

RANCHO SANTA FE
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FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067-0410

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FIRE DISTRICT BOARD VOTES TO NOT SUPPORT PARCEL TAX AS PROPOSED

RANCHO SANTA FE, Calif. — During its meeting on August 13, 2008, the Board of Directors of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District (RSFFPD) voted to not support the San Diego County Board of Supervisors' "Ballot Measure to Improve and Enhance Firefighting Resources and Services by Adoption of a Regional and Local Fire Protection Parcel Tax."

"While we continue to support the concept of working together with other agencies to provide fire protection in all areas of the county," said Jim Ashcraft, President of the Board, "we have reluctantly concluded that we cannot support the plan as it is currently proposed." There were several reasons for the Board's decision:

- The proposed tax simply does not provide enough funds to address the current fire-protection deficiencies and will undoubtedly require another funding request of taxpayers in the future.
- The plan proposes to enhance regional fire protection, but does not address a minimum level of fire protection for all portions of the County, or address areas in the County with no protection.
- The plan fails to include a detailed list of needed equipment, fire personnel, and administration along with projections of the improvements that the public has a right to expect.

The RSFFPD Board encourages the County to take the time to develop a comprehensive plan with more specifics and adequate funding to address both the current and long-term fire protection needs of the County of San Diego.

The mission of the Rancho Santa Fe Fire Protection District is "To protect life, property, and environment through prevention, preparedness, education and emergency response." Formed in 1946, the Fire District now spans approximately 42-square miles and protects over 26,500 citizens. The Fire District currently operates out of four full-time fire stations and serves the communities within and surrounding Rancho Santa Fe and 4S-Ranch.

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