

Funding Options for Fire Protection Services



**Presentation to the Butte County
Board of Supervisors
December 8, 2009**

Butte County Fire Department



Structure

Blended staffing model

- Volunteer and paid staff
- Contract with CAL FIRE
- Some shared stations and resources with other jurisdictions
- Automatic aid with all surrounding jurisdictions

Funding

- Primarily General Fund
- Some grant funds
- Reimbursements

Options for Funding Fire Protection



- Fees, Fines and Citations, Subscription Services
- Taxes
- Special Districts

Fees, Fines and Citations, Subscription Services



➤ Fees

- Fire Suppression and Rescue
- Standby and Fireguard
- Hazardous Materials
- Emergency Medical Service
- Transport

➤ Fines and Citations

➤ Subscription Services

Require Board of Supervisors approval during a public hearing

Taxes



General Taxes

- Sales Tax
- Transit Occupancy Tax
- Utility Users Tax
- Parcel Tax
- Fire Flow Tax

Require approval by the Board of Supervisors and a majority of the voters.

Special Taxes

- Community Facilities District (Mello-Roos)
- Fire Suppression Assessment

Require approval by the Board of Supervisors and 2/3's of the voters.

Special Districts



- County Service Areas (CSA) – dependent district
- Community Services Districts (CSD) – dependent or independent district
- Fire Protection Districts – dependent or independent district

**Require approval by the Board of Supervisors,
LAFCo, and property owners/voters.**

Adjacent Counties



➤ Colusa

➤ Glenn

➤ Plumas

➤ Sutter

➤ Tehama

➤ Yuba

Other Comparable Counties



- El Dorado
- Merced
- Napa
- Placer
- Santa Cruz
- Shasta
- Sonoma
- Stanislaus
- Yolo

Provision of Services



- Eight (8) counties not involved in providing fire protection services
- Five (5) counties provide some level of fire protection
- Two (2) counties provide all fire protection services to unincorporated area

Funding



- All common methods used
 - Property tax
 - Special assessment
 - Funding agreements
 - County contribution

Districts



- 100 districts surveyed
- 82 formed prior to Proposition 13
 - 51 of these created prior to 1950
- Several districts created post-Proposition 13 are due to consolidation

Survey Summary



- No single best way
- Each has its own benefits and constraints
- Cost, complexity and time varies by option

Action Requested



- Accept report as information.
- Provide direction to staff for further analysis of specific options, if so desired.



Discussion and Questions