



Interoffice Memo

DATE: February 17, 2022

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FROM: **JOLENA E. GRIDER**
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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 (FP-5) ELECTION TO BE HELD ON JUNE 7, 2022 |
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This Measure, if approved by a majority of those voting, would repeal the special tax associated with San Bernardino County Fire Protection District 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 of \$117 per parcel with future annual inflationary increases of up to 3% was authorized following a two-thirds vote of registered voters in CSA 70, Improvement Zone FP-5 for fire and emergency medical services.

In 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 San Bernardino County. On October 16, 2018, the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Board of Directors expanded FP-5 such that the area of FP-5 includes: (a) all unincorporated areas of the County not already receiving fire and emergency services from other districts; (b) the land within the incorporated boundaries of the following cities and town: Grand Terrace, Upland, San Bernardino, Needles, and Yucca Valley; and (c) the land within the boundaries of the following districts: Helendale Community Services District, City of Twentynine Palms Water District and the Crest Forest Fire Protection District. The expanded boundaries are currently subject to the previously authorized special tax in the annual amount of \$161.98 per parcel, with future annual inflationary increases of up to 3%. 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 \$42.7 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 (FP-5) and reduce revenue to the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District by approximately \$42.7 million annually.

A no vote on this Measure will keep in effect the special tax associated with Fire Protection Service Zone Five (FP-5) and the revenue to the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District of approximately \$42.7 million annually. If less than a majority of the voters vote yes on this Measure, the special tax will stay in effect.

Office of County Counsel



JOLENA E. GRIDER
Deputy County Counsel