

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PLACER HILLS FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
P.O. Box 350, Meadow Vista, CA 95722  
(530) 878-0405 Fax (530) 878-0959  
[www.placerhillsfire.org](http://www.placerhillsfire.org)



Alex Harvey  
Peter Hills  
Fred Lofrano  
Russell McCray  
Mark Wright

---

## MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING; January 13, 2017

1. Call to order; Flag salute; Roll call:

Director Hills convened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.  
Directors in attendance: Harvey, Hills, and McCray.  
Directors absent: Lofrano and Wright.  
Staff in attendance: Chief Gow and District Manager Lofrano.

2. Agenda approval:

The posted agenda for the special meeting was approved

3. Public Comment: None.

4. Correspondence: None.

5. Discussion and Action Items:

a. Review of Special Tax Measure Survey and Fact Sheet prepared by SCI Consulting Group

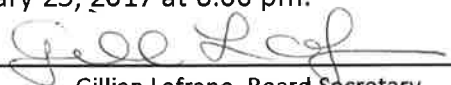
Directors Hills and Chief Gow met with the County's executive committee and SCI Consulting. The committee requested feedback on the drafts of the fact sheet and the official survey today. They hope to go to print in the next 7 to 10 days. The Board reviewed the documents and came up with several changes. Motion made and passed by all present to move forward with the survey and fact sheet with the recommended changes. (McCray/Harvey). Directors Lofrano and Wright were absent. (See attached drafts and changes). After some discussion, a second motion was made and approved to set the amount of the special tax on the survey at \$96.00 per residential dwelling. (McCray/Harvey). This does not lock the district into this amount if the Board decides to move forward with an election. Directors Lofrano and Wright were absent.

6. Comments: None

7. Adjournment:

Motion made and approved by all to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 pm.

Next regular meeting: January 25, 2017 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:   
Gillian Lofrano, Board Secretary

Approved by:

Alex Harvey \_\_\_\_\_

Peter Hills \_\_\_\_\_

Fred Lofrano \_\_\_\_\_

Russell McCray \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Wright

Placer Hills Fire District

[susan.barnes@sci-cg.com](mailto:susan.barnes@sci-cg.com)

Requested changes: Survey

4. Having the ability to provide Advanced Life Support services with paramedics, and rescue services ....

5. ... the Fire District's Insurance Service Offices rating, limiting ....

6. Keep first sentence. Replace second sentence with: There is a need to maintain an equipment replacement fund for future fire engine purchases

7. ...cuts to services and personnel, delete salaries, and deferred ....

9. including delete increased government

Fact sheet

About the fire district.

.... Meadow Vista FPD, Applegate and Weimar Company 31 ....

Next paragraph: The Fire District has 2 staffed fire stations, .....

Next paragraph: over 900 calls

Why additional funding

2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph: The Fire District has already made major cuts to services and personnel (delete salaries). The Fire District's firefighters and paramedics are paid below the average salary for firefighters in the region. The part-time firefighters receive a minimal hourly wage with a small benefit plan.

3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph: .... Delayed replacement of (deleted aging fire engines) equipment, as.... The current reserve fire engines are approaching .....

Please KEEP the statement about the State fee on the flyer – make bolder

Delete: They do not provide emergency medical and rescue services.

Fact Sheet continued:

Last bullet under budget imbalance: Increased mandated training and other requirements has resulted in the demise of volunteer firefighters.

Public Safety

Decreased levels of service, from the potential of closing a fire station, may lead to increases in injuries, loss of life and response times.

Proposed rates:

Residential: 96.00 per dwelling unit, Unimproved 71.25, Commercial 0.09

On the ballot calendar:

Placer Hills Fire Board meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 6 pm.



# OFFICIAL SURVEY

## Placer Hills Fire Protection District

This survey has been mailed to registered voters within the Placer Hills Fire Protection District to gather information and opinions. This information will help the Fire District make decisions about funding for current and future services. After completing the survey, simply mail it back in the postage-prepaid return envelope provided.

**Survey Instructions:**

- 1) Read each question listed below.
- 2) Fill in the circle for your response. Please use a pen and completely fill in the circle.
- 3) Detach the bottom portion of this sheet containing your answers.
- 4) Place the bottom portion of this sheet in the return envelope and mail (no postage needed).

Detach Here

Fill Below Portion, Detach at this Line, and Mail Back in Return Envelope

Detach Here

**1. Voters in your area may be asked to vote on a local ballot measure. Following is a summary of the proposal:**

In order to:

- Help preserve response times for local fire protection and emergency response services,
- Retain our experienced, trained firefighting crews, and
- Provide funding for ongoing maintenance, repair, and replacement of firefighter apparatus, vehicles and equipment

Would you support an annual special tax in the amount of \$96.00 per residential dwelling?\*

*\*This is in addition to the amount you are already paying. See enclosed information sheet for proposed rates on other types of property.*

Definitely YES
Probably YES
Probably NO
Definitely NO

**Now, please read the following arguments and statements regarding the proposed Placer Hills FPD special tax. For each one, please indicate whether they make you more or less likely to support the measure:**

	Much More Likely	Somewhat More Likely	No Impact	Somewhat Less Likely	Much Less Likely
2. This measure would help preserve our current emergency response times for fire protection, medical emergencies and rescue services.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Placer Hills Fire District does not receive funding from the California Fire Prevention Fee (also known as the CAL FIRE Fee or the SRA Fee) .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. Having the ability to provide Advanced Life Support services with paramedics, and rescue services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week is essential to protecting our quality of life in our community .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
5. Funds from this measure would help to maintain the Fire District's Insurance Service Offices rating, limiting the potential increase in fire insurance rates. ....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
6. The Fire District's fire trucks, fire engines and equipment are getting older and more costly to operate, repair, and maintain. There is a need to maintain an equipment replacement fund for future fire engine purchases .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
7. The District has already made cuts to services and personnel, and has deferred maintenance on fire stations in order to keep the district solvent .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
8. This measure would prevent our local Fire District from making service cuts that could reduce our fire protection and emergency medical service levels .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
9. This ballot measure would include strong fiscal safeguards, including government transparency, annual financial audits and reporting, and annual budgets presented at public meetings .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
10. The funds from this measure would be locally controlled and cannot be taken by the State, the County, or any other agency for any other purposes .....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*Please write below why you support or oppose this proposed measure, and describe which issues are most important to you:*

---



---



---



---



---



# Placer Hills Fire Protection District

## Information Fact Sheet

### Why did you receive this survey?

You received this survey because you are a registered voter within the Placer Hills Fire Protection District. The Fire District is seeking your opinion to help decide how to continue to provide high quality local fire and emergency medical services within its boundaries.

Please read this information sheet, and complete the enclosed questionnaire. Your responses will help the Fire District make important decisions about how to maintain fire and rescue services in your community.

### About the Fire District

The Placer Hills Fire Protection District is an independent special district that has its roots in the Meadow Vista Fire Department, formed in 1949. In 1988, Meadow Vista FPD, Applegate and Weimar Company 31 and Ponderosa Fire Brigade joined together to form Placer Hills FPD. It is governed by a five member elected Board of Directors.

The Fire District has two staffed fire stations, and serves a population of about 12,000 residents, covering 35 square miles of semi-rural to semi-urban environment. The Fire District's boundary area encompasses the communities of Meadow Vista, Applegate, Clipper Gap, Eden Valley, Heather Glen, Sleepy Hollow, and Weimar.

The Fire District responds to over 900 calls per year including the following:

- Emergency medical aid and advanced life support
- Structure, wildland, and vehicle fires
- Traffic collisions, entrapments, and rescues
- Hazardous materials response
- Industrial accidents



Placer Hills A

### Why is the Fire District seeking additional revenue?

The current public funding for local fire protection and emergency response services has not kept pace with the increases in demand for services, or with the higher costs for operations and maintenance. In recent years, emergency reserves have been used to supplement day-to-day expenditures for the Fire District.

The Fire District has already made major cuts to services and personnel. The Fire District's fire fighters and paramedics are paid below the average salary for fire fighters in the region. The part-time fire fighters receive a minimal hourly wage with a small benefit plan.

In addition, and to cut costs further, the Fire District has delayed replacement of equipment, as well as needed maintenance on its fire stations. The current reserve fire engines are approaching the limit of their service life, and have become more costly to maintain.

Despite all these cost saving measures, the Fire District's current revenue is still not adequate to provide services at a level that maintains an appropriate measure of safety for the community, and costs are expected to continue to increase.

### What about CAL FIRE and the State Fee?

The Fire Prevention Fee, which was put in place by the California Legislature, can only be used by CAL FIRE to try to prevent fires from starting. None of these funds can be used to put out fires once they start (fire suppression), or for medical or other emergency response services. The Placer Hills Fire District is your primary provider for all structure fire suppression, emergency medical response, and other emergency response in this area, and it does not receive any revenue from the Fire Prevention Fee.

# Placer Hills Fire Protection District

## Information Fact Sheet (continued)

Placer Hills A

### The impact of the budget shortfall on the Fire District's fund balance

Despite the cuts the District has already made, under current conditions the Fire District is running a large deficit every year. Although the District had funds in reserve, those funds are projected to be completely spent within the next few years. The Fire District cannot continue to spend at its current rate if no additional source of revenue is found to help reduce the annual budget shortfall.

	FY 16-17	FY 17-18	FY 18-19	FY 19-20	FY 20-21
Projected annual deficit	-\$228,174	-\$196,165	-\$220,370	-\$244,188	-\$267,619
Projected fund balance	\$859,989	\$663,824	\$443,454	\$199,266	-\$68,353

Source: County of Placer Treasurer's Office

### What are the primary reasons for the budget imbalance?

The primary reasons why revenues have not kept up with expenses include the following:

- Property tax revenue is locked in at 1977 rates
- Population and building have increased significantly, increasing demand for emergency services
- Fire apparatus and equipment costs have increased significantly
- The minimum wage in California is scheduled to increase every year over the next several years
- Personnel training requirements and associated costs have increased significantly
- Increased mandated training and other requirements have resulted in the elimination of volunteer fire fighters



### What will happen if the Fire District does not receive additional revenue?

The Fire District is committed to its mission, however, if it does not receive additional revenue, the Fire District's Board of Directors will face some hard choices about how to proceed.

Below are some of the likely impacts if the level of fire protection and suppression services needs to be decreased further:

#### Public Safety

Decreased levels of service, due to the potential closing of a fire station, may lead to increases in injuries and loss of life, and response times.

#### Property Protection

Decreased levels of service may lead to increases in property damage and destruction.

#### Economic Stability

Decreased levels of service may lead to some or all of the following:

- Increased property insurance premiums
- Difficulty in renewing and obtaining insurance
- Reduction in property values and increase in difficulty selling uninsurable property

### Proposed rate structure

In order to continue providing a high level of fire protection and emergency medical services, the Fire District is considering proposing a ballot measure. The proposed annual rates are listed below by property type:

**Residential:** \$96.00 per dwelling unit, **Unimproved:** \$71.25 per parcel, **Commercial:** \$0.09 per building square foot.

This amount may be increased annually by the change in the Consumer Price Index, and would be in addition to what you are already paying.