

SECTION 10.0 COUNTY SERVICE AREAS

10.1 Profile

County Service Areas (CSAs) are established as a means in which to provide enhanced municipal services within unincorporated areas. CSAs are dependent special districts, governed by the County Board of Supervisors. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors has adopted Policy A-48 allowing the formation of a CSA “when it is critical to the health, safety and welfare of residents in unincorporated Riverside County.” Parcels within each CSA are assessed annually based on a budgetary amount sufficient to cover the services and provide for any capital needs. Countywide, there are 60 CSAs. Within the western Coachella Valley there are eight CSAs, as shown below in *Table 10.1, County Service Areas*.

**Table 10.1
County Service Areas**

General Information	
CSA Management:	Riverside County Economic Development Agency 1157 Spruce Street Riverside, CA 92507 (951) 955.8916 www.rivcoeda.org
CSAs included in this MSR	
CSA 13 – N. Palm Springs Lighting/ 232.8 acres	Street lighting
CSA 15 – N. Palm Springs Oasis / 310.5 acres	Street lighting
CSA 47 – W. Palm Springs Village / 83.9 acres	Street lighting
CSA 60 – Pinyon Fire Protection / 9,186.5 acres	Fire protection
CSA 104 – Sky Valley / 23,661 acres	Roads
CSA 105 – Happy Valley Road Maintenance / 1,943.2 acres	Roads, park and recreation
CSA 115 – Desert Hot Springs / 241.6 acres	Street lighting, roads
CSA 152 – Countywide Street Sweeping	Street sweeping
CSA 152 – NPDES – City of Desert Hot Springs	Stormwater management / NPDES permit
CSA 152 – NPDES – City of Palm Springs	Stormwater management / NPDES permit
CSA 152 – NPDES – City of Rancho Mirage	Stormwater management / NPDES permit

The CSAs are shown on the following *Figures 10.1 through 10.3*.

Insert Figure 10.1 – County Service Areas No. 13, 15, 47 & 115

Insert Figure 10.1a – Detail Area of Portions of County Service Areas No. 13 & 15

Insert Figure 10.2 – County Service Areas No. 104 & 105

Insert Figure 10.3 – County Service Area No. 60

10.2 Governance

The authority to establish and provide services through a County Service Area is granted to counties under the County Service Area Law (Government Code Section 25210 et seq.) CSAs are dependent special districts and are governed by the County Board of Supervisors of the principal county in which a CSA is located. In 2002, the Riverside County Board of Supervisors placed the responsibility of managing the CSAs under the Economic Development Agency. The Board has adopted Policy A-48 that provides guidance for the formation, alteration and operation of CSAs. Furthermore, it has adopted Ordinance No. 573, establishing charges for extended services provided in County Service Areas.

10.3 Financial Condition

County Service Areas are primarily funded through a special tax approved by two-thirds majority of the CSA's registered voters, and assessments approved by a simple majority of property owners in a CSA. The collection of taxes, assessments, and fees is subject to the requirements of Proposition 218. With the exception of CSA 152, each of the CSAs within the study area was formed prior to the enactment of Proposition 13 so they receive property tax revenue. For most streetlight CSAs, property taxes are sufficient to pay for the services provided.

CSA budgets accumulate funds for current and future operations, capital purchases and projects, and to sustain services until tax and assessment revenues become available each January. As dependent special districts, the CSAs are included in the County's annual adopted budget and accounted for as a Special Revenue Fund in the County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

CSAs are charged annually for administrative expenses, including the costs of any losses occurring within the CSA or establishment of a reserve for such losses. The charge is based on administrative complexity and is currently set at the following rates:

- 6.0% Street lighting
- 8.5% Street sweeping or CSA 152 (NPDES)
- 10% Road, fire, or combined services (without employees)
- 15% Combined services (with employees)

The annual per parcel assessments are shown below in *Table 10.2, CSA Assessments FY 2005-2006 and FY 2006-2007*.

Table 10.2
CSA Assessments FY 2005-2006 and FY 2006-2007

CSA	# of Parcels	2005-2006	2006-2007	Change
CSA 13 – North Palm Springs	120	\$9.36	\$9.36	None
CSA 15 – Palm Springs	n/a	0	0	None

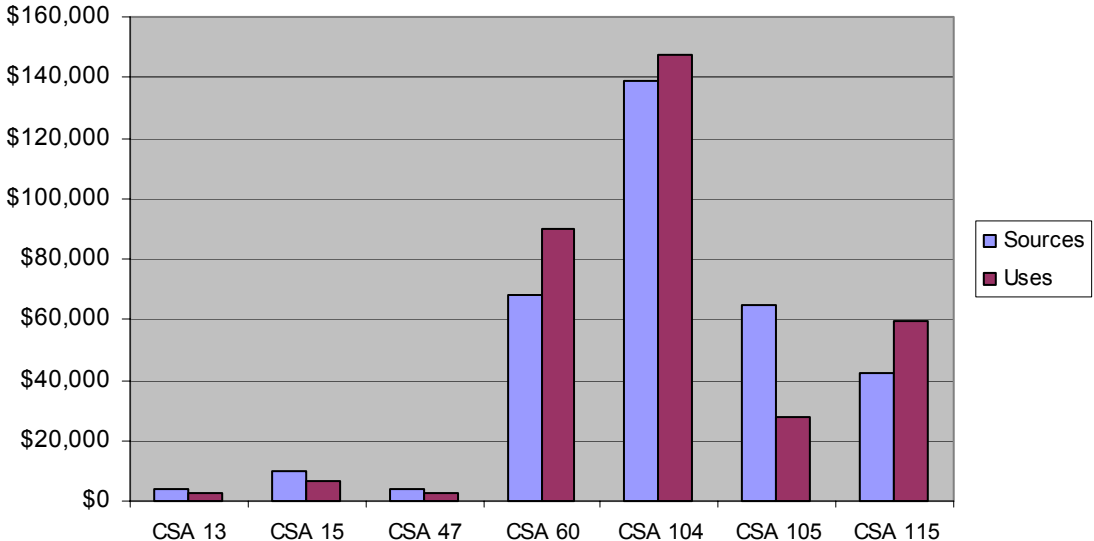
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CSA	# of Parcels	2005-2006	2006-2007	Change
CSA 47 – West Palm Springs	n/a	0	0	None
CSA 60 – Pinyon Fire Prot.	2,387	\$25.00	\$25.50	2%
CSA 104 – Sky Valley	1,590	\$65.00	\$65.00	None
CSA 105 – Happy Valley Rd.	394	\$125.00	\$125.00	None
CSA 115 – Desert Hot Springs	568	\$71.76 to \$350.00	\$71.76 to \$350.00	None
CSA 152 – Countywide Street Sweeping	42,002	\$40.00 avg	\$5.98 to \$60.00	
CSA 152 – NPDES – Desert Hot Springs	5,782	\$1.56 BAU	\$1.56 BAU	None
CSA 152 – NPDES – Palm Springs	25,033	\$9.50 BAU	\$9.50 BAU	None
CSA 152 – NPDES – Rancho Mirage	11,306	\$4.68 BAU	\$4.68 BAU	None

n/a = not available
 BAU = Benefit Assessment Unit; single family residence on 7,200 SF lot – 1 BAU

Figure 10.4, CSA Budget Summary, provides a three-year average of the budgets for the CSAs within the study area. It should be noted that the data does not include reserves; some of the data reflects the purchase of a capital asset, such as a new fire rescue squad vehicle for CSA 60 or the implementation of a major project.

Figure 10.4
 CSA Budget Summary (3-year Average)



Note: figure depicts average budget for FY 2004-2005, 2005-2006 and 2006-2007

10.4 Projected Growth

Population projections within individual CSAs are not estimated by the County or SCAG. As discussed in *Section 2.0, Regional Population Growth*, the unincorporated areas within the Coachella Valley are projected to experience significant growth over the next 25 years. CSAs are generally formed to serve areas that are developed or where development is imminent. The current CSAs are established, and with their pre-Proposition 13 status, it is unlikely that the voters would approve a significant expansion. It is more likely that another district would be created to provide services.

Government Code Sections 25210.9 and 22613 provide for automatic detachment from a CSA when area is annexed into a city, unless the city chooses to participate in the County NPDES program.

10.5 Fire Service

CSA 60 – Pinyon Flats is located within the San Bernardino National Forest south of the City of Palm Springs. The area is under the joint management of the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The Pinyon Fire Station is located at 70080 Highway 74-103, approximately 1 mile before Palm Canyon Drive. CSA 60 provides funding for additional fire protection service, including the acquisition of a new fire rescue squad vehicle. In 2003 fire staff from BLM’s Palm Springs –South Coast Office partnered with community volunteers, Fire Safe Council members from Idyllwild, the California Department of Forestry and the Riverside County Fire Department to reduce critical vegetation fuel loads.

10.6 Roads

Three CSAs provide services for roads: CSA 104 for Sky Valley, CSA 105 for maintenance of Indio Hills Roads, and CSA 115 for Desert Hot Springs (unincorporated area). The Board Policy states that the formation and expansion of Road Improvement CSAs is discouraged. With the enactment of Proposition 218, it is difficult to improve roads with a pay-as-you-go approach. It is the Board’s intent that road CSAs should exist for as long as it takes to complete the road improvement plan and bring the CSA roads into the County-maintained road system. CSAs are directed to focus their financial resources on projects which result in permanent improvements, such as right-of-way perfection, engineering, drainage improvements, and paving. Maintenance grading is not considered a permanent improvement. The three CSAs were formed prior to Proposition 13, and it is likely they will continue for the foreseeable future.