
What is Annexation?

Annexation means that the Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District (RAFPD) would be merged into the Sonoma County Fire District (SCFD). As part of this process, all current Rancho Adobe fire stations, apparatus, and equipment would become part of SCFD. In addition, RAFPD employees would transition to become employees of SCFD. While each agency currently provides fire and emergency medical services within its own community, annexation would unify these services under one district.

What is the Sonoma County Fire District?

The Sonoma County Fire District (SCFD) was formed through the consolidation of several local fire agencies, including Windsor Fire District, Rincon Valley Fire District, Mountain Volunteer Fire Department, Bennett Valley Fire District, Russian River Fire Protection District, and Bodega Bay Fire. Since its formation, SCFD has expanded services and increased firefighter staffing to better serve the communities within its jurisdiction. It is important to note that SCFD is not part of, nor governed by, the County of Sonoma. Like the Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District (RAFPD), SCFD is an independent special district and government agency with its own elected Board of Directors.



RANCHO ADOBE FIRE & SONOMA COUNTY FIRE SHARED SERVICES, LEADERSHIP, & ANNEXATION

Annexation as a Long-Term Solution for Improving Fire and Emergency Medical Response Would:

- Place Advanced Life Support (ALS) Paramedics on fire engines.
- Provide access to executive leadership, administration, fire prevention, and community outreach services that are not currently available.
- Improve purchasing power and reduce overhead costs.
- Brings no tax increase for Rancho Adobe property owners.

Why Should RAFPD Become Part of SCFD?

This opportunity, made possible by the complementary resources of both districts, will increase service levels for residents without adding a significant tax burden.

As the RAFPD Board of Directors, our responsibility is to ensure quality emergency response while being fiscally responsible with your tax dollars. Over the past two decades, RAFPD has explored multiple annexation and consolidation options with the goal of maintaining strong service levels while reducing costs. Consolidation with SCFD would strengthen services in several key areas, including:

- Advanced Life Support (ALS) Paramedics on fire engines
- A full Fire Prevention Bureau
- Critical administrative support and continuity of operations

It would also reduce duplication of services by streamlining into a single district structure.

Currently, Sonoma County has many separate fire departments and districts, each with its own governance, Fire Chief, staff, facilities, and equipment. This duplication is an inefficient use of taxpayer dollars. By joining forces, fire districts can improve service levels, strengthen staffing, and make the best use of resources to serve the community.

RANCHO ADOBE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 1029 — Penngrove, CA 94951 — (707) 795-6011 — www.rafd.org

How Would Service Improve?

Annexation with the Sonoma County Fire District would add Firefighter/Paramedics to Rancho Adobe fire stations. Currently, our district struggles to attract and retain Firefighter/Paramedics, which limits our ability to deliver timely, life-saving care. With annexation, residents would benefit from having a Firefighter/Paramedic on the first-out fire engine, ensuring a higher level of emergency medical service. Service would also improve through stronger purchasing power, reduced overhead costs, and the ability to retain staff with better pay and career growth opportunities. The merger would further provide much-needed administrative, financial, fire prevention, training, and operational support to strengthen reliability and continuity of service.



What Do the Firefighters Think?

RAFPD's firefighters, who have long been dedicated to keeping the Rancho Adobe community safe, are unanimously supportive of annexation with SCFD. They see this as an opportunity to enhance emergency services, improve staffing, and better serve the residents they protect every day.

How Would This Affect My Annual Tax Burden?

If you own property in the Rancho Adobe Fire District, you currently pay \$351 per year in a special parcel tax. Annexation with SCFD would not increase that amount, but it would give you stronger fire and emergency medical services for your community.



SONOMA COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT

Are There Other Options?

RAFPD leadership has explored partnerships and consolidations with neighboring districts in the past. After careful consideration, we believe that joining SCFD offers a unique opportunity to improve service quality without imposing a sharp increase in costs on taxpayers.

As a standalone fire district, Rancho Adobe would need to hire additional support staff in administration fire prevention and operations. Consolidation with Sonoma County Fire District provides a method to reduce duplication while providing increased services to the larger agency footprint.

The Rancho Adobe Fire District Board is committed to maintaining high-quality service, especially as community risks continue to rise.

