Fire Districts Deployment and Fiscal/Governance Options Analysis *Project Progress Update* 

### **Solano County Local Agency Formation Commission**

Presented on March 9, 2020



The Business of Better Government

### Fire Service Policy Choices

- No federal or state regulations mandating fire service staffing, response times, or outcomes
  - Level of fire protection services provided is a local policy decision
  - Communities have the level of fire services they can afford, which may not always be the level desired

# **Initial Scope of Work (August 2019)**

- 1. Perform a Standards of Coverage (SOC) deployment analysis
- 2. Conduct deployment and physical asset needs assessments
- 3. Perform response travel time analysis/mapping
- 4. Evaluate automatic mutual aid and mutual aid usage
- 5. Identify and evaluate potential staffing model options
- 6. Identify and evaluate potential governance model options
- 7. Determine conformance with NFPA Standard 1720
- 8. Identify and evaluate potential revenue enhancements

### Revised Scope of Work (December 2019)

- 1. Perform an abridged SOC deployment analysis
  - Comprehensive risk assessment
  - First unit travel time analysis (10:30-minutes)
  - 3-year incident locations
  - 3-year response performance
  - Mutual/automatic aid usage
- 2. Conduct a physical assets needs assessment
- 3. Conduct a fiscal analysis
- 4. Identify/evaluate potential governance model options

### **Study Methodology**

### 1. SOC Deployment Analysis

- Review/analysis of computer-aided dispatch (CAD) data
- Review/analyze service demand history
- Mapping of incident locations
- 10:30-minute first-unit travel time coverage (NFPA 1720)
- 3-year response performance

### 2. Physical Assets Assessment

 On-site review of each district's facility and emergency response assets

# Study Methodology (cont.)

### 3. Fiscal Analysis

- Review/analyze revenues, expenditures, and fund balance history
- Project near-future revenues, expenditures, and fund balances
- Evaluate ongoing fiscal stability
- Identify/evaluate potential alternatives to achieve/maintain longterm fiscal sustainability

### 4. Governance Model Options Analysis

Identify/evaluate potential governance model alternatives

# **Fire Districts Overview**

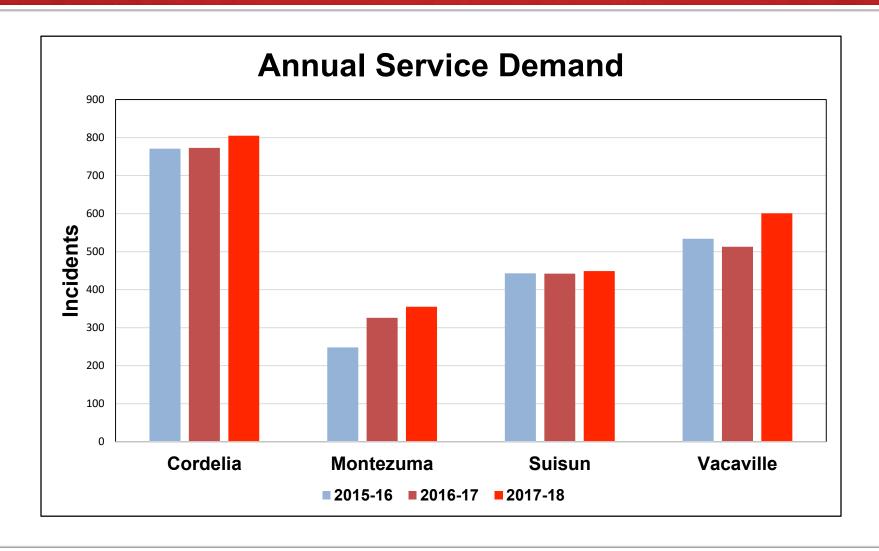
### **Service Areas**

District	Area Served (Sq.Mi.)	Estimated Population	Number of Stations
Cordelia	56	6,500	2
Montezuma	325	1,200	2
Suisun	140	2,700	2
Vacaville	135	6,200	4
Aggregate Total	656	16,600	10

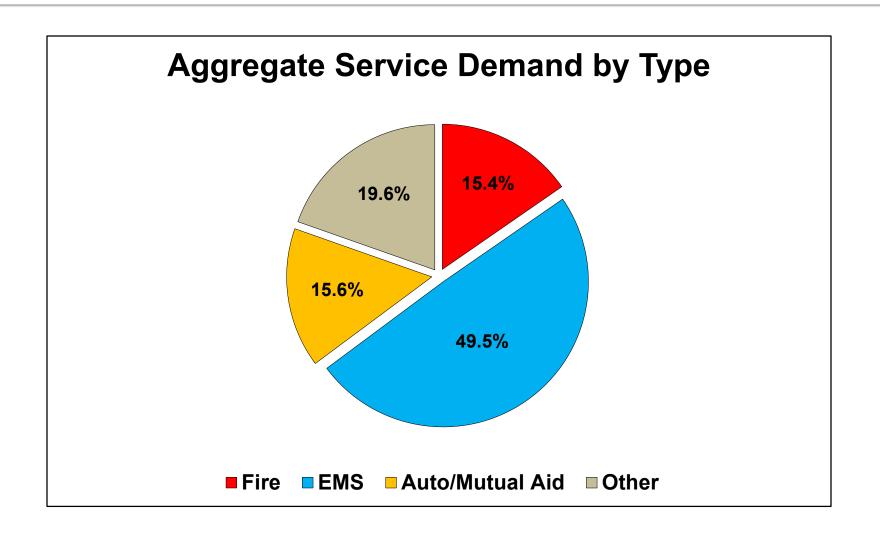
# Staffing

District	Paid Career Staff	Paid Admin. Staff	Resident FF Staff	Active Volunteers	Total Personnel
Cordelia	5	0	10	1	16
Montezuma	6	0	0	10	16
Suisun	2	0	0	32	34
Vacaville	4	2.5	0	56	63
Aggregate Total	17	2.5	10	99	129

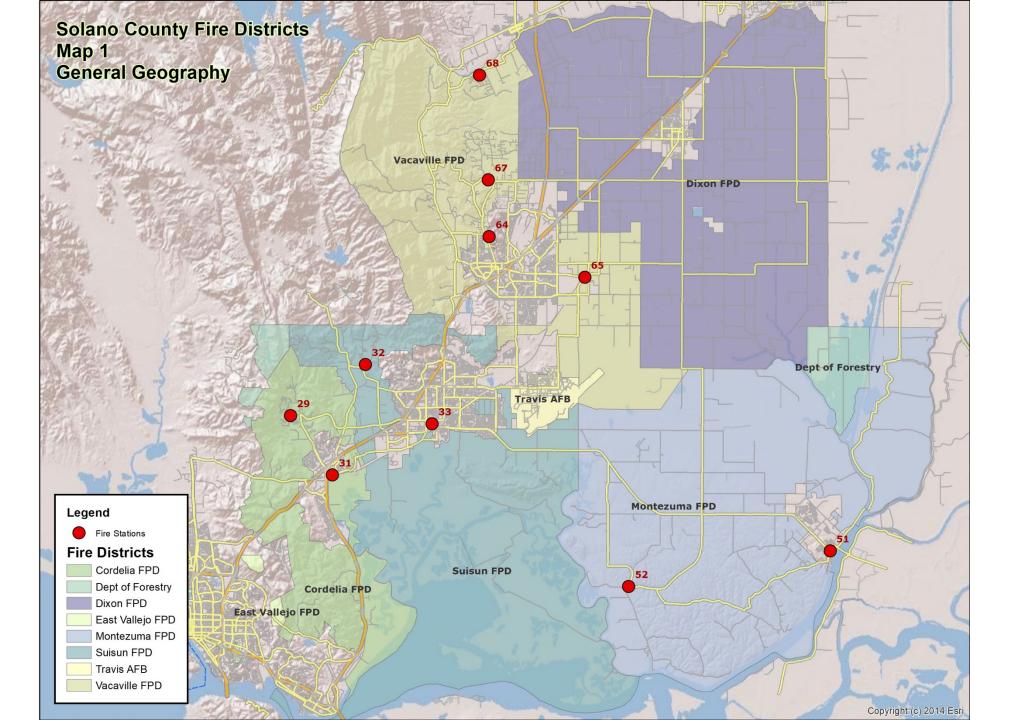
### **Service Demand**

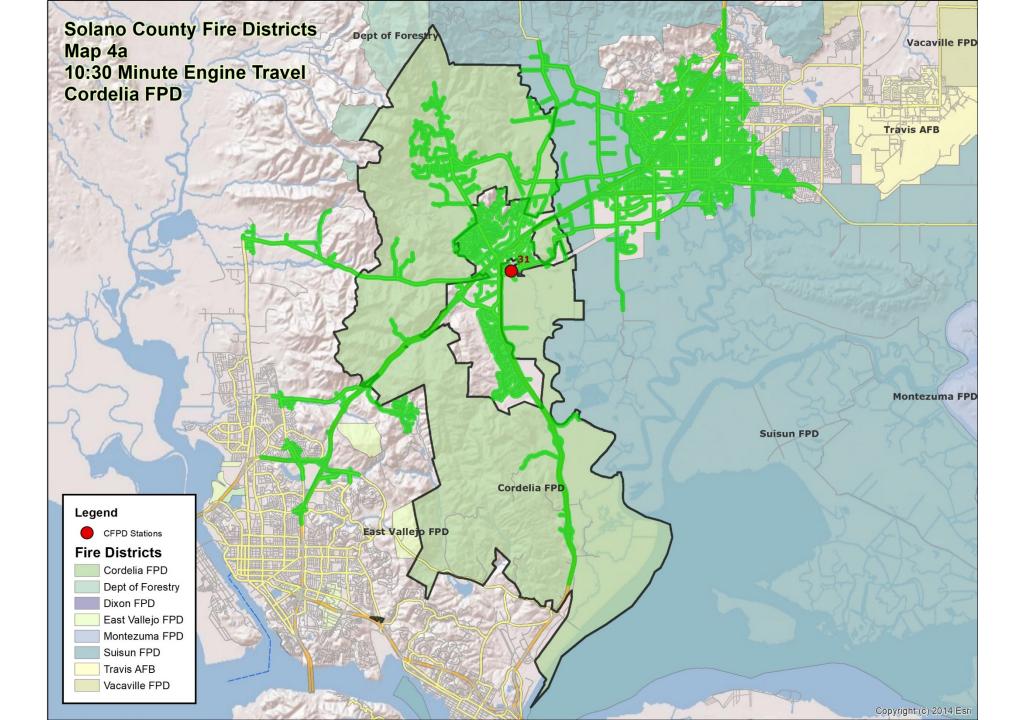


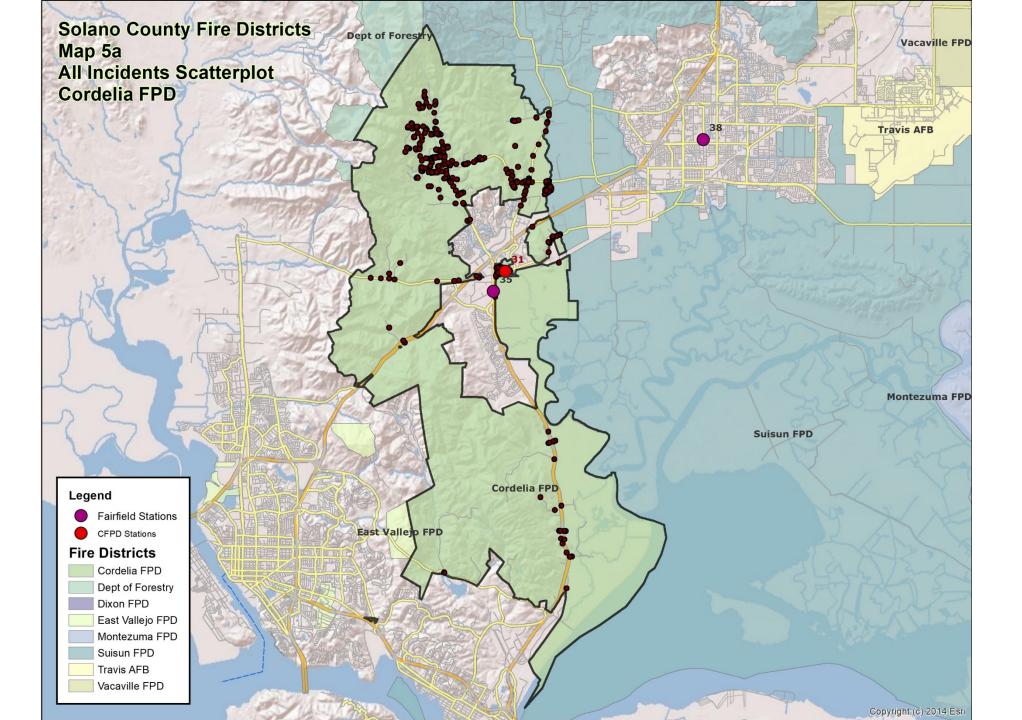
# **Service Demand by Incident Type**

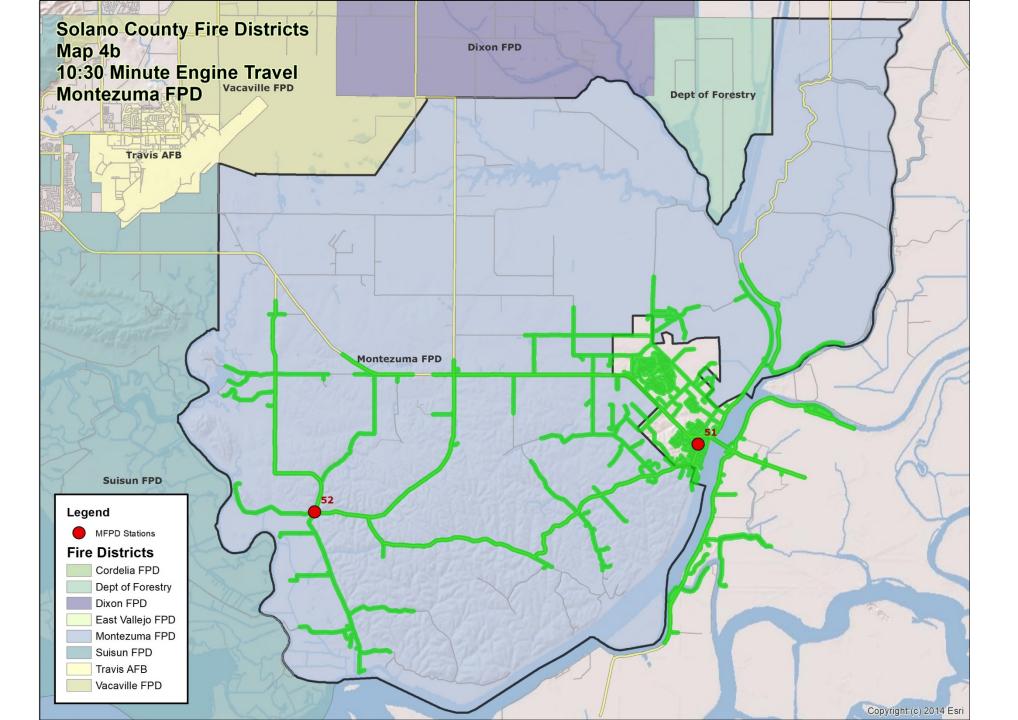


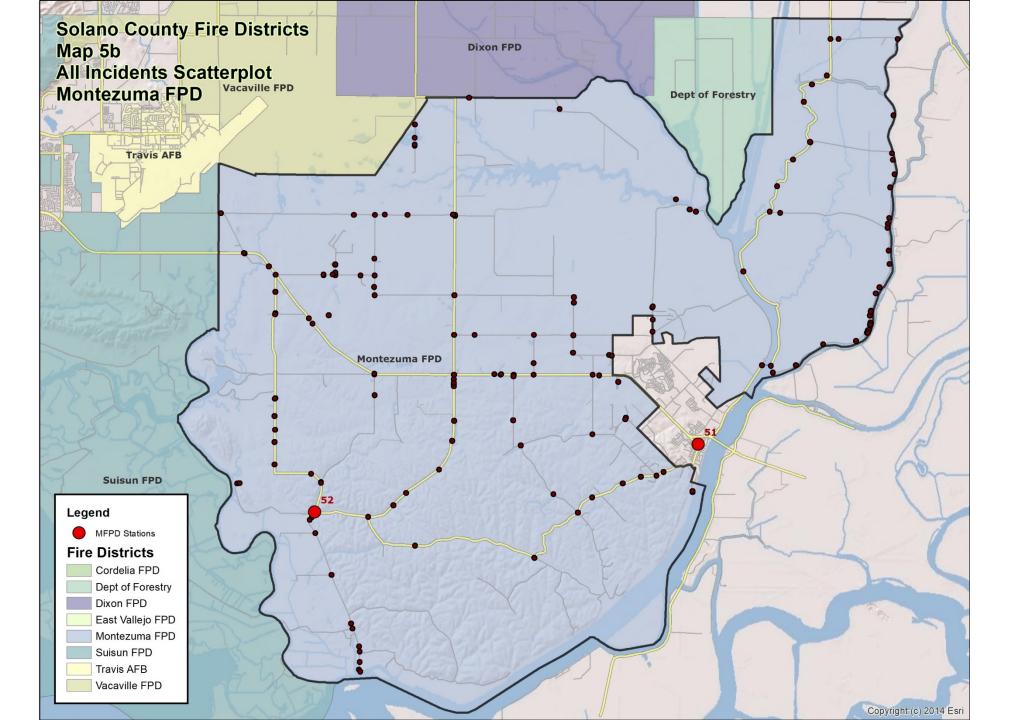
# **SOC Deployment Analysis**

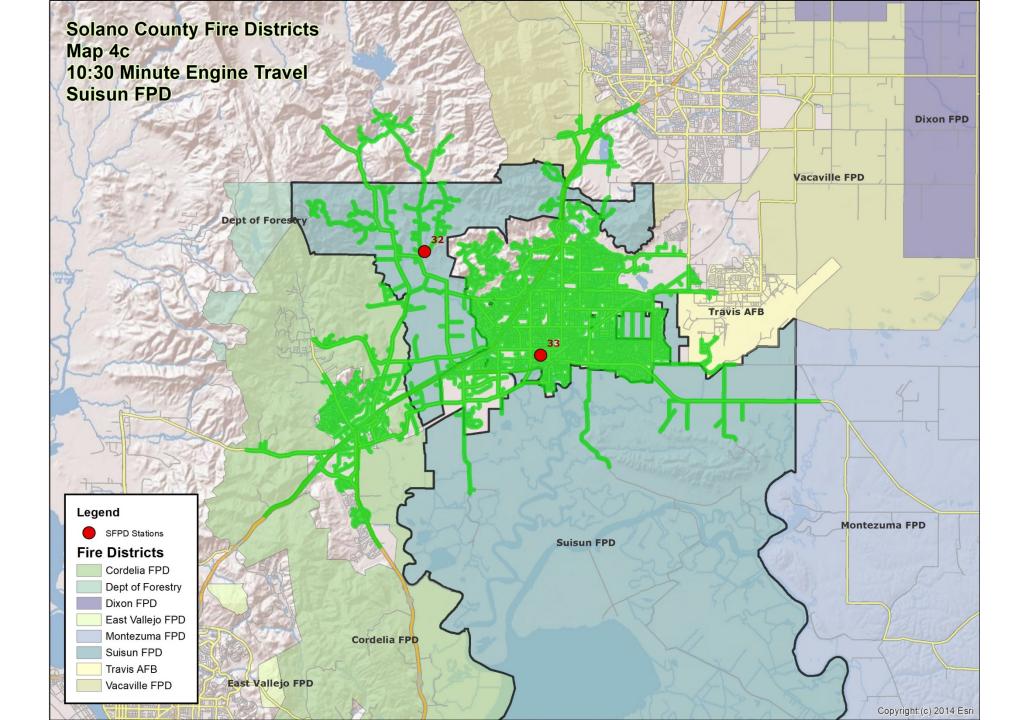


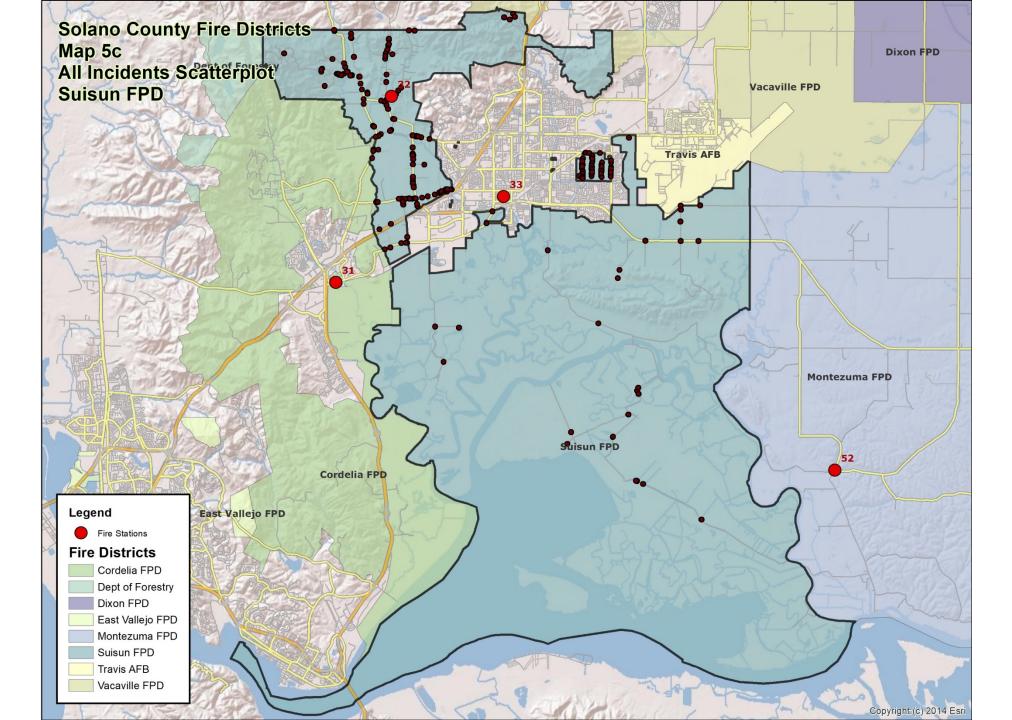


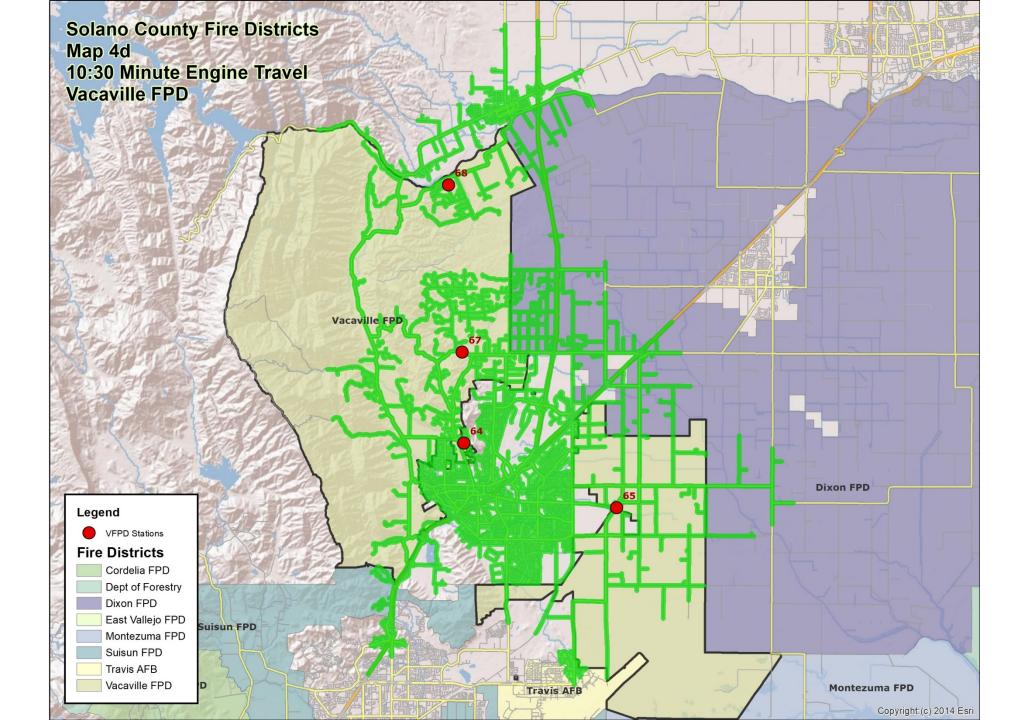


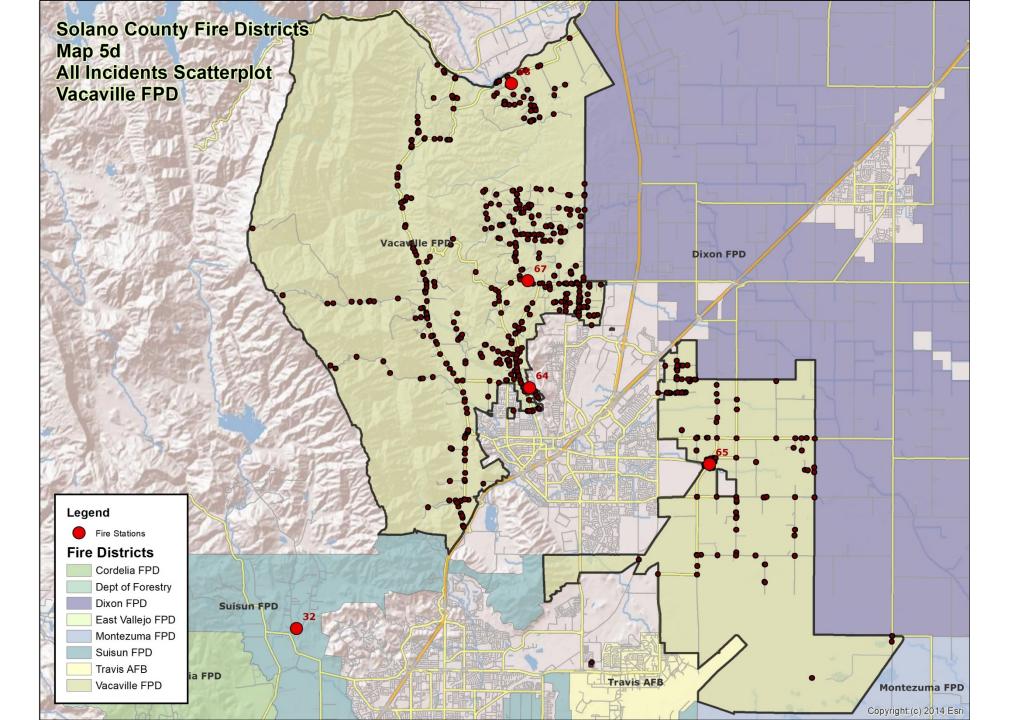












# NFPA 1720 Travel Time Coverage (10:30 Minutes)

District	Total Public Road Miles	Miles Covered at 10:30 Minutes	Percentage of Total Miles Covered
Cordelia	94	71	75.53%
Montezuma	209	95	45.45%
Suisun	105	68	64.76%
Vacaville	194	170	87.63%
Total	602	404	67.11%

# **Response Performance**

### **3-Year Response Performance Summary**

		90th Percentile Performance				
Response Element	Goal (Minutes)	Cordelia FPD	Montezuma FPD	Suisun FPD	Vacaville FPD	
Call Processing / Dispatch	1:30	3:06	3:37	3:46	3:47	
Crew Turnout	2:00	3:14	3:46	4:24	4:07	
1st-Unit Travel	10:30	11:08	16:09	14:34	16:44	
Dispatch to Arrival	14:00	12:57	18:16	17:24	18:40	

# Physical Assets Assessment

### **Fire Station Facilities**

District	Fire Station	Square Feet	Age (Years)	Number of Apparatus	Condition
Cordelia	29	1,600	46	3	Poor
Cordena	31	11,939	81	4	Fair
Montezuma	51	n/a	66	6	Fair
Wiontezuma	52	n/a	9	3	Excellent
Suisun	32	2,520	36	4	Good
Suisuii	33	6,573	66	8	Fair
	64	n/a	39	6	Good
Vacaville	65	n/a	36	4	Good
	67	n/a	n/a	2	Fair
	68	n/a	10	4	Good
		Average	43	4	

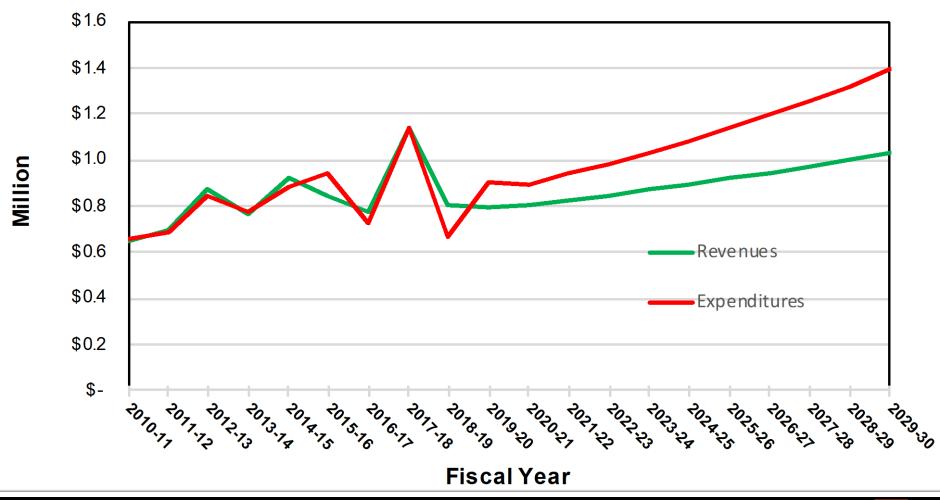
# **Response Assets**

District	Engines Type 1, 2 All-Risk	Engines Type 3, 4, 5, 6 Wildland	Water Tenders	Other	Total	Age Range (years)	Condition
Cordelia	3	2	1	4	10	6–26	Good-Poor
Montezuma	3	8	1	1	13	3–15	Excellent-Very Good
Suisun	2	4	2	6	14	2–39	Excellent-Good
Vacaville	7	8	3	12	30	0–46	Excellent-Poor
Aggregate Total	15	22	7	23	67		

# **Fiscal Analysis**

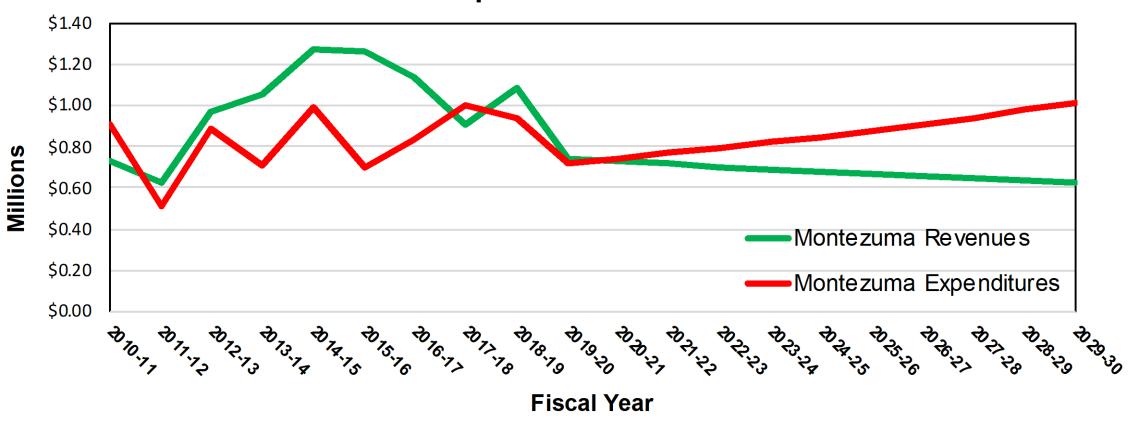
### Revenues to Expenditures - Cordelia

### Revenues to Expenditures - Cordelia FPD



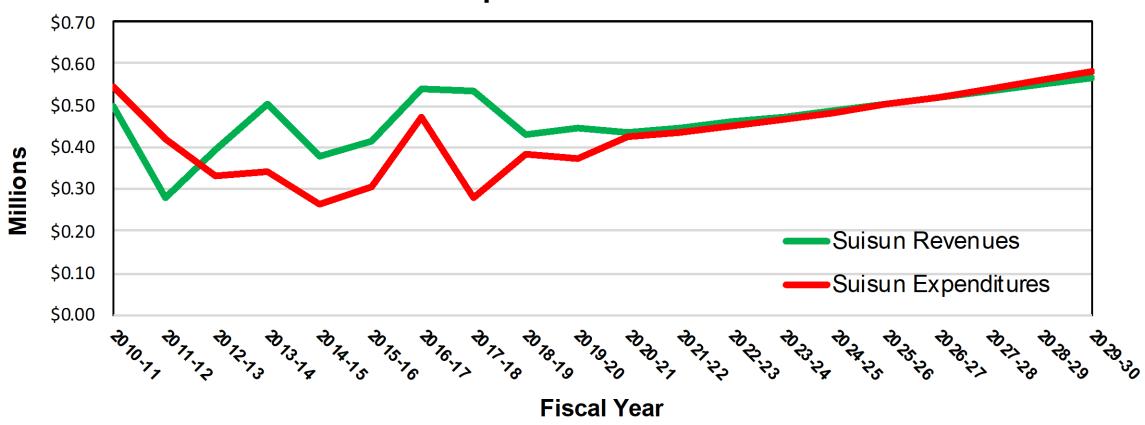
### Revenues to Expenditures - Montezuma

### **Revenues to Expenditures - Montezuma FPD**



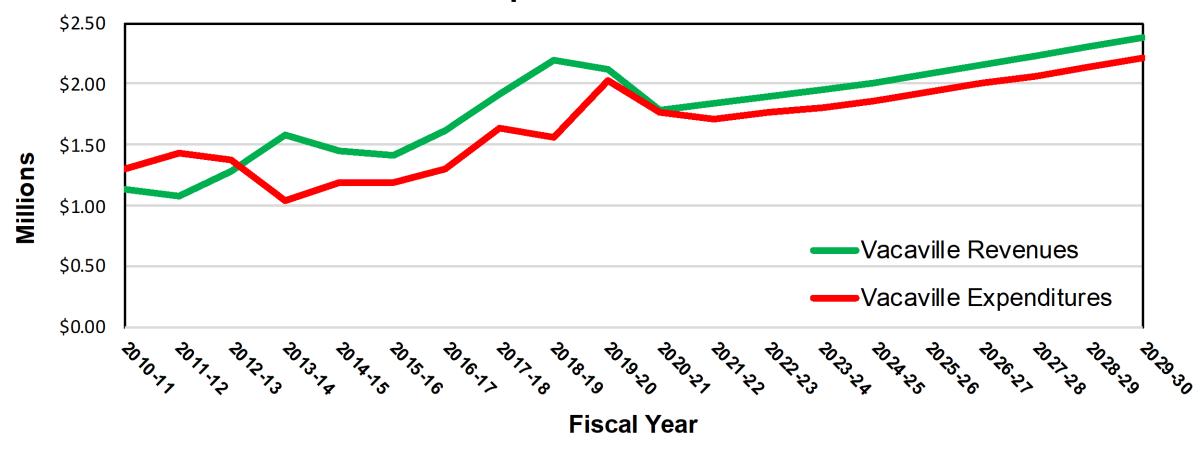
### Revenues to Expenditures - Suisun

### **Revenues to Expenditures - Suisun FPD**

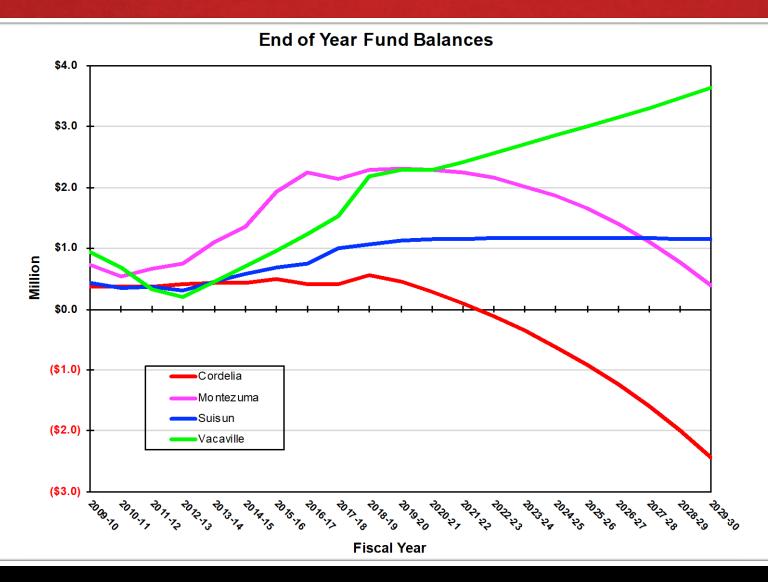


### Revenues to Expenditures - Vacaville

### Revenues to Expenditures - Vacaville FPD



### **Fund Balances**



### **Fiscal Observations**

- Suisun and Vacaville maintaining positive or neutral structural budgets
- Cordelia and Montezuma have projected structural budget deficits going forward
- Good reserve fund balances in Montezuma, Suisun, and Vacaville (\$1.06M-\$2.29M)
  - Cordelia fund balance: \$584K

# **Fiscal Observations (cont.)**

- Cordelia only district with special parcel assessment
  - Approx. \$340/parcel
  - Generates \$400K/year (46% of budget)
- Uncertain future property tax impacts in Montezuma
  - Depreciation of wind turbines
  - Increased assessed valuation from recent property sales

# **Fiscal Stability**

- Suisun and Vacaville fiscally stable over near-term future
  - Projected revenues meet or exceed projected expenditures
  - Stable to increasing reserve fund balances
- Montezuma fiscal stability uncertain
  - Future property tax revenue uncertainty
  - Sufficient reserve fund balance to offset projected budget deficits over nearterm
- Cordelia not fiscally sustainable beyond FY 2021–22 with current service model and revenues
  - Significant increasing annual structural budget deficit beginning in current FY
  - Fund balance projected to be depleted in FY 2022–23 without substantial new revenues and/or reduction in expenditures

# Potential Service Model / Governance / Fiscal Alternatives

- Consolidation of two or more districts
- Formation of a Countywide overlay with taxing/fee assessment authority
  - County Service Area
  - Community Services District
  - Fire Protection District
- Contract for fire protection services
  - City of Fairfield (Cordelia)
  - CAL FIRE
- *IF* funding available:
  - One or more paid two-person staffed stations 24/7
  - Estimated cost: \$1.1M/station

### **Emerging Recommendations**

- Consider ballot measure to increase tax revenue
  - Special parcel tax (Cordelia)
  - Sales tax
  - Countywide unincorporated Fire District
- Consider contracting for services
  - Cities
  - CAL FIRE
- Revert to a predominantly volunteer-based service model (Cordelia)

# Remaining Project Schedule

Deliverable	Anticipated Date
Mid-Project Review	Late March/Early April
Draft Report	Late April
Draft Report Review	Early May
Final Report	Mid/Late May
Final Report Presentation	TBD

# Questions?