

ISSUE #8: REGIONALIZATION STUDY

www.sdfiresafety.org

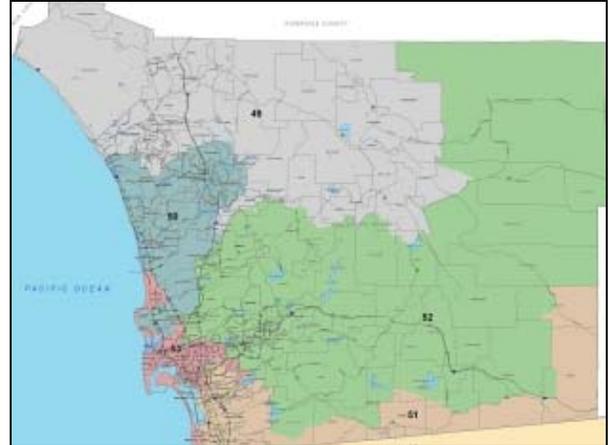
Problem

San Diego LAFCO (Local Agency Formation Commission) determinations indicate that the unincorporated region's system for providing fire protection and emergency medical services is dysfunctional--characterized by duplicate organizations and redundant layers of management that needlessly consume public resources and limit opportunities to provide enhanced service.

Solution

The San Diego County Fire Chief's and County Fire District's Associations have presented a proposal to reorganize fire services in the unincorporated area of San Diego County into two phases for better fire response and fire prevention coordination. Phase I would establish a service level standard in the unfunded, underfunded, unserved, and underserved areas of the San Diego Region. The fundamental purpose is to enable a regional response to a range of daily incidents such as vehicle accidents, life-threatening medical emergencies, and structure fires.

Many observers have noted that the region's cataclysmic fires originate and gain momentum in the unincorporated area before sweeping into urban communities. It would be prudent to underwrite an adequate first-responder organization for early suppression, rather than experience the devastating cost of lost property and lost income, and the invaluable loss of life that occurs when early containment fails.



Specific recommendations would:

1. Provide stable, ongoing funding for unequally funded public and unfunded volunteer organizations.
2. Eliminate 13 bureaucracies and apply savings to emergency operations.
3. Reduce disparities between city and unincorporated area automatic and mutual aid.
4. Extend emergency service to 940,000 acres that is not currently within a public fire protection agency.
5. Fully integrate volunteer fire companies into regional operation.
6. Implement a regional plan for purchasing and positioning new equipment.

References: Series of LAFCO reports available on LAFCO Web Site:

<http://www.sdlafco.org/>, "Reports and Publications" (1) Fire Funding Study (2) Fire Protection & EMS Municipal Service Review (3) MACRO Report-Options for Providing Structural Fire Protection and EMS (4) MICRO Report-Reorganization of Structural Fire Protection and EMS.