



Board of Supervisors

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Board Increases Funding for Local Fire Districts

Supervisors' commitment to public safety on display with action today

Stockton, CA – At its meeting today, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors increased funding for local fire districts by \$1.1 million annually to cover approximately a quarter of the funding they have lost because of the Proposition 172 Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds (ERAF) shift since 1993. The funds will be distributed between the nineteen districts within the County that are currently impacted by Prop 172 funding shifts.

“The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors proudly supports our local fire districts,” commented Chairman Miguel Villapudua. “Our residents rely on fire departments for life-saving assistance, and our Board wants to ensure that they are staffed and have the equipment they need to provide top level service to our communities.”

After multiple meetings between the County and the Fire Chiefs Executive Board, the County Administrator prepared two options for Board consideration that would provide the Fire Districts impacted by the ERAF shift with a General Fund allocation equal to 1.0% or 0.5% of the projected 2023-2024 Proposition 172 revenue. The Board opted to fund an additional 1% or \$1,130,621 to Fire Districts based upon percentages as shown below.

“Our local fire departments provide vital services in our communities, and the Board wants to ensure that they are properly funded to provide our residents with essential fire services,” commented Supervisor Robert Rickman, who represents the Fifth District. “Public safety is the top priority of this Board, and I appreciate the work of the Fire Chiefs and County Administrator coming together to benefit our communities.”

In 1993, Proposition 172 established a permanent statewide half-cent sales tax to provide funding for qualifying public safety programs. The purpose was to partially replace the property taxes that were shifted from local agencies to local school districts as part of the 1993-1994 State budget agreement. The revenue shifted was called Educational Revenue Augmentation Funds (ERAF). In 2023-2024, the half-cent sales tax is estimated to backfill approximately \$113.1 million of the \$206.6 million loss to the County. After Board direction during the 2022-2023 Proposed Budget Hearings, Supervisor Rickman, County Administrator’s Office staff, and the Fire Chiefs Executive Board met periodically to explore a plan by which the Fire Districts that were impacted by the ERAF shift could receive an allocation of funds related to Proposition 172 revenue received by the County, which resulted in today’s options and decision today.

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Fire Agency	ERAF Shift %	Amount
Boggs Tract Fire	0.30%	\$3,392
Clements Rural Fire	1.80%	20,351
Eastside Rural Fire	11.10%	125,499
Escalon Consolidated Fire	1.28%	14,472
Farmington Rural Fire	1.21%	13,681
French Camp-Mckinley Rural Fire	N/A*	N/A*
Liberty Rural Fire	3.13%	35,388
Lincoln Rural Fire	12.43%	140,536
Linden-Peters Rural Fire	7.39%	83,553
Linden-Peters Rural Fire Zone 1	N/A*	N/A*
Lathrop-Manteca Rural Fire	11.70%	132,283
Mokelumne Rural Fire	2.85%	32,223
Montezuma Rural Fire	1.95%	22,047
Ripon Consolidated Fire	5.30%	59,923
Thornton Rural Fire	0.66%	7,462
Tracy Rural Fire	11.87%	134,205
Tuxedo-Country Club Rural Fire	6.88%	77,787
Waterloo-Morada Rural Fire	8.40%	94,972
Woodbridge Rural Fire	11.01%	124,481
Woodbridge Fire (Forest Lake)	0.55%	6,218
Collegeville Rural Fire	0.19%	2,148
Total	100.00%	\$1,130,621

*French Camp-Mckinley Rural Fire and Linden-Peters Rural Fire Zone 1 were not negatively impacted by ERAF shifts.