

## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE M

In recent years, Lakeport Fire Protection District calls for service have nearly tripled, from 938 in 1997 to 2,800 in 2017. As a result, operating costs have also increased in the District's attempts to keep up with demand. These costs include personnel, health and liability insurances, equipment and facility maintenance, among others. When coupled with stagnant or decreasing revenues from taxes, ambulance billing and other programs has left the Lakeport Fire District with funding to support only two (2) on duty personnel per day. This shortfall is causing critical increases in response times and often requiring mutual aid from other districts for emergency calls.

When the current fire taxes were passed by the voters in 1997, no cost of living adjustment was included in the tax established for County residents, while the City of Lakeport residents have paid a higher fee as the cost of living rose. City residents now pay nearly double that of a County resident. Measure M corrects that oversight, providing a consistent cost share for each property owner in the District.

The District's current level of depleted service will eventually affect the ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating for property owners, which will cause an increase in insurance premiums that is likely to be significantly greater than a reasonable increase in the fire tax.

Measure M provides funding to adequately staff the District's fire and emergency medical operations, as well as provide for a capital improvement plan to replace badly outdated equipment and deferred facility maintenance into the foreseeable future. Help the Lakeport Fire Protection District return to the level of service that our community expects and deserves!

We urge your "YES" vote on Measure M

s/: Don Davidson, Board of Director  
s/: Alan Flora, Board of Director