



BRANCIFORTE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

2711 Branciforte Drive, Santa Cruz, California 95065-9731 * 831.423.8856 * Fax 831.423.8859

Property Owners in Branciforte Fire Protection District will soon be asked to vote on paying new increased assessments to keep the Branciforte Fire Station open

Reorganization: For many administrative, financial, and operational reasons Branciforte Fire Protection District (B40) is in the process of being annexed to Scotts Valley Fire Protection District (SVFPD). Before the reorganization is completed, the Branciforte community must determine whether to keep the B40 station open with adequate staffing and funding or have all services provided from SVFPD's two fire stations.

Current Situation: For several years, because of the limited revenues coming from our District property taxes, B40 station has been staffed with only one professional firefighter on each shift; we have only three professional firefighters to cover all shifts 24/7. That means on any call—whether medical, fire or other—one firefighter went out on a fire engine alone. That simply isn't safe for anyone, not District residents or that lone firefighter, and can't continue. **Don't worry**—we have a temporary fix in place to provide one professional firefighter and a trained volunteer on every call, but long term we do not have the funds to operate B40 station with two professional firefighters as is mandatory to meet absolute minimum local, regional or national safety standards.

What are the options? To keep B40 station open and operating safely we need six, not three, paid professional firefighters. That means more revenue is needed from the District and every parcel owner would need to pay a "Special Benefit Assessment." The greater the benefit to each parcel owner to keep B40 open (based on station proximity, fire risk zone, land use type and other factors), the more they would need to pay.

How much would my parcel assessment be? A preliminary assessment, along with additional information detailing the character of your parcel(s), is provided on the next page. **What happens if the benefit assessment fails? Or passes?** First and foremost, understand that you will have excellent fire protection services no matter what! Below is a short summary of the two possibilities after Branciforte and Scotts Valley Fire Protection Districts combine:

1. The proposed Special Benefit Assessment fails - B40 station closes
 - At least two and usually three or more paid professional firefighters are dispatched from a Scotts Valley station on every call
 - At least one of the firefighters will be a Paramedic (*currently our firefighters are EMT's who cannot provide many medical services available from a Paramedic*)
 - Response times will increase somewhat at more distant or hard-to-reach places in the Branciforte area, but in some cases response times may be shorter
2. The proposed Special Benefit Assessment passes - B40 station stays open
 - The B40 station is administered and staffed by Scotts Valley Fire Protection District
 - Two paid professional firefighters will be dispatched from B40 station on every call
 - At least one of the firefighters will be a Paramedic
 - Response times remain as is

When and how will we vote? June 2, 2023, after community meetings and other outreach efforts, you will be mailed a detailed information packet and a postage-paid return ballot that must be returned by July 19, 2023. On July 20 ballots will be tabulated and a final public hearing will be held. 50% plus 1 of returned ballots (as required by law) will decide if the Assessment passes. Votes are weighted in proportion to your assessment: the higher your expected benefit and the higher your proposed assessment, the more your vote counts.

Questions: We know you will have many questions about the reorganization, how assessments are calculated, how votes are weighted, what happens to the station if it closes, and more. That's why we have scheduled four Community Meetings (two in person/two virtual) where we can discuss all questions and concerns. Please see the list of meeting dates and time; **we urge you to attend at least one!** You can also contact our consulting Engineer at 707-430-4300 ext. 106 about the details shown for your particular parcel(s).

Branciforte Fire Protection District's Board of Directors

Tim Dodds Pat O'Connell Marilyn Kuksht Larry Pageler Fareed Rayyis



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Here are the dates of the upcoming Community Meetings to discuss the reorganization and the Benefit Assessment Ballot:

April 22 nd	May 11 th	May 21 st	June 7 th	July 20 th
Open House at the Branciforte Fire Station from 12 PM - 4 PM Address: 2711 Branciforte Dr Santa Cruz	Virtual Meeting on Zoom.com starting at 7pm Meeting ID: 255-2525-2522 Passcode: testcode	In Person Meeting 6:30 PM- 8:30pm Location: Happy Valley Conference Center Address: 2159 Branciforte Dr Santa Cruz	Virtual Meeting on Zoom.com starting at 7pm Meeting ID: 255-2525-2522 Passcode: testcode	Public Hearing 6:30 PM- 8:30pm Location: Happy Valley School Address: 3125 Branciforte Dr. Santa Cruz

Here is the preliminary Benefit Assessment Ballot information for your specific parcels:

Name: *Public John Q.*

Mailing Address: *1234 Pleasant Ln, Santa Cruz, CA 95065*

<u>Parcel Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Est. Proposed</u>	<u># of</u>	<u>Station Travel Time (minutes)</u>	
		<u>Assessment</u>		<u>From B40</u>	<u>Next Closest</u>
678-123-13	1234 Pleasant Ln	\$ 1,543.35	1	<5	5-10
678-123-15		\$ 296.46	0	<5	5-10
678-456-16	1236 Pleasant Ln	\$ 1,543.35	1	<5	5-10
101-202-33	999 Happy Valley Rd	\$ 3,106.55	2	<5	10-15

Total Assessment: \$6,489.71

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