

THE DAILY RECORDER

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Ad Description
MEASURE O

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NOTICE OF ELECTION
NOTICE OF BALLOT MEASURES TO BE DECIDED UPON, NOTICE OF TIME WITHIN WHICH ARGUMENTS AND REBUTTAL ARGUMENTS FOR OR AGAINST MEASURES MAY BE FILED WITH THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS, NOTICE OF CENTRAL COUNTING LOCATION.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS FOR SACRAMENTO COUNTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE ELECTIONS LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THAT ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024, THERE WILL BE A PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION.
NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT AT THE PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION THE FOLLOWING MEASURE SHALL BE PUT TO A VOTE FOR THE QUALIFIED VOTERS IN THE SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT.

FULL TEXT OF MEASURE O
SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN FIRE DISTRICT FIRE/EMERGENCY MEDICAL RESPONSE MEASURE. To maintain 911 fire/emergency medical response times, attract/retain qualified professional firefighters/paramedics, support local fire protection, and prevent firefighter exposure to cancer-causing air pollution by upgrading outdated/deteriorating lifesaving equipment, engines/stations, shall Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District's measure be adopted, authorizing \$415,000,000 in bonds at legal rates, levying approximately \$19/\$100,000 assessed value, generating approximately \$24,000,000 annually while bonds are outstanding, with annual audits, citizens' oversight and local control?

Findings
• The District serves a population of over 720,000 who all depend on the District to lend a helping hand in a crisis.
• From medical emergencies, local fire protection, natural disasters, devastating wildfires, or general fire-related neighborhood services, the District answers calls from community members in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
• The District actively analyzes and plans for how to best provide service and coverage to the communities it serves and how the condition of its facilities and vehicles impacts those services.
• The District's planning process identified an extensive list of life saving equipment upgrades, fire station improvements, and fire engine and vehicle replacements necessary to continue to provide rapid 911 response.
• More than 70 percent of 911 calls received are for medical emergencies, such as heart attacks, strokes and car accidents where seconds matter in these life-threatening situations; yet the current state of facilities and equipment, the number of overlapping calls, and station locations place a worsening strain on emergency response times.
• The scope and scale of the needs identified in its Capital Improvement Program far exceed the District's current operating budget even as the District sets aside funding each year for capital improvements.
• By law all funds from the proposed bond measure are required to be spent only for the construction, expansion,

acquisition, upgrade, and modernization of fire stations, facilities, vehicles, equipment, and real property in communities served by the District and none of the funds may be spent on salaries, benefits, pensions or other purposes.

• All bond measure proceeds are legally required to stay local for the construction, expansion, acquisition, upgrade, and modernization of fire stations, facilities, vehicles, equipment, and real property in the communities served by the District, and none of the money may be seized by the State or other government agencies.

Object and Purpose of Bonds
This measure (the "Measure") authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds (the "Bonds"), the object and purpose of which is to finance the Projects and certain costs in connection with the issuance of the Bonds.

The Projects will be completed as needed, and each is assumed to include its share of costs, including planning and construction costs. The final cost of each Project will be determined as real property is purchased, plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded, or projects are completed.

Proceeds of the Bonds may be used to reimburse the District for amounts advanced from the general fund or other funds or accounts to fund Projects when such purchases are made prior to the availability of Bond proceeds.

Required Approval
The Measure shall be deemed approved if approved by at least 2/3 of the registered voters voting on the proposition; *provided, however*, that if Proposition is approved by California voters on the same date that voters of the District are voting on the proposed Bond measure, such measure shall be deemed to be approved if approved by at least 55% of the registered voters voting on the proposition, consistent with the provisions of Proposition 5.

Estimated Cost of Projects
The estimated cost of the portion of the costs of the Projects to be paid for from the Bonds is \$415,000,000. The estimated cost includes legal and other fees and other costs and expenses incidental to or connected with the authorization, issuance or sale of the Bonds. The cost of the Projects includes planning and construction costs.

Principal Amount of Bonds
The aggregate principal amount of Bonds to be issued in or more series is not to exceed \$415,000,000.

Maximum Interest Rate
The maximum rate of interest to be paid on the Bonds shall not exceed 12% per annum, the maximum rate permitted by applicable law.

Accountability Requirements
The following accountability measures apply to the issuance of Bonds pursuant to this Measure:

- (a) The specific purpose of the Bonds is to finance the Projects;
- (b) The proceeds from the sale of the Bonds will be used only for the purposes specified in this Measure, and not for any other purpose;
- (c) The proceeds of the Bonds will be deposited into an account to be created and held by the District;
- (d) The Fire Chief of the District shall file an annual report with the Board which



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report shall contain pertinent information regarding the amount of funds collected and expended, as well as the status of the Projects;

(e) All expenditures will be subject to oversight by an independent oversight committee, composed of individuals appointed by the Board, to confirm that Bond expenditures are consistent with the intent of this Measure; and

(f) All expenditures also will be subject to an annual independent financial audit to confirm that Bond expenditures are consistent with the intent of this Measure.

Identification of Tax; Use of Revenue
The tax imposed by this Measure is an *ad valorem* tax levied upon taxable real property in the District. The tax will be used to pay the principal and interest on the Bonds.

Bond Project List

This Bond Project List, describes the specific projects the District proposes to finance with proceeds of the bonds.

In order to meet all identified facility needs, the District intends to complete projects using a combination of funding sources, including contributions, development impact fees, medical aid and ambulance transport fees, District Capital Improvement Program budget allocations, and grant funding (if available). Approval of this measure does not guarantee that all projects on this Bond Project List will be funded beyond the local revenues generated by this measure.

Proceeds from the sale of bonds authorized by this measure shall be used only for the construction, expansion, reconstruction, rehabilitation, replacement, furnishing, and equipping of fire facilities, the acquisition or lease of real property for fire facilities, and the acquisition or lease of fire and emergency medical vehicles, apparatus, and capital equipment, all as listed on the Bond Project List. Specific projects to be funded by the bond measure include, without limitation, the following:

A. Fire Station Construction, Expansion, and Improvement Projects

• Construct, expand, reconstruct, relocate, modernize, and/or improve fire stations, including:

1. New fire stations in Vineyard, North Highlands, and Rancho Cordova areas of the District

2. Expansion and/or relocation of existing fire stations in North Highlands, Rancho Cordova, Mather, Citrus Heights, Florin, and Carmichael, or other District stations that are found to be inadequate to serve the District's service population

• Acquire land, as needed, for the construction and/or relocation of fire stations;

• Remove or replace existing, inadequate fire station buildings as needed; and

• Perform infrastructure improvements and site-work related to fire station construction, expansion, reconstruction, relocation, and improvement projects.

B. Training Facility Construction and Expansion Project

• Continue the construction of the Zinfandel First Responder Training Facility in Rancho Cordova, including training classrooms, training structures and towers, vehicle operations training course, training offices, and other facilities and ground improvements needed for first responder training; and

• Perform infrastructure improvements and site-work related to training facility construction and improvement projects.

C. Fire and Emergency Vehicles, Apparatus, and Equipment Acquisition and Replacement Projects

• Acquire and/or replace life-saving fire and emergency medical vehicles, apparatus, and capital equipment.

For any project involving modernization or renovation of a building or the major portion of a building, the District shall be authorized to proceed with new replacement construction if the Board of Directors determines that replacement and new construction is economically more practical considering the building's age, condition and other relevant factors. The listed projects will be completed as needed. Each project is assumed to include its share of furniture, equipment, architectural, engineering, and similar planning costs, program management, staff training expenses and a customary contingency, and escalation for unforeseen design and construction costs.

The budget for each project is an estimate and may be affected by factors beyond the District's control. The final cost of each project will be determined as plans are finalized, construction bids are awarded, and projects are completed. Based on the final costs of each project, certain of the projects described above may be delayed or may not be completed. Demolition of existing facilities and reconstruction of facilities scheduled for repair and upgrade may occur, if the Board determines that such an approach would be more cost-effective in creating enhanced and operationally efficient facilities.

Necessary site preparation/restoration and landscaping, may occur in connection with new construction, expansion, renovation or remodeling, including ingress and egress, removing, replacing, or installing irrigation, utility lines, trees and landscaping, redirecting fire access, and acquiring any necessary easements, licenses, or rights of way to the property.

Bond proceeds shall be expended only for the specific purposes identified herein. Proceeds of the bonds may be used to pay or reimburse the District for the cost of District staff when performing work on or necessary and incidental to the bond projects, but not for other administrator salaries.

TAX RATE STATEMENT

An election will be held in the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (the "District") on November 5, 2024, to authorize the sale of up to \$415,000,000 in bonds of the District for the specific projects listed in the Bond Project List established by the District, as described in the proposition. If the bonds are authorized, the District expects to sell the bonds in two or more series. Principal and interest on the bonds will be payable from the proceeds of tax levies made upon the taxable property in the District. The following information is provided in compliance with sections 9400-9404 of the California Elections Code.

1. The best estimate from official sources of the average annual tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund that bond issue over the entire duration of the bond debt service, based on assessed valuations available at the time of the election or a projection based on

experience within the same jurisdiction or other demonstrable factors is 19 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation (\$19 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation) of all property to be taxed. The best estimate of the final fiscal year in which the tax is anticipated to be collected is 2060-61.

2. The best estimate from official sources of the highest tax rate that would be required to be levied to fund that bond issue, and an estimate of the year in which that rate will apply, based on assessed valuations available at the time of the election or a projection based on experience within the same jurisdiction or other demonstrable factors is 33 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation (\$33 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation) of all property to be taxed. The best estimate of the year in which the highest tax rate will apply is anticipated to be 2036-37.

3. The best estimate from official sources of the total debt service, including the principal and interest, that would be required to be repaid if all the bonds are issued and sold is \$890,000,000.

Voters should note that such estimated tax rates are specific to the repayment of bonds issued under this authorization and are and will be in addition to tax rates levied in connection with other bond authorizations approved or to be approved by local voters for the District or for any other overlapping public agency. Voters should note that estimated tax rate is based on the ASSESSED VALUE of taxable property on the Sacramento County's and the Placer County's official tax rolls, not on the property's market value. Property owners should consult their own property tax bills to determine their property's assessed value and any applicable tax exemptions.

Attention of all voters is directed to the fact that the foregoing information is based upon the District's projections and estimates only, which are not binding upon the District. The actual tax rates and the years in which they will apply may vary from those presently estimated, due to variations from these estimates in the timing of bond sales, the amount of bonds sold and market interest rates at the time of each sale, and actual assessed valuations over the term of repayment of the bonds. The dates of sale and the amount of bonds sold at any given time will be determined by the District based on need for construction funds and other factors. The actual interest rates at which the bonds will be sold will depend on the bond market at the time of each sale. Actual future assessed valuation will depend upon the amount and value of taxable property within the District as determined by the Sacramento County Assessor and the Placer County Assessor in the annual assessment and the equalization process.

Dated: July 25, 2024.

Fire Chief
Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District
ARGUMENTS AND REBUTTALS
TIMELINE

Thursday, August 8, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. is hereby fixed as the final date and time for the filing of arguments. Arguments for or against the measures listed are not to exceed 300 words in length. The 10-calendar day required public viewing period will be from Friday, August 9, through Sunday, August 18, 2024.

Monday, August 12, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. is hereby fixed as the final date and time for the filing of rebuttal arguments. Rebuttal arguments are not to exceed 250 words in length. The 10-calendar day required public viewing period will be from Tuesday, August 13, through Thursday, August 22, 2024.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that California Elections Code Section 9600 governs the form of said arguments and/or rebuttals. Arguments and/or rebuttals submitted to the Sacramento County Elections Office must follow E.C. 9600. Authors of said arguments/rebuttals may call the Elections Office at (916) 875-6276 for more information on submitting an argument for or against a measure. To be eligible for printing and distribution as provided by law, such arguments and rebuttals must be received and filed at Voter Registration and Elections, 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento, CA 95823, no later than said date and time. All arguments and rebuttals must be submitted in block format. Limited use of bolding, underlining, capitalizing, italics or bullets (small solid circle only) is permitted. Arguments and rebuttals that are not in compliance will be reformatted and set in uniform type.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that Vote by Mail processing may begin on the 29th day before the election, which is Monday, October 7, 2024. All ballots cast in the November 5, 2024 Presidential General Election shall be tallied at the central counting place, the Voter Registration and Elections Office at 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento, California. Initial results will be available at 8:15 p.m. on election night and continue until the count is completed. Persons interested in viewing these procedures should contact the Office of the Voter Registration and Elections at (916) 875-6276 for further information. (EC §§ 12109, 15101, 15104) Office of the Registrar of Voters Sacramento County 8/2/24

SC-3838671#