

Different types of CAL FIRE Cooperative Agreements

- Wildland
- Dispatch
- Schedule A
- Amador
- Schedule C
- Controlled by the state's Department of General Services
- A la carte style
- Contracts that include personnel are reimbursement contracts
- Personnel costs are budgeted at top step but billed at actual expense
- Not-to-exceed
 - Buffer on multi-year contracts

Schedule A Contract

- CAL FIRE personnel funded by local government
- Under local control
 - Committed to local program
 - Must cover
 - Still available to support state mission
- Usually full-service Fire Departments
- Santa Cruz County does have some Schedule A employees

“Amador” Contracts

- Pseudo Schedule A
 - Does not have a well-defined annual period for service
 - Santa Cruz County budgets for a seven month Amador period
- Low-cost model to provide fire protection when CAL FIRE would otherwise be downstaffed
- CAL FIRE engine or Local Government Engine
- CAL FIRE funded operator
- Firefighter(s) are CAL FIRE but funded by local government
- Five CAL FIRE stations stay staffed through “winter” months

Santa Cruz County Fire Contract

- Schedule A funded employees:
 - 2.5 Fire Marshals
 - 2 Training Captains
 - 1 Dispatcher
 - 2.4 Office Staff (1 currently vacant)
 - 1 Battalion Chief (soon to be appointed)
 - 1 Research Data Analyst (currently vacant)
- Amador funded employees:
 - 24 seasonal Firefighters

Santa Cruz County Fire Contract

- Demands placed on CAL FIRE staff:
 - Historically no overhead staff paid for by Santa Cruz County
 - Fire Chief, Deputy Chief, all Battalion Chiefs and Fire Station Captains are state funded with a full state workload
 - Reason for the newly funded County Fire Battalion Chief
 - No down time for state personnel due to Amador commitment.
- San Mateo County Fire comparison:
 - Deputy Chief
 - Division Chief
 - 3.5 Battalion Chiefs
 - 12 Station Captains
 - 32 Station Engineers and Paramedics
 - Fire Marshal and Training
 - Staff 5 engines/truck daily

2020 Benefit Assessment

- Repair structural deficit in budget
- Replace/bolster aging fleet
- Increase staffing
 - Third person on engine during Amador period
 - Due to relatively low response rate by County Fire volunteers

County Fire Budget

- Revenue Sources
 - Property Tax
 - Fire flow assessment
 - 2020 Benefit assessment
 - Reimbursements
 - Fund Balance
- Budget conservatively
- Expenditure savings occur when:
 - Employees in contract are not at top step
 - Vacant positions
 - Fire season runs long
 - Net negative changes in CAL FIRE labor contract
- Anything that was budgeted and not spent goes into the fund balance

Historical Savings

- 20/21- Contract amount \$4,376,651
 - Actual billed \$2,389,263- 45% savings
- 19/20- Contract amount \$3,401,432
 - Actual billed \$2,240,807- 34% savings
- 18/19- Contract amount \$3,171,140
 - Actual billed \$2,003,430- 36% savings
- 17/18- Contract amount \$3,020,134
 - Actual billed \$1,383,825- 54% Savings

Current and future contract with CAL FIRE

- FY 2022/23 is final year of the current three-year contract with CAL FIRE
- Moving forward in 23/24 and beyond the contract will need to look different due to CAL FIRE being over-extended in the Amador contract