



Yolo Fire Protection District

Information Fact Sheet

Your Opinion is Important to Us!

You have been identified as a property owner within the Yolo Fire Protection District. The District is responsible for providing year-round fire protection and prevention and basic life-support services in the community of Yolo, as well as the surrounding unincorporated areas. The District is seeking your opinion to help provide the highest quality fire protection and emergency response services.

Please read this information sheet and complete the enclosed questionnaire or respond online at www.inputlocal.com. Your responses will help the District make important decisions about how to maintain and improve these services in our community.

About the Fire District

The Yolo Fire Protection District is a special district formed in 1939 and governed by an independent, three-member Board of Fire Commissioners that are elected by the District voters. The Fire District covers approximately 52 square miles and serves an approximate population of 1,300. The Fire District is staffed primarily with volunteer firefighters supplemented with a full-time career firefighter and a part-time Fire Chief. It responds to more than 400 calls each year.

The Fire District serves a diverse community of single-family homes, agriculture, and open spaces, and commercial businesses. Since the time of its inception, the District has never been funded by the State or County. As a result, the District has been operating on a tight budget for many years. However the District cannot continue to provide the level of fire protection service without additional funding.

Services Provided by the District

Every year the Yolo Fire Protection District responds to an increasing number of service calls, including:

- Structure and vehicle fires
- Emergency Services
- Brush fire suppression
- Traffic collisions (fires and entrapments)
- Hazardous material responses

In addition to these services, the Fire District provides fire prevention services and public education to the community.



Funding Challenges

The Yolo Fire Protection District is not funded by the County or the State. The District is funded through a small portion of local property taxes, miscellaneous fees, and a static special assessment that has remained unchanged since 1997. This existing assessment does not include a cost-of-living index adjustment mechanism.

The costs of fire protection and emergency response services continue to rise each year due to more emergency calls, increased firefighter training requirements, and growing wildfire risk to the community. The Fire District has reduced costs to stay within budget including continuing to use equipment past the time it would normally be replaced. The District needs additional funding to continue to provide the appropriate level of service to local residents and business owners.

To respond online, please visit www.inputlocal.com and enter the code found on the front of your survey.



Yolo Fire Protection District

Information Fact Sheet, Continued

Proposed Funding Solution

In order to continue providing a high level of fire protection and emergency response services, the District is considering a “Fire Protection and Emergency Services Assessment” that could be adjusted annually with the cost of living. This proposed assessment would allow the District to provide an increased level of service, improved response time to emergencies, and train and retain highly skilled firefighters. The proposed annual assessment for your property is listed on the enclosed questionnaire and calculated based on the rates by property type listed below, adjusted by factors like travel time and, for a small number of properties, relative fire risk. For example, if a property is less than five minutes from the fire station, the assessment would be adjusted by a factor of 1.15, and the assessment for a single family home would be \$151.81 (\$132.01 x 1.15).

Property Type	Proposed Rate	Unit
Single Family	\$132.01	each
Multi-Family	\$54.77	res unit
Commercial/Industrial	\$981.48	acre
Office	\$258.74	acre
Storage	\$721.01	acre
Vacant	\$17.68	each
Agriculture	\$3.35	acre
Range Land & Open Space	\$0.20	acre

Reasons for Funding

Despite working on a limited budget, the Fire District’s current revenue is not adequate to continue providing services at a level that is safe for the community, and costs will still continue to increase over time. Currently the fire station is staffed with one firefighter Monday through Friday 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m. with volunteer firefighters responding to emergencies from their homes. Unfortunately the number of volunteers that are available to respond to calls has decreased over the years due to increased training demands and a growing call volume. In addition, social and economic changes in recent years are leading to two income families and more commuters not working in the District and fewer people available to respond to calls during typical work hours.

With a new funding source, the Fire District would hire an additional full-time firefighter and would staff the fire station, seven days a week 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m., which would guarantee two firefighters responding to emergencies in the event that volunteers are unavailable. This would also allow the Fire District to respond more quickly to calls, and could lower your Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating which could lower insurance rates.



The Fire District has identified the following critical areas that require additional funding to maintain and improve services:

Improve emergency response times

This measure will help the District to improve emergency response times to fire and other emergencies, which are vital to saving lives and property, especially during concurrent emergencies.

Provide updated firefighting equipment to meet current safety standards

Funds from the new assessment will be used to assist with the replacement of old and outdated fire apparatus and equipment that is not up to current standards.

Hire full time firefighters

With additional funding the District would hire a full time firefighter within one year. Two-three years later the District would maintain a 2 person engine, seven days a week 8:00a.m. - 5:00p.m. responding to emergencies at time of dispatch.