

**Presented by**

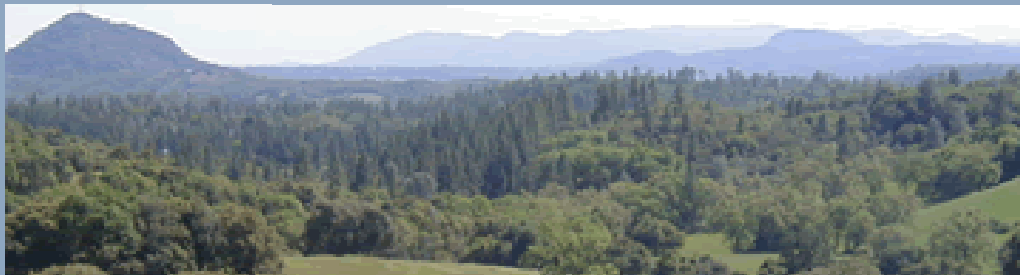
Amador Fire Protection Authority (AFPA)

**Topics:**

Fire Services

Emergency Medical Services

Revenue Options / Special Taxes





# Introduction

- Presentation goals
  - Review current issues associated with
    - Fire Protection
    - Emergency Medical Services
    - **Measure L**



# Fire / EMS Current Situation

- What does Fire Protection Service /EMS do?
  - Fire/EMS provides
    - Emergency medical response to homes and businesses throughout the County.
    - Wildland fire response.
    - Structural fire protection response to homes, businesses, etc.
    - Response to vehicle accidents.
    - Hazardous Material response.



## Fire / EMS Current Situation

- How are Fire / EMS Services provided?
  - Currently the community relies on an ALL volunteer system.
    - AFRPD
    - City of Jackson
    - City of Ione
    - Sutter Creek Fire District
    - Jackson Valley Fire District
    - Lockwood Fire District
    - City of Plymouth (contracts with AFRPD)
  - CDF support in winter through “Amador Plan.”



## Fire / EMS: Current Situation

- How is Fire / EMS currently funded?
  - The current volunteer system is funded by several agencies that have different revenue sources.  
The primary revenues are:
    - Limited Tax Assessments (AFPD, Lockwood)
    - Limited Property Tax Revenues (Districts)
    - City / County General Fund Revenues (Cities)
    - Indian Gaming Special Distribution Fund (SDF) Revenues



# Fire / EMS: Current Situation

- Current Issues:
  - County population is growing / call volume is increasing significantly
    - Calls have increased by 30% over the last 5 years.
  - It is increasingly challenging to be a volunteer
    - Increasing State / Federal training requirements
    - Employment commitments
  - Succession planning
    - Replacement of “retirees”



# Fire / EMS: Future Options

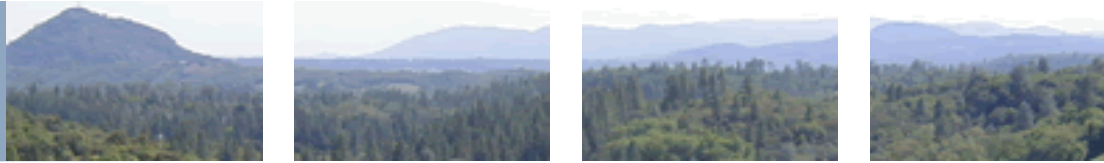
- Collaborative Solutions
  - Fire Task Force developed Fire / EMS solutions that ranged from daytime coverage to 24/7 paid staffing.
  - Lacking a new funding source, the Task Force recommendations lingered without action throughout the 90s.
  - Fire leaders joined together in 2003 to form the Amador Fire Protection Authority to move efforts forward.



## FAQ

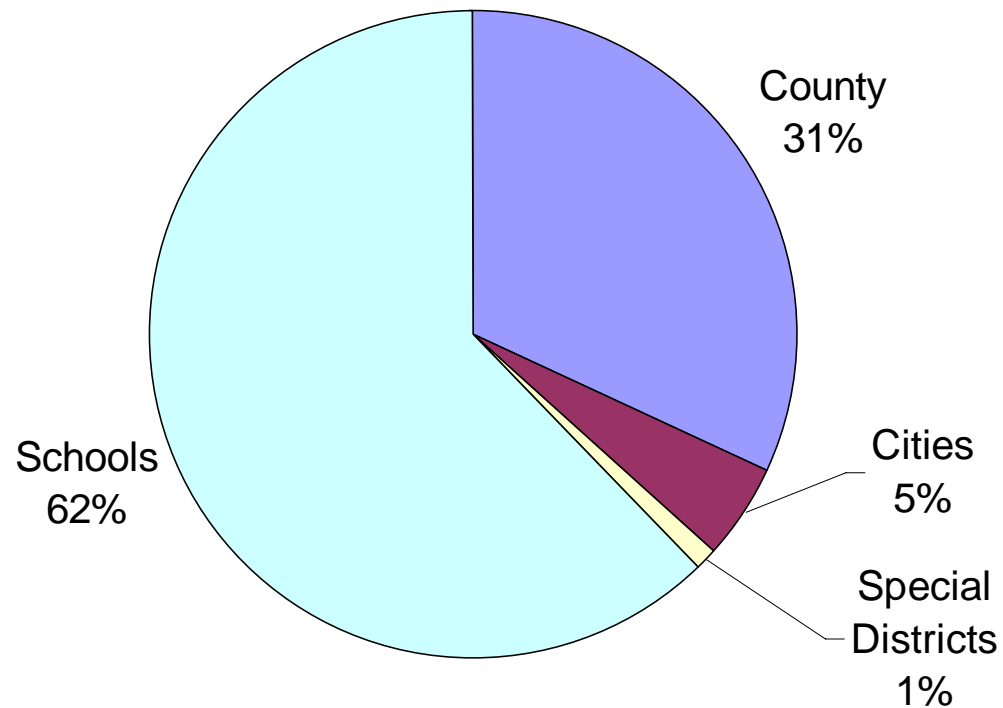
- Isn't my Property Tax revenue already allocated to these services?
  - Since the passage of Proposition 13, the State has reduced the local share of Property Tax.
  - A transfer to fire will reduce existing services such as the Library, Animal Control or Law Enforcement
  - The pie graph on the next slide shows how property tax revenues are allocated.





# Property Tax Distribution

Where Your Property Tax Dollars Go





## FAQ

- How much will a Paid Firefighter System cost per year?
  - AFPA estimates the personnel costs at \$1.2 million even for a regional four station daytime only program that uses existing equipment and buildings.



# AFPA Vision

## Task Force Implementation Plan

- Development Mitigation
  - Creation of a community facilities district (CFD) whereby new development pays increased taxes to support their fire / EMS needs.
  - Currently in place in unincorporated area.
  - AFPA hopes to see the CFD fee become standard countywide.



# AFPA Vision

## Next Step - Task Force Plan Implementation

- Initial Fire / EMS Protection Plan
  - 4 stations, staffed with 3 firefighters each for 8 hours per day Monday through Friday.
    - Jackson/Martell/Sutter Creek
    - Lone Area
    - Upcountry Area
    - Plymouth Area
  - Maintain and support existing volunteer network.



# AFPA Vision

- Next Step - Task Force Plan Implementation
  - Initial Fire / EMS Protection Plan
    - Total cost is approximately \$1.2 million (equivalent to a ¼ cent sales tax increase).
    - AFPA will provide lead agency oversight for implementation.
    - Requires **two-thirds** voter approval of a ¼ cent sales tax increase – **Measure L**



# AFPA Vision

- Comprehensive Long Term Plan
  - 24/7 countywide paid staffing coverage supported by existing volunteer program.
  - Four primary proposed funding sources:
    - New Development Fire Tax (CFD)
    - **Measure L** Sales Tax Increase (one-quarter percent)
    - Incremental Increase of Prop. 172 Sales Tax to Fire
    - Existing County / City / Fire District revenues



## FAQ

- Is ACTC also seeking a sales tax increase to support road improvements?
  - Yes, the Amador County Transportation Commission (ACTC) is seeking a ½ cent sales tax increase, **Measure K**, to support new roads projects, bicycle and pedestrian projects and maintenance funding.



# Fire / EMS

- Questions?