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BECKWOURTH PEAK
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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PLUMAS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CALLS DISTRICT ELECTION FOR BALLOT MEASURE E AND MEASURE F TO FORM BECKWOURTH PEAK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AND ESTABLISH A SPECIAL TAX

Registered voters within the new Fire Protection District boundaries will vote on Measures E and F during the November 7, 2023 general election.

JULY 13, 2023 – PORTOLA, CALIF. – On July 11, 2023 the Board of Supervisors finalized the last crucial step to establish a ballot measure that gives registered voters the say of whether to form one unified fire protection district to serve Eastern Plumas communities. If approved, Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District (BPFDP/FPD) will provide fire and emergency services currently administered by Beckwourth Fire District, Sierra Valley Fire District, Gold Mountain Community Services District and the City of Portola, and will expand boundaries to include those currently outside of an assigned jurisdiction.

“We have achieved significant wins to get Measures E and F on the ballot. First, receiving approval from the Plumas Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) to form a new district. Second, securing a tax-sharing agreement with Plumas County to receive a portion of property taxes already paid at no additional cost to property owners. And finally, receiving approval from the Board of Supervisors to place the measure on the November 2023 ballot,” says Cary Curtis, Vice Chair of Local Emergency Services Study Group (LESSG). “Now it is up to the voters.”

Combining resources, such as volunteer firefighters, staff, facilities, training and equipment will create efficiencies.

“The application clearly demonstrated the efficacy of consolidation and reformation into one new FPD, which is why LAFCo provided approval,” says Jennifer Stephenson, Executive Officer, Plumas LAFCo. “Many rural communities are exploring similar efforts.”

Measure E and Measure F read, in part, *Whether formation of the Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District shall be approved, a special tax levied, and Board of Directors elected for such District.* All three components, including a two-thirds majority vote in favor of the special tax, must pass for BPFDP to be formed. The new special tax will help provide the funding necessary to hedge rising costs for providing fire and medical response services. The long-form ballot Measure E explains in detail the dissolution efforts of Beckwourth Fire District, Sierra Valley Fire District, Gold Mountain Community Services District and the City of Portola as part of forming BPFDP.

“I cannot stress enough the importance of this measure to be considered by our community,” comments Fire Chief Russell of Beckwourth FPD. “Eastern Plumas County fire agencies are strapped for resources, especially given Eastern Plumas Rural FPD is currently unable to respond to fire or EMS 911 calls, placing strain

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on surrounding departments to respond to calls. The new Special Tax will help provide the funding necessary to ensure services can continue to be funded and will hedge the rising costs for providing fire and medical response services. Our community deserves rapid, efficient responses, especially when they are at their most vulnerable,” says Chief Russell.

Beckwourth Peak FPD will be governed by an elected five-member Board of Directors. Interested parties who want to run for a seat need to obtain and file a Declaration of Candidacy with the Plumas County Elections office. The Candidate Nomination Period is open July 17 through August 11, 2023.

Information about Measures E and F and Beckwourth Peak Fire Protection District is posted at www.fireprotectplumas.org including a one-page Information Sheet that provides details about BPFDP, service boundaries, formation steps, and funding sources.

Board of Directors’ meetings for [Beckwourth Fire District](#), Sierra Valley Fire District and [Gold Mountain Community Services District](#), and [City of Portola](#) council meetings are open to the public and community members are encouraged to attend. Community-wide informational meetings will be held early Fall 2023.

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