

Geyserville Fire Protection District Community Meeting

Wednesday, August 28, 2019



State of the District

- Geyserville Fire Protection District has fire protection jurisdiction over **19% of all land mass in Sonoma County**, far more than any other fire protection district in the county
 - Despite the vast territorial responsibilities, only 4K to 5K residents reside in the District



State of the District

- Infrastructure & Apparatus Overview
 - 3 fire stations
 - 3 wildland fire engines
 - 2 structural firefighting engines
 - 1 water tender
 - 1 squad vehicle
 - 1 breathing vehicle (shared by Geyserville and Cloverdale Fire Protection Districts, and Healdsburg City Fire Department; vehicle used to refill bottles for firefighters)



State of the District

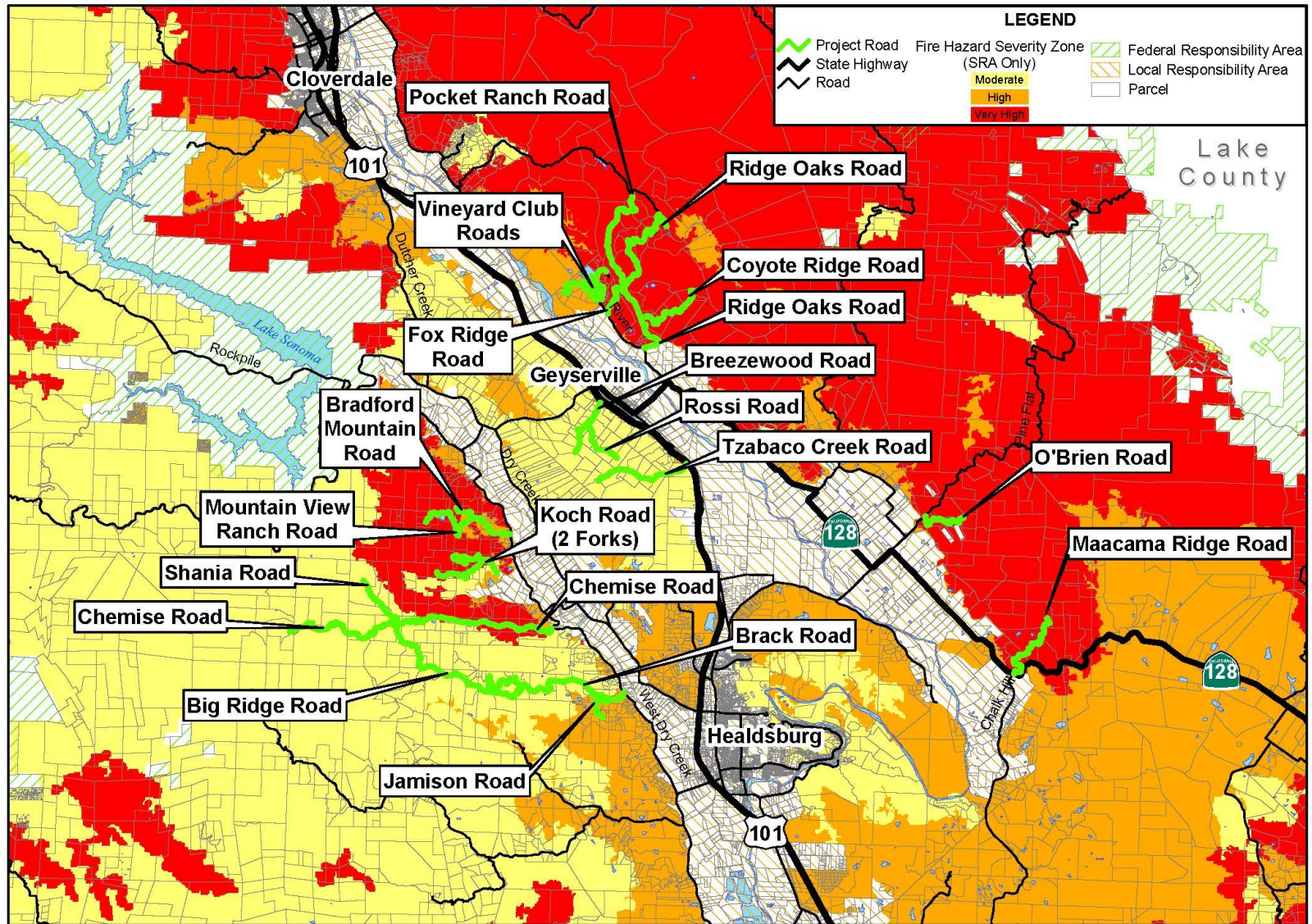
- Personnel Overview
 - 1 Fire Chief (part-time position)
 - 1 volunteer Battalion Chief (shared between Geyserville, Cloverdale and Healdsburg)
 - 2 full-time employees staffed at Geyserville station
 - The 2 full-time employees made possible by temporary cash infusion from the county
 - Sustainability/long-term employment in question once existing one-time funds lapse
 - Approximately 15 volunteer fire fighters augment staffing at Geyserville station and can respond from the Alexander Valley/Jimtown station and Dry Creek Valley stations



State of the District

- Service offerings
 - Structural fire protection services
 - Wildland fire protection services
 - Vegetation management/defensible space program
 - Roadside clearance near private and county roads, limbing trees and removing certain trees less than 4" in diameter (made possible through two CAL FIRE grants)
 - Chipper program (chipper purchased by volunteer firefighter association)
 - Annually inspecting approximately 400 residences





LEGEND

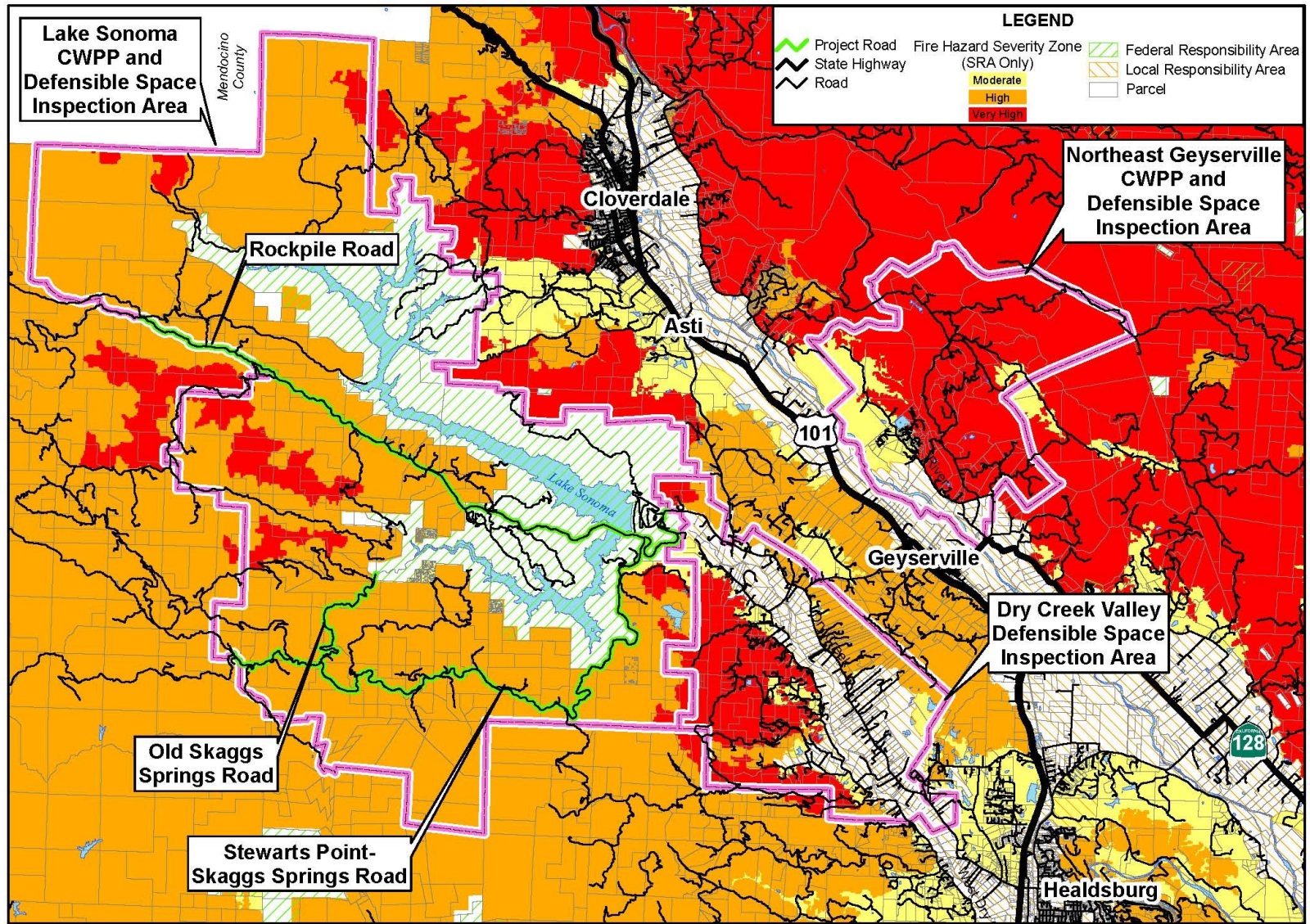
Project Road	Fire Hazard Severity Zone (SRA Only)	Federal Responsibility Area
State Highway	Moderate	Local Responsibility Area
Road	High	Parcel
	Very High	

 CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENT
 FIRE PREVENTION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION
 FISCAL YEAR 2017-18 FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

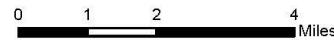
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GEYSERVILLE ROADSIDE CLEARANCE
 Geyserville Fire Protection District
 17-FP-LNU-0145





Geyserville Fire Protection District
 CALIFORNIA CLIMATE INVESTMENTS
 FIRE PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM
 FISCAL YEAR 2018-19



**LAKE SONOMA WATERSHED
 FIRE PREVENTION PROJECT**
 Tracking Number: 18-FP-LNU-1196



State of the District

- Service offerings (*continued*)
 - Citizens Organized to Prepare for Emergencies (COPE) established in 2018 to increase preparedness for future wildfires
 - Program encourages neighbors to help neighbors prepare for an emergency now, so they've gone through the motions and have a plan in place when the next wildfire strikes
 - Landowner Reference Guide being crafted for rural property owners
 - Will address best management practices for natural land management (i.e. grazing)
 - Community Wildfire Protection Plans planned for COPE communities.



REGION 6 Fire Stations



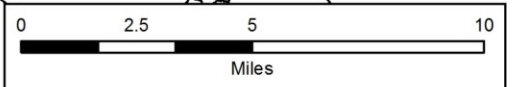
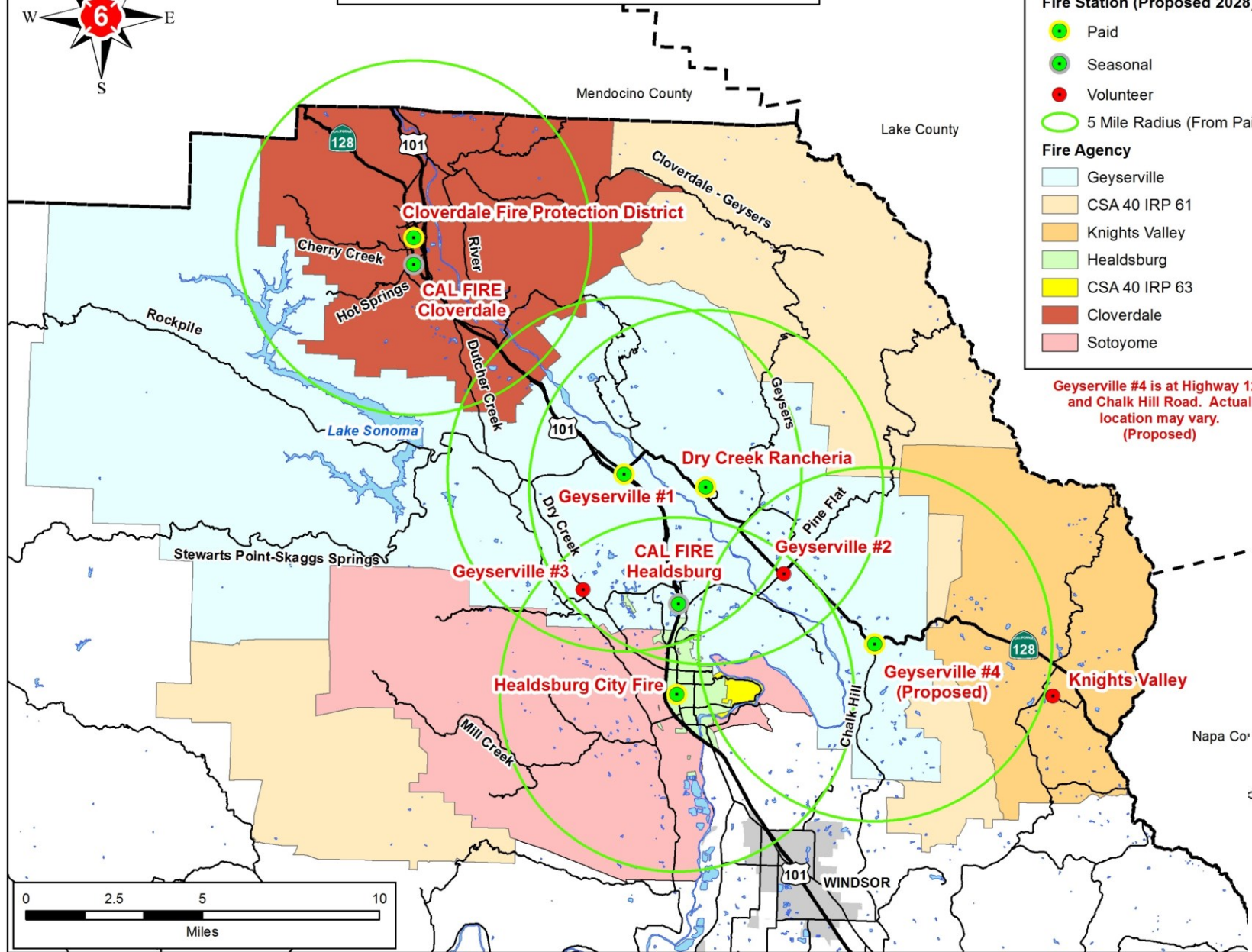
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Fire Station (Proposed 2028)

- Paid
- Seasonal
- Volunteer
- 5 Mile Radius (From Paid)

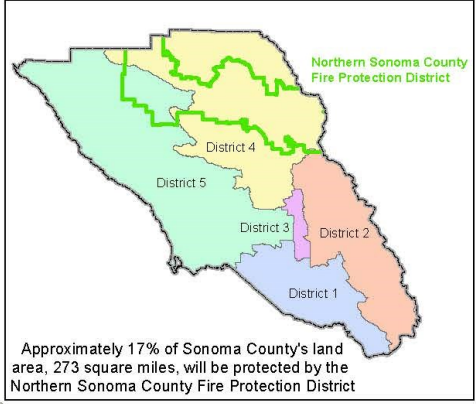
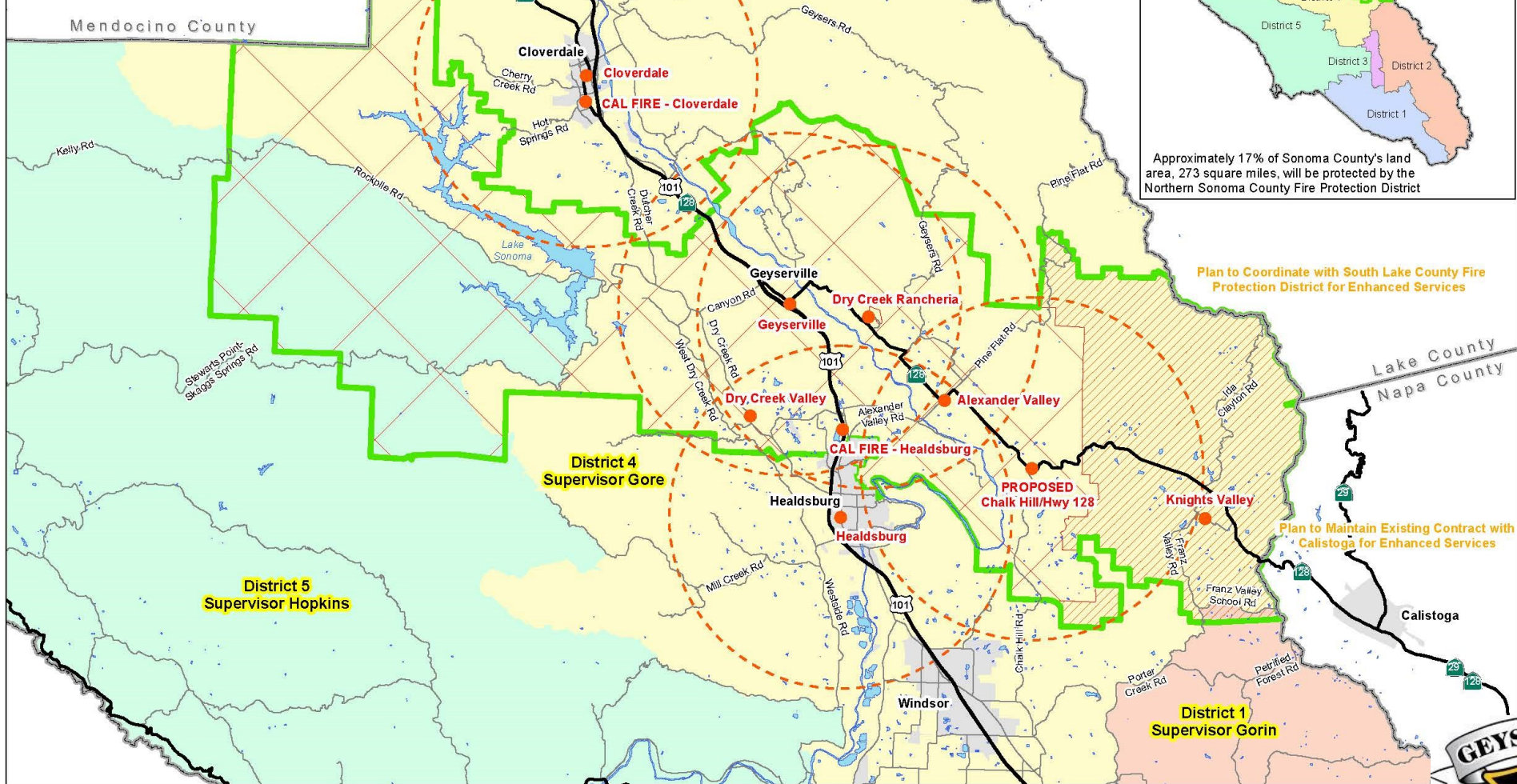
Fire Agency

- Geyserville
- CSA 40 IRP 61
- Knights Valley
- Healdsburg
- CSA 40 IRP 63
- Cloverdale
- Sotoyome



AFFECTED SUPERVISORAL DISTRICTS

NORTHERN SONOMA COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Plan to Coordinate with South Lake County Fire Protection District for Enhanced Services

Plan to Maintain Existing Contract with Calistoga for Enhanced Services

GEYSERVILLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
2019 Knights Valley Annexation

- Current Fire Station Location with PROPOSED Chalk Hill/Highway 128
- 5 Mile Radius from Staffed Station
- Existing Geyserville Fire Protection District Boundary
- Planned Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District Boundary (After Knights Valley Annexation)
- Proposed Knights Valley Annexation Area



Existing Facilities

- Geyserville Fire Station
 - Opened in 2003
 - The \$4M construction cost was nearly fully funded by community donations
 - Only local government entity in Geyserville area that is open 24/7



Existing Facilities

- Alexander Valley/Jimtown Fire Station
 - Opened in 1991
 - Nearly \$200K in capital improvements needed
 - Replacing rotting garage doors
 - Modernize electrical/wiring
 - New siding
 - Some paving work also needed



Existing Facilities

- Dry Creek Valley Fire Station
 - Opened in the early 2000's
 - Built primarily with sweat equity by volunteers
 - Smallest station in the District with just one bay



Territorial Expansion Underway

- Annexation of Knights Valley Volunteer Fire Company Service Area nearing completion after approval by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO)
 - *Geyserville Fire Protection District Reorganization No. 18-19-0313-01 (Knights Valley-IRPs) Involving Annexation to the District of the Knights Valley Volunteer Fire Company Service Area and Adjacent Integrated Response Plan Areas and Detachment of the Same Territory from County Service Area No. 40*
 - Hearing held August 7, 2019 – annexation has been approved by LAFCO and will be integrated into the Geyserville Fire Protection District by year's end



Territorial Expansion Underway

- Knights Valley Volunteer Fire Company has an existing station
 - All-volunteer company would still likely partner with outside agencies (including South Lake County and/or City of Calistoga) to help staff station/provide volunteers even after annexation is finalized
 - Station includes 3 engines
 - Knights Valley station needs capital improvements to increase readiness for future wildfires
- Knights Valley area typically has the highest wind speeds of any area in Sonoma County
 - Viewed as an improvement area to better protect the areas east of Geyserville from the threat of future wildfires



Creating Opportunities for a Safer, More Fire-Resilient Future

- Overarching goal: **Prevent, Prepare and Empower** Residents *Before* Wildfire Strikes
- **Maintain local control**
- Implement vision set forth by District's Strategic Plan
 - To those ends, the Geyserville Fire Protection District is exploring a **Benefit Assessment** to address unmet personnel, equipment and capital improvement needs





PROPERTY TAX MONEY GENERATED FOR FIRE PROTECTION IN NORTHEASTERN SONOMA COUNTY

How is Fire Protection Funded?

Fire Districts are Primarily Funded by Property Taxes Based on Assessed Value and Some Have Special Taxes.
Geyserville Does not Have a Special Tax.

Cloverdale Fire Protection District
\$1,138,525 of Property Taxes and SPECIAL TAX was Collected in fiscal year 17/18. All Remained in the Area.

The Geysers, Geysers Road, Pine Flat Road, End of Mill Creek Road, Briggs Ranch Road, and End of Thomas Road
\$770,617 of Property Taxes was Collected by Sonoma County in fiscal year 17/18 and **NOT ALL REMAINED** in NE Sonoma County. Geyserville Received Less Than \$10,000 to Provide Emergency Response for the Area

Geyserville Fire Protection District
\$926,642 of Property Taxes was Collected in fiscal year 17/18. All Remained in the Area. **NO SPECIAL TAX**

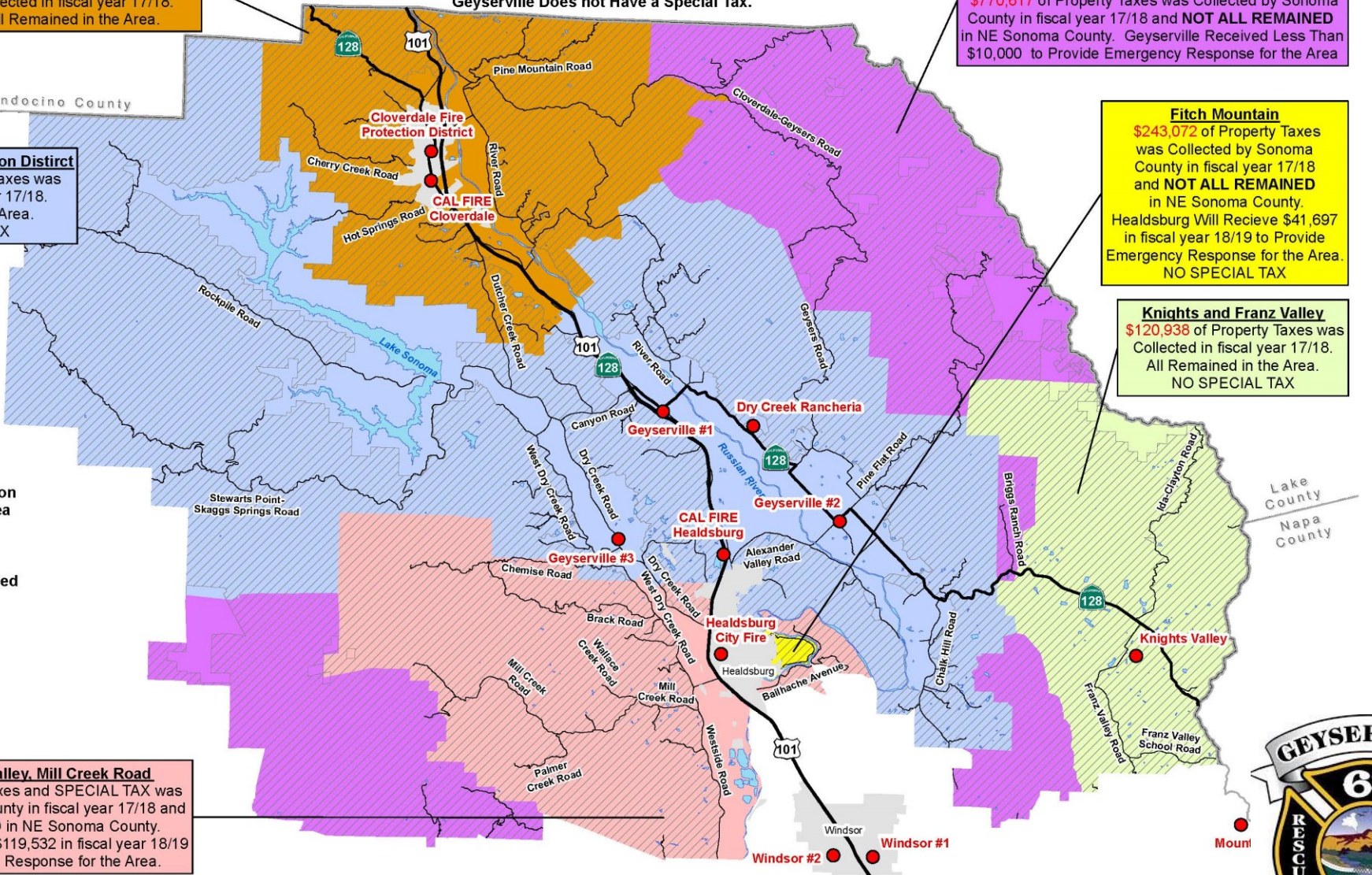
Fitch Mountain
\$243,072 of Property Taxes was Collected by Sonoma County in fiscal year 17/18 and **NOT ALL REMAINED** in NE Sonoma County. Healdsburg Will Recieve \$41,697 in fiscal year 18/19 to Provide Emergency Response for the Area. **NO SPECIAL TAX**

The Geyserville Fire Protection District Encompasses 217 square miles of Northeastern Sonoma County. The District covers an additional 102 square miles via a Contract with Sonoma County.

Knights and Franz Valley
\$120,938 of Property Taxes was Collected in fiscal year 17/18. All Remained in the Area. **NO SPECIAL TAX**

CAL FIRE has jurisdiction for wildland fires in area designated as "State Responsibility Area" Shown in Gray Hatch Lines. CAL FIRE is funded by the State.

Lower Dry Creek Valley, Mill Creek Road
\$516,994 of Property Taxes and SPECIAL TAX was Collected by Sonoma County in fiscal year 17/18 and **NOT ALL REMAINED** in NE Sonoma County. Healdsburg Will Recieve \$119,532 in fiscal year 18/19 to Provide Emergency Response for the Area.



Creating Opportunities for a Safer, More Fire-Resilient Future

Long-term **infrastructure improvement and strategic plan** goals that may be realized with increased funding through some sort of Benefit Assessment:

- ✓ New station in southern Alexander Valley
- ✓ Capital improvements to existing Alexander Valley/Jimtown station
- ✓ Capital improvements to existing Knights Valley station post-annexation
- ✓ Advanced EMT services
 - ✓ Never offered by the District before (currently, Geyserville residents rely on ambulances from Cloverdale and Healdsburg during an emergency)
- ✓ Stable, reliable source of funding to retain full-time employees after temporary funding lapses
 - ✓ Opportunity to change the Fire Chief from a part-time to full-time position
 - ✓ Opportunity to consider hiring 3 Battalion Chiefs to provide oversight of volunteer stations
- ✓ Replace aging fleet, most of which was built between 1995-2000
- ✓ Invest in new equipment for existing fire stations and firefighting personnel



Creating Opportunities for a Safer, More Fire-Resilient Future

Long-term **fire prevention and preparedness** goals that may be realized with increased funding through some sort of Benefit Assessment:

- ✓ Better preparedness for future wildfires
 - ✓ Limb up ridges prone to burn (shaded fuel breaks)
 - ✓ Improve operational practices that lead to better fire and emergency preparedness
 - ✓ Continue business, school, and farmworker housing life safety inspections
 - ✓ Continue offering or enhancing existing temporary, grant-funded fire prevention programs for a longer period of time
 - ✓ Chipper program
 - ✓ Roadside clearance/vegetation management
 - ✓ Defensible space inspections



Questions?

Thank you for listening to tonight's presentation!

We look forward to answering any questions you may have.

