

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

58

October 16, 2018

**FROM: MARK A. HARTWIG, Fire Chief/Fire Warden
San Bernardino County Fire Protection District**

SUBJECT: PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE EXPANSION OF SERVICE ZONE FP-5

RECOMMENDATION(S)

Acting as the governing body of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District:

1. Conduct a public hearing regarding the expansion of the Service Zone FP-5.
2. Receive report on tabulation of protests.
3. Find that the expansion of Service Zone FP-5 is exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Title 14 California Code of Regulations Sections 15061(b)(3), 15273(a) and 15320 and direct the Clerk of the Board to file and post a Notice of Exemption.
4. In the event that the report on the tabulation of protests indicate that the threshold for calling for an election has not been met pursuant to the protest procedures adopted by the Board, adopt the Resolution to expand the boundaries of the Service Zone FP-5.

(Presenter: Mark A. Hartwig, Fire Chief/Fire Warden, 387-5779)

COUNTY AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Improve County Government Operations.

Operate in a Fiscally-Responsible and Business-Like Manner.

Provide for the Safety, Health and Social Service Needs of County Residents.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Approval of this item will not result in the use of Discretionary General Funding (Net County Cost). The proposed expansion will provide additional revenue estimated at \$26.9 million annually, that will be used to maintain current fire protection and emergency response services. The revenue will be budgeted in the 2019-20 budget for the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District (SBCFPD).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SBCFPD is a community-based, all hazard emergency services provider dedicated to the protection of the public served, organizational sustainability, performance excellence and safety accomplished through a balance of regionalized services delivery and accountability to local communities.

On June 12, 2018 (Item No. 124), the Board of Directors (Board) approved resolutions to initiate the proceedings to expand the boundaries of the Service Zone FP-5. The Board, while not legally

required to do so, established protest procedures to be used in connection with the hearing to be used at a public hearing required by Health & Safety Code Section 13950. On September 11, 2018 (Item No. 68), an amendment to Resolution 2018-99 was approved to correct clerical errors with the language and acreage data in Attachment A of Resolution 2018-99.

The proposed expansion of the Service Zone FP-5 is to include all territories within the jurisdiction of the established fire protection district that are not currently included in the Service Zone FP-5. The proposed territories included in the expansion are set forth in Attachment A of the proposed Resolution. The proposed expansion of Service Zone FP-5, and the resulting revenues, will enable the District to maintain existing service levels, including future capital expenses for the existing service levels. As such, staff has determined that this matter is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Title 14 California Code of Regulations Sections 15061(b)(3), 15273(a) and 15320. The County will have fulfilled its obligation under CEQA for this action with the filing and posting of the Notice of Exemption by the Clerk of the Board.

To notify citizens regarding the expansion of the Service Zone FP-5, SBCFPD mailed Notices of Public Hearing to each registered landowner on September 14, 2018 at all addresses in the Assessor's official records. The Notice of Public Hearing was also published in newspapers of general circulation and posted at all District Fire Stations. The SBCFPD website includes specific information about the FP-5 expansion, including the protest form, the Board's Resolutions, and information about the October 16th public hearing. The website also included important dates, the presentation given at community meetings, a frequently asked questions section, the breakdown between current fire protection and paramedic taxes and the proposed overlay of the Service Zone FP-5 and a map showing the affected areas. In addition, SBCFPD conducted community meetings in the following communities:

- Grand Terrace
- Wonder Valley
- Yucca Valley
- Big River
- Havasu Landings
- Lake Arrowhead/Crestline
- Lytle Creek
- Devore
- Lucerne Valley/Johnson Valley
- Mentone
- Wrightwood
- Fawnskin
- Phelan/Pinon Hills/ El Mirage
- Morongo Basin
- Oak Hills
- Bloomington

- Spring Valley Lake
- Mt Baldy
- Angelus Oaks/Forest Falls

Written protests containing the required information may be turned in until the close of the public hearing. Pursuant to the protest procedures adopted by the Board, all written protests received by the close of the public hearing shall be tabulated and validated to determine the number of protests. If less than 25% of landowners, who own at least 25% of the assessed value of land, submit protests prior to the close of the public hearing, then the Board may adopt the resolution authorizing the expansion of Service Zone FP-5 boundaries effective for the 2019-20 Tax Roll. Pursuant to the protest procedures adopted by the Board, if the amount of written protests filed and not withdrawn equals 25% or more, then the expansion of Service Zone FP-5 boundaries will be submitted for approval by the voters. Should the number of protests exceed 50%, then the proposed change to the boundaries of Service Zone FP-5 will be withdrawn by the Board.

PROCUREMENT

N/A

REVIEW BY OTHERS

This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Carol Greene, Supervising Deputy County Counsel, 387-5455) on October 11, 2018; Finance (Tom Forster, Administrative Analyst, 387-4635) on October 11, 2018; and County Finance and Administration (Valerie Clay, Deputy Executive Officer, 387-5423) on October 4, 2018