



ZAYANTE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

7700 E. Zayante Rd
Felton Ca. 95018

Date: December 19, 2025
To: Board of Directors, Fire Chief's – SLV Fire Districts Council
From: Board Chair, Mary Clark, Zayante Fire District
Subject: RING System and Alternative Strategies – Informational Workshop

Invitation: From the Zayante Fire Board of Directors for an Informational workshop addressing the Santa Cruz County Regional Interoperable Next Generation (RING) Radio System and alternative radio system strategies.

Save the date : January 22nd, 2026 from 6pm – 8pm.

Location : Zayante Fire Station 7700 E. Zayante Rd. Felton, CA 95018

RSVP : to facilitate logistical support (light refreshments and appetizers will be provided)

Email : firechief@zayantefire.com by January 19th with your RSVP>

Purpose

To provide Fire District Directors' adequate background information and a forum to clarify and understand the impact of the RING system on Fire District operations, the fiscal impact and the governance structure prior to decision making. Receive and discuss an overview to RING and alternate strategies to the RING system.

Background

On December 9, 2025 the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors approved the RING System proposal and engaged in a \$28 million dollar project with 10 year financing.

The Santa Cruz Fire Chief's Association has expressed significant reservations with the plan. Concerns focus on the governance structure, non-voting representation, supplanting of Net County costs, subscriber fee structure, service reliability and inequitable cost allocation formulas.

The adopted Master Service Agreement and current Agency cost burden is attached for your review.

The County of Santa Cruz projects participating members will contribute proportionally beginning FY26 for system support services. System buildout is not anticipated for three years starting FY30-FY32.

The MSA proposes an initial term of 10 years. Any member may withdraw providing 24 month notice and will remain responsible for its share of Operational and Capital fees until the withdrawal is effective.

Presenters will include Chief Correira, Scotts Valley Fire as representative to RING for the Santa Cruz County Fire Chief's Association ; Chief Jeff Maxwell, Zayante on the past and present radio system history ; Chief Jed Wilson, CZU Unit Chief on Cal Fire Dispatch processes. Others are welcome to add to the agenda to better inform our decision makers.

