



**California Special  
Districts Association**  
*Districts Stronger Together*

# 2024 SPECIAL DISTRICTS TOUR

DECEMBER 10, 2024



**Special Districts Impacting  
Mental Health in Their  
Communities**

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# 2024 SPECIAL DISTRICTS TOUR RESOURCES

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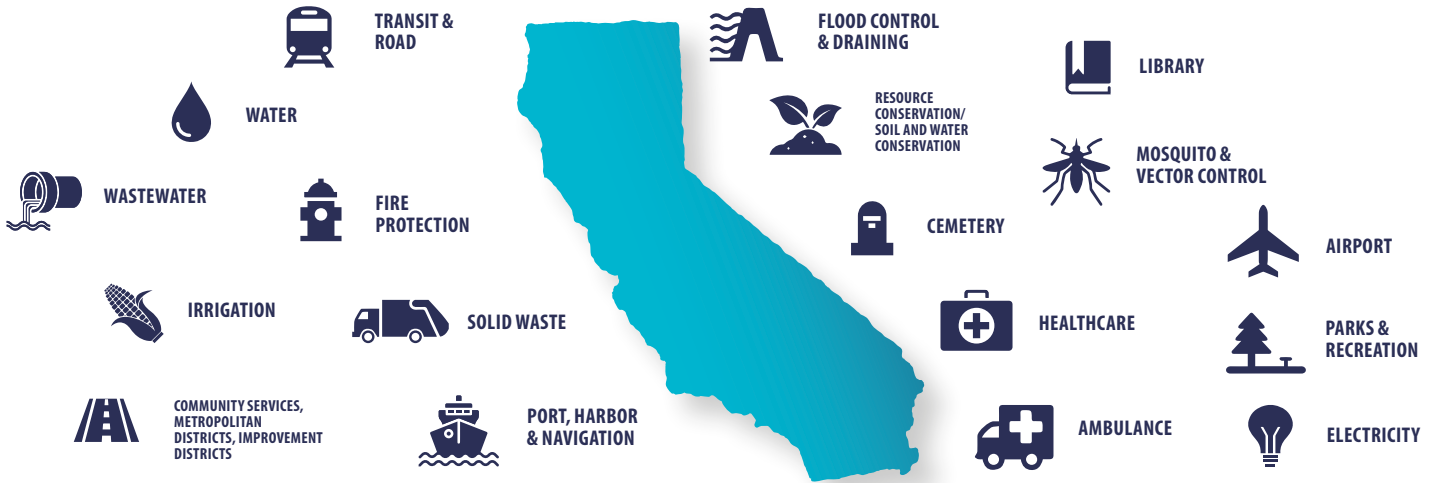


**California Special Districts Association**  
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# WHAT ARE SPECIAL DISTRICTS?

*There are just over 2,000 independent special districts in California*

Special districts are local public agencies created by community residents to deliver specialized services essential to their health, safety, economy, and well-being.



Like cities and counties, special districts are public agencies; however, they **provide necessary services that many cities and counties do not.**

Districts are subject to sunshine laws and **governed by a board of directors directly accountable to their constituents.**

Special districts serve all kinds of communities from agricultural, rural, and disadvantaged—nearly 60 percent of California’s special districts serve disadvantaged communities—to incorporated cities and major metropolitan regions, **driving innovation and achieving efficiency through focused-service and economies of scale.**

Collectively, special districts serve as the backbone of California’s infrastructure and economy, **addressing California’s biggest statewide problems at the local level.**

## HOW ARE SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUNDED?



**SPECIAL DISTRICT SERVICES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND CAPITAL NEEDS ARE FUNDED THROUGH A VARIETY OF SOURCES.**

- Revenue sources include fees for services, property taxes, special taxes, benefit assessments, impact fees, and grants.
- California law demands a strict process for voter approval of the taxes and fees that fund special districts.
- Due to strong local oversight and constitutional provisions, special districts often must find a way to do more with less than other government agencies.

## WHY ARE SPECIAL DISTRICTS NECESSARY?



**SPECIAL DISTRICTS ARE FORMED BY COMMUNITIES WHEN IT’S SOMETHING:**

- The community needs
- The community wants done well
- The community wants done with local control

**2K** Just over 2,000 independent special districts provide services and infrastructure that in some way benefits every one of California’s **40 million residents.**



Many districts **provide infrastructure services the U.S. Department of Homeland Security deems “critical,”** such as water, irrigation, wastewater and agriculture services.

## SPECIAL DISTRICTS SEEK PARTNERSHIP WITH THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS TO:

- Ensure safe and reliable services for our communities.
- Build resiliency to prepare for and overcome adversity, such as wildfires or other natural disasters.
- Grow the economy and serve more Californians through investment in local and regional infrastructure.



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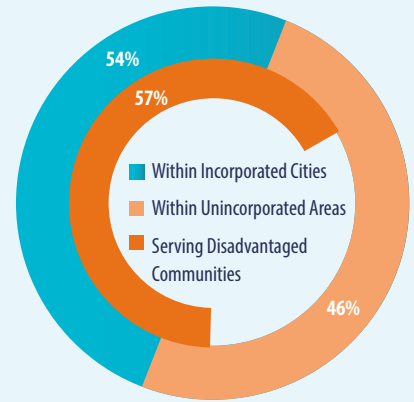
# SPECIAL DISTRICTS: **COMMUNITY DRIVEN AND FUTURE FOCUSED**

## Special Districts are Addressing California’s Biggest Statewide Problems—At The Local Level

California is the world’s fifth largest economy and plays an integral part in the continued prosperity of the country as a whole. The state is faced with many challenges, any one of which could be considered the biggest issues of our time. Climate change, wildfires, drought, homelessness, and mental health, all require thoughtful approaches built from the ground up, and they are all being tackled every day by the locally-focused experts of California’s special districts.

Special districts, sometimes referred to as special services districts, are locally-formed and independently administered units of local government, created to oversee everything from how people get their water and power to how they enjoy their parks and open spaces. Our state simply could not function without them.

### SPECIAL DISTRICTS SERVE VARIED COMMUNITIES



## Special Districts Are Truly the Backbone of California’s Economy

California’s Special Districts provide essential services that many cities and counties do not, such as fire protection, health and wellness programs, and core infrastructure, including transit, airports, ports and harbors as well as access to reliable water, wastewater, and electricity. Across California, more than 2,000 special districts serve the needs of nearly every one of California’s 40 million residents—many in disadvantaged communities—and employ more than 120,000 front-line workers.

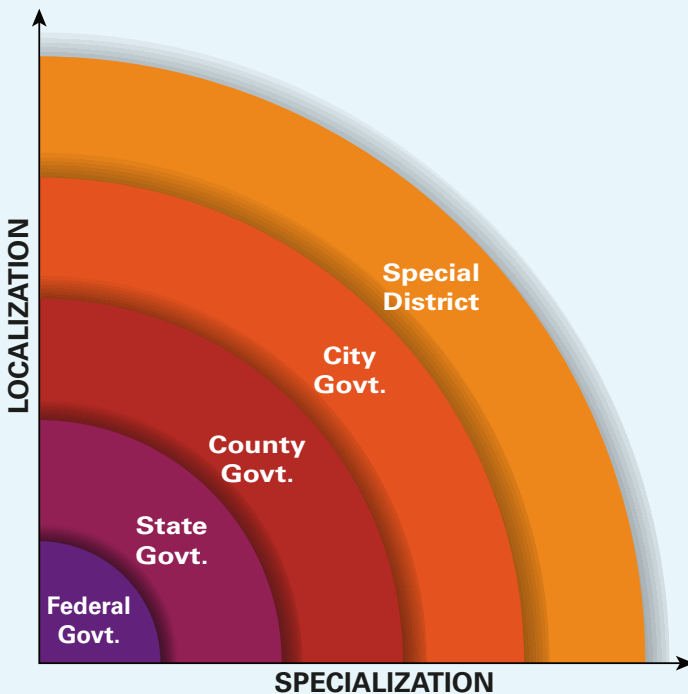
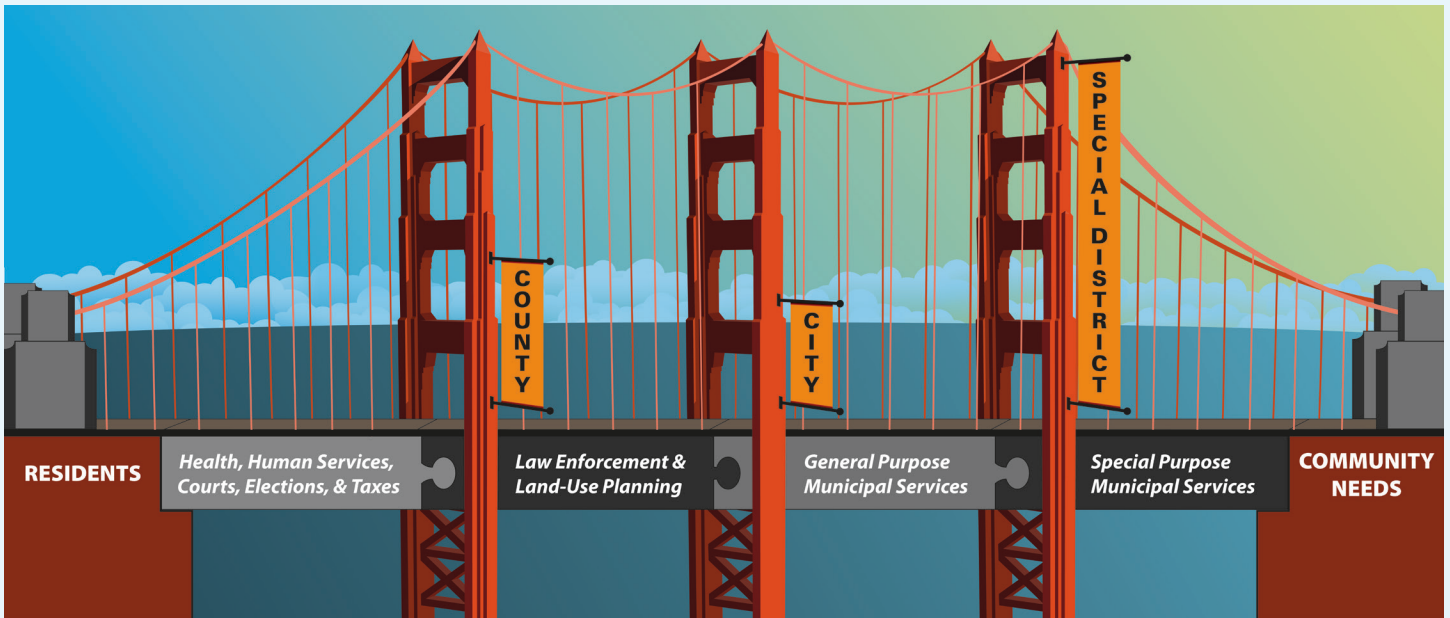
## Special Districts Operate at the Nexus of Cutting-Edge Technology and Community Engagement

Special Districts are addressing the biggest statewide problems by taking what the experts learn at the local level and turning that knowledge into future-focused, long-term solutions. Scientists, firefighters, engineers, healthcare professionals, water operators, lab technicians, environmental analysts, and many other specialists provide special district services. Their expertise allows special districts to respond to a rapidly changing world and develop and implement technologies quickly when evolving needs require new, state-of-the-art tools of the trade.

Whether responding to drought conditions with more effective water conservation and groundwater sustainability technologies, mitigating wildfire risk and recovery, addressing transportation needs with innovative strategies, or simply serving the physical, mental, and emotional health needs of diverse populations, special districts are developing world-class solutions to the everyday needs of the communities they serve.



# Where Special Districts Fit in the Public Services Puzzle



California's communities are diverse in the nature and extent of public services they need. The result is a network of public service agencies, each with a purpose under state law. Within this framework, **special districts are formed, governed, and "owned" by the community.** They are created to meet the essential needs of local families and economies, and are directly accountable to the communities they serve.

Like cities and counties, special districts are subject to "sunshine laws," audits, and regulatory compliance requirements. Special districts are also the most responsive form of government because they are established, operated, and controlled by local voters, and employ highly-trained experts focused on a single mission to most efficiently and effectively meet the community's needs.

**Special districts are focused on providing a "special-purpose" municipal service, like water, sanitation, fire protection, parks, mosquito abatement, cemeteries, resource conservation, ports and harbors, airports, or libraries where a city or county does not.**



**DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION:**

1099 E Street, Hayward, CA 94541  
 (510) 881-6700  
[www.haywardrec.org](http://www.haywardrec.org)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Peter Rosen, President, term expires 2024  
 Paul W. Hodges, Jr., Vice President, term expires 2026  
 Louis M. Andrade, Secretary, term expires 2024  
 Sara Lamnin, Director, term expires 2026  
 Rick J. Hatcher, Director, term expires 2024

**GENERAL MANAGER**

James Wheeler, [WheJ@HaywardRec.org](mailto:WheJ@HaywardRec.org)

# HAYWARD AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT

The Hayward Area Recreation and Parks District, commonly referred to as “H.A.R.D.,” is an independent special district established to provide park and recreation services. The district includes the City of Hayward and the unincorporated communities of Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, Ashland, Cherryland, and Fairview. As one of California’s largest parks and recreation districts, H.A.R.D. maintains and operates a diverse range of facilities and parks. Established in 1944, H.A.R.D. is celebrating its 80th anniversary this year!

## DISTRICT SIZE

Covering approximately 114 square miles, the district serves a diverse population of 308,131 people. According to US Census numbers, 37% of the population identifies as Hispanic/Latino, 28% as Asian, about 20% of the population identifies as White, 8% as Black and 2% identifies as Pacific Islander.

## LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

- Representative Eric Swalwell (CA-14)
- State Senator Nancy Skinner (SD-9)
- State Senator Aisha Wahab (SD-10)
- Assemblymember Mia Bonta (AD-18)
- Assemblymember Liz Ortega (AD-20)

## SERVICES PROVIDED

H.A.R.D. manages and operates a wide range of facilities, including regional, community, and neighborhood parks, recreation and community centers, senior centers, a nine-hole golf course with a driving range, sports fields, school park areas, pools, gymnasiums, and various other amenities like a rodeo park, community garden, Japanese Garden, and a theater. H.A.R.D. offers sports and recreational programming at its facilities and other locations managed by different agencies. The district is responsible for the maintenance of park areas, trees,

landscaping, buildings, and other structures at its sites. H.A.R.D. employs over 147 staff across five departments, in addition to 150 to 300 hourly and seasonal employees who help provide programs and services for the community.

## COUNTY SERVED

- Alameda County

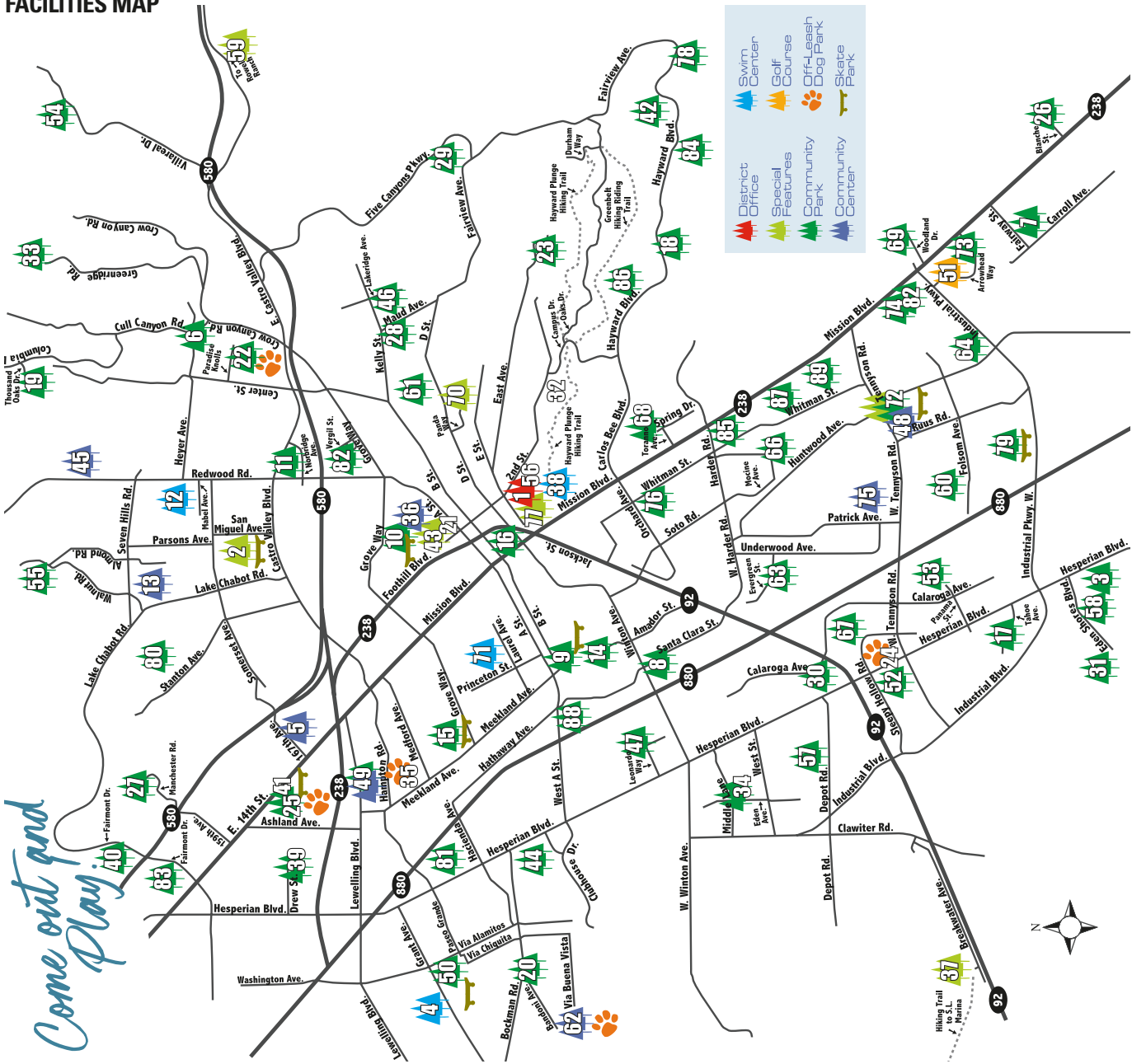
## FUNDING

The District’s \$61.79 million annual operating budget consists of a General Fund, an Internal Service Fund, and a Debt Service Fund.

The Capital Projects Funds are budgeted separately using local Measure F-1 Bond funds and grant funding in the district’s Three-Year Capital Improvement Plan. The primary sources of funding include property taxes and assessments, charges for services, and miscellaneous revenues.



FACILITIES MAP



Come out and Play!



Facilities Map

H.A.R.D. District Office	1	Hillcrest Knolls Park	40
Adobe Center/Adobe Park	2	Jack Holland St. Park	41
Alden E. Oliver Sports Park	3	JA Lewis Park	42
Arroyo Swim Center	4	Jalquin Vista Park	78
Ashland Community Center	5	Japanese Gardens	43
Boy Trees Tennis Park	6	Kennedy Park	44
Bechtel Mini Park	89	Kenneth C. Athlen Senior & Community Center	45
Bidwell Park	7	Lakeridge Park	46
Birchfield Park	8	La Placita Mini Park	88
Bret Harte Field	77	Laurel Park	82
Canney Park	9	Canyon View Park	84
Canyon View Park	84	Carlos Bee Park	10
Castro Bee Park	10	Castro Valley Creek Park	11
Castro Valley Creek Park	11	Castro Valley Swim Center	12
Castro Valley Park	12	& Community Center	13
& Community Center	13	Centennial Park	14
Centennial Park	14	Cherryland Community Center	49
Cherryland Community Center	49	Cherryland Park	15
Cherryland Park	15	Children's Park	16
Children's Park	16	at Giuliani Plaza	35
at Giuliani Plaza	35	Christian Penke Park	53
Christian Penke Park	53	College Heights Park	18
College Heights Park	18	Deerview Park	19
Deerview Park	19	Del Rey Park	20
Del Rey Park	20	Douglas Morrison Theatre	21
Douglas Morrison Theatre	21	Earl Warren Park	22
Earl Warren Park	22	East Avenue Park	23
East Avenue Park	23	Edendale Park	25
Edendale Park	25	El Rancho Verde Park	26
El Rancho Verde Park	26	Fairmont Linear Park	83
Fairmont Linear Park	83	Fairmont Terrace Park	27
Fairmont Terrace Park	27	Fairview Park	28
Fairview Park	28	Five Canyons Park	29
Five Canyons Park	29	Gansberger Park	30
Gansberger Park	30	Gordon E. Oliver	31
Gordon E. Oliver	31	Greenbelt Trails	32
Greenbelt Trails	32	Greenridge Park	33
Greenridge Park	33	Greenwood Park	34
Greenwood Park	34	Haymont Mini Park	85
Haymont Mini Park	85	Hayward Area Senior Center	36
Hayward Area Senior Center	36	Hayward Community Garden	76
Hayward Community Garden	76	Hayward Dog Park	24
Hayward Dog Park	24	Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center	37
Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center	37	Hayward Plunge/Memorial Park	80
Hayward Plunge/Memorial Park	80	Hesperian Park	39
Hesperian Park	39	Highlands Park	86
Highlands Park	86	Wesleys Community Center	75



**DISTRICT CONTACT INFORMATION**

2401 Crow Canyon Rd., Suite A, San Ramon, CA 94583  
 (925) 838-6600  
[www.firedepartment.org](http://www.firedepartment.org)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jay Kerr, President, term expires 2024  
 Matthew J. Stamey, Vice President, term expires 2024  
 Ryan Crean, Director, term expires 2026  
 Michelle Lee, Director, term expires 2024  
 Donald R. Parker, Director, term expires 2026

**FIRE CHIEF**

Paige Meyer, [info@srvfire.ca.gov](mailto:info@srvfire.ca.gov)

# SAN RAMON VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District (SRVFPD) is an outgrowth of many years of maturation. Its early beginning took place over 100 years ago. The district is an independent special district governed by a five-member board of directors, elected at-large by their constituents and each serving a staggered four-year term. The board of directors meets once a month at the Administrative Offices, headquartered in San Ramon, to determine overall policy for the district. Special committee meetings provide oversight in four areas: Personnel/Human Resources, Finance, Facilities, and CERT/PAC (Community Emergency Response Teams/Policy Action Committee).

The SRVFPD mission statement is One Team, One Mission. In the spirit of its tradition, the district strives for excellence, respectfully serving all with pride, honor, and compassion.

Notable SRVFPD initiatives and achievements include but are not limited to: Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class 1 Rating, built new Public Safety Complex with an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Communications Center (partnering with City of San Ramon), EMS Firefighter First Response pilot program, Behavioral/Mental Health Response Program, Fire Training Tower/Facility, improved field apparatus with state-of-the-art equipment, developed PulsePoint App providing residents with lifesaving information during CPR calls, and internationally accredited Emergency Medical and Fire 911 Communications Center.

**DISTRICT SIZE**

The SRVFPD service area encompasses approximately 155 square miles and serves a population of 193,259.

**LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS SERVED**

- Representative Mark DeSaulnier (CA-10)
- State Senator Steve Glazer (SD-7)
- Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (AD-16)

**SERVICES PROVIDED**

The SRVFPD is committed to providing the highest level of emergency and non-emergency services to the community in an effort to protect life, property and the environment. The district is staffed with well trained personnel and teams with diverse and highly specialized skill sets to meet the “All-Risk”

demands. District firefighters are the first to respond for people in need. They are trained to provide many other valuable services to the community in addition to fire suppression, including emergency medical treatment/transport, technical rescue and hazardous material responses.

The district maintains nine career fire stations and one volunteer-staffed station, 911 Communications Center (police, fire, EMS), Emergency Operations Center (EOC), an administrative office building and other supporting facilities all strategically located throughout the jurisdiction. The district staffs sixteen companies, including structure and wildland engines, ladder trucks, advanced life support ambulances, and specialized hazardous materials, rescue, mobile communications center and other support units.

**COUNTIES SERVED**

- Contra Costa County

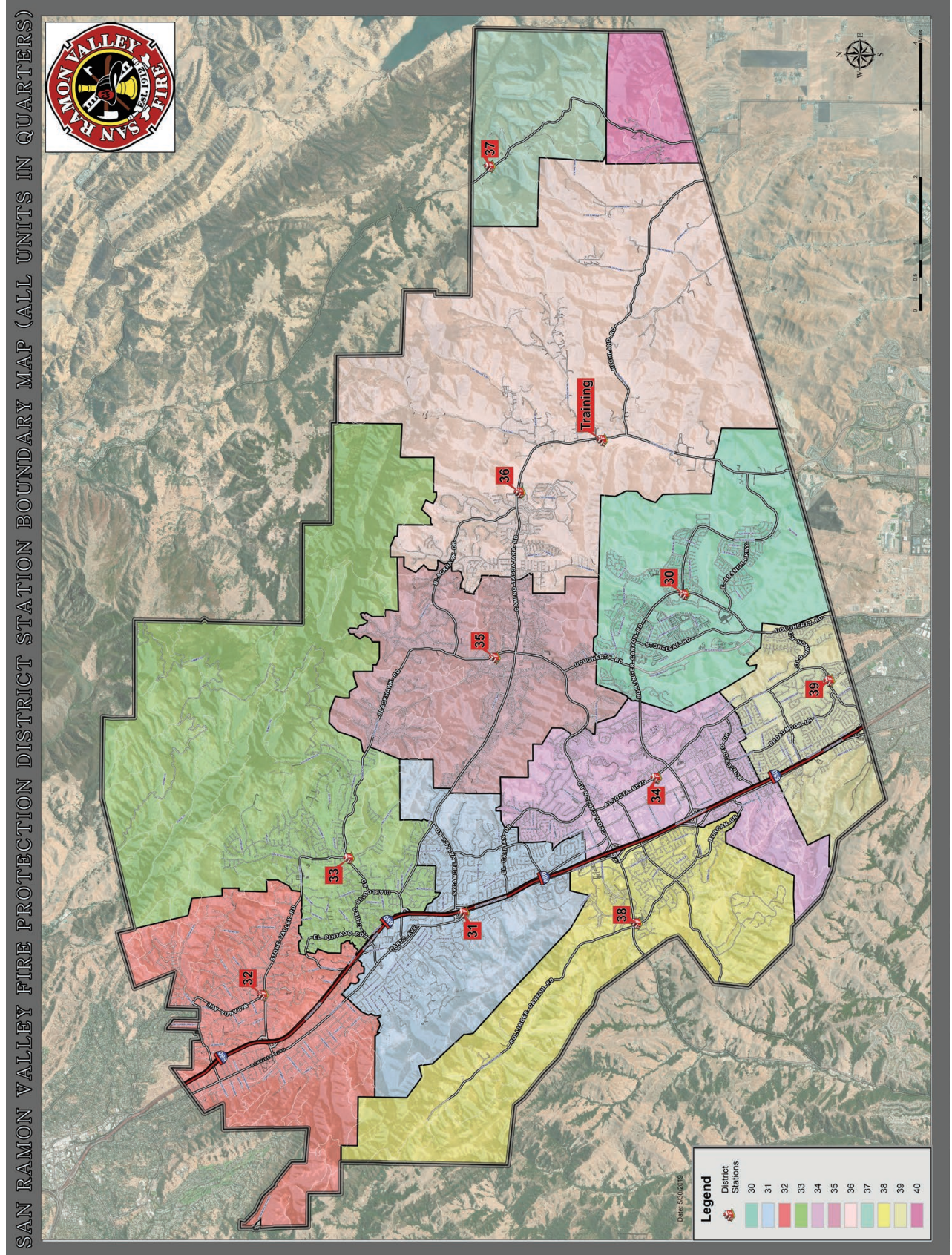
**FUNDING:**

Annual operating revenue for SRVFPD is \$104 million. The major revenue sources of the district are property taxes (89%), ambulance service fees, and interest income.





DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP



# ABOUT CSDA



## **CALIFORNIA SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION (CSDA)**

csda.net • 888.924.2732

The California Special Districts Association (CSDA) is a 501(c)(6), not-for-profit association formed in 1969. CSDA represents more than 1,300 special district and affiliate organizations across the state and is California's only statewide association representing all types of independent special districts. To support its members, CSDA provides education and training, legal guidance, industry-wide litigation, public affairs support, and legislative advocacy. CSDA also works closely with other statewide organizations to educate the public on the role of special districts in California's communities and the far-reaching affect special districts have on the lives of all Californians.