

County of Shasta

Geographically, the County of Shasta is located at the northernmost end of the greater Sacramento Valley. Only Siskiyou County separates Shasta County from the Oregon border. Shasta County is bounded by Tehama County on the south, Trinity County on the west and Lassen County on the east.

Shasta County is one of California's original 27 counties. Created by California's first Legislature on February 18, 1850, Shasta County was carved out of a larger "county" consisting of 20,000 square miles that extended from Butte County on the south to the Oregon border on the north, and from the summit of the coastal range on the west to the State of Nevada on the east. Shasta County is now estimated at 3,850 square miles, or approximately 2.46 million acres. In 2001, according to the State Department of Finance, Shasta County had a total population of 167,000, with approximately 68,000 living in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Shasta County has three incorporated cities – Anderson, Redding, and Shasta Lake – as well as a number of unincorporated towns and communities among them: Lakehead, Castella, LaMoine, French Gulch, Mountain Gate, Jones Valley, Bella Vista, Palo Cedro, Millville, Shingletown, Whitmore, Oak Run, Igo, Ono, Happy Valley, Montgomery Creek, Round Mountain, Big Bend, Burney, Hat Creek, Old Station, Fall River Mills, McArthur and Cassell

Shasta County's first government, a Court of Sessions consisting of the County Judge and two Justices of the Peace, was also established in 1850. This new government first met in 1851 on the ranch of Major P.B. Reading, a prominent figure in the County's history. After the first meeting, the gold mining town of Shasta became the County Seat. The City of Redding replaced Shasta as the County Seat in 1888.

In 1855 a Board of Supervisors was created and it was initially composed of members from three districts. Today the Board of Supervisors is made up of members from five districts that are roughly equal in population. The boundaries of the supervisorial districts are adjusted every ten years following the federal census. Supervisors are elected to four-year terms that expire on a staggered basis.

As a general law county, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors is responsible for setting County policy, approving an annual budget and administering selected dependent special districts. Other elected officials in Shasta County government are the Sheriff-Coroner, District Attorney, County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, Auditor-Controller, Treasurer/Tax Collector/Public Administrator and the Assessor-Recorder. State law prescribes the duties and powers of these positions. Other County officials, department heads and members of certain boards and commissions are appointed by the Board of Supervisors, or by the County Administrative Officer as authorized by the Board of Supervisors.

The County has approximately *1587 full-time staff positions allocated to some two-dozen departments and programs. Programs and services provided by Shasta County government include public protection, public ways and facilities, health and public assistance, education and recreations, special districts, and general government.

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