



ANTHONY C. MARRONE
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

"Proud Protectors of Life,
the Environment, and Property"

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 881-2401
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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
KATHRYN BARGER, CHAIR
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June 10, 2025

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE EXPENDITURE PLAN FOR REVENUE GENERATED BY
THE CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT □
EMERGENCY RESPONSE & INFRASTRUCTURE SPECIAL PARCEL TAX
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (District) is requesting Board of Supervisors (Board) approval of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 expenditure plan for revenue generated by the District's Emergency Response & Infrastructure Special Parcel Tax (Measure E) and delegate authority to the Fire Chief to adjust future expenditure plans with advance notice to the Board.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE
CONSOLIDATED FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY:**

1. Approve the recommended expenditure plan (Enclosure) authorizing the utilization of approximately \$152 million in funding from Measure E.
2. Delegate authority to the Fire Chief, or his designee, to adjust the expenditure plan amounts with advance notice to the Board.
3. Direct the District to provide an annual report to the Board by December 31st of each year describing the impact of the programs.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Measure E, a citizen³ initiative, was placed on the November 2024 ballot for the voters⁴ consideration as a solution to address the District³ financial challenges. The measure imposes a special tax of six cents (\$0.06) per square foot of structural improvements, excluding the square footage of improvements used for parking, on all taxable improved parcels. The tax applies to the parcels located within the cities and unincorporated area of Los Angeles County served by the District and is expected to generate approximately \$152 million in revenue for FY 2025-26. The measure was approved by the voters by 55.05%.

Revenues generated by the special tax will be expended by the District pursuant to an expenditure plan approved by the Board prior to June 30th of each year. The annual expenditure plan will include, but not be limited to the following priorities:

- (1) Hiring, training, and certifying additional firefighters and paramedics
- (2) Communications and Information Technology Systems
- (3) Facilities
- (4) Vehicles and aircraft
- (5) Life-saving rescue tools
- (6) Wildfire protection
- (7) Emergency response tools and infrastructure

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

Approval of the recommended actions is consistent with the County³ Strategic Plan North Star Sustainability and North Star 3 Communication and Public Access, Flexible and Efficient Infrastructure and Internal Controls and Processes.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Revenues generated by the special tax will reside in an interest-bearing Special Revenue Fund administered by the District. The special tax is expected to generate approximately \$152 million in revenue for FY 2025-26. For each tax year after FY 2025-26, the rate shall be adjusted by two percent (2%) annually or the California Consumer Price Index as published by the California State Board of Equalization for the local assessment roll, whichever is less. District costs will be limited to available special tax revenue and there will be no net County costs associated with this action.

The proposed expenditure plan (Enclosure) has been reviewed by County Counsel and aligns with all requirements for use.

Funding will be included in the District³ FY 2025-26 Adopted Budget and will be included in future fiscal years⁴ budgets, as necessary.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Revenues generated by the special tax may be used for information technology systems; 911 communications, cell phone dispatch, and other communications technologies; adding and maintaining fire facilities, fire engines, helicopters, aircraft, life-saving tools and equipment, wildfire protection, emergency response tools and infrastructure; and hiring and training paramedics and firefighters. Revenues generated by the special tax shall not be used for unfunded workers⁴ compensation or pension liabilities.

The District's Independent Citizens Oversight Committee, established in 1997, shall provide an annual review of the special tax to ensure that the revenues generated by the special tax is expended only for the purposes specified and annually report the findings of its review to the Board and to the public.

Additionally, the Auditor-Controller will require a report to be prepared by an independent auditor and filed with the Board no later than December 31st of each year, stating the amount of special tax proceeds collected and expended and the status of all projects or description of any services or programs funded from proceeds of the special tax.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Ongoing financial challenges have prevented the District from investing in its infrastructure and equipment. The revenue generated by Measure E will allow the District to replace and repair fire stations and offices that are seismically unsafe, to replace vehicles, helicopters, and equipment that are past its service life, to purchase air operations capital assets, and to hire and train additional paramedics and firefighters. This will ensure that our residents and business owners continue to receive the highest quality of service while entrusted in our care.

CONCLUSION

Upon approval by your Honorable Board, please instruct the Executive Officer of the Board to return the adopted stamped Board Letter to the following:

Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County
Executive Office
Attention: Jennifer Camarena, Administrative Services Manager II
1320 North Eastern Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90063
Jennifer.Camarena@fire.lacounty.gov

The District's contact may be reached at (323) 267-7205.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

6/10/2025

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony C. Marrone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

ANTHONY C. MARRONE

FIRE CHIEF

ACM:al

Enclosures

c: Chief Executive Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel

Consolidated Fire Protection District of Los Angeles County (District)
Proposed Measure E Expenditure Plan for FY 2025-26

Background: Measure E, a citizen's initiative, was placed on the November 2024 ballot for the voters' consideration as a solution to address the District's financial challenges. The measure imposes a special tax of six cents (\$0.06) per square foot of structural improvements, excluding the square footage of improvements used for parking, on all taxable improved parcels. The tax applies to the parcels located within the cities and unincorporated area of Los Angeles County served by the District and is expected to generate approximately **\$152 million** in revenue for Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26. The measure was approved by the voters by 55.05%.

Revenues generated by the special tax will be expended by the District pursuant to an expenditure plan approved by the Board prior to June 30th of each year. The annual expenditure plan will include, but not be limited to the following priorities:

- (1) Hiring, training, and certifying additional firefighters and paramedics
- (2) Communications and Information Technology Systems
- (3) Facilities
- (4) Vehicles and aircraft
- (5) Life-saving rescue tools
- (6) Wildfire protection
- (7) Emergency response tools and infrastructure

Proposal: For FY 2025-26, the District will focus on the following items that align with the priorities listed above.

1. **Facilities:** The District's 261 facilities have an average age of over 50-years and have limited capacity to meet increasing demand for Fire, Paramedic, and Lifeguard service-delivery. As a result, the District plans on utilizing Measure E funds to replace Fire Stations 2, 8, 12, 17, and 22 over the next 5-years and to perform seismic retrofitting at Fire Stations 37, 38, 63, 70, and 78. All of the fire stations listed previously were deemed seismically unsafe based on assessments performed by AECOM (2018) and Johnson Fain (2019). The District also plans on utilizing Measure E funds to construct new fire stations to replace Fire Station 81 and to assist with the call volume of Fire Station 33 in Lancaster, our busiest station; to perform deferred facility maintenance; and to expand the current dispatch center to accommodate increasing call volume.

Estimated FY 2025-26 Budget: \$62.389 million

Supervisory Districts Impacted: **ALL**

- 2. Vehicles and Apparatus:** The District has approximately 1,602 vehicles including 992 emergency vehicles and 610 non-emergency vehicles. The majority of the District's vehicles are approaching or over 20-years of age and are in need of replacement as the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) recommends a 15-to-20-year lifecycle for emergency vehicles. The District plans on utilizing \$17.206 million of Measure E funds to purchase vehicles and apparatus. This will supplement the District's annual allocation of \$13.888 million to the District's Vehicle Accumulated Capital Outlay (ACO) Fund, which will result in a total of \$31.094 million for vehicle replacement. The priorities are to replace antiquated emergency vehicles and to transition non-emergency vehicles to hybrid vehicles.

Estimated FY 2025-26 Budget: \$17.206 million

Supervisorial Districts Impacted: **ALL**

- 3. 4-Person Staffing:** Although the NFPA standard is for fire agencies to have 4-person Engine Company staffing, the District currently uses both 3-person and 4-person Engines. As a result, the District plans on utilizing Measure E funds to convert 5 Engine Companies from 3-person to 4-person staffing with the eventual goal of converting all 163 engines to 4-person staffing. The identification of the first 5 Engine Companies to convert will be based on those with the highest call volume and emergency activity.

Estimated FY 2025-26 Budget: \$3.508 Million

Supervisorial Districts Impacted: **ALL**

- 4. Helicopter Replacement:** The District currently maintains a fleet of 8 water-dropping helicopters to combat fast-moving wildfires and to provide air medical transport. The District plans on utilizing Measure E funds to replace one of two Sikorsky Firehawks that are nearing 25 years of service.

Estimated FY 2025-26 Budget: \$41.500 Million

Supervisorial Districts Impacted: **ALL**

- 5. Air Operations:** The District's Air Operations currently operate from 2 locations: Barton Heliport and Van Nuys Airport. According to an assessment by Johnson Fain (2019), these facilities are undersized by approximately 60% with specific deficiencies in aircraft apron (tarmac) area, maintenance hangers, and hanger space to store aircraft. As a result, the District plans on utilizing Measure E to update and expand existing sites or to relocate to a new site to accommodate modern aircraft and provide a coordinated and rapid response with improved situational awareness over its operations during firefighting events.

Estimated FY 2025-26 Budget: \$10.000 Million

Supervisorial District Impacted: **ALL**

6. **Communication & IT Equipment:** Due to ongoing financial challenges, the District has been unable to upgrade communication and information technology equipment for over a decade. As a result, the District plans on utilizing Measure E funds to supplement the ITIB funding received in 2023 for the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) replacement project; to replace Dispatch Console hardware that is over 7-years old; to upgrade, enhance, and strengthen emergency communication equipment; to purchase mobile routers for new District vehicles; and to begin repayment of Information Technology Infrastructure Fund loan to purchase and install 8,500 mobile radios.

Estimated FY 2025-26 Budget: \$6.339 million

Supervisory Districts Impacted: **ALL**

7. **Firefighting Equipment:** District operations often require the use of specialized fire fighting and emergency medical equipment that require replacement when it becomes obsolete and past its useful life. To ensure appropriation funding for equipment replacement, The District plans on setting aside Measure E funding annually for future replacement of the District's Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) and Cardiac Monitors/Defibrillators. The District's SCBAs were last replaced in 2022 and have a 10-year life span and the District's Cardiac Monitors/Defibrillators were last replaced in 2024 and have an 8-year life span. In addition, the District plans on utilizing Measure E funds to replace the District's Automatic External Defibrillators that allow fire fighters to immediately treat cardiac arrest patients.

Estimated FY 2025-26 Budget: \$11.058 million

Supervisory Districts Impacted: **ALL**

Future Items: Expenditure plans will be submitted for Board approval prior to June 30th of each year. Future expenditure plans will include continued replacement or repair of fire stations, air operations facilities, lifeguard facilities, training facilities, and logistics/support facilities (including Fire headquarters); additional IT infrastructure projects, including a new scheduling/timekeeping system for firefighters; expansion of the training division to support the training of new firefighters; and future replacement of additional helicopters, radios/communication equipment, and firefighting tools and equipment.