

RESOLUTION NO. 2015-08

GREENFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 380 OAK AVE, GREENFIELD, CA

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GREENFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ADOPTING INTENDED BALLOT LANGUAGE, AND CALLING AND PROVIDING FOR AN ELECTION TO BE HELD IN SAID DISTRICT ON AUGUST 25, 2015 FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS THE QUESTION OF THE ADOPTION OF A SPECIAL FIRE TAX FOR FIRE PROTECTION, EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE AND RESCUE SERVICES, AND REQUESTING ELECTION SERVICES BY THE MONTEREY COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, The Greenfield Fire Protection District is not part of the City of Greenfield government, is an independent fire district governed by five local board members; and

WHEREAS, The Greenfield Fire Protection District Board of Directors is authorized and charged to provide fire protection and emergency medical response services; and

WHEREAS, significant increases in fire protection and emergency medical service costs and community needs have occurred since the passage of the existing special fire assessment established in 2009; and

WHEREAS, The Greenfield Fire Protection District's (hereafter referred to as the District) current funding sources, including the SAFER grant expiring in March 2016, are inadequate to fund the desired level of fire protection and emergency medical response services; and

WHEREAS, The Board of the Greenfield Fire Protection District (hereafter referred to as the Board) has identified the need for these services is increasing due to population growth and changes in demographics, and will affect critical response times if not addressed; and

WHEREAS, The Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the District's citizens to ensure the ongoing and long-term fiscal integrity of the District while continuing to provide the appropriate levels of fire protection and emergency medical response services for the local community by maintaining the current operational capacity of a functioning station by retaining the current level of staffing; and

WHEREAS, The Board desires to responsibly increase the funds available for fire protection and emergency medical response services by proposing a balloted special fire tax to the local community; and

WHEREAS. The Board has determined that, in light of the increased demands on the District for emergency medical response and fire protection services, to request the support and approval by the voters to impose a new special tax on taxable real property within the District to provide revenues that can be used for the full range of

emergency medical, rescue and fire protection response services provided by the District; and

WHEREAS, The Board has determined that, in the event no additional revenue is secured for emergency medical response and fire protection services within the District, it will be forced to eliminate firefighter positions thereby reducing its service level on nights and weekends, jeopardizing the ability of the District to safely effectively respond to emergency calls; and

WHEREAS, if the tax measure passes it will insure minimum staffing of two personnel year-round twenty four hours per day, and if it does not pass, staffing will be one career personnel on duty nights and weekends, when fifty percent of calls for service occur, and if volunteers are not able to respond back to the fire station the fire engine would not respond with only one firefighter; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the provisions of Article California Health & Safety Code section 13911 and Government Code sections 50075-50077.5, the Board is authorized to adopt this resolution which shall, subject to the approval of the voters, impose a special property tax which shall be applied against all taxable real property within the District; and

WHEREAS, The Board has also determined that it is in the best interest of the community to seek voter approval, which will require approval by two-thirds voters voting thereon, for the proposed special property tax in order to be able to maintain appropriate fire protection and emergency medical response services; and

WHEREAS, if approved by the voters, the proposed special fire tax will be used solely for the purpose of maintaining and improving the current level of public safety services within the District, with all funds staying in the local community comprised of the District's boundaries.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GREENFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

It is the determination of the District that the following measure be a special all mail ballot to be held on the 25th day of August, 2015. The special tax shall not become effective unless approved by two-thirds of the registered voters of the District voting thereon, at which election the issue to be presented to the voters shall be:

To fund emergency medical services for quicker responses to heart attacks, vehicle accidents, and other emergencies, recruit and retain qualified personnel to provide necessary responsiveness to protect our homes and businesses from fire and other disasters, and plan for the District's long term fiscal well-being, shall an annual special tax be authorized at a base rate of \$73.00 per tax unit with a cost-of-living adjustment, and all revenue staying in our local community?

1. <u>Calling for the Election</u>. The Board of Directors hereby calls an election for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters within the District the question of the approval of the proposed special tax as adopted by this Resolution, shall be submitted to the registered voters within the District. Pursuant to the provision of California Elections Code Section 10002, the Board of Directors hereby requests the

Monterey County Board of Supervisors to authorize and direct the Monterey County Clerk to serve as the election official conducting this election, in all respects. This election shall be a special all mail ballot election in the County of Monterey, and will not be combined with any other applicable election conducted on the same day.

- 2. <u>Use of Funding.</u> If approved by the voters, the special tax will be used solely for the purpose of supporting and providing fire protection, prevention, rescue and emergency medical services within the District, for any responses outside of the District under automatic/mutual aid agreements with other fire protection or emergency service agencies, and for any incidental expenses related to the collection of the tax.
- 3. <u>Election Services and Canvassing.</u> The District authorizes and directs the County of Monterey Elections Department, at District expense, to provide all necessary election services and to canvass the results of said election.
- 4. <u>Election Costs.</u> Pursuant to Elections Code Section 10002, the District shall reimburse the County of Monterey in full for the services performed upon presentation of a bill to the District.
- 5. <u>Tax Imposed</u>. An annual special tax on each parcel within the Greenfield Fire Protection District is hereby imposed as follows:

Property Type	Rate					
Residential Dwelling Unit (base rate)	\$73.00 for the first dwelling unit					
Residential Dwelling Units (if more than 1 unit)	\$58.40 for each additional dwelling unit (80% of base rate)					
Unimproved (vacant/parking lot)	\$36.50 per parcel (50% of base rate)					
Unimproved (agricultural/open space)	\$50.37 per parcel (69% of base rate)					
Commercial, Industrial, Office, Recreational Property	\$0.05 per square foot of building area					

The levy of the special property tax shall be subject to the following provisions:

- a. Where properties have multiple uses, the higher special tax rate will be levied.
- b. Multiple business located on one parcel shall be treated as if it were on one parcel owned by one individual/company. The total square footage of each building will be added together for a total cost per parcel. It will be the responsibility of the complex owner to allocate the cost to each individual business.
- 7. Inflation Adjustment. The Board of Directors may annually, by resolution passed by a simple majority of the Board, adjust the rate by an amount based upon changes in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 3% WHICHEVER IS LESS. The District will consider changes using data provided by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, for the preceding calendar year (or, if discontinued, a comparable index), as of December of each succeeding year. Under no circumstances can the cost of living adjustment be put in place without the proposed modification of the fee being publicly noticed and placed on the agenda of the Greenfield Fire Protection District Board of Director's regular meeting with an opportunity for public input and discussion.

- 9. <u>Increase of Appropriations Limit</u>. Pursuant to Article VIIIB of the California Constitution, the appropriations limit of the Greenfield Fire Protection District shall be increased in the amount equal to the proceeds of the special tax. The increase in the District's spending limit shall be deemed effective beginning in the 2015-2016 fiscal year.
- 10. <u>Method of Collection</u>. The special tax imposed by this ballot measure is due from each owner of record of a parcel within the Greenfield Fire Protection District as reflected upon the rolls of the County Assessor at the same time ad valorem tax is due and is to be collected in the same manner. The Monterey County Tax Collector shall collect the tax and any penalty or interest due hereunder. The full amount due under this special tax shall constitute a debt to the Greenfield Fire Protection District.
- 11. <u>Appeals.</u> Any property owner who is assessed a special tax as provided for herein may appeal any determination by the District concerning the nature of the use of the property or the calculation of the amount of the tax by filing a notice of appeal with the District offices. Any such appeal shall be filed by December 15 of each year for which the tax is being appealed. (For example, an appeal for taxes imposed for the 2015-2016 fiscal year shall be filed by December 1, 2015.) The appeal shall be filed on the form provided by the District and shall contain a statement by the property owner as to the nature and basis for the appeal.

Upon receipt of a timely filed appeal, the District Board shall schedule an appeal hearing. The property owner shall be notified by mail at least 20 days prior to the date of the appeal hearing. At the appeal hearing, the property owner shall have the burden of producing evidence sufficient to establish that (1) the nature of the use (classification) of the property is in error or (2) the amount calculated for the tax based on the use of the property is in error. The property owner shall also have the affirmative obligation of providing evidence to establish the correct nature of the use of the property and all other factors relevant to the proper calculation of the special property tax.

It is the intent of this Section to provide an effective and timely administrative remedy to any property owner who contests the levy of the special property tax by the District. Thereafter, any legal action or proceeding to challenge the levy of a special property tax as provided herein shall be filed within 90 days of the Board's decision on the property owner's appeal. The Board's decision on appeal shall be accompanied by written findings of fact, if requested by the appealing property owner. Any such request for findings of fact shall be made at the commencement of the appeal hearing and notice of this requirement shall be provided in the notice of the hearing mailed to the property owner 20 days prior to the hearing date.

- 12. <u>Separate Accounting & Expenditure.</u> The special tax revenues shall be deposited into a separate fund held by the Monterey County Treasurer, in accordance with Government Code Section 50075.1, and shall be expended according to a budget developed annually by the District staff and approved and adopted by the District's Board of Directors.
- 13. <u>Annual Reporting</u>. The District's chief fiscal officer will cause to be filed an annual report with its Board of Directors no later than January 1, 2016, and at least once a year thereafter. The report shall include the amount of special tax revenues collected and expended, and which shall otherwise comply with the accountability measures established in Government Code Sections 50075.1 et seg.

- 14. <u>Citizens' Oversight Committee.</u> A citizens' oversight committee appointed by the Board will review the expenditure of tax revenues, and report on the use of those revenues. If approved by registered voters, all available funds from this measure would be used to provide fire protection and emergency response services. In addition, funds would be expended under strict accountability standards including public hearings and reviews by an independent Citizens' Oversight (Watchdog) Committee to ensure all funds are spent as intended. The Oversight Committee, composed of able community members and staff, will be established to be advisory to the District. The Oversight Committee will annually review District compliance with the terms of this Measure. The size, structure, and scope of the duties of the Oversight Committee shall be set by the Board.
- 15. <u>Effective Date</u>. This special tax shall be deemed established and shall be in effect as of the day following the election date of August 25, 2015, upon certification of the election results evidencing approval by at least two-thirds of the participating registered voters, and approved by the Board of Directors of the District. The special tax shall be levied against all taxable real property within the District beginning with the 2015-2016 fiscal year (starting July 1, 2015). If approved by the voters, the special tax shall continue until repealed by the Board of Directors or by the voters.
- 16. <u>Validation Pursuant to CCP Section 860 et seq.</u> Pursuant to the provisions of Government Code Section 50077.5 any judicial action or proceeding to attack, review, set aside, void or annul this resolution and/or the approval of the subject special property tax and/or increase in the spending limitation pertaining to the special property tax shall be commenced, if at all, within 60 days of the date of the adoption hereof.
- 17. <u>Severability.</u> If any section, or part thereof, of this Resolution is held invalid or unenforceable by any court, such action shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion of this Resolution.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Greenfield Fire Protection District, County of Monterey, held on the 22 day of May, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT: O

ATTEST:

Duf F/ff President

Board of Directors

Greenfield Fire Protection District

Clerk of the Board

Board of Directors

Greenfield Fire Protection District

EXHIBIT A

FULL TEXT OF SPECIAL TAX MEASURE

GREENFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT PARCEL TAX FOR FIRE PROTECTION, EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE, AND RESCUE SERVICES

The Greenfield Fire Protection District, which is not a part of the City of Greenfield, is the sole provider of fire protection and emergency response services within the City of Greenfield, and the rural areas surrounding the City.

In order to maintain prompt local fire protection and emergency medical response services within Greenfield Fire Protection District, maintain adequate fire station staffing and prevent the imminent layoff of personnel so firefighters are available to respond to all emergencies, and adequately train and equip firefighters, the District proposes to levy a special tax on each taxable parcel of land within the District at the following annual rates:

Property Type	Rate					
Residential Dwelling Unit (base rate)	\$73.00 for the first dwelling unit					
Residential Dwelling Units (if more than 1 unit)	\$58.40 for each additional dwelling unit (80% of base rate)					
Unimproved (vacant/parking lot)	\$36.50 per parcel (50% of base rate)					
Unimproved (agricultural/open space)	\$50.37 per parcel (69% of base rate)					
Commercial, Industrial, Office, Recreational Property	\$0.05 per square foot of building area					

The Board has determined that, in the event no additional revenue is secured for emergency medical response and fire protection services within the District, it will be forced to eliminate firefighter positions resulting in reducing its service level on nights and weekends to one firefighter on duty, when fifty percent of calls for service occur. In the event that no volunteers are able to respond to the fire station, personnel would not respond with only one firefighter, jeopardizing the ability of the District to safely and effectively provide assistance to emergency calls.

This parcel tax will ensure continued fire protection and rapid emergency medical response services for all residents and visitors in the District.

To ensure these revenues keep pace with the cost of providing local fire protection and emergency response services, the rate may increase in future years by an annual amount not to exceed 3% per year, based upon changes in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 3%, WHICHEVER IS LESS. Under no circumstances can the adjustment be enacted without the proposed modification being placed on the agenda of a Greenfield Fire Protection District Board of Directors' regular meeting providing for public input and discussion.

If approved by the voters, the District's appropriations limit will be increased by the amount of this voter-approved tax.

The revenue shall be deposited into a separate account for the District, in accordance with Government Code Section 50075.1, and shall be expended according to a plan

developed annually, and approved and adopted by the Board. A citizens' oversight committee appointed by the Board will review and report on the expenditures.

The District will file an annual report with its Board, which shall comply with the accountability measures established in Government Code Sections 50075.1 et seq.

Any owner assessed may appeal the determination concerning the nature of use of the property or the calculation of the tax by filing a notice of appeal with the District. Any appeal shall be filed by December 1st of the year for which the tax is levied.



Greenfield Fire Protection District

380 Oak Avenue • Greenfield, California 93927 • (831) 674-5484

Resolution No. 2015-09

GREENFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 380 OAK AVE, GREENFIELD, CA

RESOLUTION ORDERING AN ELECTION, REQUESTING COUNTY ELECTIONS TO CONDUCT THE ELECTION, AND REQUESTING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE ELECTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Elections Code Section 10002, the governing body of any city or district may by resolution request the Board of Supervisors of the County to permit the County Elections Official to render specified services to the city or district relating to the conduct of an election; and

WHEREAS, the resolution of the governing body of the city or district shall specify the services requested; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Elections Code Section 10002, the city or district shall reimburse the county in full for the services performed upon presentation of a bill to the city or district; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Elections Code Section 10400, whenever two or more elections, including bond elections, of any legislative or congressional district, public district, city, county, or other political subdivision are called to be held on the same day, in the same territory, or in territory that is in part the same, they may be consolidated upon the order of the governing body or bodies or officer or officers calling the elections; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Elections Code Section 10400, such election for cities and special districts may be either completely or partially consolidated; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Elections Code Section 4108, Notwithstanding any other provisions of law and regardless of the number of eligible voters within its boundaries a district may, by resolution of its governing board, conduct any election by all-mailed ballots pursuant to Division 4. An election conducted pursuant to this section shall be held on a date prescribed in Section 1500 or on any other date other than an established election date; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Elections Code Section 10403, whenever an election called by a district, city or other political subdivision for the submission of any question, proposition, or office to be filled is to be consolidated with a statewide election, and the question, proposition, or office to be filled is to appear upon the same ballot as that provided for that statewide election, the district, city or other political subdivision shall, at least 88 days prior to the date of the election, file with the board of supervisors, and a copy with the elections official, a resolution of its governing board requesting the consolidation, and setting forth the exact form of any question, proposition, or office to be voted upon at the election, as it is to appear on the ballot. Upon such request, the Board of Supervisors may order the consolidation; and

WHEREAS, the resolution requesting the consolidation shall be adopted and filed at the same time as the adoption of the ordinance, resolution, or order calling the election; and

WHEREAS, various district, county, state and other political subdivision elections may be or have been called to be held on August 25, 2015;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GREENFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AS FOLLOWS:

That a mail ballot election be called and consolidated with any and all mail ballot elections also called to be held on **August 25**, **2015** insofar as said elections are to be held in the same territory or in territory that is in part the same as the territory of the requests the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey to order such consolidation under Elections Code Section 10400 and 10403.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that pursuant to Elections Code Section 10002 said governing body hereby requests the Board of Supervisors to permit the Monterey County Elections Department to provide any and all services necessary for conducting a mail ballot election and agrees to pay for said services in full, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Monterey County Elections Department shall conduct the election for the following MEASURE to be voted on at the August 25, 2015 election:

To fund emergency medical services for quicker responses to heart attacks, vehicle accidents, and other emergencies, recruit and retain qualified personnel to provide necessary responsiveness to protect our homes and businesses from fire and other disasters, and plan for the District's long term fiscal well-being, shall an annual special tax be authorized at a base rate of \$73.00 per tax unit with a cost-of-living adjustment, and all revenue staying in our local community?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED THAT Monterey County Elections Department is requested to print the attached full measure text EXHIBIT A

exactly as filed or indicated on the filed document in the Voter Guide for the **August 25**, **2015** election. Cost of printing and distribution of the measure text will be paid for by the city/district.

The contact number to be printed in the Voter Guide is (831) 796-1499 (EC §§ 9160, 9312)

In addition, the full text will be available at the following web site address: GreenfieldFireDistrict.com

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED THAT voter approval requirement is 2/3 of the returned valid ballots.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Greenfield Fire Protection District, County of Monterey, held on the 22 day of May, 2015 by the following vote:

AYES:

5

NOES:

ABSENT:

ATTEST:

/////President

Board of Directors

Greenfield Fire Protection District

May / orgun, Clerk of the Board

Board of Directors

Greenfield Fire Protection District

EXHIBIT A

FULL TEXT OF SPECIAL TAX MEASURE

GREENFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT PARCEL TAX FOR FIRE PROTECTION, EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE, AND RESCUE SERVICES

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This parcel tax will ensure continued fire protection and rapid emergency medical response services for all residents and visitors in the District.

To ensure these revenues keep pace with the cost of providing local fire protection and emergency response services, the rate may increase in future years by an annual amount not to exceed 3% per year, based upon changes in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose, CA Consumer Price Index (CPI) or 3%, WHICHEVER IS LESS. Under no

circumstances can the adjustment be enacted without the proposed modification being placed on the agenda of a Greenfield Fire Protection District Board of Directors' regular meeting providing for public input and discussion.

If approved by the voters, the District's appropriations limit will be increased by the amount of this voter-approved tax.

The revenue shall be deposited into a separate account for the District, in accordance with Government Code Section 50075.1, and shall be expended according to a plan developed annually, and approved and adopted by the Board. A citizens' oversight committee appointed by the Board will review and report on the expenditures.

The District will file an annual report with its Board, which shall comply with the accountability measures established in Government Code Sections 50075.1 et seq.

Any owner assessed may appeal the determination concerning the nature of use of the property or the calculation of the tax by filing a notice of appeal with the District. Any appeal shall be filed by December 1st of the year for which the tax is levied.

NOTICE TO THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OF MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VOTERS

Greenfield Fire Protection District

To the Registrar of Monterey County:

Notice is hereby given that the

The Board of Directors of the Greenfield Fire Protection District
has approved a
measure to be placed on the August 25, 2015 ballot.

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the Voter In	form	nation (s the m Guide fo of the n	or the	Augus	t 25, i	2 015	electi	on.	Cost	of pr	inting	

Seal of the District

Signature District Clerk of the Board

Dated: 5/22/15

EXHIBIT B

BALLOT QUESTION FOR SPECIAL TAX MEASURE

GREENFIELD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT PARCEL TAX FOR FIRE PROTECTION, EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE, AND RESCUE SERVICES

To fund emergency medical services for quicker responses to heart attacks, vehicle accidents, and other emergencies, recruit and retain qualified personnel to provide necessary responsiveness to protect our homes and businesses from fire and other disasters, and plan for the District's long term fiscal well-being, shall an annual special tax be authorized at a base rate of \$73.00 per tax unit with a cost-of-living adjustment, and all revenue staying in our local community?