



# Interoffice Memo

**DATE:** July 20, 2020

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**FROM:** JOLENA E. GRIDER  
Deputy County Counsel

**TO:** MELISSA EICKMAN  
Public Information Manager  
Elections Office of the Registrar of Voter

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**SUBJECT**

**COUNTY COUNSEL IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS- INITIATIVE PETITION/MEASURE TO REPEAL THE SPECIAL TAX ASSOCIATED WITH FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE ZONE FIVE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2020**

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This Measure, if approved by a majority of those voting, would repeal the special tax associated with Fire Protection Service Zone Five (FP-5).

County Service Area (CSA) 70, Improvement Zone FP-5 was formed on April 18, 2006. On August 1, 2006, a special tax was authorized following a two-thirds vote of registered voters in CSA 70, Improvement Zone FP-5 for fire and emergency medical services.

On June 20, 2008, the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District was reorganized and included the reorganization of CSA 70, Improvement Zone FP-5 into San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Service Zone FP-5. The previously authorized special tax per parcel remained in effect in the reorganized FP-5. Over time, FP-5 has been expanded to include some cities and unincorporated territory in the County of San Bernardino. As of September 14, 2018, the boundary of FP-5 included the unincorporated communities of Helendale and San Antonio Heights and the cities of San Bernardino, Needles, Twentynine Palms and Upland. On October 16, 2018, the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Board of Directors expanded FP-5 to include all territory within the jurisdiction of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District that was not currently included in FP-5. The expanded boundaries are currently subject to the previously authorized special tax in the annual amount of \$157.26 per parcel, with a maximum 3% annual cost of living increase. On April 4, 2019 and October 31, 2019, the San Bernardino Superior Court ruled that California's Constitution does not require a vote before expanding the boundary covered by this special tax. The valid special tax provides revenues to maintain current fire and emergency medical services. The repeal of the special tax will result in a reduction of revenue in the estimated amount of \$41.5 million annually.

This Measure was placed on the ballot by initiative petition signed by the requisite number of voters. The Measure does not seek voter approval to impose any new or additional tax. This Measure will not have any effect on existing law.

A yes vote on this Measure will repeal the special tax associated with Fire Protection Service Zone Five and reduce annual revenue to the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District by approximately \$41.5 million annually.

A no vote on this Measure will keep in effect the special tax associated with Fire Protection Zone Five and the annual revenue to the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District of

approximately \$41.5 million annually. If less than a majority of the voters vote yes on this Measure, the special tax will stay in effect.

MICHELLE D. BLAKEMORE  
County Counsel



JOLENA E. GRIDER  
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