

EAST CONTRA COSTA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Hugh Henderson
Fire Chief



SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:
Bethel Island Discovery Bay
Brentwood Knightsen
Byron Morgan Territory
Oakley

September 15, 2016

Ironhouse Sanitary District
450 Walnut Meadows Drive
Oakley, CA 94561

Subject: Fire Service and Reallocation of Proposition 13 Property Tax Funding

We are writing to all property tax supported agencies in the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District service area to seek support for our resolution requesting the state legislature to reallocate property tax revenue in our area.

The ECCFPD, utilizing an outside consultant, has recently completed a "Deployment Performance and Headquarters Staffing Adequacy Study", which is available on our website. The study concluded that ECCFPD fire service is at best only appropriate for lightly-populated rural areas and that it does not meet the needs of an area with an urban population of 110,000. The study further noted that the District cannot meet its needs through its own fire response resources; the District cannot adequately counter the risks present in the service area and the District is the most understaffed fire department the consult has seen in over a decade.

These findings are confirmed by the recently completed LAFCO Municipal Services Study. Both studies concluded that the primary reason for the inadequate fire service is a lack of funding due to significantly outdated allocation of property tax revenue.

In order to resolve this issue the District in conjunction with the cities of Brentwood and Oakley and the County completed a task force effort to identify long and short term solutions to the fires service funding issues. A long term solution that has strong public support involves the reallocation of property tax revenue among the agencies within the fire district service area. The fire district allocation of property tax revenue is significantly below the average for other fire districts within the county. This reallocation would involve a reduction in funding for the other agencies within the fire service area, but would be consistent with the priority placed on health and safety by the population within the District.

The fire district has just passed a resolution requesting state legislative action to reallocate property tax revenues. This resolution has been forwarded to the state legislature and a copy is attached for your information.

We are requesting that you review this resolution and pass a similar resolution or issue a letter of support to our state legislators in order to facilitate reallocation of tax revenues to emphasize a priority for health and safety.

Please advise us of the status of your action on this matter as quickly as possible so that we may keep our representative properly informed.

Sincerely Yours,

Hugh Henderson, Fire Chief
East Contra Costa Fire Protection District