



NEWS RELEASE

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As the First 75 Years Finish, the Next 75 Years Start With Fire District Name Change

After several months of discussion with staff and careful soul searching, the Board of Directors of the Salinas Rural Fire District agreed at its regular meeting on Tuesday to change the identity of the fire district. Beginning immediately, the Salinas Rural Fire District will bear the new moniker "Monterey County Regional Fire District," a name that reflects the evolution of the fire district from its mainly rural origins to its diverse character. Over the last 75 years, since its formation in 1934, the nearly 300 square-mile area has gradually matured, transforming its areas into agriculturally associated commercial facilities, industrial complexes, suburban neighborhoods, hotels and country clubs, as well as the traditional Salad Bowl row crops, rural estates and historic ranches. These various land uses reflect the diverse living and working environments that characterize this truly regional area of Monterey County, which includes the areas of the Highway 68 corridor, the northern Salinas Valley, community of Chualar, Bolsa Knolls, Boronda, and, most recently, the unincorporated areas of the former Fort Ord.

The fire district has maintained many interdependent relationships with its neighboring jurisdictions as it is situated around the City of Salinas and adjoined with several other communities and cities, including the cities of Monterey, Marina, Seaside, Del Rey Oaks, and the communities of Carmel Valley, rural Gonzales, and Prunedale. Since the advent of the Monterey County portion of the California State Mutual Aid System, the Monterey County Regional Fire District continues its participation in this vital and mutually beneficial agreement that allows fire agencies to assist one another in the event of large fire incidents or other emergencies that require additional personnel and equipment.

In 1934, the District was organized to help protect the various hay and grain crops that were prone to wildfires. The first Salinas Rural fire station was located on Salinas Street in the City of Salinas, co-locating with the Salinas Fire Department. Today, the Monterey County Regional Fire District has three stations located in the Serra Village/Toro Park area, at Highway 68 and Laureles Grade Road and in the community of Chualar. A fourth station is planned in the East Garrison area of the former Fort Ord.

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