

Measure X Community Advisory Committee.

I want to thank you for your time and service to our communities over these past months. I know you have dedicated many hours and taken time away from family and friends to weigh through all the Measure X funding options.

I'd like to take you back to 2002, when the Board of Supervisors decided to merge 3 fire districts covering 249-square-miles into a single fire district, that new district became East Contra Costa Fire Protection District. Despite warnings by LAFCO that unless a new source of funding was found, the new fire district would be doomed to fail.

Instead of finding a new source of revenue, like creating an annual fire-specific Community Facility District (CFD), the then Board of Supervisors instead relinquished control of the fire district in 2010 to an appointed board from Brentwood, Oakley and the townships in far East County.

Fast forward to today, Brentwood, Oakley, the County and ECCFPD are in the process of adopting a districtwide fire-specific CFD for staffing and have adopted increased fire impact fees for infrastructure. This annual CFD assessment and one-time fire impact fee will help to bring new stations online and staff them as new housing is built. But CFDs cannot pay for a deficit in an agency, CFDs can only pay for the impact new development will have on a community/jurisdiction.

ECCFPD should have 6 stations at this time (9 at buildout), but unfortunately, it's currently running at a 3-station deficit. What that means is they have 3 fire engines, instead of 6 responding to all emergency calls for 129,000 people spread over 249 square miles – all this with just 3 firefighters on those 3 engines.

Measure X passed in Oakley and Brentwood by 55%, but only because Measure X organizers made ECCFPD the poster child of how the funds would be used.

Please I ask that you consider funding the entire request for fire, help right the wrong the Board of Supervisors created when establishing East Contra Costa Fire Protection District and help improve fire protection services across the entire county.

Stay Safe – Stay Healthy,
Karen Rarey
Brentwood Resident

ALL FOUR YES ON MEASURE X ADS (note Fire/EMS was first in 3 of the ads & second in the other):
<https://www.facebook.com/healthyandsafecontracosta/videos/347229996386045>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch?v=346842803053271>

<https://www.facebook.com/healthyandsafecontracosta/videos/1072460516544302>

<https://www.facebook.com/healthyandsafecontracosta/videos/636108147076783>



Contra Costa County residents need reliable fire protection, access to quality healthcare and affordable early childhood services. **Yes on Measure X** will create sustainable revenues to ensure our access to fire, health and safety net services.

Resulting from severe underfunding, East Contra Costa Fire operates only **3 fire stations covering 259 square miles and over 120,000 residents**. This shortage has placed additional pressure on neighboring fire districts, especially Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, increasing wait times and putting lives at risk across the county.

- Contra Costa's regional hospital faces a **budget deficit of over \$70 million**, with public and community clinics facing staff reductions and potential discontinuation of services, leaving thousands of people without access to healthcare during a pandemic.
- Families struggle to find **affordable and accessible** early learning opportunities. Making it difficult for parents to get back to work.
- **Lack of housing and mental health services** are the leading causes of homelessness in the county.
- **Interpersonal violence** - domestic abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, trafficking and sexual assault - reports have risen from 2017 - 2019.
- The county has a **shortage of over 150 eligibility workers** to link vulnerable residents with life **saving and stabilizing state and federal programs**, leaving millions of dollars unused.
- Local nonprofits, which are **already underfunded**, have been challenged to provide a wide range of services to an increasing number of people.

Vote Yes on Measure X to create a new revenue stream for firefighting, the hospital and our kids!

Measure X will secure county revenue to:



Keep the County Hospital open



Improve fire and emergency services



Prevent child, elder and domestic abuse



Expand parenting support and early childhood development services



Improve outcomes for individuals seeking behavioral health or substance abuse treatment



Connect vulnerable residents with community healthcare and other safety net programs

Measure X will raise an estimated \$81 million annually to fund these essential services. Before the pandemic, this measure would have made the county stronger, but it is now a necessity.

This year has highlighted the importance of safeguarding our fire services, public health facilities and critical early childhood and safety net services that our residents are relying on to keep their families healthy and safe. **Vote Yes on Measure X this November.**

Please join us at

healthyandsafecontracosta.com