

Joe Serrano

From: Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 1:41 PM
To: Joe Serrano
Cc: Francisco Estrada; Becky Steinbruner
Subject: LATE CORRESPONDENCE for September 2, 2026 Santa Cruz County LAFCO Meeting

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Dear Santa Cruz County LAFCO Commissioners,
I write you with continued concern regarding the Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District reorganization fees proposed by Santa Cruz County Fire via CSA 48.

There is a good reason why the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association is intervening, and your Commission should seriously reconsider allowing LAFCO staff to create an analysis that supports a bloated and cost-unverified Santa Cruz County Fire CSA 48 assessment of the property owners in the Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District.

The District is poised to adopt a \$3.9 Million operating budget that includes 3/0 staffing. Why does Santa Cruz County Fire claim the same level of service will cost \$4.5 Million/year, with CALFIRE supplying the same contract services for both agencies?

Please consider the following regarding the proposed 2026-2027 Pajaro Valley Fire Protection District Draft Budget:

<https://www.pajarovalleyfire.com/wp-content/uploads/PV-Fire-Finance-Meeting-9-3-26-Packet.pdf>

The District underspent by almost \$1 Million this past year (\$966,831).

The District has almost \$1.5 Million in Capital Reserves.

The District is transferring less than \$200,000 from Capital to Operating to meet the 3/0 staffing need for the current year.

How does this support LAFCO claims that the District will be out of money in a year?

The CalFire contract for 3/0 for the current year is \$3,045,704 and PERS is \$50,000. That's \$3.1 Million that has to be spent, leaving \$800,000 for the current year in discretionary spending. (\$3.9M operating budget).

The Santa Cruz County Fire CSA 48 proposes a \$4.5 Million budget for the reorganization project. That is about \$1.4 Million in discretionary spending- \$600,000 (approximately) **more** than PVFD as a stand alone agency with CALFIRE 3/0 staffing and paying PERS.

Please consider this at your meeting on September 2, 2026.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Becky Steinbruner