



UKIAH VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT

AGENDA

(to be held both at the physical and virtual locations below)

Civic Center Council Chambers ♦ 300 Seminary Avenue ♦ Ukiah, CA 95482

To participate, go to the following link: <https://us06we.zoom.us/j/97717635120>
To view the meeting (without participating) go to: <http://www.cityofukiah.com/meetings/>

- Call (toll-free) 1-669-444-9171
- Enter the access code: 977 1763 5120
- To Raise your hand: Enter *9
- To Speak after being recognized: Enter *6 to unmute yourself

Or One Tap Mobile (for easy connection on Smartphones)
US: +16699009128..97717635120# or +12532158782..97717635120#

July 25, 2024
6:00 PM

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

If you wish to speak on a matter that is not on this agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Ukiah Valley Fire District Board, you may do so at this time. Please limit your comments to 3 minutes per person and a total of 10 minutes per subject. The Brown Act regulations do not allow action to be taken on audience comments in which the subject is not listed on the agenda.

4. **NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION/ACTION**

- 4.a. Resolution 2024- Revision of Code Reference Year, and addition of NFPA 1 Chapter 38 to the list of findings.

Recommended Action: Adopt the revised resolution 2024- (attachment 1 red line, attachment 2 clean) establishing findings of fact and the need for changes or modifications to the State Building standards code because of local conditions.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 2024 - Att 1 - Red 8-13-24
2. Resolution 2024 - Att 2 Clean 8-13-24

- 4.b. A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Fire District Acknowledging a Report on the District's Compliance with SB1205 and California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.4.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board of Directors receive Resolution #2024-XX, acknowledging acceptance of a report on the Ukiah Valley Fire District's compliance with SB1205 and California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.4.

Attachments:

1. UVFA RESOLUTION SB1205

- 4.c. Consideration of Adoption of Resolution 2024-XX Imposing a Special Tax for Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Consideration of Adoption of Resolution 2024-XY Calling for the Consolidation of Elections.

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 2024-XX Imposing a Special Tax for Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Adopt Resolution 2024-XY calling for the Consolidation of Elections.

Attachments:

1. Resolution 2024-XX
2. Resolution 2024-XY

5. ADJOURNMENT

Please be advised that the Ukiah Valley Fire District complies with ADA requirements and needs to be notified 72 hours in advance of a meeting if any specific accommodations or interpreter services are needed in order for you to attend. Materials related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the Ukiah Valley Fire District after distribution of the Agenda Packet are available for public inspection at the front counter at the Ukiah Valley Fire District Office, 1500 South State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482, during normal business hours Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing agenda was posted at the following location: Ukiah Valley Fire District Office - 1500 South State Street; Ukiah, California; and online not less than 24 hours prior to the meeting set forth on this agenda. To view the meeting, click on the name of the meeting at www.cityofukiah.com/meetings.

Stephanie Abba, Clerk of the Board

Dated: July 24, 2024



AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT

SUBJECT: Resolution 2024- Revision of Code Reference Year, and addition of NFPA 1 Chapter 38 to the list of findings.

DEPARTMENT: Fire

PREPARED BY: Matt Keizer, Chief Building Official /
Fire Code Official UVFD

PRESENTER: Matt Keizer, Chief Building Official /
Fire Code Official UVFD

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution 2024 - Att 1 - Red 8-13-24
2. Resolution 2024 - Att 2 Clean 8-13-24

Summary: Resolution 2024- was previously adopted and approved on January 9th, 2024. After further review, it was noticed that the code year had not been changed in the adopted version. We are changing the code year from 2013 to 2022 to match our existing ordinance. We are also adding into our findings NFPA 1 chapter 38 per the request of Mendocino County Council.

Background: The Fire District may establish more restrictive standards reasonably necessary because of local Climactic, Geological, or Topographical conditions. These findings of local conditions and adopted local standards must be filed with the California Building Standards Commission to become effective. Previous additions and amendments do not apply without appropriate adoption.

Discussion: The IFC and the California fire code are updated every three years and we're last updated and adopted in 2022 this is a routine update and adoption of the most recent Code year.

Recommended Action: Adopt the revised resolution 2024- (attachment 1 red line, attachment 2 clean) establishing findings of fact and the need for changes or modifications to the State Building standards code because of local conditions.

BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUIRED: None

CURRENT BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

PROPOSED BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

FINANCING SOURCE: N/A

PREVIOUS CONTRACT/PURCHASE ORDER NO.: N/A

COORDINATED WITH: N/A

Approved:

Approved: 
Doug Hutchison, Fire Chief

Doug Hutchison, Fire Chief

RESOLUTION 2024 –

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UKIAH VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT ESTABLISHING FINDINGS OF FACT AND NEED FOR CHANGES OR MODIFICATIONS TO THE STATE BUILDING STANDARDS CODE BECAUSE OF LOCAL CONDITIONS

CHANGES OR MODIFICATIONS: Pursuant to Section 13869.7, 17958.5, 17958.7, 17922 and 18941.5 of the State of California Health and Safety Code, the Board of the Ukiah Valley Fire District in its ordinance adopting and amending the 2022 Edition of the California Fire Code with reference to the 2021 Edition of the International Fire Code, changes or modifies certain provisions of the 2022 California Building Standards Code (Title 24, Part 9) as it pertains to the regulation of buildings used for human habitation. A copy of the text of such changes or modifications is attached.

Findings: Pursuant to Sections 17958.5, 17958.7, 17922 and 18941.5 of the State of California Health and Safety Code, the Board of the Ukiah Valley Fire District has determined and finds that the attached changes or modifications to the 2022 California Building Standards Code are needed and are reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geographic, and topographic conditions.

Local Conditions: Local conditions have an adverse effect on the prevention of (1) major loss fires, (2) major earthquake damage, and (3) the potential for life and property loss, making necessary changes or modifications to the 2022 California Fire Code, 2021 International Fire Code and the 2022 California Building Standards Code in order to provide a reasonable degree of property security and fire and life safety in this Fire District.

Below are listed adverse local climatic (see No. 1), geographic and topographic (see No. 2) conditions.

1. Climatic

- a. **Precipitation.** Precipitation ranges from 13 to 71 inches per year with an average of approximately 37 inches per year. Approximately eighty-nine percent (89%) falls during the months of November through April, and eleven (11%) from May through October.
- b. **Relative Humidity.** Humidity generally ranges from 35% during daytime to 85% at night. The humidity can drop to 12% or lower during the summer months.
- c. **Temperatures.** Temperatures have been recorded as high as 115 degrees F. Average summer highs are in the 86 to 91 degree range.

- d. **Winds.** Prevailing winds are from the northwest. However, winds are experienced from virtually every direction at one time or another. Velocities are generally in the 3 – 18 mph range, gusting to 33 mph, particularly during the summer months. Extreme winds, up to 50 mph, have been known to occur.
- e. **Summary.** These local climatic conditions affect the acceleration, intensity, and size of fire in the community. Times of little or no rainfall, of low humidity and high temperatures create extremely hazardous conditions, particularly as they relate to the ignition of structure fires which have the potential to burn into the vegetation (wildland), and vice versa. The winds experienced in this area can have a tremendous impact upon structure fires in buildings of close proximity to one another, commonly found in the residential neighborhoods throughout the Ukiah Valley. During structure, or wildland fires, winds can carry sparks and burning brands to other structures, thus spreading the fire and causing conflagrations. In building fires, winds can literally force fire back into the building and create a blowtorch effect, in addition to preventing “natural” ventilation and cross-ventilation efforts.

2. **Geographic and Topographic**

- a. The fire environment of a community is primarily a combination of two factors: the area’s physical geographic characteristics and the historic pattern of urban-suburban development. These two factors, alone and combined, create a mixture of environments, which ultimately determines the area’s fire protection needs.

The basic geographical boundaries of the District include Nelson Ranch Road to the south, Cleland Mountain to the west, Gold Gulch to the north and Cow Mountain to the east.

Because of the size of the Ukiah Valley Fire District (98 square miles), the characteristics of the fire environment changes from one location to the next. Therefore, the District has not one, but a number of fire environments, each of which has its individual fire protection needs.

The service area of the Ukiah Valley Fire District has a varied topography and vegetative cover. A conglomeration of valley floor, mountainous slopes, and ridges make up the terrain. Development has occurred on the flat lands in the central portion of the District. However, over the last thirty years, development has spread onto the surrounding mountainous slopes.

- b. **Seismic Location.** The relatively young geological processes that have created the San Francisco Bay Area are still active today. The District sits on the Maacama fault between the San Andreas fault to the west and the Bartlett Springs fault to the east.

- c. **Size and Population.** The Ukiah Valley Fire District covers 98 square miles including a population estimated at 35,000. Ukiah Valley Fire has the largest number of dispatches of any fire district in Mendocino County. Within the Fire Protection District are four (4) fire stations and a total of 34 Fire District personnel. The Fire Protection District handles diverse responsibilities including wildland, urban, freeway, and medical.
- d. **Roads and Streets.** The 2005 Regional Transportation Plan states that the mountainous nature of Mendocino County tends to minimize ground transportation options throughout the region. As a result, lengthy cul-de-sacs, dead-end roads, and looped road systems generally service many of the existing and new developments. Some planned unit developments are served by private roads, which create access problems (i.e., narrow paved widths and on-street parking).

The roadway systems on the flat lands within the Ukiah Valley Fire District are for the most part a grid or loop system. Many of the roads servicing residential areas on the east and west foothills of the District are narrow and winding affording difficult ingress to emergency apparatus. Ingress and egress into the foothill areas will be made extremely difficult by large-scale emergencies such as earthquake and wildland fire.

- e. **Topography.** The District's service area is a conglomeration of valley floor, mountainous slopes, and ridges. The flatter lands are found in the central portion of the District. Most of the existing urban and suburbanized areas are on relatively flat lands (0 – 5% slope).

Correspondingly, there is much diversity in slope percentages to the east and west of the valley floor. Slopes on the northeast side of the valley floor average 26% and range from 8-80%. Slopes on the southeast side of the valley floor average 35% and range from 9-80%. Slopes on the northwest side of the valley floor average 32% and range from 13-80%. Slopes on the southwest side of the valley floor average 48% and range from 6-80%. Slope is an important factor in fire spread. As a basic rule of thumb, the rate of spread will double as the slope percentage doubles, all other factors remaining the same.

Elevations are varied in the District with the most southwest turn on Ruddick Cunningham Road listed as 566 feet above sea level. Average elevation of the valley floor within the District is 585 feet above sea level. The highest elevation is located above Willow Creek on the eastside of the District at 2600 feet above sea level.

- f. **Vegetation.** The Ukiah Valley's semi-arid Mediterranean-type climate produces vegetation similar to that of most of Mendocino County, with specific growth locale a result of topography and prevailing wind. The south facing exposures are primarily annual grass with occasional clumps of Oak trees. The east, north, west facing slopes are heavily wooded from lower elevations to ridge with Oak, Madrone, Douglas-fir, Redwood, and minor shrubs of the general Chaparral class.

Expansion of the residential community into areas of heavier vegetation has resulted in homes existing in close proximity to dense natural foliage. Often such dwellings are completely surrounded by highly combustible vegetation compounding the fire problem from a conflagration point of view.

- g. **Hydrology.** The Ukiah Valley Fire District contains Lake Mendocino, the Russian River, Mill Creek, Robinson Creek and multiple ephemeral streams. Annual precipitation at or above the annual average of 37 inches can result in flooding along the Russian River and its tributaries. These flooding events lead to increased emergency response times for apparatus responding through or around the flooded roadways.

- h. **Summary.** The above local geographic and topographic conditions increase the magnitude, exposure, accessibility problems, and fire hazards presented to the Ukiah Valley Fire District.

Fire following an earthquake has the potential of causing greater loss of life and damage than the earthquake itself.

The majority of the Ukiah Valley's industrial/commercial complexes are located in close proximity to the Maacama fault. This fault zone also contains the largest concentration of hazardous materials. Hazardous materials, particularly toxic gases, could pose the greatest threat to the largest number, should a significant seismic event occur. The District's resources would have to be prioritized to mitigate the greatest threat, and may likely be unavailable for smaller single-dwelling or structure fires.

Other variables may tend to intensify the situation:

- 1) The extent of damage to the water system;
- 2) The extent of isolation due to bridge and/or freeway overpass collapse;
- 3) The extent of roadway damage and/or amount of debris blocking the roadways;
- 4) Climatic conditions (hot, dry weather with high winds);
- 5) Time of day will influence the amount of traffic on roadways and could intensify the risk to life during normal business hours;
- 6) The availability of timely mutual aid or military assistance;

Conclusion: Local climatic, geographic, and topographic conditions impact fire prevention efforts, and the frequency, spread, acceleration, intensity and size of fire involving buildings in this community. Further, they affect potential damage to all structures from earthquake, or flood, and subsequent fire. Therefore it is found to be reasonably necessary that the California Fire Code and the State Building Standards Code be changed or modified to mitigate the effects of the above conditions.

Furthermore, California Health and Safety Code Section 17958.7 requires that the modification or change be expressly marked and identified as to which each finding refers. Therefore, the Ukiah Valley Fire District finds that the following table provides code sections that have been modified pursuant to Ordinance 2024-1 which are building standards as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 18909, and the associated referenced conditions for modification due to local climatic, geological and topographical reasons.

<u>Section Number</u>	<u>Local climatic, geological and topographical conditions</u>
315.8	1e,2h
315.8.1	1e,2h
315.8.2	1e,2h
315.8.3	1e,2h
315.8.4	1e,2h
315.8.5	1e,2h
315.8.6	1e,2h
315.8.7	1e,2h
315.8.8	1e,2h
315.8.9	1e,2h
315.8.10	1e,2h
503.3.1	1e, 2a, 2d, 2e, 2f
503.4.2	1e, 2a, 2d, 2e, 2f
505.1	1e, 2h
505.3	1e, 2h
505.4	1e, 2c
505.5	1e, 2h
506.3	1e, 2h
1201.4	1e, 2h
903.2	1e, 2h
3314.1	1e,2h
Table B105.2	1e, 2h
BB105.1	1e, 2h
5704.2.9.6.1	1e, 2h
5706.2.4.4	1e, 2h
5806.2	1e, 2h
6104.2	1e, 2h
NFPA 1 Ch 38	1e, 2h

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Fire Chief of the Ukiah Valley Fire District shall provide a copy of the change or modification together with a copy of this resolution to the County of Mendocino pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 13869.7(b)

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Fire District, County of Mendocino, State of California on January 9, 2024, by the following vote:

AYE: Directors Bushby, Graham, Jennings, and President Haas

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

REVISED, by the Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Fire District, County of Mendocino, State of California on August 13, 2024, by the following vote:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

David B. Hass , President

ATTEST:

Stephanie Abba, Clerk of the Board

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Conclusion: Local climatic, geographic, and topographic conditions impact fire prevention efforts, and the frequency, spread, acceleration, intensity and size of fire involving buildings in this community. Further, they affect potential damage to all structures from earthquake, or flood, and subsequent fire. Therefore it is found to be reasonably necessary that the California Fire Code and the State Building Standards Code be changed or modified to mitigate the effects of the above conditions.

Furthermore, California Health and Safety Code Section 17958.7 requires that the modification or change be expressly marked and identified as to which each finding refers. Therefore, the Ukiah Valley Fire District finds that the following table provides code sections that have been modified pursuant to Ordinance 2024-1 which are building standards as defined in Health and Safety Code Section 18909, and the associated referenced conditions for modification due to local climatic, geological and topographical reasons.

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315.8.7	1e,2h
315.8.8	1e,2h
315.8.9	1e,2h
315.8.10	1e,2h
503.3.1	1e, 2a, 2d, 2e, 2f
503.4.2	1e, 2a, 2d, 2e, 2f
505.1	1e, 2h
505.3	1e, 2h
505.4	1e, 2c
505.5	1e, 2h
506.3	1e, 2h
1201.4	1e, 2h
903.2	1e, 2h
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Table B105.2	1e, 2h
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5706.2.4.4	1e, 2h
5806.2	1e, 2h
6104.2	1e, 2h
NFPA 1 Ch 38	1e,2h

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Fire Chief of the Ukiah Valley Fire District shall provide a copy of the change or modification together with a copy of this resolution to the County of Mendocino pursuant to California Health and Safety Code Section 13869.7(b)

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Fire District, County of Mendocino, State of California on January 9, 2024, by the following vote:

AYE: Directors Bushby, Graham, Jennings, and President Haas

NAY: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

REVISED, by the Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Fire District, County of Mendocino, State of California on August 13, 2024, by the following vote:

AYE:

NAY:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

David B. Hass , President

ATTEST:

Stephanie Abba, Clerk of the Board



AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT

SUBJECT: A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Fire District Acknowledging a Report on the District's Compliance with SB1205 and California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.4.

DEPARTMENT: Fire

PREPARED BY: Matt Keizer, Chief Building Official /
Fire Code Official UVFD

PRESENTER: Matt Keizer, Chief Building Official /
Fire Code Official UVFD

ATTACHMENTS:

1. UVFA RESOLUTION SB1205

Summary: On September 27, 2018, California Senate Bill 1205 (SB1205) became effective and added a new section to the California Health and Safety Code which affects every Fire Department or Fire District in the State. Existing state law requires every Fire Department or District providing fire protection services to inspect every building used as a public or private school annually. This same annual inspection requirement is applicable to hotels, motels, lodging houses, and apartment houses.

With the signing of SB 1205, the California Health Safety and Code was amended by adding Section 13146.4, which requires that all Fire Departments required to perform annual inspections pursuant to Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3 shall report annually to its administrating authority its compliance with Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3

Background: Annually, the Ukiah Valley Fire District is required to conduct inspections of all public and private schools, hotels, motels, lodging houses, and apartment/condominium buildings, in accordance with California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.2 and 13146.3. The purpose of annual fire inspections is to mitigate known hazards, reduce risk to the community, and ensure reasonable compliance with the California Fire Code. California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.2 mandates that the local Fire District inspect all hotels, motels, and condominium/apartment buildings (three units or more) once annually. In FY 23/24, the Fire District inspected 171 of 350 hotels, motels, condominiums, and apartment buildings. California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.3 mandates that the local Fire Department inspect all public and private schools once annually. In FY23/24 the Fire District inspected 18 of 18 school facilities.

Discussion: The Fire District completed 52.0% of its annual inspections of all known mandated buildings that are included within the mandate for fiscal year 2023 - 2024. In total, the Fire District conducted 195 of the 375 mandated annual inspections. The 195 inspections do not include the numerous re-inspections. Fire District staff continue to conduct re-inspections in response to deficiencies observed during initial inspections. It is the goal of the Fire Prevention Bureau to have this number at 100% next year as we continue to raise the number of completed inspections year over year.

The acceptance of this compliance report and the recommended Resolution fulfill the statutory requirements contained in California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.2, 13146.3 and 13146.4, as amended by SB1205.

Recommended Action: Staff recommends the Board of Directors receive Resolution #2024-XX, acknowledging acceptance of a report on the Ukiah Valley Fire District's compliance with SB1205 and California Health and Safety Code Section 13146.4.

BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUIRED: N/A

CURRENT BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

PROPOSED BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

FINANCING SOURCE: N/A

PREVIOUS CONTRACT/PURCHASE ORDER NO.: N/A

COORDINATED WITH: N/A

Approved:

Doug Hutchison, Fire Chief

RESOLUTION -#R-2024-XX

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UKIAH VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT ACKNOWLEDGING ACCEPTANCE OF A REPORT ON THE DISTRICT'S COMPLIANCE WITH SB1205 AND CALIFORNIA HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 13146.4

WHEREAS, Section 13146.4 was added to the California Health & Safety Code in 2018, and became effective September 27, 2018; and

WHEREAS, California Health & Safety Code Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3 require all fire departments, including the Ukiah Valley Fire District (District), that provide fire protection services to perform annual inspections in every building used as a public or private school, hotel, motel, lodging, house, apartment house, and certain residential care facilities for compliance with building standards, as provided, and

WHEREAS, California Health & Safety Code Section 13146.4 requires all fire departments, including the District, that provide fire protection services to report annually to its administering authority its compliance with Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Fire District intends this Resolution to fulfill the requirements of the California Health & Safety Code regarding acknowledgment of the District's compliance with California Health & Safety Code Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3:

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Fire District expressly acknowledge the measure of compliance of the District with California Health & Safety Code Sections 13146.2 and 13146.3 in the jurisdictional area of the District, as follows:

A. EDUCATIONAL GROUP E OCCUPANCIES:

Educational Group E occupancies are generally those public and private schools, used by more than six persons at any one time for educational purposes through the 12th grade. Within the District, there lie 18 known Group E occupancies, buildings, structures, and/or facilities.

During the fiscal year 2023/2024, the District completed the annual inspection of 18 Group E occupancies, buildings, structures and/or facilities. This is a compliance rate of 100% for this reporting period.

B. RESIDENTIAL GROUP R OCCUPANCIES:

Residential Group R occupancies, for the purpose of this resolution, are generally those occupancies containing sleeping units, and including hotels, motels, and apartments (three units or more). Within the District, there lie 351 known Group R occupancies of this nature.

During the fiscal year 2023/2024, the District completed the annual inspection of 171 Group R occupancies, buildings, structures and/or facilities. This is a compliance rate of 48.7% for this reporting period.

C. INSTITUTIONAL GROUP I OCCUPANCIES:

Institutional Group I occupancies, for the purpose of this resolution, are generally those occupancies where the use of a building or structure are for the purpose of providing care or supervision to persons who are incapable of self-preservation without physical assistance or in which persons are detained for penal or correctional purposes or in which the liberty of the occupants is restricted. Within the District, there lies 6 known Group I occupancy, building, structure and/or facilities.

During the fiscal year 2023/2024, the District completed the annual inspection of 6 Group I occupancy, buildings, structures, and/or facilities. This is a compliance rate of 100.0% for this reporting period.

PASSED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Fire District, County of Mendocino, State of California on August 13th, 2024, by the following vote:

AYE:

NAY: _____

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

David B. Hass , President

ATTEST: _____
Stephanie Abba



AGENDA SUMMARY REPORT

SUBJECT: Consideration of Adoption of Resolution 2024-XX Imposing a Special Tax for Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Consideration of Adoption of Resolution 2024-XY Calling for the Consolidation of Elections.

DEPARTMENT: Fire

PREPARED BY: Doug Hutchison, Fire Chief

PRESENTER: Doug Hutchison, Fire Chief

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution 2024-XX
2. Resolution 2024-XY

Summary: The Board of Directors will consider the adoption of Resolution 2024-XX, adopting Ordinance 2024-XX, imposing a special tax for fire and emergency medical services in the amount of \$33.50 per benefit unit.

Background: In 1997, the voters in the Ukiah Valley Fire District (UVFD) passed Measure J imposing a special tax of \$50.00 per benefit unit for fire and emergency medical services. In 2004, the voters passed an additional measure, Measure B, which imposed an additional special tax of \$10.00 per benefit unit specifically limited to funding equipment and training. Neither measure included an inflationary factor, and thus both have remained the same since the date of their enactment.

Discussion: In the 27 years since Measure J was enacted, and the 20 years since Measure B was enacted, the costs of providing fire and emergency services have risen significantly, while the revenue generated by the two measures has remained stagnant.

Ten years ago, the City of Ukiah, and the Ukiah valley Fire District (now combined as the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority), responded to approximately 2800 calls for service. In 2023, that number was 4620 calls for service. So far, in 2024, the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority is projecting to be near, or over 5000 calls for service for the year. The need for additional staff, to staff additional units has become a necessity.

Additionally, given the call volume, the wear and tear on the vehicles has increased greatly, leading them to have a shorter service life than 20 plus years ago, while the cost of replacing those vehicles has risen exponentially. Ukiah Valley fire Authority staff, along with City finance staff, partnered with NBS Inc. to analyze projected revenue needs, as well as options. NBS conducted polling of registered voters of the city and district to examine what might be feasible to achieve in additional revenue.

After several meetings, it was determined that the best course of action was to place a new special tax on the ballot, rather than try to repeal/replace Measures J and B. This new measure would impose a special tax of \$33.50 per benefit unit (\$67.00 total *per year* for a Single Family residence). Resolution 2024-XX (Attachment 1) imposes said special tax as.

Resolution 2024-XY (Attachment 2) requests the county to consolidate the election with the general election on November 5th, 2024. Passage of the measure will require a 66.67% approval by the voters.

Public notice of the special meeting was posted at the Ukiah Valley Fire Authority Headquarters, 1500 South State Street, and at the City of Ukiah Civic Center, 300 Seminary Avenue.

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 2024-XX Imposing a Special Tax for Fire and Emergency Medical Services and Adopt Resolution 2024-XY calling for the Consolidation of Elections.

BUDGET AMENDMENT REQUIRED: No

CURRENT BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

PROPOSED BUDGET AMOUNT: N/A

FINANCING SOURCE: N/A

PREVIOUS CONTRACT/PURCHASE ORDER NO.: N/A

COORDINATED WITH:

Approved:

Doug Hutchison, Fire Chief

RESOLUTION 2024- _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UKIAH VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT PROPOSING THE IMPOSITION OF A SPECIAL TAX AND ORDERING A SPECIAL TAX ELECTION TO BE CONSOLIDATED WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION OF NOVEMBER 5, 2024, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS OF THE DISTRICT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER OR NOT A SPECIAL PARCEL TAX SHOULD BE LEVIED

WHEREAS:

- 1 Pursuant to Government Code Section 50077, the District Board of Directors (“Board”) gave public notice that a public hearing would be held on _____, July __, 2024 regarding whether a resolution should be adopted calling for a special tax; and
2. Such duly noticed public hearing was held on July __, 2024, at which time all interested persons were given the opportunity to address the Board; and
3. After considering the testimony at said public hearing, the Board has concluded that the demand for fire protection services has increased dramatically in the 21 years since the last parcel tax was approved by the voters; and
4. As a result, the District’s ability to adequately fund fire protection and prevention services and emergency medical services requires additional revenue that is currently not available to the District, including from existing special taxes, the District’s share of ad valorem property taxes and other revenues available to the District; and
5. CalFire ranks the Ukiah area as a “very high” fire hazard risk, with increasingly common large fires like the 2017 Valley Complex Fire and the 2018 Mendocino Complex Fire; and
6. Firefighter equipment, tools and facilities need upgrades to protect the safety of emergency responders; and
7. Additional resources are needed to provide Ukiah Valley Fire District firefighters and paramedics with the resources they need to do their jobs protecting communities and saving lives each and every day; and

8. To secure the necessary authority to raise the needed additional revenue, pursuant to the authority provided by Government Code Sections 53978 and 50075-50077.5 and Health and Safety Code Section 13911, the Board has determined to submit to the voters the question of whether to impose a special tax for the purpose of obtaining, furnishing, operating, and maintaining fire suppression equipment or apparatus and paying for the salaries, benefits and training of fire-fighting personnel.

9. If approved by voters, all funds raised by this measure must be used within the local community to improve fire protection and emergency medical response services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A special tax election is hereby called to be held on November 5, 2024, in conjunction with the statewide general election to approve or disapprove the levy of the hereinafter described special tax. Upon approval of two-thirds of the voters cast by the voters voting upon the proposition, the District may levy the tax.
2. The tax to be imposed, if approved by the voters, will be effective December 1, 2024, as authorized by Health and Safety Code Section 13911 and Government Code Sections 50075 and 53978 to be used for the specific purpose of obtaining, furnishing, operating, and maintaining fire suppression equipment or apparatus and paying for the salaries, benefits and training of fire fighting and paramedic personnel.
3. A special account shall be created into which the proceeds shall be deposited.
4. The Fire Chief or his designee shall file an annual report with the Board of Directors in January of each year indicating both of the following:
 - (a) The amount of funds collected and expended.
 - (b) The status of any project authorized to be funded.
5. The rate of tax to be imposed shall be \$33.50 per unit using the uniform schedules and rates found in Section 7 of Ordinance 97-1, as passed and adopted by the voters of the Ukiah Valley Fire District at the Special Consolidated Election held on March 4, 1997. On the first day of each 12-month period thereafter the unit rate of special tax then in effect shall be increased or decreased by the percentage change over that twelve-month period in the San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward Consumer Price index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

("BLR") or an equivalent index if the BLR index is discontinued. This annual cost of living adjustment shall not exceed two percent (2%).

6. The special tax shall be collected in the same manner and subject to the same penalty as, or with, other charges and taxes fixed and collected by the agreement with Mendocino County on behalf of the District and the County may deduct its reasonable costs incurred for such service before remittal of the balance to the District.
7. This tax shall be in addition to any other tax that the District is authorized by law to collect and receive including, but not limited to, the \$50.00 per unit of special tax authorized by Ordinance 97-1 and the \$10 per unit special tax authorized by Resolution No. 2003-7 approved by the voter in the general election on November 4, 2003.
8. If any section, subsection, sentence, phrase or clause of this Resolution is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Resolution. The Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Fire District here declare that they would have adopted the Resolution and each section despite the fact that one or more sections, subsections, phrases or clauses be declared invalid.
9. Each property owner in the District shall, within thirty (30) days after mailing the notice of the special tax bill for that fiscal year, have the right to file a written appeal with the District protesting the levy of such special tax. The filing of an appeal is not grounds for failing to timely pay the entire amount of taxes specified in the tax bill as due. If in deciding an appeal the special tax is either reduced or increased as a result of the decision by the Board of Directors, the special tax shall either be refunded, or the increased amount collected. The property owner, and/or their designated representative, may appear and present evidence and argument at the protest hearing in support of the appeal.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED, by the Board of Directors of the Ukiah Valley Fire District, County of Mendocino, State of California, at a [regular/special] meeting held on July __, 2024, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

_____, President

RESOLUTION 2024-

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UKIAH VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT REQUESTING CONSOLIDATION OF ELECTION

WHEREAS:

1. Since 2004, 9-1-1 emergency calls for medical and fire emergencies in the Ukiah Valley have increased dramatically, while the number of firefighters on duty has remained static; and
2. CalFire ranks the Ukiah area as a “very high” fire hazard risk, with increasingly common large fires like the 2017 Valley Complex Fire and the 2018 Mendocino Complex Fire; and
3. Firefighter equipment, tools and facilities need upgrades to protect safety of emergency responders; and
4. Additional resources are needed to provide Ukiah Valley Fire District firefighters and paramedics with the resources they need to do their jobs protecting communities and saving lives each and every day; and
5. Pursuant to Government Code Sections 50075 and 53978 and Health and Safety Code Section 13911, the Ukiah Valley Fire Protection District (hereinafter "District"), after conducting a noticed public hearing under Government Code Section 50077, has adopted Resolution 2024-____, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto, calling for an election on November 5, 2024 on a proposed special tax for the purpose of obtaining, furnishing, operating, and maintaining fire suppression equipment or apparatus, and for paying the salaries and benefits for fire-fighting personnel; and
7. If approved by voters, all funds raised by this measure must be used within the local community to improve fire protection and emergency medical response services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS.

1. The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is hereby requested to consolidate the District election with the Statewide General Election scheduled to be conducted on November 5, 2024.
2. The District acknowledges that the election will be held and conducted in the manner prescribed in Elections Code Section 10418.
3. The District requests that District Resolution 2024-____, attached hereto be published in the Voter Information Pamphlet.
4. The District requests that the Measure Submitted to the Voters of the Ukiah Valley Fire District read as follows:

TITLE: ADOPTION OF UKIAH VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT PARCEL TAX FOR FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES

To adequately fund firefighter/paramedic emergency responses to housefires, wildfires, medical emergencies, car accidents; to hire/train firefighters/paramedics; upgrade aging firefighter equipment and life-saving tools, shall the Fire District enact a \$33.50/unit annual parcel tax using

the schedule of units in voter-approved Ordinance 97-1 (annual adjustments not to exceed 2%), raising approximately \$987,000/year until ended by voters; annual public reporting; all money used exclusively for local fire and emergency medical services? "[] YES [] NO"

5. The District will submit a ballot argument in favor of the measure by the prescribed deadline.

6. The District requests that Attachment 1 and this ordinance be submitted to County Counsel for the preparation of an impartial analysis.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

David B. Haas, President

ATTEST:

Stephanie Abba, Clerk of the Board