

CSA 74 History/Background

History

The County Codes for CSA-74 are found at Chapter 15.29. In "Section 15.29.05 - Intent" it in part states the following:

"It is the intent of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey to provide for the continued funding of the Monterey County Emergency Medical Services System, including paramedic, ambulance, and related services..."

The following is an abbreviated history of CSA-74.

1988 November 1988, the County sponsored a ballot measure (an "advisory election") on the following question: "Shall the Board pursue the establishment of a countywide paramedic Emergency Medical Services program, which...will be financed by a benefit assessment on the real property within the county not to exceed twelve dollars for basic services and, if requested by a city, district, or zone, five dollars for discretionary supplemental services annually for each benefit unit?" The voters approved a measure by a 67.1% majority, and the board subsequently established CSA-74. Five-dollar supplemental assessment ("zones") were established for the following jurisdictions:

A	City of Salinas	May 1989
B	Mid-Carmel Valley Fire Protection District	May 1989
C	North County Fire Protection District	Dec. 1991
D	City of Monterey	Nov. 1994
E	Carmel Valley Fire Protection District	Nov. 1996

1989 In March of 1989, the Board of Supervisors forms CSA 74.
In May of 1989, the Board of Supervisors amended the ordinance governing CSA 74 as the language authorizing the five-dollar supplemental assessments by cities and districts, had been left out.

Annual hearings were held by the Board of supervisors to set the rates for all CSA's. The initial assessment fee for CSA-74 was set at \$9.10 per unit.

1994 Since its inception, CSA 74 has had a fund balance that has been rolled over annually. The "roll over funds" were available due to unfilled positions (salary savings) and incomplete project money. The EMS Agency considered the rollover funds as part of its revenue source. This enabled the Board and the EMS Agency to keep the service fees to the public at the lowest possible level. As of the end of fiscal year 1992-93 the rollover funds would be exhausted. In order to continue providing the same level of service in 1993-94, it would be necessary for the Board of Supervisors to increase the service fee.

The Monterey County Board of supervisors increased CSA-74 per unit assessment rate from \$9.10 to 11.90, for fiscal year 1993-94.

1996 In November 1996, California voters approved Proposition 218 (the "Right to Vote on Taxes Act"). This amended the state constitution to say that no property related "fee or charge may be imposed for general governmental services including, but not limited to, police, fire, ambulance or library services, where the service is available to the public at large in substantially the same manner as it is to property owners."

Under Proposition 218, a special tax may be used for such purposes if it is approved by a two-thirds vote of the electorate. Unfortunately, the CSA-74 charge was called a "benefit assessment" and not a "special tax."

1997 Bill Rentz, Deputy County Counsel promptly sought and obtained judicial permission (validation) for the County to continue to levy the CSA-74 charges until our primary ambulance contract expired on January 1, 2001. Before then, we were required to seek a two-thirds voter approval to change the CSA-74 levy to a special tax.

2000 On March 7, 2000, voters approved a measure to change CSA-74 from a "benefit assessment" to a "special tax" by a 70.9% majority. Other jurisdictions ran similar measures on the same ballot. The results are as follows:

City of Monterey	72.7%	Passed
City of Salinas	53.1%	Failed
City of Gonzales	70.8%	Passed
City of Soledad	65.1%	Failed
Soledad Rural Fire District	74.5%	Passed

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors through a public hearing process set the CSA-74 per unit assessment rate at its maximum allowable of \$12.00 for fiscal year 2000-01.

General Information

The (now) special tax for CSA 74 is assessed in accordance with the Monterey County Land Use Codes. The basic unit is a single-family dwelling. All other land uses are either a percentage or multiple of that basic unit.

The present rate for one unit is \$12.00. The rate is set annually, by the Board of Supervisors through a public hearing process. The rate history is as follows:

1989-90	\$9.10
1990-91	\$9.10
1991-92	\$9.10
1992-93	\$9.10
1993-94	\$11.90
1994-95	\$11.90
1995-96	\$11.90
1996-97	\$11.90
1997-98	\$11.90

1998-99	\$11.90
1999-00	\$11.90
2000-01	\$12.00
2001-02	\$12.00
2002-03	\$12.00
2003-04	\$12.00
2004-05	\$12.00
2005-06	\$12.00
2006-07	\$12.00
2007-08	\$12.00
2008-09	\$12.00
2009-10	\$12.00
2010 -11	\$12.00
2011 -12	\$12.00
2012-13	\$12.00
2013-14	\$12.00
2014-15	\$12.00
2015-16	\$12.00
2016-17	\$12.00
2017-18	\$12.00

The approximate number of parcels billed by CSA 74 for Fiscal Year 2016-17 is listed below:

Tax Code 93500 (CSA units)	117,926	\$1,600,870
Tax Code 88520 (Trailer spaces and hotel rooms)	<u>297</u>	<u>72,821</u>
	118,223	\$1,673,691

Trailer Spaces and Hotel Rooms are calculated differently as there may be many of them on a single parcel.

CSA 74 revenue does not increase substantially. On average it increases by 1% annually. The only way for it to increase is new building and/or reallocation of land use.