

COUNTYWIDE FIRE PREVENTION & RESPONSE PROPOSED MEASURE H, MARCH 2024



“Funding from a countywide measure will allow the Sonoma Valley Fire District, which includes the City of Sonoma, to implement significant improvements to our emergency services. Several needs were recently confirmed during a comprehensive analysis of the Fire District’s Operations and Facilities. We plan to use funds from proposed Measure H to staff 15 new permanent Firefighter/Paramedic positions and expanded services in fire prevention and fuels reduction programs. Funds will be used to staff an additional ambulance, which will improve response times throughout the District, and ensure there are Firefighter/Paramedics at the Sonoma Developmental Center grounds. The funding will also enable the Fire District to upgrade two of our existing Fire Stations. Lastly, this measure will support Sonoma Valley Fire District’s neighboring fire agencies, allowing increased staffing and capacity to expand emergency response and resiliency in the Sonoma Valley, helping wildfires from becoming major incidents.”

- **Steve Akre**, Sonoma Valley Fire District’s Fire Chief

REVENUE WILL PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING TO COUNTY RESIDENTS

- Recruitment and retention of local firefighters
- Improved response times
- Increased wildfire prevention and response
- Expanded paramedic services
- Infrastructure improvements
- Red flag and winter storm upstaffing
- Provide staffing to rural and underserved communities
- Supports an improved local dispatch center
- Enhanced vegetation management and fuels reduction
- Provides collaborative technology platforms

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

➤ How much will this tax generate?

This ½ cent sales tax is expected to generate approximately \$60 million annually to address the current and future funding challenges that face EVERY fire agency in the county.

➤ How will the expenditures be governed?

Revenue will go directly to fire agencies. Their governing bodies, either City Councils or District Boards will be responsible for ensuring that the funds are spent in accordance with the ordinance. Additionally, an independent oversight committee will review the expenditures of each agency.

➤ How much funding will my local fire department get?

Sonoma Valley Fire District, including the City of Sonoma, will receive 6.38 % of the annual tax revenue, estimated at nearly \$3.8 million, plus cover the cost of emergency dispatch which is an additional \$250,000 annually.

➤ What will the funding be used for?

- Hire and retain 15 additional local firefighter/paramedics
- Funding for volunteer firefighters
- Increased fire prevention and vegetation management resources
- Critical facility upgrades at two fire stations



**For more information, please visit
SonomaChiefs.org**

