



Fact Sheet: Measure U

Local Parcel Tax Measure on the Nov 2020 Ballot

Woodbridge Fire District (WFD) is a California local special district based in Northern San Joaquin County, providing all-risk fire, rescue and emergency medical services across a 198-square mile area including the communities of Woodbridge, Acampo, Collierville, Forest Lake, Tower Park, surrounding rural communities and 500 miles of Delta waterways.

As of July 1, 2020, WFD operates four fire stations that respond to approximately 2,000 emergency 911 calls per year. The Fire District, governed by a locally elected Board of Directors, has been deliberate and fiscally prudent, doing more with less, as demands have increased and revenues have decreased over the past several years. The problem: limited funding, rising expenditures and additional responsibilities. As Woodbridge Fire has taken on more, the State has not provided adequate revenue to perform the additional duties. Unfunded mandates have stretched our resources so far that we can no longer ensure the complete safety of our community. Due to budget constraints, firefighting positions have been lost without being replaced. Our capital budgets are stretched so thin that firefighting equipment is typically used well beyond its reasonable life cycle and our fire trucks are often down for repairs. Some firefighting and lifesaving equipment is so old it no longer meets current safety standards. Full staffing of fire stations isn't always financially possible. This has led to Fire Station 72 at West Lane and Armstrong Road being closed 42% of the time in 2019.

After a comprehensive Feasibility Study to inform Board decision-making, on August 6, 2020, the WFD Board of Directors voted to call for a local parcel tax election on the November 2020 ballot. The District has never gone to the public with a tax measure before now. Without additional funding, WFD will be forced to make tough choices to serve the community while also maintaining a balanced budget.

Measure U DEFINED: Measure U is a local parcel tax measure on the November 3, 2020 ballot seeking voter authorization to establish LOCAL funding to keep all fire stations open and maintain emergency rescue services for the Woodbridge Fire District. A "YES vote" approves funding for the District; a "NO vote" rejects the District's parcel tax proposal. All voters living within Woodbridge Fire District boundaries who are registered to vote will be eligible to vote on Measure U.

Measure U Official Ballot Question: "To maintain local fire protection and 911 emergency medical rapid response times; keep all fire stations open; maintain emergency rescue services; keep firefighting, lifesaving equipment/facilities up-to-date and restore/retain firefighter/emergency medical positions; shall Woodbridge Rural Fire Protection District's measure levying 8 cents per building square foot on improved parcels and \$45 per unimproved parcel annually for fire protection/emergency response, until ended by voters, providing \$1.2 million annually, requiring independent oversight, and all funds for Woodbridge Rural Fire Protection District services, be adopted?"

Measure U is a local tax measure. If approved by local voters, Measure U will authorize the District to collect an annual assessment from local property owners to supplement existing funding that WFD receives for its operations.

From the Measure U Summary – Measure U will: **keep** all Woodbridge fire stations OPEN; **protect** rapid-response times for fire and 911 emergency medical services; **maintain** emergency rescue services; **upgrade** firefighting/lifesaving equipment and facilities; and **restore/retain** firefighter and emergency medical positions

Taxpayer Facts: ALL Measure U funds will stay local for Woodbridge Fire District services. By law, the State cannot take Measure U funding away. Independent Citizens' Oversight and mandatory financial audits ensure proper spending.

For more information: Please contact Administrative Officer/District Secretary Diana Tidwell by phone at (209) 369-1945, by email at diana.tidwell@woodbridgefire.org, or visit our website at www.woodbridgefire.org