

ECFD Talking Points

- As you may know, only property tax and benefit fees fund our district. The taxpayers who pay these fees own the Fire District and elect the Fire Board who governs the district. The County Board of Supervisors offers no funding or input into the districts policies. The burden of operation falls squarely upon the citizens of the district.
- Our district is severely under funded with our current tax revenue and benefit fee and has been for quite some time. We now find ourselves at a crossroads. In an attempt to keep our same level of service, the current board has been making some drastic cuts from this budget as well as securing a \$161,000 gift from the county to cover some of the shortfall for this year. The cuts and grant bring the current budgetary shortfall to \$149,000 through July 2007.
- In order for the ECFPD to continue its level of service: keep our current ISO ratings and homeowners insurance cost down and available, reasonable response times for all 911 service we must immediately meet the current budget shortfall.
- **The Fire Suppression Assessment**
- Although many plans have been explored the next plan to generate additional dollars to meet the ongoing shortfall the District faces every year, the best plan to insure long term results is an annual benefit fee to every property owner in the District. This is the only way to keep the doors of the East County Fire Protection Districts stations open. If approved it takes approximately 9 months to get this into the property tax system and for ECFPD to actually receive the funds, therefore the decision will be put to the property owners very soon in order for the district to meet the liabilities of the 2007/2008 budget
- Surveys went out to both registered voters and property owners, Check the names the survey was addressed to may be the reason for multiple surveys or multiple parcel owner This suppression assessment would equal 250 a year or 21 a month figured on a per tax unit basis. Undeveloped properties pay differently than developed, commercial, agricultural, etc... differently.
- Individuals will not pay benefit fee. It is based on parcel tax unit
- How about an outside agency contract? Even if we were able to get a contract because generally the contacts proposed to us cost more money than we generate. The level of service would be determined by the organization running the district, or by the amount of service our current budget could afford to purchase. So, even the answer to contract fire service still comes down to the need to generate more revenue for our district.
- May 10th Town hall meeting to answer survey questions at the fire station garage area

