

MXCAB Public Comments, Agenda Item 2

July 14, 2021

Bryan Scott, Chair, East County Voters for Equal Protection

Good afternoon, members of the Measure X Community Advisory Board. At the May 19 MXCAB meeting Fire Chiefs from throughout the County presented a detailed funding request, a request that covered many fiscal needs throughout the County. Many aspects of emergency services were discussed that day, and it was clear that money was needed for all of them.

One important and essential aspect of emergency services is the ability to respond. No one will dispute the fact that if there is no response, people suffer. If help is delayed, or doesn't come at all, victims suffer.

During the last three months that this board has been meeting, specifically the months of April, May and June, the 130,000 residents of eastern Contra Costa County have been without a responsive fire district for nearly 29 hours. Twenty-eight hours, fifty-one minutes, and nineteen seconds, to be precise.

The result is that 23 times during this period someone called 9-1-1, and the local fire district could not respond. The central county dispatch had to check with the east county fire district, determine that they were unable to respond, and then call another agency, sending a fire engine or other resource from a neighboring fire district, always from a much more distant fire station.

These facts are presented in black and white, in an emotionless statistical manner, in the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District Monthly Operational Report. You can find the report on the Internet here: [Monthly Operational Reports - East Contra Costa Fire Protection District \(eccfpd.org\)](http://eccfpd.org)

The Executive Fire Chiefs group that presented countywide funding needs detailed many service improvements that would be achieved, should the Board of Supervisors, with the recommendation of the MXCAB, dedicate a significant portion of the new countywide sales tax revenue to fire service.

However, in no fire district in the county, other than East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, is there ANY "Unavailable Time." No other fire district is unable to respond to emergency calls, let alone 23 emergency calls in three months.

The MXCAB must recommend to the Supervisors that the systematic underfunding of this essential government service be corrected.

Almost 20 years ago, when the Board of Supervisors formed the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, it stated that it would make sure that the district is funded at a level comparable to other fire districts in the county. Through a number of governmental moves this has not been done.

Fifteen percent of the Measure X funds would fulfill the promise made in 2002. This action will bring equity in the provision of essential government services to the residents of East County.

A comprehensive collection of Public Comment materials has been submitted at prior MXCAB meetings. This material includes:

Meeting

Date	Comment Topic Area
4/12	Introductory Public Comments from East County Voters for Equal Protection and a formal definition of need, the public safety emergency in East County. Appendix: (CityGate Vol. 1); ECV Profile. <u>Microsoft Word - Public Comments MXCAB 4-13-2021.docx</u>
4/21	Public Comment including a White Paper describing the historical cause of the East County public safety crisis, and the 2002 fire district consolidation promises that were ignored. Appendix: LAFCO Table 4. <u>Microsoft Word - MXCAB Public Comment 4-21-2021.docx</u>
4/28	Public Comment regarding Seniors, and how EMS response is the enabler of more effective/efficient government services to all groups; Appendix: ECCFPD Press Release. <u>Microsoft Word - MXCAB Public Comment 4-28-2021.docx</u>
5/5	Public Comment regarding City/Town elected representatives supporting the solution to this public safety emergency, Measure X funding, a compilation of quotes and a compilation of three resolutions. Appendix: The three signed resolutions. <u>Microsoft Word - MXCAB Public Comments 5-5-2021.docx</u>
5/12	Public Comment regarding Q1 2021 Unavailable Time, with Gil Guerrero's LAFCO testimony, and link to the recording. Appendix: ECCFPD Operational Report for March, 2021 <u>Microsoft Word - MXCAB Public Comments 5-12-2021.docx</u>
7/14	Public Comment regarding the on-going public safety service emergency in East County, and the "Unavailable Time" during the second quarter of 2021, as documented by East Contra Costa Fire Protection District. <u>Monthly Operational Reports - East Contra Costa Fire Protection District (eccfpd.org)</u>

If a MXCAB member or alternate has any questions about the Public Comment materials or the subject area, I am eager to engage, as the Chair of East County Voters for Equal Protection. My email address is scott.bryan@comcast.net and my phone number is 925-418-4428.

Thank you.