

Frequently Asked Question about the Trinity Center Community Services District (CSD)



What is a Community Services District?

A Community Services District is an official governmental agency, authorized by the State of California pursuant to Section 6100 of the California Government Code. A CSD operates like a city government and can manage limited types of community services. Special districts provide only the services their residents desire.



When was the CSD formed?

The Trinity Center CSD was formed on September 18, 1961 by resolution of the Trinity County Board of Supervisors and a vote of 26 district residents. There were no votes against the district formation.



What does the Trinity Center CSD do?

The Trinity Center CSD manages the Trinity Center Volunteer Fire Department, maintains certain fire hydrants, and provides street lighting. The CSD is also authorized to provide recreational facilities.



Who manages the CSD?

The Trinity Center CSD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors that is accountable to the electorate in the same manner as city councils and county boards of supervisors. The CSD Board establishes policies for the operation of the district.



Who can run for CSD Board of Directors and how long is a term?

Any resident of the district can run for a Board of Directors position. A Director is elected by registered voters within the services district boundaries and serves a term of 4 years. The directors serve staggered terms with elections held for a lot of 3 positions and then a lot of 2 positions every two years.



Can a member of the Volunteer Fire Department be a member of the Board?

Yes; in fact, this situation was anticipated, considered and specifically approved by the California Legislature. Per California Government Code Section 53227: “(a) An employee of a local agency may not be sworn in to office as an elected or appointed member of the legislative body of that local agency unless he or she resigns as an employee. ... (c) This section does not apply to any volunteer firefighter who does not receive a salary [emphasis added], or where the salary the volunteer firefighter would otherwise receive is applied directly by the local agency toward the purchase of disability, life, health, or similar insurance coverage.” Examples of CSDs with VFD Board members include San Miguel, Hyampom, Salyer, Cosumnes, and Junction City CSD.



Has the CSD ever held elections for the Board of Directors?

The only time an election was held was in 2007. Every other year in which board member terms expired since the CSD formation in 1961, there were only as many volunteers to serve on the board as there were open positions. When a Board position is left vacant, either the remaining Board members may fill the vacancy by appointment or the Trinity County Board of Supervisors appoints a district resident to that position.



What real property is within the CSD boundries?

Since the annexation of December 2010, most private property within one mile of Highway 3 from Hatchet Creek to Cedar Stock Road is in the district. The district generally consist of whole sections of land, excluding federally owned parcels.



How is the CSD funded and what is its annual budget?

Every CSD that existed prior to 1978, including ours, is funded by an allocation of property tax revenue. Our CSD is allocated approximately 0.46% of all secured and unsecured property tax collected by Trinity County. Net of hold-backs by the State of California amounting to some 25% of the CSD’s allocated tax revenue, the annual Trinity Center CSD budget is typically between \$45,000 and \$50,000.



Can the CSD raise my taxes?

Not without voter consent. Prop 13 (1978) limits property taxes to 1% of the property value with a maximum annual increase in the assessed property value of 2% per year. If the CSD wants additional assessments, Prop 13 requires a 2/3 voter approval. A general obligation bond that raises property taxes also requires 2/3 voter approval. The district cannot raise taxes without convincing the voters that an increase is justified.