

# Fire Protection and Emergency Response Services Assessment

**Community Meeting**



**Public Hearing: July 8, 2026**

# Why Local Fire Protection Exists in This Community:

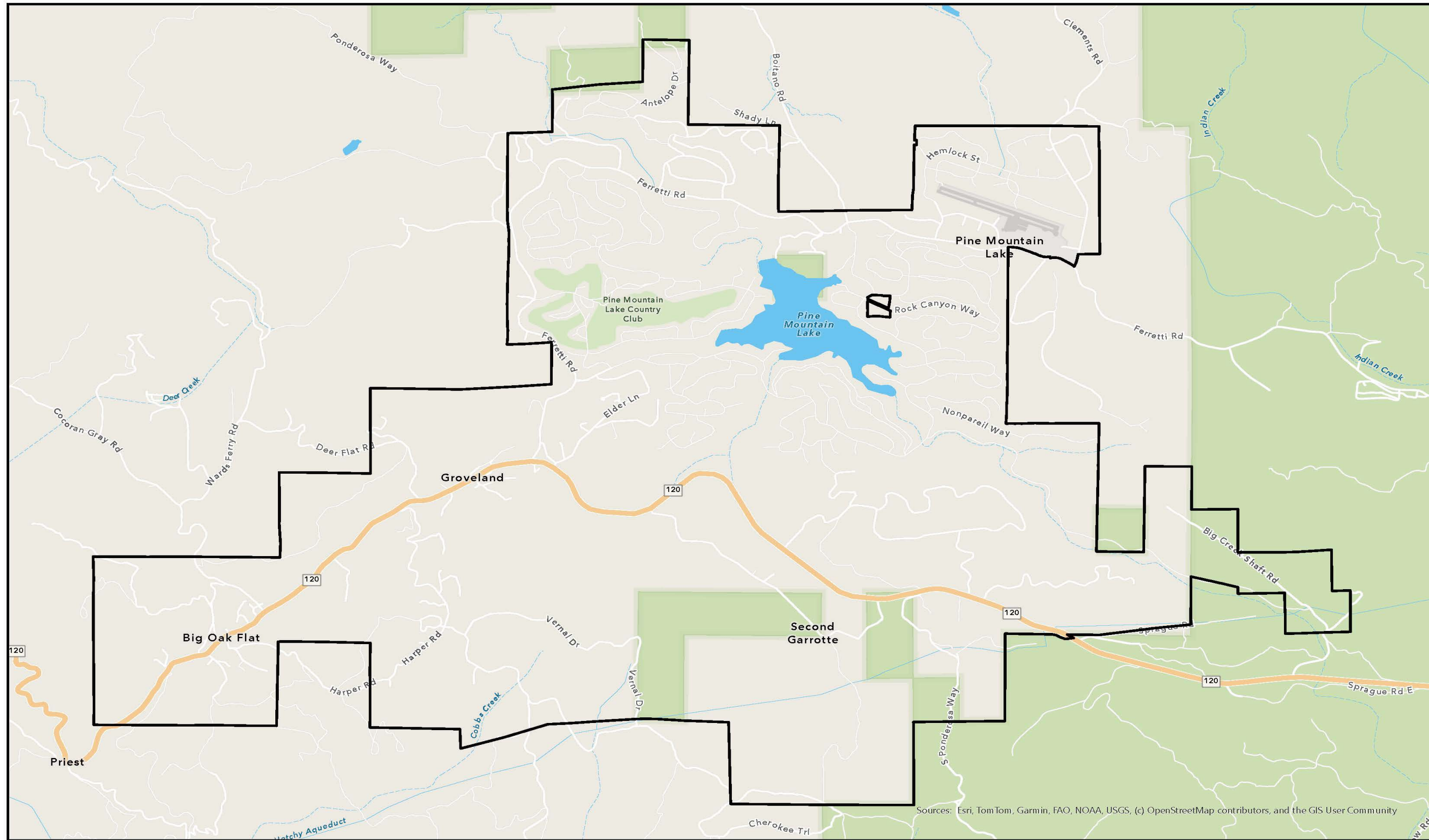


**For over 50 years, this community has chosen to invest locally in a higher level of fire and emergency response than would otherwise exist solely through broader county and state resources**

## **GCSD Works Alongside:**

- **CAL FIRE**
- **Tuolumne County Fire Department**
- **USFS**
- **Yosemite NP**
- **Mutual Aid Partners**

# Groveland CSD Boundaries



# GCSD LOCAL FIRE PROTECTION PROVIDES :



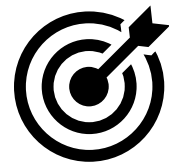
- **Local staffing and response capability**
- **Faster and more reliable initial response**
- **Coverage during simultaneous incidents**
- **Greater local control over service levels**
- **Enhanced emergency medical response capability**

# What LOCALLY Provided Means



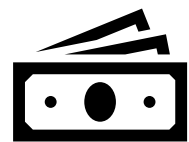
## LOCAL REPRESENTATION

A Board of 5 elected dedicated officials that live in the community all responsible to serve you.



## FOCUSED PRIORITIES

100% focus on the needs, priorities, and challenges of the local community.



## RESOURCES STAY LOCAL

Local funding is used to maintain and improve local services only.



## CLOSEST ACCOUNTABILITY

Easy access to department budgets, finances, audits and your local Board members. Your voice is heard.



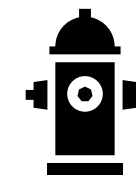
## FASTER DECISIONS

Local Board can respond quickly to local needs and emergencies.



## STRONGER CONNECTIONS

Local staff and Board members are part of the community—building trust and relationships,



## SERVICES BUILT FOR YOU

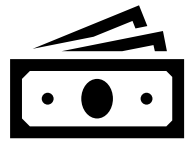
Services are tailored to our community's priorities, size, and geographic challenges. For example, improving the water system to support firefighting

# Current GCSD Fire Service Level



## 2/0 Staffing on an engine 24 x 365

2 personnel on an engine. Minimum level of staffing allowed under a contract with CAL FIRE.



## FIRE ENGINE REPLACEMENT

No dedicated funding available for fire engine replacement. Front line engine is 17 years old



## SOLID RESPONSE TIMES

In 2020, GCSD adopted a 14-minute response time standard and has met that objective.



## MUTUAL/AUTOMATIC AID

GCSD **responds** to calls outside its boundaries when and if available to supplement the County and CAL FIRE. GCSD **relies** on mutual aid from neighboring departments to supplement 2/0 staffing.



## EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

No dedicated funding available for tool and equipment replacement. Grant funding, when available, relied upon for 50% of cost.



## MAINTENANCE

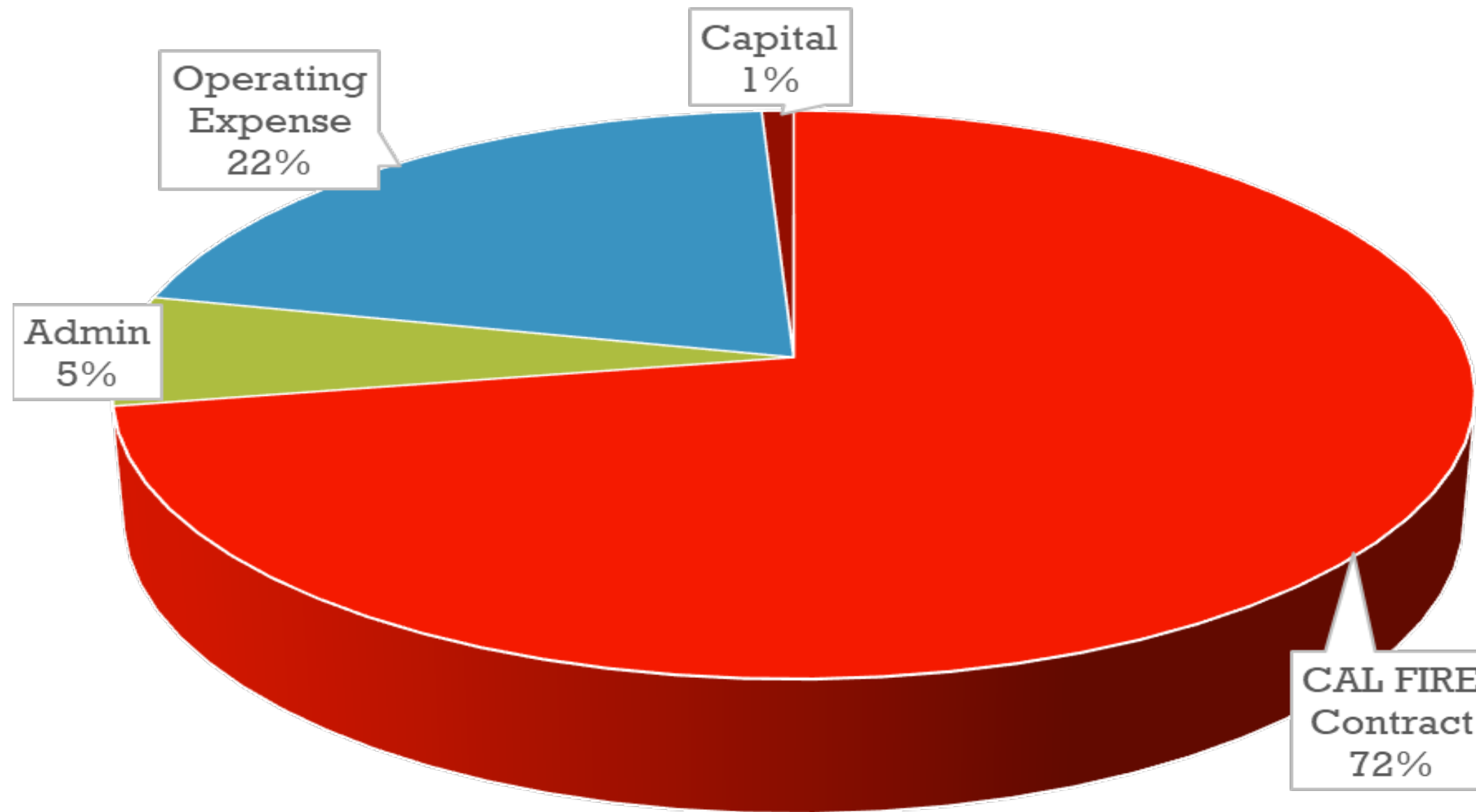
Current GCSD staff maintain engines, buildings and equipment as funding allows.



## COUNTY ENGINE

A County engine and its staff is Co-located in the GCSD station under agreement through June 2027, intended to respond to calls outside GCSD boundaries and inside when available

# The Cost of Providing Fire Protection Today



**72%** **CAL FIRE Schedule A Contract**  
Currently with 2-0 staffing

**22%** **Operating Expense**  
Fuel, utilities, supplies, station and engine repair and maintenance

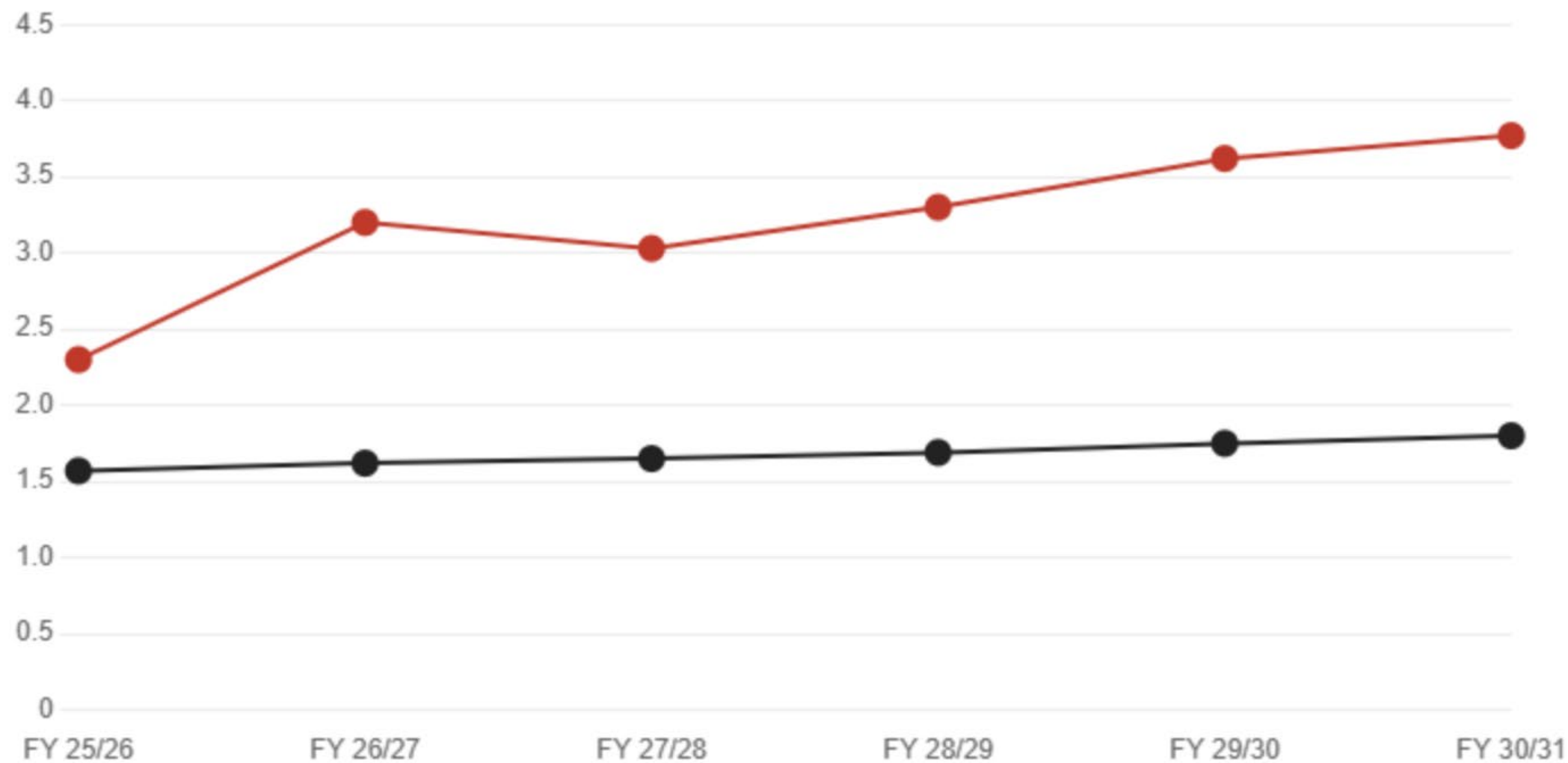
**5%** **Admin Expense**  
Insurance, subscriptions, audit expense, retirement liability for previous GCSD firefighters, staff wages

**1%** **Capital Expense**  
Safety gear, tools

■ CAL FIRE Contract ■ Admin ■ Operating Expense ■ Capital

# The Funding Gap: Revenue vs. Costs Over Time

**Dollars in Millions**



• **Property Tax & Other Revenue**

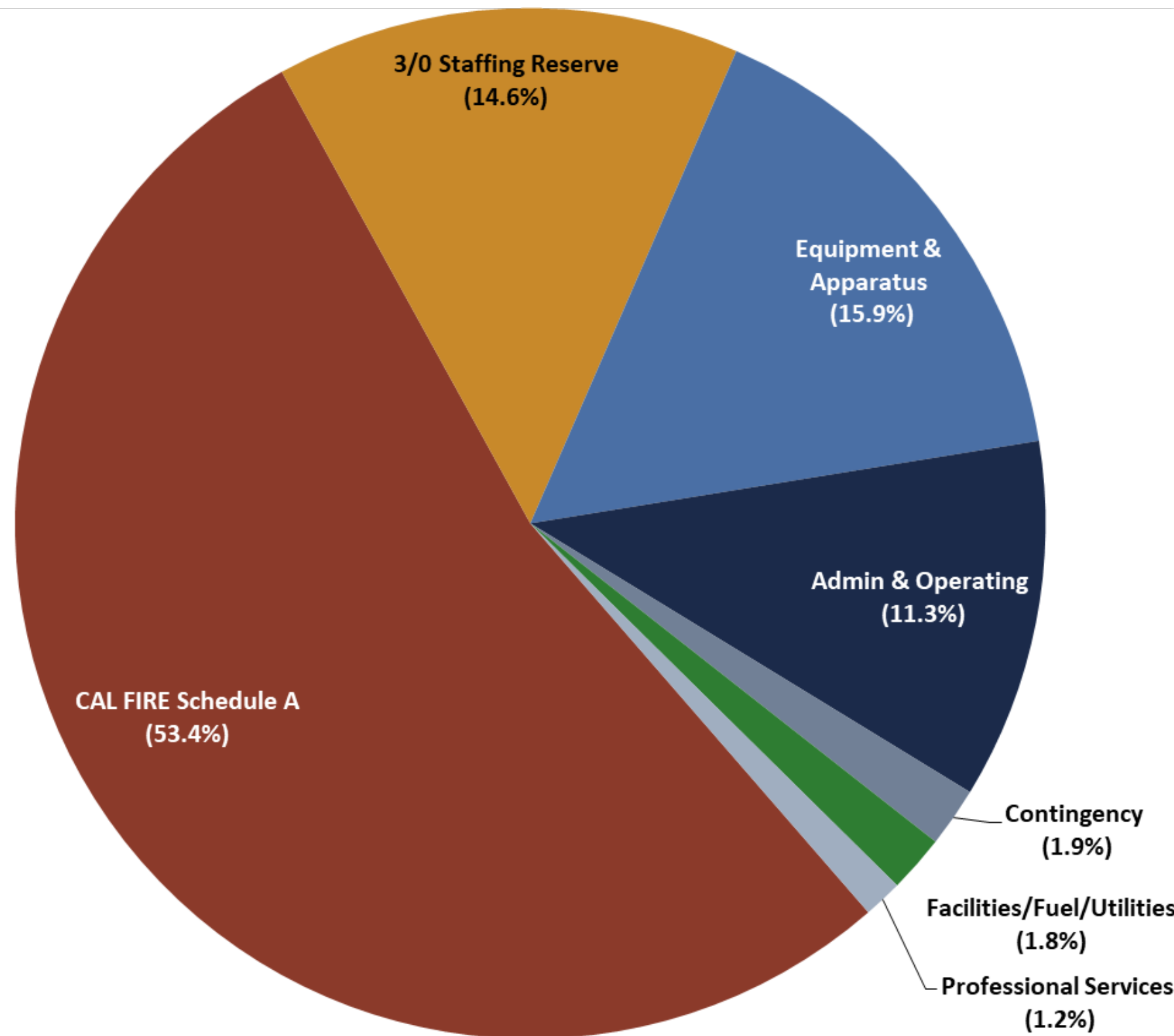
• **Total Fire Expenses**

From FY 25/26 to FY 30/31

- **16% Revenue Growth**
- **65% Expense Growth**

**\$2M+ Annual Gap**  
Projected by FY 30/31

# What the Assessment Pays For



**53.4%**

## **CAL FIRE Schedule A Contract**

Pays for on-duty firefighters at Station 78 - including the upgrade from a 2-person to a 3-person crew.

**15.9%**

## **Equipment & Apparatus Fund**

First-ever dedicated fund for fire engine replacement. Our front-line engine is approximately 17 years old.

**14.6%**

## **3/0 Staffing Reserve**

Held in reserve to cover the cost of adding the third crew member as CAL FIRE phases in the new contract.

**11.3%**

## **Administration & Operations**

Station and engine maintenance, GCSD administration, and county administration costs.

**~5%**

## **Contingency, Facilities & Professional**

Station utilities, fuel, and professional services all account for ~1% each.

# Planned Level of Service



## Increased Firefighter Staffing

Transition from 2 on an engine to 3 in 2027/28. Increased firefighting capabilities, safety and meets CAL FIRE contract conditions



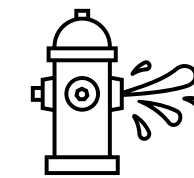
## Replacement Fund

Establishes a fund to replace fire engines on a 10 – 20 year rotation, as well as all vehicles, tools, equipment and safety gear replaced on a planned schedule.



## Sustainable Operations

All operating costs covered annually for 15+ years including fuel, insurance, supplies, utilities, maintenance, tools, etc.



# How Your Assessment Is Calculated



Three factors determine how much special benefit your property receives from fire protection services.

## Property Type & Value

What kind of property it is: single-family home, multi-family, commercial, or vacant? What's its replacement value? A property with a higher value benefits more from fire protection.



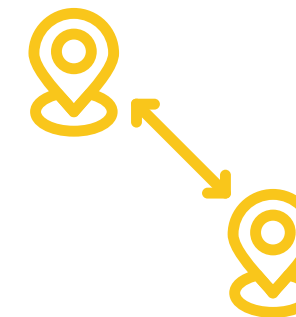
## Fire Hazard Zone

Is the property in a Very High, High, or Moderate fire hazard zone? Properties in higher-risk areas get more benefit from fire protection and pay a bit more.



## Distance From Station

How many minutes does it take for the fire truck to reach your property from Station 78? Closer properties get faster responses and therefore a greater benefit from fire services.



# Examples of Special Benefit



**Higher Special Benefit**

**\$475.64/year**

Less than 5 minute travel time

**Lower Special Benefit**

**\$413.81/year**

10–15 minute travel time

# How the Ballot Works



## One Ballot Per Parcel

Each property owner of record receives one ballot in the mail. If you own multiple parcels, up to 14 parcels may be listed on your ballot.



## Simple Majority to Pass

If more than 50% of the dollar-weighted returned ballots support the assessment, the Board may adopt it at the July 8, 2026 public hearing.



## Ballots Are Weighted

Each ballot counts in proportion to that property's assessment amount. A property with a higher assessment carries more weight in the vote.



## Received, not Postmarked

Your ballot must be physically received before the public hearing closes on July 8, 2026. A postmark is not enough. Please return your ballots early.



## Only Returned Ballots Count

Not returning your ballot is not considered a "no" vote. Only ballots physically returned before the public hearing is closed are counted.









## Written Objections

Written objections are accepted under California law AB 2257. Property owners must submit written objections to the District by June 25, 2026.

**Public Hearing & Ballot Tabulation: July 8, 2026. Ballots must be RECEIVED before the hearing closes.**

# HOW THE WEIGHTED BALLOT WORKS

Each property's vote is weighted by the amount of the special benefit assessment for that property type.

✓ YES			✗ NO		
PROPERTY TYPE	# OF PARCELS	WEIGHT (DOLLAR AMOUNT)	PROPERTY TYPE	# OF PARCELS	WEIGHT (DOLLAR AMOUNT)
 RESIDENTIAL	12	\$5,707.68 (12 x \$475.64)	 RESIDENTIAL	20	\$9,512.80 (20 x \$475.64)
 VACANT RESIDENTIAL	10	\$724.40 (10 x \$72.44)	 VACANT RESIDENTIAL	18	\$1,303.92 (18 x \$72.44)
 COMMERCIAL	4	\$3,735.24 (4 x \$933.81)	 COMMERCIAL	8	\$7,470.48 (8 x \$933.81)
YES TOTAL (TOTAL WEIGHT) <b>\$10,167.32</b> 33.00% OF TOTAL WEIGHT			NO TOTAL (TOTAL WEIGHT) <b>\$18,287.20</b> 59.33% OF TOTAL WEIGHT		

TOTAL WEIGHT OF ALL VOTES

**\$30,779.35**

100.00%







**RESULT: NO VOTES REPRESENT 59.33% OF THE TOTAL WEIGHT.**





Because NO votes represent more than 50% of the total weighted votes, the measure **DOES NOT PASS.**

*A weighted majority (more than 50% of the total weighted votes) is required for passage.*

# HOW THE WEIGHTED BALLOT WORKS

Each property's vote is weighted by the amount of the special benefit assessment for that property type.

 <b>YES</b>		
PROPERTY TYPE	# OF PARCELS	WEIGHT (DOLLAR AMOUNT)
 <b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	20	\$9,512.80 (20 x \$475.64)
 <b>VACANT RESIDENTIAL</b>	18	\$1,303.92 (18 x \$72.44)
 <b>COMMERCIAL</b>	8	\$7,470.48 (8 x \$933.81)
<b>YES TOTAL (TOTAL WEIGHT)</b> <b>\$18,287.20</b> 58.41% OF TOTAL WEIGHT		

 <b>NO</b>		
PROPERTY TYPE	# OF PARCELS	WEIGHT (DOLLAR AMOUNT)
 <b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	15	\$7,134.60 (15 x \$475.64)
 <b>VACANT RESIDENTIAL</b>	14	\$1,014.16 (14 x \$72.44)
 <b>COMMERCIAL</b>	6	\$5,602.86 (6 x \$933.81)
<b>NO TOTAL (TOTAL WEIGHT)</b> <b>\$13,751.62</b> 43.92% OF TOTAL WEIGHT		

<b>TOTAL WEIGHT OF ALL VOTES</b>	<b>\$32,038.82</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
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**RESULT: YES VOTES REPRESENT 58.41% OF THE TOTAL WEIGHT.**  
 Because YES votes represent more than 50% of the total weighted votes, the measure **PASSES**.

*A weighted majority (more than 50% of the total weighted votes) is required for passage.*

# How the Assessment Functions



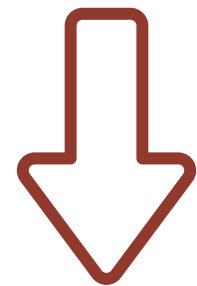
## Community Oversight Committee

A citizen committee will be formed to review how assessment funds are spent. The committee reports to the Board each year, providing an independent check on revenue and expenditures.



## No Automatic Rate Increases

The Board must vote every year to set the rate. There is no automatic escalator. If the Board does not act, the rate does not increase. The maximum is a ceiling, not a guarantee.



## Rate Can Go Down

If costs come in lower than projected, or other revenue increases, the Board can reduce the rate. A lower rate requires the same Board action as an increase.



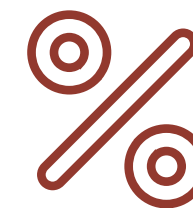
## Funds Cannot Be Redirected

Assessment funds are kept in a separate account. By law, they can only be used for fire protection and emergency response services - not general operations.



## Full Public Transparency

Annual budgets are public documents. Property owners may speak at any GCSD Board meeting. Financial reports will be available on the District website.



## Maximum Increase: 5% Per Year

Even in the highest-cost year, the Board cannot raise rates by more than 5% from the prior year's maximum. No silent increase.

# Timeline and Next Steps

**April 8, 2026**

**Engineer's Report** ✓

Board receives and reviews the Engineer's Report. Preliminary approval initiates the assessment ballot proceeding.

**May 7, 2026**

**Ballot Mailing** ✓

Official ballot notice and weighted ballot mailed to every property owner of record at least 45 days before the public hearing.

**June 25, 2026**

**Written Objection Deadline (AB 2257)**

Last day to submit a written objection that this assessment is not in compliance with the California Constitution.

**July 2026**

**Board Approval & Levy**

Board orders levy submitted to Tuolumne County for inclusion on the FY 2026-27 property tax roll.



**April 8, 2026**

**Board Resolution** ✓

Board adopts a resolution calling for the assessment ballot proceeding and sets the public hearing date.

**Apr 16 · May 14 · Jun 18**

**Community Meetings**

Property owners can learn about the assessment and ask District staff questions directly. All are welcome.

**July 8, 2026**

**Public Hearing & Tabulation**

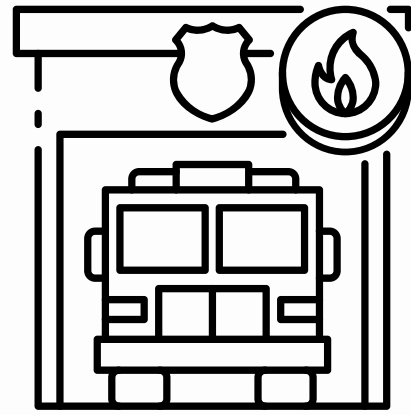
Public testimony received. Ballots tabulated. If weighted support exceeds opposition, Board may order the levy.

● Key milestones

● Community meeting

! Objection deadline

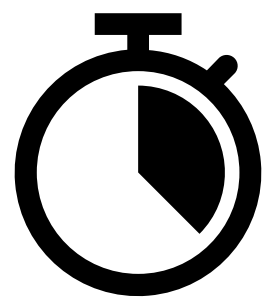
# If Approved – What can Property Owners Expect?



**A locally controlled, fully staffed 3-person engine company operating 24/7, 365 days a year – equipped and prepared to respond to a wide range of emergency incidents and dedicated to serving the community for at least the next 15 years**

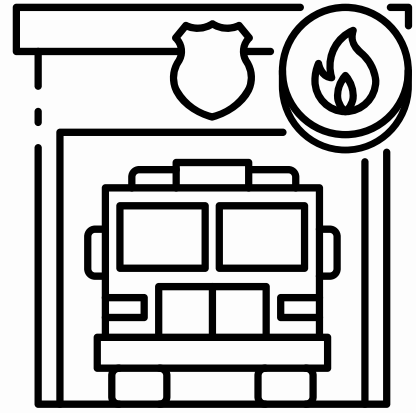


**Greater Response Reliability long term with engine replacement fund**



**Maintained quick response times, enhanced firefighting capabilities and all operating costs fully funded**

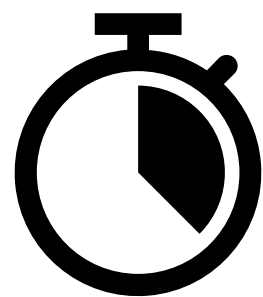
# What Happens If The Assessment Does Not Pass



**Increased Operational and Financial Constraints with Potential Inability to Contract with CAL FIRE for Minimum Staffing by 2028**



**Potential Changes in Service Levels, Response Times and Engine/Equipment Reliability**



**Increased Dependence on Outside Resource Availability**

# Questions?

Please be on the lookout for your ballot in the mail.

## Assessment Website

Scan QR Code to visit or head to [GCSD.org](http://GCSD.org) to find the link there.



Groveland Community Services District  
Fire Department  
18966 Ferretti Road  
Groveland CA, 95321

PRESORTED  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID

## OFFICIAL BALLOT ENCLOSED

FOR PROPERTY OWNERS IN THE GROVELAND COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT FOR A PROPOSED  
FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES ASSESSMENT

OFFICIAL MAIL

OFFICIAL ASSESSMENT  
BALLOT ENCLOSED

PLEASE OPEN IMMEDIATELY

MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE  
JULY 8, 2026 at 9:00 AM

## Groveland Community Services District

Contact the District Office with questions about your parcel, your ballot notice, or the assessment process.

## SCI Consulting Group

Assessment Engineer of Record - responsible for the Engineer's Report and rate methodology.

## Engineer's Report

The full Engineer's Report is a public document available from the District. It explains the complete rate methodology.