

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

P. O. Box 944246  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460  
(916) 653-7772  
Website: [www.fire.ca.gov](http://www.fire.ca.gov)



June 23, 2021

To Supervisor Madrone,

The Westhaven Volunteer Fire Department provides critical support for fire, rescue and ems responses to the greater Westhaven and Trinidad areas, a large portion of these areas fall within CSA #4. The delivery of an effective response model for complex emergency incidents in this area takes a cooperative effort between several agencies including but not limited to CAL FIRE, Westhaven VFD, Arcata Fire, Trinidad VFD and Orick VFD. Currently the only agency listed that does not have a dedicated and consistent funding source is Westhaven VFD, during a March meeting of this year with yourself and the City of Trinidad staff I suggested the concept of evaluating the use of any leftover budgeted funds from CSA #4 after CAL FIRE has submitted their annual bill. Since the inception of CAL FIRE being the primary provider of fire/rescue services for CSA #4 in 1986, I am unaware of a year that CAL FIRE has billed the maximum amount of the contract as we only bill for actual costs. During recent years, due to extended fire seasons the time CAL FIRE spends under contract with the county has shortened from the full 7 months of Nov 1<sup>st</sup>- May 31<sup>st</sup> to an average of five months or less. If allowed by the tax measure for CSA #4 I fully support the use of leftover funds after CAL FIRE has billed for the year to be redirected in the support of the Westhaven VFD. I do want to be clear that on any given year CAL FIRE may bill for the full amount of the contract if those costs are incurred, I would view the leftover fund concept as a temporary solution while options for dedicated long term funding for Westhaven VFD are explored and secured.

Respectfully

  
**Joshua Bennett**  
**Battalion Chief Trinidad**  
**Cal Fire**  
Cell 707-599-4704  
Humboldt Del Norte  
[josh.bennett@fire.ca.gov](mailto:josh.bennett@fire.ca.gov)