COUNTY SERVICE AREA 9

COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS SERVICES
2015 SERVICE AND SPHERE REVIEW

Report Purpose

This report is being prepared in accordance with Government Code sections 56427 (spheres of influence) and 56430 (service reviews). Those sections require LAFCOs to periodically prepare and consider service and sphere reviews of all agencies subject to LAFCO's boundary regulatory authority in the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Governmental Reorganization Act of 2000. This report addresses County Service Area 9 in Santa Cruz County.

Agency Overview

County Service Area 9 was formed in 1968 to provide County of Santa Cruz public works services to areas less than the entire county. The original CSA 9 provided County highway and arterial street lighting and traffic signals in the unincorporated areas. Subsequently, additional zones have been added to provide or help finance other services not provided uniformly countywide to all incorporated and unincorporated areas of the County.

Table 1 – County Service Area 9 Zones

County Service Area 9 Zones County of Santa Cruz	Street Construction & Maintenance	Street Lighting	Street Sweeping	Landscaping Maintenance	School Crossing Guards	Refuse Disposal	Recycling	Trash Transfer	Landfill Operations
CSA 9 – County Highway and Arterial Safety, Lighting and Traffic Signals		●							
CSA 9 Zone A – Residential and Commercial Street Lighting		●							
CSA 9 Zone B – Live Oak School Crossing Guards					●				
CSA 9 Zone C – Refuse Disposal			●			●	●	●	●
CSA 9 Zone D, Sub-Zone 1 – Road Maintenance / North County	●								
CSA 9 Zone D, Sub-Zone 2 – Road Maintenance / Central County	●								
CSA 9 Zone D, Sub-Zone 3 – Road Maintenance / South County	●								
CSA 9 Zone E – Live Oak/Soquel Streetscape Maintenance				●					
CSA 9 Zone F – Soquel Village Parking Lots (proposed)									

The boundary of CSA 9 is the entire unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County. The various zones are smaller to match the areas benefited by the individual services. CSA 9 provides highway (e.g. Highway 9) and arterial street (e.g. Soquel Drive, Freedom Blvd.) lighting and traffic signals countywide, excluding the incorporated areas. CSA 9, Zone A provides street lighting in some unincorporated neighborhoods based upon the property owners preference to have street lights and pay for their maintenance. CSA 9, Zone C funds landfill and resource recovery efforts in the City of Scotts Valley and the entire unincorporated area of the County. CSA 9, Zone D provides some funding for public road maintenance in the unincorporated areas of the County. It has three sub-zones divided into the north, central, and south county sub-zones. CSA 9, Zone E maintains street trees and other landscaping in the former Live Oak/Soquel Redevelopment Area. In 2015, the County is proposing the establishment of a new zone to maintain parking lots, perform landscape maintenance, and enforce parking in the public parking lots in Soquel village.

Growth and Population

Growth and population have a direct impact on street and highway related services. Increased road trips and greater traffic volume are a primary cause for roadway deterioration. In addition, a higher volume of traffic increases the importance of maintaining streets and highways to a prescribed service level for public safety as well as reduction of traffic impacts. In localized areas where growth is significant, major capital improvements may be needed such as road widening, reconstruction, and redesign. The projected growth in population for the unincorporated county (CSA 9 service area) and the City of Scotts Valley is as follows:

Table 2 - Population Estimates

Jurisdiction	2010	2020	2025	2030	2035	Compound Annual Growth Rate
Santa Cruz County (unincorporated)	129,739	132,318	134,879	139,601	144,227	0.42%
City of Scotts Valley	11,580	11,638	11,696	11,754	11,813	0.08%

Source: 2010 US Census and AMBAG 2014 Regional Growth Forecast

Population growth will continue to impact the county service area as they try to maintain existing levels of service and provide for capital improvements in the face of escalating costs and limited opportunity to increase revenues.

Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

Both service review and sphere of influence review law require that LAFCO identify disadvantaged unincorporated communities and evaluate whether these areas would benefit from expansion of public services into these areas. A "disadvantaged community", as defined in Water Code section 79505, is a community with an annual median household income that is less than 80 percent of the statewide annual median household income. In 2011, the California statewide annual median household income was

$61,632[1], and 80% of that is $49,306. In Santa Cruz County, most of the census tracts with incomes in the disadvantaged category are located within the cities of Watsonville and Santa Cruz. Within the unincorporated areas of the county, there are two census tracts that have incomes in the disadvantaged category:

Table 3 – Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

Census Tract	Community	Description
1231	Freedom	Green Valley Road, Amesti Road
1215	Live Oak, Twin Lakes	7th Avenue, 17th Avenue, Portola Drive

These disadvantaged communities are located within the boundary and sphere of influence of County Service Area 9. These two communities receive the same level of services (landfill, recycling, road maintenance, street lighting) as the other areas of County Service Area 9.

County Service Area 9
Highway Safety Lighting and Traffic Signals

CSA 9 provides streetlights and traffic signals for highways and arterial streets in the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County. The approved budget for FY 2015-2016 includes a school safety zone grant of $757,000. The FY 2015-16 CSA 9 revenues are shown in the following table:

Table 4
County Service Area 9, Highway Safety and Lighting Revenues

Revenues	FY 14-15 Budget	FY 15-16 Budget
Property Taxes	$226,800	$238,718
Assessments	$780,000	$780,000
School Safety Grant	$0	$757,000
Other Revenues	$0	$5,000
Fund Balance	$62,386	$85,580
TOTAL	$1,069,186	$1,866,298

The major projects capital improvement projects during FY 2015-2016 are a $100,000 upgrade of the traffic signal at Holohan Road and Highway 152 (East Lake), and new traffic signals in Aptos Village ($106,901).

Table 5
CSA 9 (Highway Safety and Lighting) Rate Structure

County Service Area	FY 2004-2005 Assessment Rates	FY 2014-2015 Assessment Rates	% Increase in Ten Years
CSA 9 – County Hwy Safety Svc. Area	Improved $16.60 Unimproved $8.30	Improved $16.60 Unimproved $8.30	No change

[1] U.S. Census Bureau, 2011 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, Table B19013.

Table 6
CSA 9 (Highway Safety and Lighting) Expenditures

County Service Area	FY 2003-2004 Expenditures	FY 2013-2014 Expenditures	% Increase in Ten Years	FY 2015-2016 Budget
CSA 9 – County Hwy Safety Svc. Area	$1,083,167	$1,129,400	4.3%	$1,866,298

County Service Area, Zone A, Residential and Commercial Street Lighting

Zone A is specific to unincorporated residential and commercial areas that choose to have street lights. Zone A pays for the installation and maintenance on street lights within this zone. Neighborhood street lighting is funded through an assessment charge that is collected on the property tax bill.

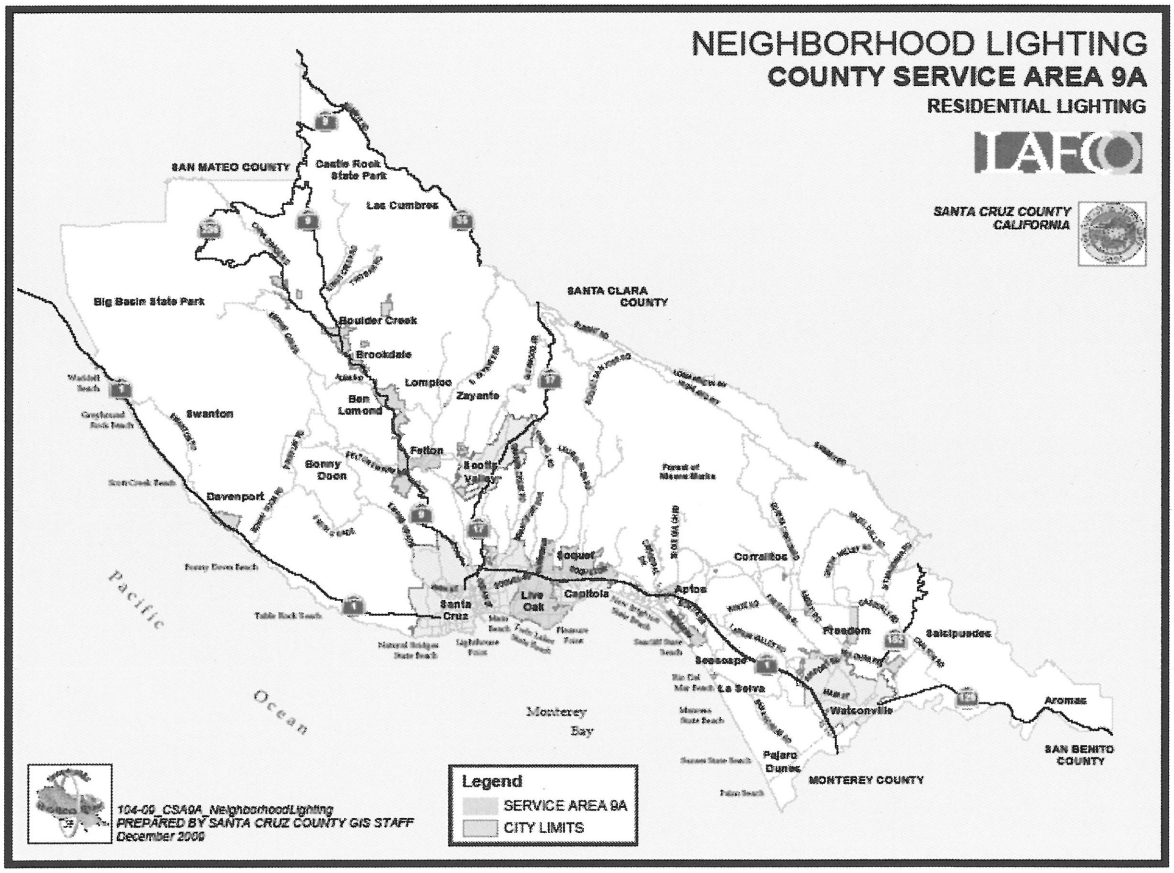


Table 7
CSA 9, Zone A (Neighborhood Street Lighting) Financing

County Service Area	FY 2003-2004 Expenditures	FY 2013-2014 Expenditures	% Increase in Ten Years	FY 2015-2016 Budget
CSA 9 Zone A – Neighborhood Street Lighting	$314,560	$465,543	4.8%	$2,055,665

Table 8
CSA 9, Zone A (Neighborhood Street Lighting) Rate Structure

County Service Area Zone	FY 2004-2005 Assessment Rates	FY 2014-2015 Assessment Rates	% Increase in Ten Years
CSA 9 Zone A – Residential Street Lighting	SF - $4.70 Mobilehome - $2.82 Commercial - $4.70 Multi unit - $2.82 Vacant - $2.35	SF - $4.70 Mobilehome - $2.82 Commercial - $4.70 Multi unit - $2.82 Vacant - $2.35	No change

County Service Area 9, Zone B
Live Oak School Crossing Guards

Zone B provides partial funding for the school crossing guard program in the Live Oak Elementary School District. This program pre-dates Proposition 13 (1978), and the County passes through the program's share of the 1% property tax.

Table 9
CSA 9, Zone B (Live Oak School Crossing Guards)

County Service Area	FY 2003-2004 Expenditures	FY 2013-2014 Expenditures	% Increase in Ten Years	FY 2015-16 Budget
CSA 9 Zone B – Live Oak School Crossing Guards	$5,557	$9,179	65%	$10,302

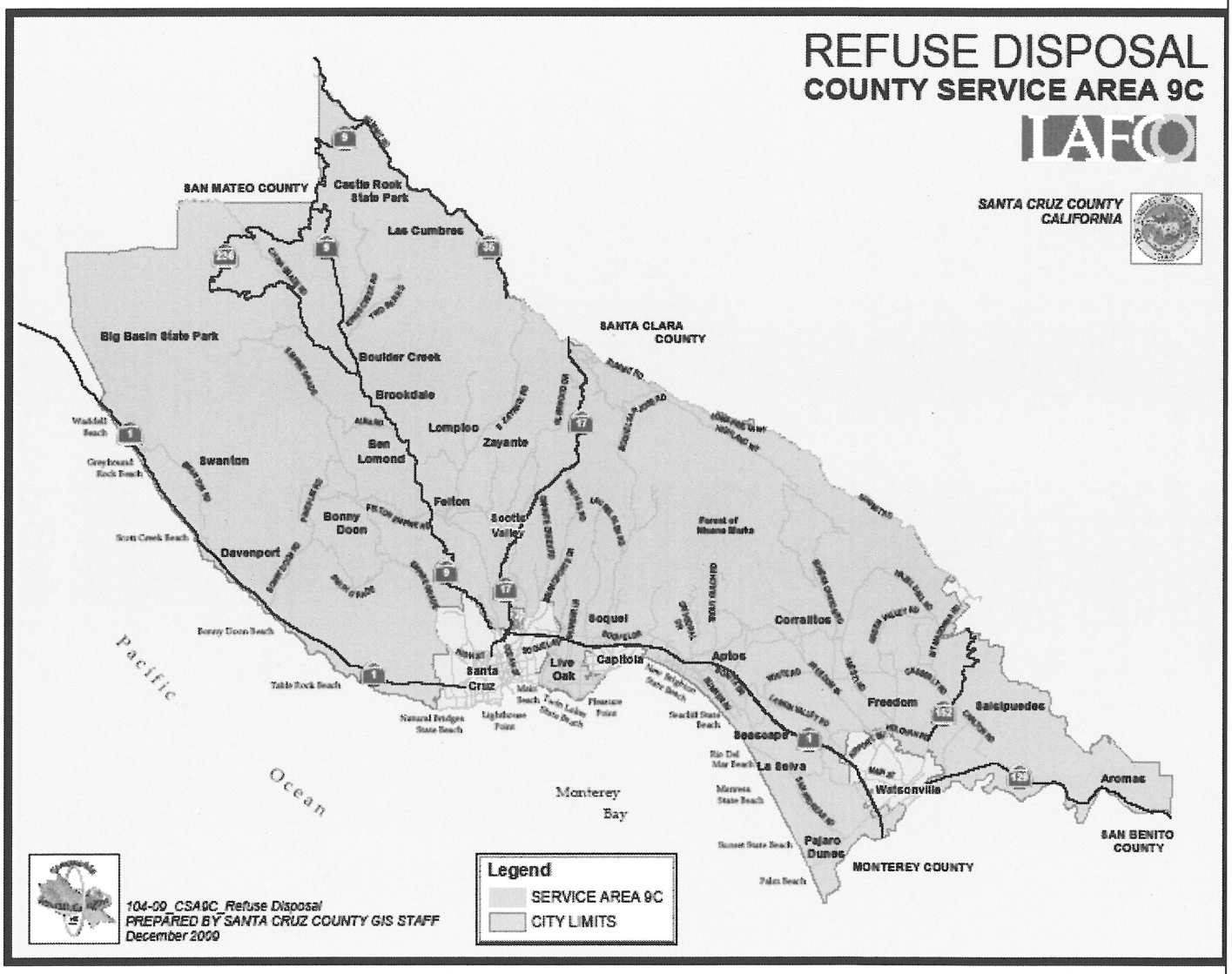
County Service Area 9, Zone C
Buena Vista Landfill and Resource Recovery

Zone C Overview

Zone 9 operates the Buena Vista Landfill and the related recycling and resource recovery activities. It also maintains the closed Ben Lomond Landfill, and operates the Ben Lomond Transfer Station. The zone supports administration of the refuse and recycling franchise collection program, landfill environmental compliance programs, refuse abatement programs, and waste reduction and recycling programs. The zone is studying and preparing for future waste management alternatives. The costs for processing recyclables increase as additional types of materials are diverted. Recycling programs do not generate income sufficient enough for self-support and are subsidized from refuse fees collected at the disposal sites. This is problematic because total funding diminishes as diversion rates increase, resulting in the need for increased recycling and disposal rates. The FY 2015-16 budget includes funding to prepare a plan for fiscal sustainability of the solid waste and recycling program. Options to be studied include restructuring rate schedules, preparation of a food waste and compost program, a new collection franchise agreement, and an analysis of the recycling center operations.

Assembly Bill 341 of 2011 sets a year 2020 goal of diverting 75% of the state's waste stream by recycling, composting, and source reduction. This compares to a 10% statewide diversion rate in 1990.

The Buena Vista Landfill has a capacity that will be filled in 20 years. The County's plan is to then transfer garbage and haul it to the Monterey Regional landfill in Marina.



Zone C (Landfill and Recycling) Financing

Solid waste services are generally operated as an enterprise activity by public agencies, such that the fee structure is adequate to cover trash processing and landfill costs as well as reserves. The largest capital costs are associated with landfill maintenance, and post-closure costs. The California Integrated Waste Management Board requires that each agency responsible for operating a landfill estimate closure and post-closure costs and then establish adequate reserves based on the percentage of the landfill capacity that has been used.

The County of Santa Cruz has established County Service Area 9C as the means to fund solid waste services along with gate fee revenue. CSA 9C includes all of the unincorporated area within the County and the City of Scotts Valley. Revenue collected through the CSA is used to fund long-term capital expenditures for the County's Solid Waste and Recycling Program such as future construction of environmental management facilities, management of reuse of landfill gas resources, and long-term closure of County landfills. Funds are also used for community based programs such as public education and outreach, graffiti abatement, litter removal, street sweeping, illegal disposal clean-up, long-term solid waste and recycling planning, and management of franchised refuse collections services. A financial summary of CSA 9C follows:

Table 10
County Service Area 9, Zone C (Landfill and Recyling) Budget

Finances	FY 13-14 Actual	FY 14-15 Estimated Act.ual	FY 15-16 Budget
EXPENDITURES			
Services and Supplies	$10,043,407	$10,543,016	$12,681,800
Other Charges	$1,767,569	$2,155,867	$2,019,076
Fixed Assets	$201,798	$0	$0
Appropriation for Contingencies	$0	$0	$25,000
Total Expenditures	**$12,012,774**	**$12,698,883**	**$14,725,876**
Less: Revenue	($11,116,727)	($17,097,315)	($11,582,102)
NET OPERATIONS	**$896,047**	**($4,398,432)**	**$3,143,774**
Adjustments for Non-Operating Costs			
Depreciation	*	($1,194,537)	($993,947)
Fixed Assets	*	$6,396,558	$1,018,000
Principal on Leases	*	$1,214	$1,300
ADJUSTED NET OPERATIONS	*	**$804,803**	**$3,169,127**
Fund Balance, End of Year		**$3,169,127**	

*Due to State of California accounting mandates, the CSA 9, Zone C budget was changed recently to an enterprise fund. These FY 13-14 amounts are not presented due to the change in accounting practices.

Table 11
CSA 9, Zone C (Landfill and Recycling) Revenue

CSA 9, Zone C Revenue Detail	FY 15-16 Budget
Service Charges	$3,200,000
Recycling Grant	$245,000
Household Hazardous Waste Reimbursements	$220,600
Recycling Revenues	$624,502
Gate Fees	$7,282,000
Other Revenues	$10,000
REVENUES	$11,582,102
June 30, 2015 Net Assets	$3,169,127
AVAILABLE FOR FINANCING	$14,751,229
EXPENDITURES	($14,725,876)

Shared Facilities

The County provides Household Hazardous Waste services for the cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville. The County and the four cities participate in the Integrated Waste Management Local Task Force with the County serving as the lead agency for the Santa Cruz County Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan.

Rate Restructuring

Parcels within County Service Area 9C (unincorporated area and the City of Scotts Valley) are assessed an annual charge as set by the County Board of Supervisors. These charges are collected on the property tax bills. Assessment charges have not been changed in many years. Under Proposition 218 (1996) these charges can only be increased though an election of property owners.

Table 12
CSA 9, Zone C (Landfill and Recyling) Assessments

County Service Area	FY 2004-2005 Assessment Rates	FY 2014-2015 Assessment Rates	% Increase in Ten Years
CSA 9 Zone C – Buena Vista Landfill and Resource Recovery	SF - $56.94 Apartment. - 28.48 Commercial - $113.90 Agriculture - $113.90 Vacant - $0.00	SF - $56.94 Apartment. - $28.48 Commercial - $113.90 Agriculture - $113.90 Vacant - $0.00	No Change

Government Structure Options

The 2005 Countywide Service Review published by Santa Cruz LAFCO identified one option to consolidate the City of Santa Cruz, City of Watsonville, and the County of Santa Cruz waste management programs. A countywide Waste Management Authority (Authority) could be formed. The Authority would be a public agency formed by a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement among the County of Santa

Cruz and each of the four cities. The Authority would be responsible for administering the Santa Cruz County Integrated Waste Management Plan and Santa Cruz County Hazardous Waste Management Plan. It would also be responsible for managing a long-range program for solid waste facilities and could offer a wide variety of other programs in the areas of source reduction and recycling, market development, technical assistance and public education. Funding could be provided by per ton disposal fees. This type of government structure is currently in use in several counties and could provide the coordinated structure for Santa Cruz County to achieve its solid waste goals and avoid the need to export waste to other counties.

The disadvantage to this option is the cost to create and fund the Authority. Three of the agencies are currently faced with landfill operation and closure/post closure costs and finances are constrained. The benefits and costs would need to be fully evaluated to determine if this option would be appropriate for Santa Cruz County at this time.

The agencies did not proceed in this fashion. Instead, the agencies are coordinating their individual efforts though the Integrated Management Local Task Force in Santa Cruz County. This task force was established in 1990 as required by State law, and continues to operate.

Local Accountability and Governance

Solid waste services are addressed by the County Board of Supervisors during their regular meetings. It has procedures in place to ensure that public notice and governance standards are met.

The County provides information on solid waste services and recycling on its website at: http://www.santacruzcountyrecycles.org

County Service Area 9, Zone D
County Road Maintenance

The County and cities fund street and highway services through a mix of Federal, State and local sources. In California the largest source of funding for street maintenance is the gas tax. These agencies also make other General Fund commitments for street and highway services based on their resources, needs and policy determinations. Gas tax revenues are not keeping up with the cost of living or the cost of repairing roads. This has had a negative effect on all street and road maintenance programs throughout the State, including Santa Cruz County. County Service Area 9, Zone D provides some supplemental funding through an assessment charge, which could be raised through a property owner mailed-ballot election. In the adopted County budget for fiscal year 2015-2016, the CSA 9, Zone D assessment charges are estimated to generate approximately $2.75 million, while the other sources for road construction and maintenance ("the road fund") will be approximately $22.6 million. The County is considering additional road maintenance funding options such as a sales tax election, which requires a 2/3rds affirmative vote of the voters. A half-cent sales tax would generate approximately $4 million per year.

Zone D is divided into three sub-zones as shown on the following map:

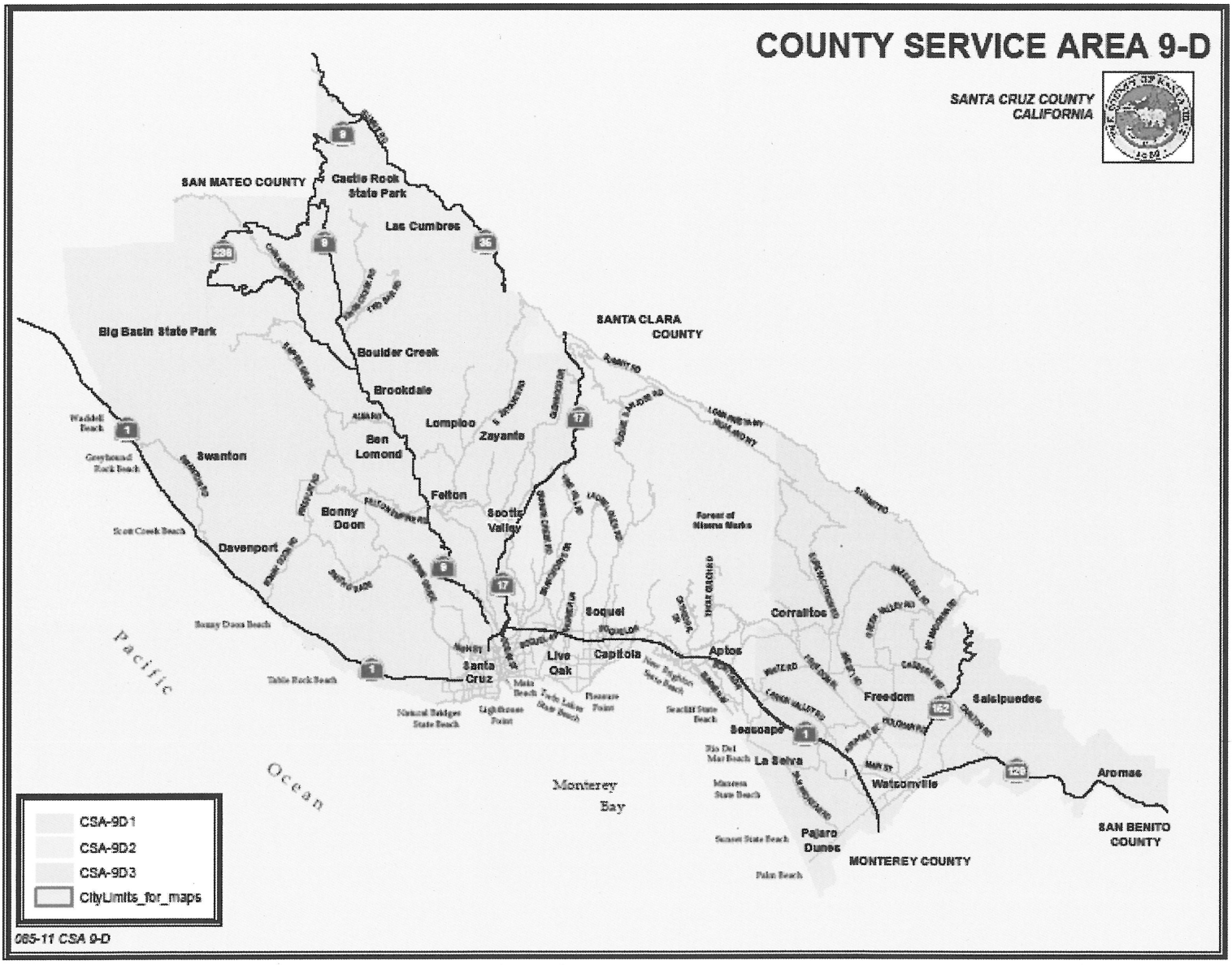


Table 13
CSA 9, Zone D (Road Maintenance) Financing

County Service Area	FY 2003-2004 Expenditures	FY 2013-2014 Expenditures	% Increase in Ten Years	FY 2015-2016 Budget
CSA 9D Sub-Zone 1 – North - Road Maintenance	$853,119	$857,891	5.6%	$863,485
CSA 9D Sub-Zone 2 – Mid - Road Maintenance	$1,363,681	$1,360,483	-0.2%	$1,484,769
CSA 9D Sub-Zone 3 – South - Road Maintenance	$398,027	$407,054	2.3%	$402,324

Table 14
CSA 9, Zone D (Road Maintenance) Assessments

County Service Area	FY 2004-2005 Assessment Rates	FY 2014-2015 Assessment Rates	% Increase in Ten Years
CSA 9D Sub-Zone 1,2,3 – Road Maintenance	Improved- $56.40 Unimproved - $28.20	Improved- $56.40 Unimproved - $28.80	No change

Opportunities for Shared Facilities

CSA 9 has several agreements with Caltrans and the cities for street maintenance and traffic signal and lighting maintenance. CSA 9D shares bridge maintenance for Murphy's Crossing with Monterey County.

Government Structure Options, and Accountability

CSA 9 is a dependent special district governed by the County Board of Supervisors. All CSAs are formed and operate pursuant to the County Service Area Law (Government Code Section 25210 et seq.). County Supervisors receive no additional compensation for their CSA responsibilities. Santa Cruz County staff from the Public Works Department manages the street and highway services related to CSA 9.

County Service Area 9, Zone E
Live Oak/Soquel Streetscape Maintenance

CSA 9 Zone E provides streetscape maintenance services in the former Live Oak/Soquel Redevelopment Area. The Zone maintains over 1,800 street trees, plus landscaping areas via a contract with a private landscaping contractor.

Table 14
CSA 9, Zone E (Live Oak/Soquel Streetscape) Assessments

County Service Area	FY 2004-2005 Assessment Rates	FY 2014-2015 Assessment Rates	% Increase in Ten Years
CSA 9E – Streetscape	SF/Commercial- $3.08 Multi Fam (per unit) - $1.85 Vacant - $1.54	SF/Commercial- $3.08 Multi Fam (per unit) - $1.85 Vacant - $1.54	No change

Table 15
CSA 9, Zone E (Live Oak/Soquel Streetscape Maintenance) Financing

County Service Area	FY 2003-2004 Expenditures	FY 2013-2014 Expenditures	% Increase in Ten Years	FY 2015-2016 Budget
CSA 9E – Live Oak/Soquel Streetscape Maintenance	$38,716	$52,031	34%	$52,897

County Service Area 9, Zone F
Soquel Village Parking Lots

Zone Profile

In 2015, the County of Santa Cruz is proposing to add another service to the list of services that County Service Area 9 may perform. LAFCO authorizes specific county service area services from a board list of

potential services in the County Service Area law. The County's pending proposal to LAFCO is that the following services be authorized for County Service Area 9 (Government Code Section 25210):

--Operation and maintenance of street lighting and landscaping services on County owned or property; and

--Parking enforcement to permit enforcement of time restrictions within County owned operated parking lots.

Under state laws, once LAFCO authorizes a service to be performed within a county service area, the County has the sole authority to set up zones, revise the boundaries of zones, and set assessment charges within the zones. The County purpose from proposing these new services is to take over the operation, maintenance, and enforcement of the public parking lots in Soquel Village. Four lots were acquired and improved by the former Live Oak/Soquel Redevelopment Agency. The required dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency placed the collection of the pre-existing business-based assessments in jeopardy. In FY 2014-15 no assessments were collected by the previous Soquel Business Parking Improvement Fund, and the FY 2015-16 is to utilize the remaining fund balance of $835 to run the parking lots until CSA 9, Zone F is up and running[2]. If LAFCO authorizes the activation of the two "latent" services, the County intends to proceed with setting up a zone (CSA 9, Zone F) in Soquel Village, and to proceed with a Proposition 218 procedure for the property owners to approve an assessment charge formula to fund the two services.

The plan for services in Zone F estimates that $35,000 would need to be generated annual to run the Soquel Village parking lots. The main alternatives to the proposal are (1) the County selling the lots, (2) the County leasing the lots and allowing the lessee to charge hourly rates, (3) the County funding the services out of the General Fund. The County does not want to begin using the General Fund for a local service. A CSA zone and assessment charge would allow the benefitting properties to pay the service costs. The County believes that the Soquel business community supports the continued availability of free parking lots. Selling the parking lots or converting them to leased, paid-parking are less favored as both would upset the business climate in Soquel Village.

Table 16
CSA 9, Zone F (Proposed Soquel Parking Zone) Financing

County Service Area	FY 2013-2014 Actual	FY 2014-2015 Est. Actual	FY 2015-2016 Budget	FY 2016-2017 Est. Budget
	Soquel Village Parking Improvement Fund			Proposed CSA 9, Zone F
CSA 9, Zone F – Soquel Parking	$15,333	$4,350	$835	$35,000

[2] Proposed Budget 2015-2016, County of Santa Cruz, Page 32-27.

County Service Area 9 Contact Information

County of Santa Cruz – County Service Area 9	
Contact:	John Presleigh, Director of Public Works
Mailing Address:	701 Ocean Street, Room 410, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Site Address:	Same
Phone Number:	(831) 454-2160
Fax Number:	(831) 454-2835
Email/Website	John.Preseigh@santacruzcounty.us
Types of Services:	Street Construction and Maintenance, Traffic Signal, Street Lighting, Street Sweeping, Landfill Operations, Streetscape Maintenance, Crossing Guards, Parking Operations
Website	http://www.dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/

Sphere of Influence

Government Code section 56427 requires each LAFCO to review each city and district's sphere of influence every five years. Government Code section 56076 defines a "sphere of influence" to be a plan for the probable physical boundaries and service area of a local agency, as determined by the LAFCO.

Santa Cruz LAFCO adopted the first sphere of influence for County Service Area 9 in 1985. The CSA's sphere of influence is the entire County of Santa Cruz, including all unincorporated and incorporated areas. State law allows each County to establish zones to provide individual services to sub-areas of the county. Cities can be included in a county service area or zone only if authorized by resolution of the affected city council. In the Santa Cruz County, the only city that participates in a CSA 9 service is the City of Scotts Valley, which participates in CSA 9, Zone C (Landfill and Recycling).

The LAFCO staff is recommending no change in the County Service Area 9 Sphere of Influence so that it remain the entire County including the incorporated areas.

County Service Area 9
Service Review Determinations (Government Code Section 56430)

1) Population and Growth

A. *Population within unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County and Scotts Valley is expected to reach 156,040 by 2035.*

B. *In governing County Service Area 9, Santa Cruz County has considered population growth of the City of Scotts Valley and the County when doing its service planning for County Service Area 9.*

2) Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

A. *Freedom and Twin Lakes, the two disadvantaged communities in the unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County, are located inside County Service Area 9 and the CSA 9 sphere of influence, and benefit from the services provided by the county service area. There are no disadvantaged unincorporated areas of the County outside CSA 9.*

3) Capacity of Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services

A. *The Buena Vista landfill it is projected to close in approximately 20 years.*

B. *For the County roads within the three sub-zones of CSA 9D, the roads are in fair condition.*

4) Financing Ability of Agency to Provide Services

A. *The County of Santa Cruz provides its solid waste services through County Service Area 9C. Revenue from the CSA is used for capital improvements, closure/post-closure costs, operations, education and other related programs.*

B. *The County is challenged to continue maintaining the aging infrastructure within CSA 9D with increased costs and a declining budget. There is not sufficient funding (Road Fund, CSA 9D Assessment Charges, and Grants) to improve the County roads to good or excellent conditions.*

C. *The Soquel Village parking lots do not currently have a viable method of financing operations, maintenance, and enforcement. A CSA 9 zone is a feasible means of providing these funds, subject to property-owner approval though a Proposition 218 process.*

5) Shared Facilities

A. *The County is the lead agency for the development and administration of the Countywide Integrated Waste Management Plan.*

6) Local Accountability, Governmental Structure, and Operational Efficiencies

A. *County Service Area 9 services are addressed by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors during regular meetings. Public notice is provided for all meetings. The County provides public information on its websites.*

B. A Countywide Waste Management Authority could provide advantages for each of the agencies including solid waste technology grant funding, coordination and collaboration opportunities for public education, recycling programs, market development, and the means to establish countywide goals for waste reduction. The disadvantage is the additional cost to create and administer the agency.

C. The rate structures for County Service Area 9 are reviewed annually based on available financing and projected maintenance needs. Rate changes are implemented through a public process that includes voter or property owner approval.

D. County Service Area 9 is a dependent special district governed by the County Board of Supervisors. The County has procedures in place to ensure that local accountability and governance standards are met.

7) Other Matters Required by Local LAFCO Policy

A. LAFCO compiles mission statements and meeting rules of each agency subject to LAFCO's boundary regulation. The governing board of County Service Area 9 is the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors has not adopted a mission statement for County Service Area 9. The Board of Supervisors handles all County Service Area 9 business on the Board of Supervisors agenda, and follows the Board's meeting rules.

County Service Area 9
Sphere of Influence Determinations (Government Code Section 56427)

1) Present and Planned Land Uses

A. *The present and planned land uses in the County of Santa Cruz are a range of urban and rural uses. The County General Plan and the General Plans of the Cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville plan for growth centered on the existing urban areas and for maintenance of agricultural production, rural residential uses, and environmental protection in the rural areas.*

2) Present and Probable Need for Public Facilities and Services

A. *County Service Area 9 performs a series of Public Works services that are provided to sub-areas of the county. These services are highway lighting, neighborhood street lighting, landfill operations, recycling, unincorporated road maintenance, school crossing guards, and streetscape maintenance. In the future, these services will continue to be needed, as well as the parking maintenance and enforcement that is being taken over by County Service Area 9, Zone F.*

3) Present Capacity of Facilities and Adequacy of Public Services

A. *The services being provided by County Service Area 9 are generally adequate. Over the last ten years, many revenue sources have not kept up with modest inflation.*

B. *The County roads are in fair condition, and the County lacks sufficient funding (Road Fund, CSA 9A Assessment Charges, and Grants) to improve the roads to good or excellent conditions.*

4) Social or Economic Communities of Interest

A. *The flexibility of County Service Area law (Government Code Section 25210 et seq.) allows the County of Santa of Santa Cruz to establish zones for each of the services provided by County Service Area 9. In that manner, the communities of interest are the areas desiring each service. Cities can be added to a County Service Area zone only if authorized by resolution of the affected City Council.*