

Measure U Ballot Question to Voters

“To continue to provide fire and emergency services, shall Monte Rio Fire Protection District Ordinance No. 18/19-01 authorizing a special tax based on use codes shown on Exhibit “A” of the Ordinance of \$200.00 for residential properties, \$50.00 for each campsite, \$400.00 for commercial properties, and \$100.00 plus \$1.00 per acre for timberland, raising approximately \$500,000.00 annually until repealed; and increasing the District’s appropriations to permit spending of the revenue raised by the special tax, be adopted?”



Monte Rio Fire Protection District
PO Box 536
Monte Rio, CA 95462

**For more information,
please visit MonteRioFire.org or call 707-865-2067**

EXHIBIT A

MONTE RIO FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT 2018 SPECIAL TAX PARCEL - USE CODES			
USE CODE SUMMARIES	RATE PER APN	RATE PER ADDITIONAL UNIT	CHARGE BASE
MOBILE HOME/CAMPGROUND SPACES	\$200.00	\$50.00	SPACE
VACANT LAND	\$100.00	\$0.00	FLAT RATE
SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	\$200.00	\$0.00	FLAT RATE
MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL	\$400.00	\$0.00	UNIT
HOTEL/MOTEL/LODGING	\$200.00	\$50.00	UNIT
COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL	\$400.00	\$0.00	FLAT RATE
WAREHOUSE	\$400.00	\$0.00	FLAT RATE
CLUB/LODGE	\$200.00	\$0.00	FLAT RATE
TIMBERLAND	\$100.00	\$1.00	ACRE
EXCLUDED	\$0.00	\$0.00	FLAT RATE

(Partial)



Important Voter Information from the Monte Rio Fire Protection District

The Monte Rio Fire Protection District has a 100 year history of responding to local emergencies in the Lower Russian River when residents and visitors need them the most. This legacy of work and preparedness has been powered by a volunteer fire fighting and emergency response force since its inception. Times have changed, and the District is adapting to modern realities of increased call volume for emergencies of all types, preparing for increased danger from wildfires, and supporting our firefighters with proper training and equipment.

**For more information,
please visit MonteRioFire.org or call 707-865-2067**

Measure U:

Monte Rio Fire Protection District Parcel Tax to Support Fire and Emergency Services in the Lower Russian River

The Board of Directors of the MRFPD have placed Measure U on the ballot for voter consideration this Fall. Measure U will generate approximately \$500,000 per year which will only be used for the purposes of fire and emergency services in the Lower Russian River Area.

In 2017, the North Bay faced the most dramatic and significant wildfires in the history of our State. The Sonoma County fires alone resulted in 9,000 structures lost, including 5,800 homes and 23 of our neighbors' lives. We cannot afford to sit back in the Lower Russian River area and wait for nature to take its course.

Measure U funding will support:

 **Fire and Emergency Services Budget:** Measure U provides critical support for our firefighters, with approximately \$500,000 per year generated through a \$200/residence parcel tax.

 **Improved Response Times:** Measure U funding will enable a highly trained paid firefighter to be in the firehouse 24/7 to respond to emergency calls, enabling a 30-90 second response time after a call for help, dramatically reducing current response times.

 **Wildfire Response:** Local fire departments are often first on the scene to extinguish brush fires – a critical component to preventing wildfires. Measure U will reduce response times, and enable modernization of wildfire fighting equipment needs.

 **Regional Response and Collaboration:** MRFPD is responding to neighboring Camp Meeker and Cazadero's response calls, as those districts also struggle with declining volunteer availability. Measure U will position our Lower Russian River fire department to be in the driver's seat when future discussions arise regarding combining of districts.

 **Equipment Needs:** Measure U will allow Monte Rio to purchase new equipment, like protective firefighter gear for house and brush fires, and oxygen tanks and masks, to keep our firefighters safe on the job.



Dear Monte Rio Fire Protection District residents,

I'm writing to explain why our Fire Protection District has decided to place a parcel tax, Measure U, on the ballot for the November Election.

It has been my great honor to serve as your volunteer Fire Chief. I have no plans at the moment to step away, but it is important for the District to prepare for the future. It is not realistic to rely on someone to do this demanding work as I have as a volunteer. I enjoy the simple life we all love here in the Lower Russian River, but many folks with the demands of family and modern economics will not find this a position that is suitable for a volunteer arrangement.

Our District needs to plan to hire a chief when I step down. In order to provide the level of service that our district demands, we must also have staffing in the fire station around the clock, 24/7. We still have a dedicated volunteer pool, but I have seen those numbers over my 40 years here decline steadily. At the same time, the call demand to respond to fires and emergencies has risen dramatically. We really are an emergency medical and first responder in the rural West County.

Finally, we have an expenditure plan for Measure U that in addition to the staffing and reduced response times to calls for help, has funding dedicated to bringing our District equipment up to modern safety standards. We need dependable equipment so that if and when brush fires or structure fires flare up, we can respond swiftly, and squash them before they turn into deadly wildfires, which are becoming all too common. Our heavily forested district also needs more proactive removal of dead tan oaks and under-brush, which with dedicated funding we'd be in a better position to work on fire-safe setbacks and removal of hazards.

Thank you for your time, and careful consideration of Measure U. I welcome your questions at (707) 865-2067.

Yours in service,

Stephen Baxman

Volunteer Fire Chief - Monte Rio Fire

 **Retirement:** In our own district, Chief Steve Baxman, who has been a stalwart volunteer with an incredible community service ethic, is often responding to calls by himself, and will eventually retire. Measure U will allow the District to hire a part time Fire Chief when Steve retires, possibly sharing that new Chief with a neighboring district.



Measure U: A parcel tax for the Monte Rio Fire Protection District, an area covering 43 square miles, would create a sustainable and dedicated source of revenue to enhance public safety, decrease response times, and better serve the residents of our district. This type of community investment would allow MRFPD to implement the optimum solution for the future of our fire protection district.