



Meeting 1 (IN-PERSON): **Saturday, May 23, 2026 at 10am**

Location: 562 Casserly Rd, Watsonville, CA (Casserly Hall)

Meeting 2 (VIRTUAL): **Tuesday, May 26, 2026 at 6pm**

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88276568904> (Passcode: 765273)

“PAJARO VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT REORGANIZATION”

Spring 2026

STRENGTHENING FIRE PROTECTION FOR THE PAJARO VALLEY

Reliable fire protection and emergency medical services are essential to protecting lives, property, and the long-term resilience of the Pajaro Valley community. As emergency call volumes continue to rise, ensuring dependable, well-staffed fire services have never been more critical.

To meet these growing challenges, the Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District (PVFPD), the County of Santa Cruz (through Santa Cruz County Fire Department), and the Santa Cruz County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) are evaluating a fire service reorganization designed to secure stable, high-quality service for the community now and into the future. Under this proposed reorganization the PVFPD would be dissolved and its service area annexed into Santa Cruz County Fire Department (CSA 48).

This reorganization allows the community to benefit from the strength and resources of a larger, well-established fire department. CSA 48 will guarantee a minimum of three firefighters on duty at all times and will fully fund

essential operations, including staffing, equipment, vehicle replacement and facility maintenance. These commitments ensure consistent service levels and improve both firefighter and public safety.

You may have questions about the proposed fire reorganization, such as – *What’s wrong with the status quo? Will costs go up? Will the level of service get better? What happens to the firefighters & the current fire station?*

These are all valid and important questions, which is why PVFPD, CSA 48, and LAFCO are scheduling a number of community workshops to address any concerns that you and/or your neighbors may have about the reorganization. The workshops are scheduled to be held in May, as shown at the top of this flyer. Please refer to PVFPD’s website for more information: <https://www.pajarovalleyfire.com/>.

In the meantime, please refer to the back of this flyer to review frequently asked questions regarding the proposed fire reorganization.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this reorganization necessary? Operating a small, stand-alone fire district has become increasingly difficult and financially unsustainable. In July 2025, funding limitations forced PVFPD to reduce staffing from three personnel on duty to two, an outcome that affected both emergency response capability and firefighter safety. The proposed reorganization restores three-person staffing and provides long-term stability by integrating Pajaro Valley service into a larger, better-resourced system.

Why not pursue additional local funding? Over several years, PVFPD explored multiple funding solutions, including a ballot measure, bond measure and Proposition 218 assessments. Despite extensive outreach and analysis, these options failed to gain sufficient support from the community. After careful consideration, the PVFPD Board determined the reorganization offered the most responsible, equitable, and sustainable solution.

What does this mean for the community? Property owners would contribute to the existing CSA 48 benefit assessments, which supports a higher and more consistent level of fire and emergency services across PVFPD. In return, the community gains restored staffing, improved operational reliability, and access to greater resources, without losing local service or station presence.

Will services improve? Yes. PVFPD will be staffed with a minimum of three personnel at all times, ensuring an efficient response, enhanced community benefit, improved countywide fire resilience, and modern emergency service delivery.

What about the firefighters and the local station? There will be no loss of firefighter positions and no closure of the local fire station. PVFPD's existing contract with CAL FIRE will continue, allowing for a seamless transition and continuity of service, as CAL FIRE already provides services within CSA 48.

By working together, local and county agencies can deliver the level of protection the PVFPD community deserves. This reorganization preserves the community's identity while strengthening its ability to respond to fires, medical emergencies, and natural disasters, into the future.

Questions or Comments? Community members are encouraged to share questions or concerns by contacting: info@santacruzlaflco.org. Don't forget to attend the upcoming workshops. **Not available?** The recording of the virtual workshop will be available online by May 29, 2026.

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