

# **PAJARO VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

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Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
701 Ocean Street, Room 500  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

February 9, 2023

Honorable Board of Supervisors,

The Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District Board of Directors would like to formally request that the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors consider providing fire departments a higher allocation of Proposition 172 funds.

Proposition 172 was approved in California in 1993 to provide funding for public safety after the Education Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF) pulled money away from local governments including Fire Districts and Special Districts. In Santa Cruz County firefighters went door to door throughout the county gaining support for this legislation yet has seen minimal return for those efforts in the last 30 years.

In the adopted budget for 2021/22, the County of Santa Cruz received \$20,591,013 in Proposition 172 funds. Of those funds, approximately 0.4% or \$89,421 was allocated for fire services throughout the unincorporated area of the county. These funds are allocated to the Santa Cruz County Fire Chiefs Association to use for funding projects for mutual benefit throughout the county. While Pajaro Valley Fire District is grateful for any and all funding to provide services for its constituents, the sharing of \$89,421 amongst 11 fire departments hardly keeps up with the growing costs of providing fire and EMS first response within our jurisdictions. The Pajaro Valley Fire District has contributed over \$2,600,000 since 2003 towards the ERAF fund. Our contribution in 2022 was \$190,782. The current allocation formula has been in place for 30 years and this body believes consideration of an adjustment of these funds is in order. We believe that the Board of Supervisors has full discretion over the distribution of these funds and can increase or decrease the proportion for public safety purposes. I urge you to consider returning all ERAF funds to our Fire District and local community.

We respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors consider a more equitable adjustment to the current allocation of the Proposition 172 funds provided to the fire service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Martone", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

David Martone  
Board Chair, Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District