire Chiefs Report, 2014) and reports that lack of volunteers has been an ongoing challenge for the organization (Fire Chief, Personal Communication, April 19th, 2016). See Table 3-47 for details of the Company's responses and volunteers.

Starting in 1989, the Phillipsville Community Services District (PCSD) began supplying water to the town and the PVFC. In 1998, the PVFC and the PCSD constructed a building to house equipment for the VFC and the offices for the CSD, at the address listed above. Looking to the future, the community has expressed plans to join the administration of each entity in order to provide consistent funding and increased operations and emergency response services (Fire Chiefs Report, 2014). Formalizing fire protection services under the PCSD would require the activation of PCSD's latent power to provide fire and rescue services in accordance with Government Code Section 56824.10 et seq. An application to LAFCo for the proposed latent powers activation and annexation of the full fire response area would be required. This approval would likely require a new tax or assessment approved by the property owners or registered voters to provide a reliable funding source for continued fire protection services.

Table 3-47. Phillippsville VFC Service Calls

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	5	2	2	0	7	7	4
Struct. Fires	2	2	1	1	2	3	2
Other Fires	3	4	0	3	5	7	7
Veh. Acc.	6	0	4	3	4	3	10
Medicals	12	15	13	15	17	11	15
Haz/Menace	1	1	0	3	2	1	1
Public Assists	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
Others	0	1	0	1	2	1	-
Total Responses	29	25	20	26	39	33	39
%Fire Response	34%	32%	15%	15%	36%	52%	33%
% Medical	41%	60%	65%	58%	44%	33%	38%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	87	200	200	-	176	70	82
Training	580	600	600	-	174	580	580
Maintenance	100	100	100	-	52	100	100
Fundraising	0	0	236	-	148	90	90
Total Hours	767	900	1,136	0	550	840	852
Personnel							
Volunteer	5	5	5	5	3	3	3
Auxiliary	0	5	5	5	10	5	5
Total Personnel	5	10	10	10	13	8	8

3.11.4 Salmon Creek Volunteer Fire Company

Table 3-48. Salmon Creek VFC Contact Information

Contact:	Matt Stark
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 662 Miranda, CA 95553
Physical Address:	3588 Thomas Road, Miranda, CA 95553
Phone Number:	(707) 943-3502
Email	starkclan@gmail.com
Website	facebook.com/Salmon-Creek-Volunteer-Fire-Department-247377125365671
Types of Services:	Fire protection and emergency services
Population Served:	300 homes
Size of Service Area:	~ 24,861 acres
Number of Staff	12 volunteers, 0 auxiliary

Founded in 1979 the Salmon Creek VFC provides fire protection and emergency medical services to the remote community of Salmon Creek. Located six miles west of Highway 101 and Miranda, the community consists of about 300 homes and a private school (Fire Chiefs Report, 2014).

The Company consists of twelve dedicated members including one EMT, four emergency medical responders, four fire engines and two AEDs. See Table 3-49 for details of the Company's responses and volunteers. The Company has a Board of Directors, consisting of four volunteer members. They have a 1,800 gallon Type-3 water tender, a Type-3 two-wheel drive GMC engine, an 88 International Model 5 engine and a Type-4 four-wheel drive quick attack.

Table 3-49. Salmon Creek VFC Service Calls

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	4	0	0	0	1	1	2
Struct. Fires	1	0	0	0	0	1	-
Other Fires	0	1	1	0	0	6	5
Veh. Acc.	1	0	1	0	5	1	4
Medicals	1	3	3	5	5	5	9
Haz/Menace	1	1	1	0	1	2	1
Public Assists	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Others	0	0	0	2	0	0	1
Total Responses	8	5	6	7	12	17	22
%Fire Response	63%	20%	17%	0%	8%	47%	32%
% Medical	13%	60%	50%	71%	42%	29%	41%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	60	38	40	120	120	120	600
Training	120	120	120	120	120	120	600
Maintenance	40	40	40	40	40	40	120
Fundraising	80	80	80	40	40	40	1,000
Total Hours	300	278	280	320	320	320	2,320
Personnel							
Volunteer	12	12	8	8	8	10	12
Auxiliary	8	8	4	4	4	4	0
Total Personnel	20	20	12	12	12	14	12

3.11.5 Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Company

Table 3-50. Sprowel Creek VFC Contact Information

Contact:	Matt Kempe
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 662 Miranda, CA 95553
Physical Address:	3588 Thomas Road, Miranda, CA 95553
Phone Number:	(707) 943-3502
Email	Unknown
Website	facebook.com/Salmon-Creek-Volunteer-Fire-Department-247377125365671
Types of Services:	Fire protection and emergency services
Population Served:	Nielsen Ranch Subdivision
Size of Service Area:	~ 1,570 acres
Number of Staff	12 volunteers, 0 auxiliary

Incorporated in 1998 as a non-profit corporation, the Sprowel Creek Volunteer Fire Company serves the Nielsen Ranch Subdivision in Garberville—a response area of 4 square miles (Fire Chiefs Association, 2014). See Table 3-51 for details of the Company’s responses and volunteers.

They maintain three separate, strategically located fire stations and report plans for one more fire station. Their response apparatuses include: a 1,000 gallon, 4WD water tender; two 4WD fire engine pumpers, each with a 300 gallon capacity; and two 2WD fire engine pumpers, with capacities of 350 and 700 gallons. The Company’s funding comes from fundraising, primarily from selling ice cream at the Summer Arts and Music Festival and Reggae on the River.

Table 3-51. Sprowel Creek VFC Service Calls

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Struct. Fires	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Other Fires	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Veh. Acc.	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Medicals	-	-	-	5	0	0	0
Haz/Menace	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
Public Assists	-	-	-	-	0	0	0
Others	-	-	-	2	0	0	0
Total Responses	-	-	-	7	0	0	0
%Fire Response	-	-	-	0%	-	-	-
% Medical	-	-	-	71%	-	-	-
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	-	-	-	120	0	0	0
Training	-	-	-	120	60	240	240
Maintenance	-	-	-	40	340	240	240
Fundraising	-	-	-	40	500	1032	1,032
Total Hours	-	-	-	320	900	1,512	1,512
Personnel							
Volunteer	-	-	-	8	20	20	20
Auxiliary	-	-	-	4	0	0	0
Total Personnel	-	-	-	12	20	20	20

3.11.6 Whale Gulch Volunteer Fire Company

Table 3-52. Whale Gulch VFC Contact Information

Contact:	Matt Kempe
Mailing Address:	76850 Usal Road, Whitethorn, CA 95589
Physical Address:	Same
Phone Number:	(707) 986-734
Email	whalegulchfire@gmail.com
Website	http://whalegulch.com/whale_gulch_fire.aspx
Types of Services:	Structural and wildland fire protection, emergency medical response, and hazardous materials response as a first responder
Size of Service Area:	~6,867 acres, 1,605 of which in Humboldt County
Number of Staff	12 volunteers, 0 auxiliary

The Whale Gulch Fire Company (VFC) has been in existence since the 1970s and is affiliated with the Coast Headwaters Association (Mendocino LAFCo, 2016). It was formed to serve the community of Whale Gulch, located south of Shelter Cove and west of Whitethorn. The Whale Gulch VFC has 16 volunteers who provide service within approximately 11 square miles. This territory includes the Chemise Mountain Wilderness Area and extends down into Mendocino County and the Sinkyone Wilderness State Park.

Most Company responses are either to wildland fires or medical calls, with some mutual aid to Shelter Cove and Whitethorn Fire Departments (Fire Chiefs Association, 2014). See Table X for details of the Company's responses and volunteers. Their apparatuses include two Type-3 fire engines, each with a 500 gallon capacity and a Type-4 medical vehicle that carries 250 gallons. Engine 5936 was leased to CAL FIRE several times during the summer of 2014 and was operative in 18 incident responses.

The Company is overseen by a self-appointed five-member Board of Directors. Personnel consist of one Fire Chief, one Assistant Chief, five Firefighters, and two Emergency Medical Technicians. The volunteer firefighters train regularly and participate in exercises with Humboldt County fire departments (Mendocino LAFCo, 2016).

The Fire Company is dispatched from CAL FIRE's Humboldt-Del Norte Unit and has mutual aid agreements with nearby Shelter Cove Resort Improvement District No. 1 and Whitethorn Fire Protection District, both in Humboldt County (Mendocino LAFCo, 2016).

Funding is derived from local fund-raising events such as the annual Cake Sale; and by leasing Engine 5936 to CAL FIRE during the fire season (Mendocino LAFCo, 2016).

Table 3-53. Whale Gulch VFC Service Table

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Incident Responses							
Veg. Fires	4	0	0	0	5	4	-
Struct. Fires	2	0	1	7	0	0	5
Other Fires	1	0	1	4	5	0	-
Veh. Acc.	1	0	2	11	5	0	-
Medicals	1	3	4	4	5	1	4
Haz/Menace	1	0	2	0	3	0	4
Public Assists	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	3	1	1	0	1	0	-
Total Responses	13	4	11	26	24	5	13
%Fire Response	54%	0%	18%	42%	42%	80%	38%
% Medical	8%	75%	36%	15%	21%	20%	31%
Volunteer Hours							
Incident	-	-	-	-	24	76	128
Training	-	-	-	-	24	150	98
Maintenance	-	-	-	-	24	100	64
Fundraising	-	-	-	-	48	264	126
Total Hours	0	0	0	0	120	590	416
Personnel							
Volunteer	-	0	0	0	16	16	16
Auxiliary	-	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Personnel	0	0	0	0	16	16	16

3.12 Other Fire Agencies

CAL FIRE has several stations located throughout the South County Region. Staffing levels at the CAL FIRE stations in Weott and Garberville vary throughout the year, but remain adequate for emergency response during most of the year. Other stations, located in Alderpoint and Whitethorn (Thorn) are staffed only seasonally, during the declared fire season. CAL FIRE also operates two Conservation Camps in the Unit: High Rock Camp, located in Weott, and Eel River Camp, located in Redway. Each camp provides five hand crews for firefighting purposes, and each crew is made up of up to 17 firefighters and a captain. These crews are an all-risk department resource used both within Humboldt County and on a statewide basis year-round. These camp assets are maintained fire/emergency ready year-round. During non-emergency response, these crews are deployed to work on fuel reduction projects and projects requested by other public agencies throughout the year. These crews are trained in emergency responses including, but not limited to, fire, flood, earthquake, medical, and vehicle accidents (Chapter IV.13 Southern Humboldt Planning Unit Action Plan).

The Southern Humboldt Fire Chiefs Association (SHFCA) is a venue for fire departments and community organizations in the Unit to collaborate for preparedness. The SHFCA is a chapter of the Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association, a 501(c)3, and comprises firefighters from all the Unit departments and companies as well as Redcrest and Honeydew. The initial purpose of the SHFCA was to provide a stronger voice for fire departments to bring more training opportunities to the Unit, increase communication between local departments and with CAL FIRE, and to create a stronger fire department identification and numbering system. Successful implementation of those goals over the last 15 years has grown the SHFCA to include representatives from the SHFSC, the HCFSC, the Red Cross, the Southern Humboldt Emergency Preparedness Team (SHEPT), the County Radio Dispatch Co-op, CAL-EMA, Humboldt County OES, and other emergency preparedness groups.

The SHFCA also sponsors the Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue Team. The Team is comprised of firefighters from departments within the Unit who specialize in rope, water, and wilderness rescue. Team members are highly dedicated firefighters who train and respond to rescues in addition to the normal training and duties of their respective fire departments. The Southern Humboldt Technical Rescue can be reached by calling (707) 834-1432. The SHFCA recognizes the community living in the Unit needs to be informed about the issues surrounding wildfires, emergencies, and disaster management. One of the tools used to inform the public is the "Burning Issues" fire and rescue radio talk show on KMUD FM radio. This show provides the SHFCA an opportunity to voice information to the public about training, prevention, standards, legislation, grant writing, and new initiatives and innovations. In times of emergency, current information needs to be communicated to the public in affected areas of the Unit. FM radios are recognized by the public as a means of getting current emergency information. The KMUD FM radio Community Emergency Response Team receives information from sources such as the SHFCA Public Information Team, CAL FIRE, the California Highway Patrol, and the Humboldt County Office of Emergency Services, and relays that information using live on-air broadcasts and internet updates (Chapter IV.13 Southern Humboldt Planning Unit Action Plan).

SERVICE CHARACTERISTICS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Fire protection service providers operate with limited resources and demonstrate a strong need for additional funding. Although local fire departments have demonstrated that they are very resourceful—using volunteers, surplus and donated equipment, and by working cooperatively to deliver services—the lack of sustainable funding levels results in disparities in levels of fire protection available. Some of the challenges associated with sustaining emergency fire and rescue services delivered by local fire departments include the following:

- Recruitment and retention of volunteers
- Community education, awareness, and support
- Changing community demographics
- Increased demand for service (including on state and federal lands/jurisdiction)
- Lack of funding
- Increased and demanding training standards/requirements
- Not having high enough levels of training
- Insurance burden (training, medical exams, etc.)
- Lack of administrative support

This chapter provides a summary of critical fire service considerations and recent planning efforts intended to improve fire protection services in Humboldt County. This chapter largely references information included in the Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (2013) and other fire planning efforts conducted by Humboldt County Planning staff.

4.1 Recruitment and Retention of Volunteers

Local fire departments cite recruitment and retention of volunteers as a significant obstacle to sustaining and improving emergency fire and rescue services. These departments face the same recruitment and retention limitations identified in national fire service studies: a more mobile society, more demands on time, both parents working, other involvements, demanding training standards, and an increasing number of alarms.

While the burdens on firefighters continue to grow, some departments are trying different tactics to entice new recruits. The following recruitment and retention strategies were identified as part of meetings held during April/May 2016 with fire service representatives of the Avenues Study Area:

- Offer incentives to new members
 - Voucher program
 - Sleeper program
- Provide hands-on training rather than PowerPoint fire-rescue training
- Hold local training
- Encourage membership on a technical rescue team to develop unique skills

- Develop programs and partnerships to engage young adults (e.g., prior fire academy at South Fork High or possibly teaching Wilderness First Responder Medical as an elective class)
- Develop an Fire Explorer Program for youth
- Conduct advertising and hold community events
 - Recruitment banners
 - Social media
 - Letters to the editor
 - Events to bring out the community (e.g., Barbeques, Bike Safety Fair, Musters, Blood Drive, Heartsaver CPR classes, etc.)
- Build a strong brand identity (e.g., “Avenues Fire Cooperative”)
- Encourage involvement from the business community
 - Arrangements to allow volunteers to respond from work
 - Give plaques to businesses who provide support to fire-rescue departments or employ volunteers
 - Engage with the Chamber of Commerce
- Develop programs to prepare people for what/who they will see at medical calls/traffic collisions

4.2 Training

The lack of essential training and equipment are issues throughout the county. The development of fire and emergency services training facilities is critical to the delivery of emergency services. Humboldt County firefighters have varying and sometimes inadequate levels of training. Recognizing that approximately 92% of Humboldt County firefighters are volunteers—many of whom live in outlying areas—multiple and/or mobile training facilities may be required to support countywide training programs. For instance, fire departments along the Avenue of the Giants have identified the need for a regional training facility to improve volunteer participation in training programs. Providing all firefighters with necessary training will result in a more confident, capable, and reliable fire-fighting force prepared to deliver improved service to the citizens of the county. Addressing these fire protection resource-training issues is essential to local firefighters in meeting an established LOS standard. (Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Part III. Countywide Action Plan)

4.3 Response Times

Response times are largely dependent on two factors, the ability of appropriate fire personnel to reach the equipment at the fire station and the time it takes appropriate fire personnel and equipment to reach the scene of the incident. Fire station locations are a critical factor, but given response requirements (number of staff per apparatus, and number of staff to enter a building) the ability to get the appropriate number of personnel to the scene can be just as important. One trend that has been occurring is that more volunteers are working in areas other than the ones they serve. This means they are not available to respond to calls during working hours (Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Part III. Countywide Action Plan). Providing sleeper programs has been identified as an opportunity to attract youth and other members of the community to live for free at the fire station in exchange for dedicated volunteer hours.

4.4 Level of Service

There is a significant difference between the Level of Service (LOS) available to residents in urban areas of the county and residents living in more remote rural areas. Local fire departments use formal and informal mutual-aid and automatic-aid agreements to augment provided levels of protection, yet LOS differences between communities persist.

The LOS standard is important for the following reasons: 1) an established standard will improve the ability of real estate professionals, public safety personnel, and government officials to inform landowners and residents of the available level of fire protection; 2) it will support fire department grant requests to local, state, and federal funding sources for purchase of apparatus, equipment, and training in order to meet standards; and 3) it will allow local governments to effectively plan for municipal service delivery and population growth.

The Humboldt County Fire Chief's Association has been working to develop level of service standards or criteria based on National Fire Protection Association 1720, Standard for the Organization and Deployment of Fire Suppression, Emergency Medical Operations, and Special Operations to the Public by Volunteer Departments. The standards will need to be tiered, acknowledging that there are different expectations and capacities in rural, suburban, and urban environments. It has been determined that training level standards are the most critical focus area to begin this effort. (Humboldt County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, Part III. Countywide Action Plan)

ADDRESSING BOUNDARIES AND SERVICE AREAS

The issue of development occurring outside district boundaries has impacted local fire districts that continue to provide services without being reimbursed. This has further been complicated by changes to the State Subdivision Map Act, which now requires that all subdivision of parcels located in the State Responsibility Area (SRA) receive structural fire protection from a public agency or from another entity organized solely to provide fire protection services that is monitored and funded by a county or other public entity (Government Code Section 66474.02).

There are approximately 340,000 acres of privately owned property in Humboldt County within the SRA that are not located within the boundaries of a local fire district or other agency responsible for providing structural fire protection services that meet the standards of this law. Consequently, parcels in these areas cannot be subdivided without the provision of structural fire protection services that meet these requirements. Although fire-related districts, and volunteer fire companies not associated with districts, are commonly dispatched and respond to calls for service within most of these areas, they are not responsible for or obligated to provide such service and do not receive tax funding to do so, and therefore do not meet the definition of the law.

Fire planning efforts to date have generally identified and mapped logical future expansion/annexation areas for each existing district and where it makes sense to establish new districts or service areas for the provision of fire protection. Participants will need to refine and confirm the expansion and formation areas, work to make boundary changes were needed, and identify the most appropriate approach to providing structural fire protection services to areas that will inevitably still remain outside of any service boundary.

In addition, the amount of funding that will be required to ensure sustainable ongoing structural fire protection to the community will need to be determined. Traditional funding sources are limited to existing or increased special assessments and special taxes, new special assessments and special taxes, and property tax revenue exchange from the County to districts. Funding agreements may also be used, such as the agreements between fire districts and lumber companies to protect mill sites located outside district boundaries. Funding is likely the most challenging hurdle to achieving the goal. Funding solutions will vary based on geographic area or service area and could involve more than one funding source.

The following sections provide a range of boundary change options that can be used to address the mismatch between fire-related district boundaries and where the fire service provider delivers emergency response on a regular basis.

5.1 Annexation

Annexation, or the expansion of an agency's jurisdictional boundary, is an effective way to address the problem of districts providing services outside their jurisdictional boundaries without a sustainable revenue source. Annexation enables districts to extend its current funding sources (property taxes and special assessments) into the annexation area from which the fire district can rely upon into the future and improve service delivery. In addition,

the new district boundaries would clearly define service responsibilities for the benefit of neighboring fire service providers, land use authorities, the public and other service providers.

Many of the potential fire service annexation areas are very large; in some instances larger than the existing district. This may not be an issue for Fire Protection Districts, which are single-purpose special districts that provide only fire protection services. However, there are several fire-related districts, including Miranda Community Services District, Weott Community Services District, and Resort Improvement District No. 1, that are multi-purpose special districts that provide other services, such as domestic water and sewer. An annexation of large areas by a district that provides water or sewer (and that does not currently provide those services to the annexation area) may be considered growth inducing, which will create additional complexity and potentially require additional environmental review. The district may propose, and LAFCo may accept, that the annexation area would be a new service zone where only fire protection services are authorized to be provided.

Annexations can be initiated by a district or a landowner proposing development. LAFCo annexation processing and costs would be made the responsibility of the applicant. The environmental effects of annexation must be analyzed and the analysis should include document compliance with all of the applicable state and local LAFCo statutes and policies. It should be noted that LAFCOs in California have approved fire district annexations of areas that currently receive out of district fire protection service provided by a fire district with the use of CEQA exemptions.

Annexations to fire protection districts that have the consent of all landowners could occur without a LAFCo hearing (Government Code Section 56663). This reduces the cost and time involved in an annexation process. Regardless of hearing, a LAFCo change in organization application must be prepared, including a plan for service and possibly a modified Municipal Service Review. The LAFCo Executive Officer evaluates the application based on the required state statutes and local policy criteria to make the required findings. There are also State Board of Equalization costs associated with changes in tax rate areas that are mapped for districts receiving property taxes.

5.2 District Formation

The formation of a new fire protection district is appropriate for formalizing the services of a volunteer fire company (VFC), but must provide for a sustainable revenue source. VFCs are funded through a range of sources including: donations, revenue for covering CAL FIRE stations, grants, and fundraising. Fundraising can require a significant amount of time and energy and revenue can vary significantly from year to year. The formation of fire districts combined with the establishment of a new tax or assessment ensures that small VFCs that previously relied solely on fundraising can become self-sufficient and stable agencies, thereby providing a higher level of fire protection for their communities.

Additionally, fire-related districts are official government agencies which are eligible for grants such as the annual Federal Assistance to Firefighters grant program and pre and post disaster grant programs funded through FEMA. Currently, many VFCs in the County are not official government organizations and therefore are ineligible to receive some grants and other types of funding and assistance. Formalizing the services of a VFC to a Fire Protection District would solve this problem.

District formation would involve approval by LAFCo, and if the area is inhabited, an election would need to be held. Like annexations, district formations that have the consent of all land owners can occur without a hearing and can result in cost savings. The process would be similar to the process described above for an annexation. A new district would not receive property tax revenue and would therefore not trigger the need and cost for BOE mapping. As described in the annexation discussion above, a new tax or assessment approved by the registered voters or property owners of the subdivision would be required to provide sustainable fire protection services through the new district, which would involve time and expense. In addition, a Mello Roos Community Facilities District could be formed by the County and would simplify the process of establishing a special tax.

Many other California counties use County Service Areas (CSA), dependent special districts governed by the County Board of Supervisors, to provide fire protection services in the unincorporated area. Shasta County, for example, established CSA #1/Shasta County Fire Department (SCFD), which provides fire protection to all areas of the county outside existing fire protections districts and cities providing fire protection. The SCFD contracts with CAL FIRE to provide all department administration and operations functions. In addition, the SCFD supports 17 volunteer fire companies by providing oversight, administrative support, training, maintenance, funding, and dispatching. (Humboldt County Master Fire Protection Plan, Appendix A, Financing).

5.3 Contracts for Service

It is very common for counties to contract with CAL FIRE or city or district fire departments for fire protection services for the unincorporated area. For example, CSA 4 in Trinidad utilizes a property owner-funded Amador agreement to contract with CAL FIRE for year-round structural fire protection services to the unincorporated area. However, increases in costs from CAL FIRE make it difficult to fund and support new and existing Amador agreements.

In addition to counties, existing districts can contract with other fire-related districts as part of a functional consolidation or for an assistance-by hire arrangement to improve response times or service levels. However, starting on January 1, 2016, certain fire protection contracts will require LAFCo approval. SB 239 (Hertzberg) adds Government Code section 56134 to the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, (Government Code section 56000 et seq.) establishing new procedures for the approval of these contracts entered into by both local and state agencies.

SB 239 applies to contracts for the exercise of new or extended fire protection services outside a public agency's jurisdictional boundaries that meet either of these threshold conditions: (1) transfers responsibility for providing services in more than 25 percent of a receiving agency's jurisdictional area; or (2) changes the employment status of more than 25 percent of the employees of any public agency affected by the contract. LAFCo's oversight also applies to instances where a combination of contracts results in the above threshold conditions. SB 239, however, expressly excludes from its requirements mutual aid agreements, including those entered into under the California Emergency Services Act (Government Code section 8550 et seq.), or Fire Protection District Law of 1987 (Health & Safety Code section 13800 et seq.). By its terms, SB 239 does not appear to apply to an extension of a fire protection contract unless one of the above threshold conditions is triggered. Arguably, modifications to existing contracts merely extending the term of the contract would not likely trigger the SB 239 requirements.

To initiate the process, an agency must adopt a resolution of application after a noticed public hearing, and either obtain the consent of all applicable recognized employee organizations representing firefighters, or provide the recognized employee organizations, and each affected public agency, at least 30 days advanced notice of the public hearing together with a copy of the fire protection contract. For contracts between a state and local agency, the application must also be approved by the Director of the Department of Finance. The application must be submitted with a plan for services, which must include information delineated in Government Code section 56134, and an independent comprehensive fiscal analysis. This analysis must review the plan for services, include a cost analysis with cost comparisons with other like providers with similar service areas, populations and geographic size, a determination of the costs to the agency providing the new or extended fire protection services, and a determination that the affected territory will receive revenues sufficient to provide the services and provide for a reasonable reserve during the first three fiscal years of the contract.

Once an application is complete, LAFCo must consider the contract at a public hearing. LAFCo may not approve the contract unless it either determines, among other things, that the agency providing the services will have sufficient revenue to provide the services and provide for a reasonable reserve for three years following the effective date of the contract, or it conditions approval on the concurrent approval of sufficient revenue sources. (New Contract Procedures, BB&K, Paula C.P. de Sousa Mills, December 2015).

5.4 Activation of Latent Powers

There are instances where an existing multi-purpose special district, such as a community services district, can expand its services to include fire protection and rescue delivered by a non-district VFC. For instance, the Phillipsville VFC could formalize its services under the Phillipsville Community Services District (CSD), which currently provides water services to the community of Phillipsville.

Government Code sections 56824.10 through 56824.14 govern LAFCo's proceedings and the application process for the activation of latent powers, including the requirement to submit a specialized, comprehensive Plan for Service. Government Code Section 56824.12 requires that the Plan for Service contains the district's financing plan to establish and provide the new service, the estimated cost to provide the service, the estimated cost to the customers, the potential fiscal impacts to customers of existing service providers, and alternatives to activating the latent power, including alternative service providers. LAFCo is statutorily prohibited from approving the activation of a latent power unless the Commission determines that the special district will have sufficient revenues to carry out the new service. Therefore, the activation of latent powers would likely require a new tax or assessment approved by the registered voters or property owners to provide sustainable fire protection services through the CSD on behalf of the VFC. These funding sources are described in more detail below.

5.5 Funding Sources for Boundary Changes

Traditional funding sources are limited to special assessments and special taxes, and property tax revenue exchange from the County to districts. A description of these funding sources are described below.

Special tax: A special tax requires that a resolution or ordinance be adopted that finds a reasonable relationship between the tax and the service to be provided and specifying the

type of tax, the tax rate to be levied, and the method of collection. Special taxes must be approved by a two-thirds majority of voters casting ballots.

Special Assessment: A special assessment requires the preparation of an engineer's report that identifies the area subject to the assessment, the special benefit that would be received by property, a cost estimate, and a demonstration that the cost of the special benefit is spread to property in proportion to the benefit received. A 45-day notice is given to property owners that includes a protest ballot and information about the hearing scheduled to allow protest ballots to be counted. A special assessment is approved if weighted protest ballots equaling 50 percent or less of total benefit/value of the assessment are received.

Property Tax: Property tax revenue exchange negotiations for annexation areas are limited to those existing districts that currently receive property taxes within their existing district boundaries. Negotiations for the sharing of real property ad valorem taxes is authorized by Section 99(d) and 99.01 of the California Revenue and Taxation Code. Considering the base value of property taxes collected are currently committed, it is likely that annexing districts may only receive a share of property tax revenue attributable to the change in base value (i.e., property tax growth).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Defining spheres of influence for special districts is an important planning responsibility of LAFCo. Municipal service reviews must be prepared prior to, or in conjunction with, the establishment or update of spheres of influence. It is therefore recommended that the spheres of influence for the fire-related districts included in this service review be expanded to correspond with the fire response areas that have been mapped for each district. These response area boundaries have been defined as to reduce overlap and to designate the primary responder to the designated areas. These boundaries do not reflect the important mutual aid responses and reciprocal agreements that departments have established over time.

These sphere changes will help define where out of district services are currently being provided and will support future boundary change or reorganization options. Clearly defining district boundaries and establishing reliable sources of revenue will ensure a higher level of fire protection to the community. LAFCo is eager to work with the County, the districts, and the communities they serve to find the best service options and to develop sustainable, on-going funding sources to support fire protection into the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 16-05

**APPROVING THE SOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL FIRE SERVICES MUNICIPAL SERVICE
REVIEW AND UPDATING THE SPHERES OF INFLUENCE FOR THE BRICELAND FPD,
FRUITLAND RIDGE FPD, GARBERVILLE FPD, MIRANDA CSD, MYERS FLAT FPD,
REDWAY FPD, RESORT IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1, TELEGRAPH RIDGE FPD,
WEOTT CSD, AND WHITETHORN FPD**

WHEREAS, the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission, hereinafter referred to as the "Commission", conducts studies of the provision of municipal services in conjunction with reviewing the spheres of influence of the local governmental agencies whose jurisdictions are within Humboldt County; and

WHEREAS, the Commission prepared a South County Regional Fire Services Municipal Service Review to evaluate the availability and performance of governmental services provided by fire-related districts within the designated study area pursuant to California Government Code Section 56430; and

WHEREAS, the South County Regional Fire Services Municipal Service Review included sphere of influence recommendations for each fire-related district; and

WHEREAS, the sphere of influence boundaries are recommended to generally match the non-district goodwill response areas for each fire-related district, as specified in the Municipal Service Review determinations; and

WHEREAS, a staff report was presented to the Commission in the manner provided by law; and

WHEREAS, sufficient hearing notice was published in the form and manner provided by law; and

WHEREAS, the Commission heard and fully considered all the evidence presented at a public hearing held on May 25, 2016, and

WHEREAS, the Commission considered all the factors required under California Government Code Section 56425.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Commission as follows:

1. The Commission hereby accepts the South County Regional Fire Services Municipal Service Review, incorporated herein by reference.
2. This sphere of influence updates have been appropriately informed by the Commission's Municipal Services Review; a study that included an independent evaluation of the level and range of governmental services provided by each fire-related district and formally accepted by the Commission on July 17, 2013.

3. The District's spheres of influence are amended, as depicted in the figures included in Exhibit A.
4. The Commission, as lead agency, finds the sphere of influence updates are exempt from further review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, Chapter 3 CEQA Guidelines, 15061(b)(3). This finding is based on the Commission determining with certainty the update will have no possibility of significantly affecting the environment given it does not involve development or a change in the manner for which an existing service is provided.
5. Each District provided confirmation of the level and range of services provided. Accordingly, the Commission waives the requirement for a written statement of services prescribed under Government Code Section 56425(i).
6. Pursuant to Government Code Section 56425(e), the Commission makes the written statement of determinations included in the attached Exhibit B.
7. The Executive Officer shall revise the official records of the Commission to reflect this update of the District's spheres of influence.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a meeting of the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission on the 25th day of May 2016, by the following roll call vote:

AYES:	Commissioners:
NOES:	Commissioners:
ABSENT:	Commissioners:
ABSTAIN:	Commissioners:

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt LAFCo

Attest:

George Williamson, Executive Officer
Humboldt LAFCo

**EXHIBIT B
STATEMENT OF DETERMINATIONS**

**BRICELAND FPD, FRUITLAND RIDGE FPD, GARBERVILLE FPD, MIRANDA CSD,
MYERS FLAT FPD, REDWAY FPD, RESORT IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT NO.1,
TELEGRAPH RIDGE FPD, WEOTT CSD, AND WHITETHORN FPD
SPHERE OF INFLUENCE UPDATES 2016**

1. The Present and Planned Land Uses in the Area

The Humboldt County Framework General Plan designate most of the lands included within the district boundaries and non-district response areas (recommended sphere areas) for agricultural, timber, and rural residential development. In addition, territory included within the Avenue of the Giants Community Plan and the Garberville-Redway-Alderpoint-Benbow Community Plan are subject to the land use policies contained in these community plans, in addition to the Framework Plan and Zoning Regulations.

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

There is a present and continued need for fire protection, first responder medical aid, and vehicle accident response services throughout the recommended sphere areas. The Districts currently provide year-round fire protection and emergency services to these areas even though they are under no obligation to do so and receive no compensation for their service, other than donations.

3. The Present Capacity and Adequacy of Public Services

The regional municipal service review indicates the districts' current fire protection services are adequate to meet present community needs while identifying several areas where service needs should to be addressed. The lack of essential training and equipment, and difficulty in recruiting volunteers are issues for all fire service providers throughout the county. In addition, issues relating to sustainable funding levels and the ability to respond to development outside district boundaries needs to be addressed for local fire service providers in a comprehensive manner. Updating the spheres of influence to include the out of district response areas will support the expansion of existing district boundaries or other changes of organization or reorganization, as a means to provide fire protection services to areas outside of fire district boundaries.

4. The Existence of Relevant Social or Economic Communities of Interest

The affected territory within the expanded sphere areas has established strong social and economic interdependencies with the districts because they receive services on a goodwill basis. These ties are affirmed and strengthened by these sphere updates.

5. The Present and Probable Need for the Services for Any Disadvantaged Unincorporated Community within the Area

While the affected territory within the expanded sphere areas surrounding the Districts may qualify as "disadvantaged unincorporated communities", the districts have effective mutual and automatic aid agreements with neighboring agencies and are providing goodwill services to these areas. Therefore, there exists no disadvantaged unincorporated communities that are not already receiving some level of fire protection services in the sphere areas. However, should the non-district response areas be evaluated for annexation in the future, disadvantaged communities in the region should be considered further.