

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Board of Supervisors

BOARD AGENDA # *A-5

Urgent

Routine

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

(Information Attached)

AGENDA DATE May 19, 2015

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Authorize the Chairman of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors to Sign and Submit Property Owner Ballots in Support of the Increased Assessment for the Salida Fire Protection District Fire Suppression Assessment 2015 for those Properties Owned by Stanislaus County

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Authorize the Chairman of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors to Sign and Submit Property Owner Ballots in Support of the Increased Assessment for the Salida Fire Protection District Fire Suppression Assessment 2015 for those Properties Owned by Stanislaus County.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Thirty-three assessment ballots have been received for County owned property within the Salida Fire Protection District. If a majority of the ballots returned to the District are in support, the assessment may be levied for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 and may be continued in future years to fund fire protection and emergency response services as directed by the District's Board of Directors. This assessment will replace the existing assessment approved in 2007. The assessment for these thirty-three parcels will be \$790.43 per year and will be absorbed in the Public Works Department's budget.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2015-216

On motion of Supervisor Chiesa, Seconded by Supervisor O'Brien,
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Chiesa, Monteith, De Martini, and Chairman Withrow

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) _____ Denied

3) _____ Approved as amended

4) _____ Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST:


ELIZABETH A. KING, Assistant Clerk

File No.

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DISCUSSION:

Proposition 218 was a statewide initiative approved by the voters in November 1996. It requires that property owners, through a ballot procedure, approve certain assessments and increases in those assessment districts. Since the County is an owner of properties within the Salida Fire Protection District it is therefore eligible to vote in the ballot process for this district. This item authorizes the Chairman of the Board to be the authority authorized to cast the ballots of support on behalf of the County.

POLICY ISSUE:

The Board of Supervisors is the voting authority, on behalf of the County, for the thirty-three County owned properties within the Salida Fire Protection District boundaries. This item comes under the Board of Supervisors' Priority for a Safe Community.

STAFFING IMPACTS:

There are no staffing impacts associated with this item.

CONTACT PERSON:

Christine Ferraro Tallman, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors Telephone: 209-525-4494

SALIDA FIRE PROTECTION

FIRE SUPPRESSION ASSESSMENT 2015



Notice & Ballot Information Guide

Why Did You Receive This Ballot?

You are a property owner served by the Salida Fire Protection District and are being asked to vote on a proposed funding measure to provide improved fire protection and emergency response services to the communities of Del Rio, Salida and Wood Colony.

The official ballot in this envelope is your opportunity to participate in deciding whether local funding should be approved for continued and enhanced fire protection, fire suppression and emergency response services. Your vote on this matter is important because only returned ballots will be counted. **Please vote and return your signed ballot on or before June 17, 2015.**

The Salida Fire Protection District

The Fire District is a Special District, a self-governed and independent agency led by a five-member board.

The District is responsible for the protection of a variety of geographical areas, ranging from residential neighborhoods, commercial and industrial buildings, rural areas, State Routes 99, 219 and 108, as well as the Stanislaus River. The District covers 42 square miles and serves a population of approximately 20,000 people residing in approximately 5,500 housing units.

The District has three fire stations, of which one is staffed 24/7 and the other two stations house equipment available for volunteer/reserve firefighters to operate.

Why is a Funding Measure Needed?

The Fire District is primarily funded from local property taxes as well as revenue received from a previous benefit assessment. The current funding for fire protection and emergency response services has not kept pace with the increases in demand for these services, as well as higher, more costly standards of care, maintenance costs and training requirements.

A Citizens' Advisory Committee and the Fire District, after performing an in-depth review, believe that the community will be better served by staffing an additional fire station to improve coverage and emergency response times. This assessment would provide funding to allow the District to staff two fire stations 24/7, one of which would be in Salida and the other located at Tully and Ladd Road.

Salida FPD Proposed Assessment By Property Category

Property Category	Proposed Maximum Annual Assessment	Unit of Measure
Single Family Residential <3,000 sq. ft.	\$156.24	/Unit
Single Family Residential >=3,000 sq. ft.	\$195.30	/Unit
Multi-Family Residential	\$117.18	/Unit
Commercial	\$0.0473	/Square Foot
Industrial	\$0.0401	/Square Foot
Agricultural	\$1.58	/Acre
Non-Agricultural Undeveloped or Vacant Land	\$2.66	/Acre
Institutional Developed (Public Assembly, Educational, Religious)	\$263.64	/Parcel
Institutional Undeveloped (Publicly Owned)	\$2.66	/Acre

Salida Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 1335
Salida, CA 95358
(209) 545-0365

METHOD OF VOTING

To complete the enclosed official ballot, mark the square next to either YES or NO, sign the ballot, and place it in the provided return envelope and mail to Salida Fire Protection District, P.O. Box 1335, Salida, CA 95358. You may also hand deliver it at the public hearing scheduled at 7:00 p.m. on June 17, 2015. Only official ballots which are signed and marked with the property owner's support or opposition will be counted. ***Ballots are due Wednesday, June 17, 2015.***

If you lose your ballot, require a replacement ballot, or want to change your vote, call the Salida Fire Protection District at (209) 552-3862 for another ballot. See the enclosed ballot for additional instructions. Ballots are weighted by the proposed amount of assessment and will be tabulated accordingly. The assessment will not be imposed if, upon the conclusion of the public hearing, weighted ballots submitted in opposition to the assessment exceed the weighted ballots submitted in favor of the assessment. If a majority of weighted ballots returned are in support, the assessment may be levied for fiscal year 2015-16 and may be continued in future years to fund fire protection and emergency response services as directed by the Board.

How was the Assessment Determined?

The annual cost for personnel, over and above normal property tax revenues, was allocated to each property based on the estimated special benefit received. The method of benefit allocation is based on the relative special benefit to a property in relation to the type of property and its size. The type of special benefit would primarily include increased safety and protection of real property. An Engineer's Report describing the proposed services, method and basis upon which the amount of the proposed assessment was calculated, special benefits, budgets and proposed assessment for each parcel is available for review at the Salida Fire Station, 4820 Salida Blvd., Salida, CA 95368.

How Much is the Proposed Assessment

The proposed assessment for your property or properties for fiscal year 2015-16 is printed on the Official Ballot included with this notice and information guide. The assessment amount that each type of property would pay is shown in the table on the previous page of this notice and information guide.

This proposed assessment would replace the existing assessment that property owners already pay.

The assessment will be continued in future years as long as the Fire District approves the annual resolution for continuation of this assessment. In future years, after 2015-16, the assessment can only be adjusted for inflation by an amount equal to the change in the California Consumer Price Index, but not to exceed 3% per year. This annual adjustment, which must be reviewed and approved annually at a public meeting, will help keep the assessment revenues in line with the cost of providing fire protection and emergency response services.

Public Accountability Standards

Included in the proposal is the formation of an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee that will review and monitor the revenues and expenditures as well as be regularly audited by an independent auditor. Both the Citizens' Oversight Committee and the independent auditor will present their findings annually to the Fire District Board and community.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. at the Salida Fire Station, 4820 Salida Blvd., Salida, California. You are invited to attend the public hearing. Tabulation of the returned ballots will commence after the close of the public input portion of the hearing and the official results of the tabulation are expected to be announced at the Board meeting on July 15, 2015.