

Fire and Paramedic Services Funding Update

Fire and paramedic services for City residents, inclusive of brush inspection, emergency response, rescue, building construction-related services, and all personnel and equipment, are provided by a contract with the Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD). These essential public safety services provided by LACoFD costs the City approximately \$4.7 million a year. With no funding source available to cover the cost other than, for example, reducing the Police Department services or the City's reserves, the contract is paid by an assessment collected with property taxes (a special parcel tax). A special tax has been necessary to pay for fire and paramedic services since 1980 because other existing tax revenues that maintain and support current service levels and programs such as the Police Department are insufficient. The special parcel tax was last approved by 87.3% of City voters in 2007 for a term of 10 years. At least two-thirds of the votes cast for the measure are necessary for passage of the special tax measure to continue fire and paramedic services without impacting public safety services.

At its January 13, 2016 meeting, City Council agreed to evaluate funding alternatives for all routine, regular and emergency fire and paramedic services. To proceed, a Citizen Committee was assembled, comprised as follows.

Member	Sector of the City
Ronald Buss (Chair)	Lunada Bay
Tom Connaghan	Lunada Bay
Kristin Curren	Valmonte
Robin DeBaal	Lunada Bay
Amy Friedman	Montemalaga
Valerie Gorsuch	Malaga Cove
Helaine Lopes	Valmonte
Clark Margolf	Lunada Bay
Ellen Perkins	Lunada Bay
Lynn Solomita	Malaga Cove
William Um	Malaga Cove
David Wagman	Montemalaga

The Committee assessed the City's current and future financial positions and deliberated over alternate funding options. Committee members also received a report from NBS, an independent auditor contracted with the City to provide oversight of the funds collected through the special parcel tax. A variety of materials were prepared for the Committee that provided factual and historical information. With the material, the Committee was provided educational materials and public information.

The Committee's recommendation was to continue the existing special tax based on the existing formula that has been in place since 1991. The management of funds collected through this special tax are audited and are deposited in a special fund dedicated to this service, which prevents the use of these funds for any other purpose. The City Council must provide an annual review of the funding mechanism and management of funds generated by the special tax.

At its November 8, 2016 meeting, City Council voted to place before voters the special parcel tax on the ballot for consideration in the March 7, 2017 election. The existing 2007 special parcel tax includes a 10-year "sunset provision" that ends the funding for fire and paramedic services in June 2017. The proposed extension to the special parcel tax has a sunset provision again. It is a 12-year sunset through 2029 to coincide with future City elections being held in November.

To access the most up-to-date information regarding this matter, please visit <http://www.pvestates.org/services/fire-and-paramedic-department> or contact the City at (310) 378-0383.