



South Placer Fire Protection District

SPFD-D

This letter and survey have been sent to property owners and voters who receive their fire protection and emergency medical services from the South Placer Fire Protection District. Please read the following letter from the Fire Chief and the information on the other side of this sheet and then complete the short survey enclosed. Your survey responses will help the District make important decisions about future services and priorities.

Dear Member of the Fire District:

The South Placer Fire Protection District is responsible for fire protection and emergency medical services in the area of your property and/or residence. The District's primary revenue source is a share of local property taxes. A major challenge the District now faces is that over the last four years its revenues have decreased as a result of declining property values.

In response to its revenue decreases, the District has been working to become more efficient and has already reduced expenditures by \$700,000 per year. To achieve these savings, the District has:

- *eliminated 15 front line firefighting positions and 2 operational support positions*
- *removed a fire engine (staffed with fire/emergency personnel) from service*
- *reduced staffing on the remaining engines from 3 to 2 firefighters, which reduces firefighting ability*
- *postponed needed fire equipment replacement*
- *reduced retirement contributions for firefighters*
- *negotiated firefighter and administrative salaries lower than similar fire districts in the area*

While these measures cut costs, they also compromise the effectiveness and promptness of our fire protection and emergency medical services.

Even after these cutbacks, the District's expenses still exceed its diminished revenues. Therefore, in order to prevent additional cutbacks in local fire protection and emergency services, the District is considering its options for a local funding measure. There are four options under consideration, summarized as follows:

- **No Additional Funding:** *If no additional local funding is approved, the District's reduced expenses will still exceed revenues. As a result, the District will be forced to further reduce expenses, including making additional, difficult, cutbacks to its local fire and emergency services.*
- **Lowest Cost Option:** *A local funding measure at the rate of \$60 per home per year would prevent further service cutbacks, but would not re-instate the recently cut firefighters or bring back the fire engine removed from service; each fire engine will still be short staffed and response times for fires and medical emergencies would still be longer than recommended in many instances.*
- **Mid-Level Option:** *A local funding measure at the rate of \$85 per home per year would prevent further service cutbacks, would re-instate some of the recently cut firefighters, and would restart the fire engine removed from service. This option would improve response times to fires and medical emergencies, but each engine will still be short staffed, hampering firefighting effectiveness.*
- **Full Service Option:** *A local funding measure at the rate of \$110 per home per year would prevent further service cutbacks, would re-instate the recently cut firefighters and would put the closed fire engine back into 24/7 service. This option would provide improved/fast response times to fires and medical emergencies and would allow each fire engine to be staffed 24/7 with 3 professional firefighters, providing the appropriate level of fire and emergency services for the District.*

The District is seeking your input regarding the four options summarized above. Please read the following information, complete the enclosed survey and indicate your opinion about the options presented to you in the survey, and then return it in the envelope provided. Thank you for your input.

Sincerely,

Fire Chief Tony Corado

Sincerely,

Board President Craig Powell