

Issues Facing the Cordelia Fire Protection District & Our Community

THE PROBLEMS WE FACE AS A
COMMUNITY, HOW WE GOT HERE, THE
CHOICES GOING FORWARD & WHAT
YOU CAN DO



Agenda

- ▶ What is the Cordelia Fire Protection District (CFPD)?
- ▶ How the CFPD is structured
- ▶ How the CFPD is funded & how it spends its revenues
- ▶ Issues facing the CFPD
- ▶ What caused these issues?
 - ▶ AB8 Revenue Drivers / ERAF Givebacks/Gains for FY19/20
- ▶ Possibilities going forward
- ▶ What the District might look like with its problems solved
- ▶ Next steps
- ▶ What you can do
- ▶ Summary



What Is The CFPD?

- ▶ Est. in 1918, CFPD provides EMS & fire protection services to Green Valley, Rockville, Cordelia & Lower Suisun Valley
- ▶ Serves several thousand residents, businesses and Solano Community College across 56 sq. miles
- ▶ Responsible for sections of Hwy's 80, 680 and 12 within District boundaries
- ▶ Provides 24/7 coverage for entire District; >50% of calls are for medical assistance
- ▶ Most of District in Wildland-Urban Interface Zone with higher wildfire danger



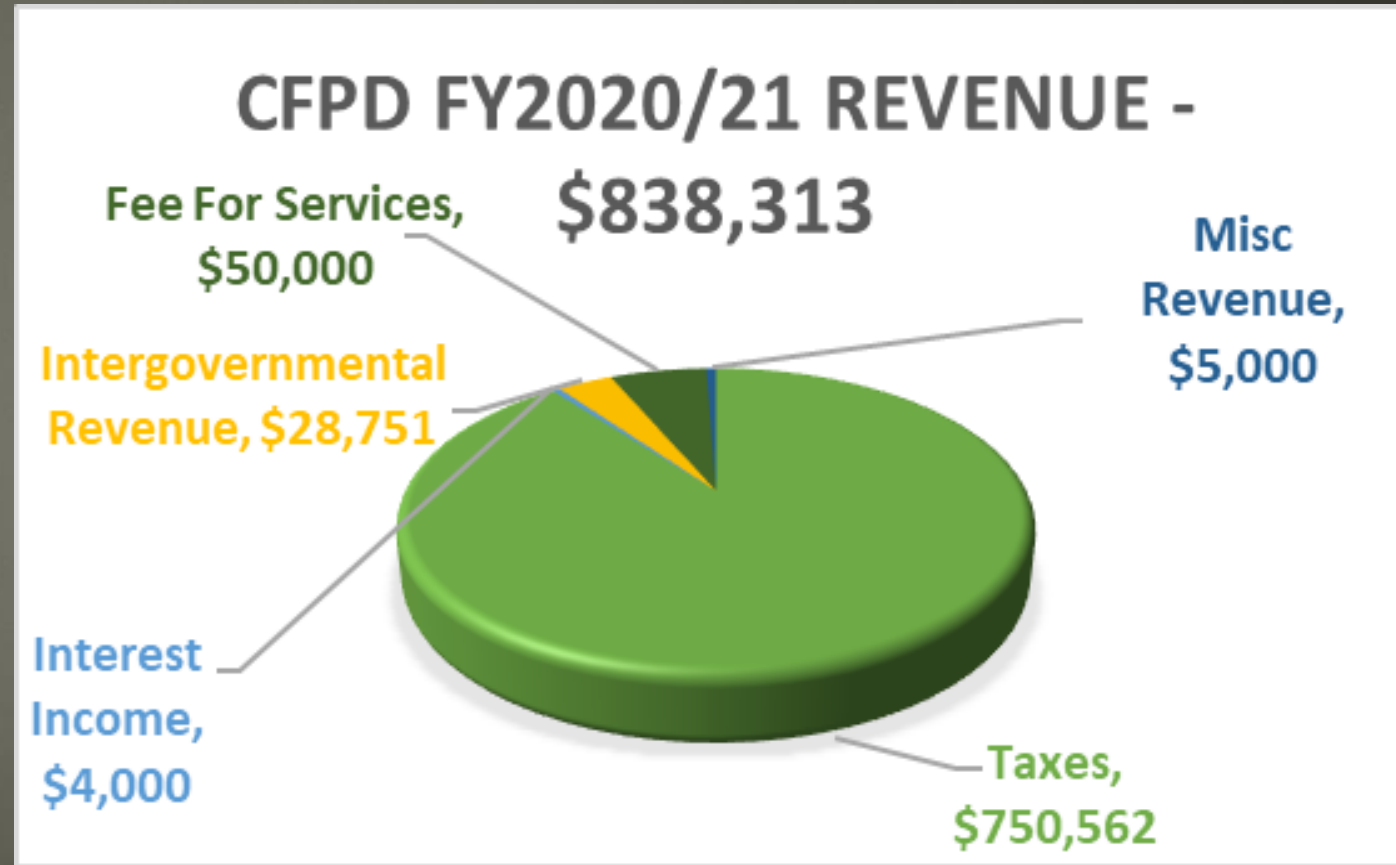
How the CFPD is structured

- ▶ One of 2,000+ CA special districts – 85% are single function like CFPD
- ▶ Elected 5-member board – 4-year terms
- ▶ Active Station 31 in Cordelia; Rockville Station 29 staffed when possible
- ▶ 1 volunteer Chief and 3-4 paid full-time staff; ~20-35 “resident volunteers”
- ▶ Unique operational model – District demographics may no longer be compatible with home-based volunteer fire dept. model as in the past



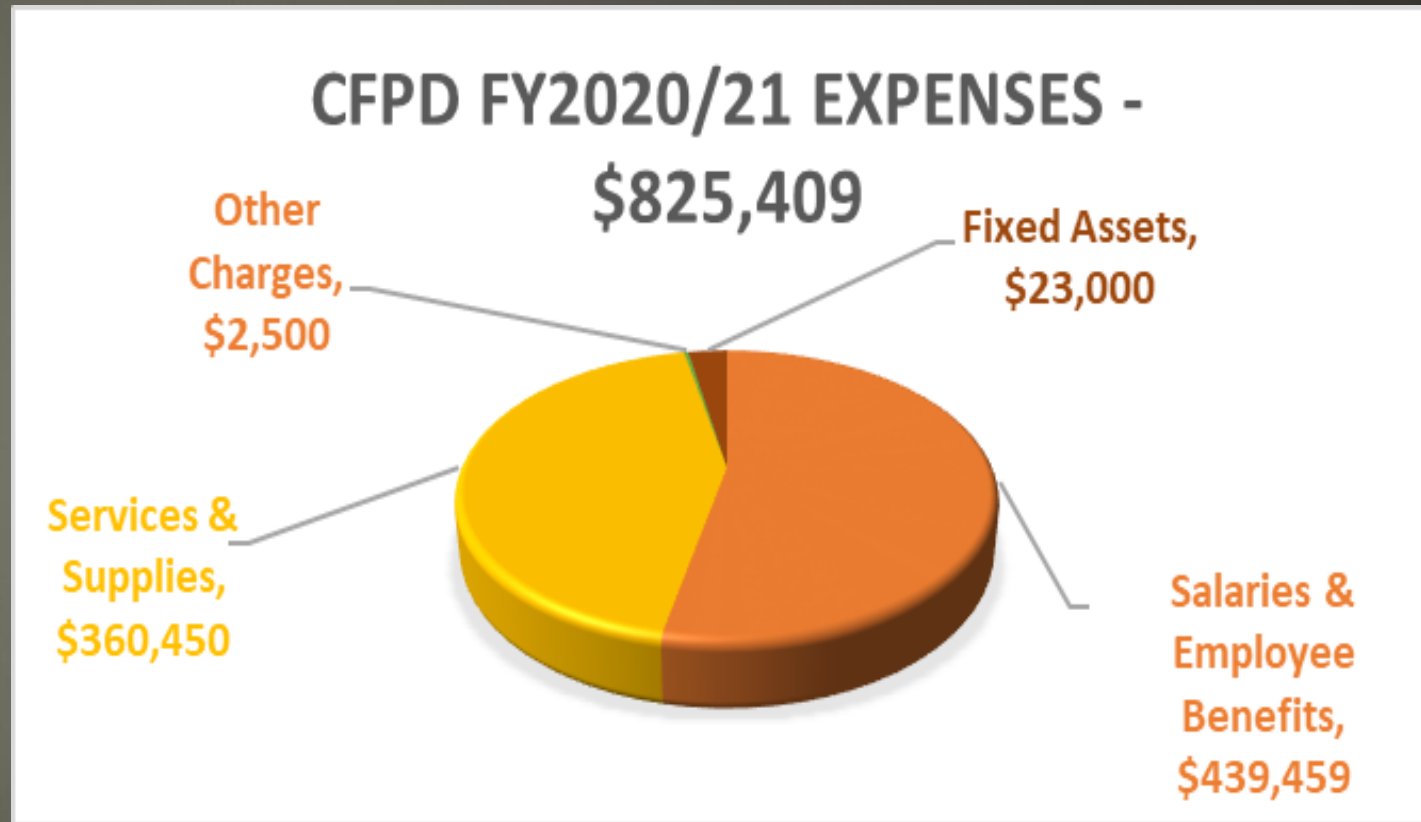
How the CFPD is funded

- ▶ Measure I Parcel Tax – 56%
 - ▶ Passed in Nov 2002
 - ▶ Average assessment = \$343/parcel
- ▶ Prop. Taxes / Other - 33%
- ▶ Service Fees – 6%
- ▶ Intergov't Revenue – 4%
- ▶ Interest / Misc. – 1%
- ▶ 20/21 Forecast Revenue = \$838,313
- ▶ Reserve Fund = \$410,000 (as of 9/1/20)



How the CFPD spends its revenues

- ▶ Salaries / Benefits – 53%
- ▶ Services / Supplies – 44%
- ▶ Fixed Assets – 3%
- ▶ Other Charges – <1%
- ▶ 20/21 Forecasted Expenses = \$825,409




- ▶ FY 2020/21 budget improvement when Chief Carpenter moved to volunteer status. Significant concern is loss of paid staff (due to low pay) driving District to part time status



Issues facing the CFPD

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- ▶ Loss of paid staff reduces CFPD to part time status, down from 24/7
- ▶ Staff pay is ~40% of other nearby city firefighters
- ▶ Resident volunteer stipend is \$25/day (vs. \$100/day at nearby districts)
- ▶ Possible size reduction if District runs low on reserve funds
- ▶ Reliance on unsustainable, older equipment - requires constant & expensive maintenance to keep them running
- ▶ Replacement of old equipment not possible in foreseeable future
- ▶ Fund reallocations within State and local gov't
- ▶ Loss of Sta. 29 - could impact on homeowner insurance rates 
- ▶ No disaster preparedness system in community with poor egress
- ▶ Many homes and District areas not "fire-hardened"



What caused these issues?

- ▶ '78 Prop 13 tax revenue cut
- ▶ '79 AB8 distributed proportionately without consideration of needs for critical safety services
- ▶ County's city-centric growth plan encourages city growth; annexed areas tax revenue goes to cities while rural fire district's costs grow
- ▶ '92 ERAF: 1) Redistributed funds; 2) CFPD's giveback based on old snapshot w/higher revenue; 3) Givebacks continue and not reduced to reflect reduced revenue base; giveback in FY 2019-2020 = \$117,000
- ▶ '93 Prop 172 intended to mitigate ERAF losses via sales tax for public safety in cities/counties; 100% Solano proceeds to law enforcement, 0% to fire
- ▶ Prevented buildup of reserve fund for equipment, extra duties
- ▶ Insufficient revenue stream reduces ability to provide other services



AB8 Revenue Drivers (source LAFCO)

	Cordelia	Montezuma	Suisun	Vacaville	Total
Weighted Avg Tax Sharing Ratio	5.10%	4.08%	7.57%	13.25%	7.63%
Avg per \$100,000 Assessed Value	\$51	\$41	\$76	\$133	\$76
Parcel Tax	Yes	No	No	No	-
Approx # Parcels	1,502	953	1,133	3,005	6,593



ERAF Givebacks/Gains for FY19/20

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	Cordelia	Suisun	Vacaville	E Vallejo	Dixon	Montezuma
Total Revenue	\$324,044	\$376,497	\$1,445,315	\$611,111	\$722,867	\$732,023
ERAF	-\$117,700	-\$56,412	-\$148,111	+\$29,756	+\$41,235	+\$163,219
%	-26.6%	-13.0%	-9.2%	+4.8%	+5.7%	+22.2%



Possibilities going forward

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- ▶ Lose or Secure Station 29 – currently up to school district
- ▶ **1.** Reorganize with neighboring Fire Districts in County w/funding mechanism **OR**
- ▶ **2.** Shrink District with 24/7 services reduced to part time with less equipment available **OR**
- ▶ **3.** Secure additional funding **within** District for sustainable operations; ~\$900 - 1,000/year in addition to Measure I parcel tax **OR**
- ▶ **4.** No solution found and drastic reduction of EMS & fire protection services:
 - ▶ **Cost to residents: Contributes to loss of homeowner's insurance; possible \$8,000 - \$10,000+ / year to obtain replacement coverage (average District cost of today's insurance ~ \$2,000 / year)**
- ▶ Implement Disaster Preparedness Plan (in process w/GVFSC)



What the District might look like with today's problems solved

- ▶ CFPD reorganized with other rural districts with funding mechanism in place, OR
- ▶ CFPD reorganized into a single County-wide fire district
- ▶ Improved overall services for residents; comprehensive EMS; faster response times; higher standard of training; more efficient administration
- ▶ If only rural districts reorganized, original rural districts retain original character (i.e. level of volunteerism and family cohesion) with these “sub-districts” acting like a federation of States.
- ▶ Cohesive County-wide Disaster Preparedness Plan in place with annual drills coordinated with OES and law enforcement



Next steps

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- ▶ Discussions with officials under way – need to maintain momentum
- ▶ Communicate: Inform District residents of issues, causes, options, and how they can get involved and support their District
- ▶ Pursue reorganization with other rural districts – (discussions started)
- ▶ Secure Station 29 location on Rockville Road to ensure the District can maintain the station to serve District residents (no solution yet found)
- ▶ Grass Roots Support: District residents need to encourage County Supervisors & LAFCO to push for creation of a reorganized fire district for the unincorporated County areas with a funding mechanism to sustain it
- ▶ Provide support services to CFPD (e.g. legal & accounting services, sponsor & donor program committee) (in process)
- ▶ Collaborate with GVFCSC, complete Disaster Preparedness Plan and start annual drills to train residents – may improve insurance ratings (in process)



What you can do

- ▶ PARTICIPATE AND ADVOCATE – this is your Fire District and solutions must include resident involvement
- ▶ Advocate State for newer, donated equipment from OES & Cal Fire – at NO cost
- ▶ Encourage County Board of Supervisors to take lead in driving reorganization of County fire districts + realistic funding mechanism(s)
- ▶ Get involved - join organizations such as GVLA and GVFSC
- ▶ Donate services to the CFPD to reduce operating costs: Legal, Accounting, Communications, Fund raising, Donor and Sponsor programs, Station maintenance
- ▶ Sponsor new equipment / donate funds
- ▶ Encourage grass roots participation and support by others



Summary

- ▶ Given the financial situation, immediate & urgent action is needed
- ▶ If you want to see EMS and Firefighting services continue, get involved, make your voice heard with County and State elected officials
- ▶ Failure to act as a community will affect us all: EMS – Fire Safety – Financially
- ▶ If we learned anything since 2017, it's that fire services are paramount!



**thank you for your
attention and your
continued support &
advocacy**

