



NORTH  
**SONOMA COAST  
FIRE**  
*Sea Ranch Station*

NORTH  
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FIRE**


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FIRE**

# MEASURE H: FIRE FUNDING MATTERS!






# Speakers

- NSCFPD Fire Chief Bonnie Plakos
  - NSCFPD Board Chair Marti Campbell
  - Sonoma Valley Fire Chief Steve Akre
- 



# Topics

- Fire Protection On The Coast
  - Fire District Status and Outlook
  - NSCFPD Operational and Administrative Needs
  - Measure H: What is it? What will it provide?
  - Public Comment, Q & A
- 



## *Fire Protection on the Coast: Who Responds?*

- North Sonoma Coast Fire (NSCFPD)
- CAL FIRE
- Coast Life Support District (CLSD)
- Sonoma County Sheriff
- California Highway Patrol
- Mutual Aid: Timber Cove Fire, Goldridge FPD (Fort Ross), South Coast Fire (Gualala), Redwood Coast Fire (Point Arena), Northern Sonoma County (Geyserville)

## *What Is NSCFPD?*

- North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District was formed on April 1, 2016
- Includes the Sea Ranch, Stewarts Point, and Annapolis areas
- 172.4 Square Miles
- Includes areas previously served by TSRVFD and Annapolis VFD
- “All-Hazard” department, responding to medical emergencies, fires, traffic accidents, search & rescue operations, downed trees...

# Where Is NSCFPD?



## *Who Is NSCFPD?*

- 16 volunteer firefighters and/or EMTs and 4 support members
- 5 career CAL FIRE personnel, minimum of 2 on duty 24x7, contracted by NSC
- Fire Chief Bonnie Plakos
- Assistant Fire Chief Chuck Breier
- Fire Captains Paul Plakos, Phil Martin
- CAL FIRE Captains Red Miller and Pat Briant
- District Board has 5 members elected by the citizens of the District




# North Sonoma Coast Fire, 2023





## *NSCFPD Information*

- NSCFPD contracts with CAL FIRE for 24x7 coverage by career firefighters
  - NSC Volunteers and CAL FIRE respond together as one fire department
  - CAL FIRE provides operational oversight, training, inspections, vehicle maintenance...
- 

# CAL FIRE Seasonal, State-Mission Staffing



# NSCFPD Stations: North Station, Hwy 1



# NSCFPD Stations: CAL FIRE Station, Annapolis Road



## *NSCFPD Stations in Annapolis*

- Annapolis Station
  - At County Roads yard on Annapolis Road
  - Houses one water tender
- Horicon School Station
  - On Horicon School grounds
  - Houses one engine



# *NSC Fire Open House!*

Want to learn more about the fire department?  
Interested in becoming a Volunteer Firefighter?  
Come to our Open House!

- Free hot dogs, snacks and drinks
- Meet firefighters
- Learn about volunteering
- See Fire Equipment, spray some water
- Saturday April 20, 2024

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the CAL FIRE station

# District Website: nscfpd.org



## North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District

[GOVERNANCE](#) ▾

[ABOUT US](#) ▾

[PHOTO GALLERIES](#) ▾

[GET INVOLVED](#) ▾

[RESOURCES](#) ▾

[PUBLIC FORUMS](#) ▾



ing the communities of  
Sea Ranch, Annapolis, and  
Stewarts Point

### HOT NEWS

[January 27 Forum: Fire Funding Matters!](#)

[March 2024 Ballot Measure H](#)

[Check out our new generators](#)

[NSCVFA 2023 Newsletter](#)

[Know Your Evacuation Zone](#)

[Emergency Information](#)

### BURN INFO



We are a company of dedicated volunteer and career firefighters who provide fire protection, emergency medical response, rescue, and public assistance services to the communities of northwestern Sonoma County. See [About Us](#) for more details.




### MEETINGS

Board of Directors:  
Tuesday January 16, 2024  
2:00 p.m.





## *North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighter Association*

- Our associated 501(c)(3) nonprofit
  - Formed in 1973
  - NSCVFA owns and maintains the North Fire Station on Highway 1.
  - Provides equipment, training, clothing, or anything needed by the volunteer firefighters
  - Sponsors Memorial Weekend picnic, Christmas Tree sales
  - VFA Board has 5 members
- 



## North Sonoma Coast Volunteer Firefighter Association

[ABOUT US](#) ▾

[PHOTO GALLERIES](#) ▾

[SUPPORT US](#) ▾

[EVENTS](#) ▾

[RESOURCES](#)

[CONTACT US](#)



Serving the communities of  
The Sea Ranch, Annapolis, and  
Stewarts Point since 1973

### HOT NEWS

[2023 NSCVFA Newsletter!!](#)  
[UTV 4441 Has Arrived!](#)

#### BURN INFO



CAL FIRE burn permits  
no longer required as of  
December 11,  
2023. Permits from  
NSCAPCD are always re-  
quired. NSCFPD is in the  
Northern Sonoma  
County Air Pollution  
Control District  
(NSCAPCD). You can find

<https://tsrvfd.org> v district

## NORTH SONOMA COAST VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER ASSOCIATION



### SUPPORT YOUR VFD

[Mail a contribution](#)  
or donate online  
via Paypal.

[Donate](#)

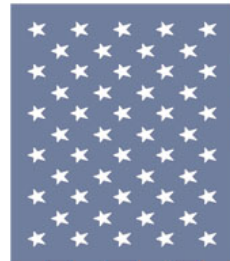
### HELP WANTED!

Position available for those

The non-profit Sea Ranch Volunteer Fire Department is now the North Sonoma Coast Volunteer

# Don't Forget: Memorial Day Weekend Picnic in 2024!

**SUPPORT NORTH SONOMA  
COAST VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**



## **MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND BBQ**



**SUNDAY  
MAY 26th, 2024**

**NOON-3PM**  
ONE-EYED JACK'S PLAYGROUND

**HAMBURGERS  
VEGGIE BURGERS  
HOT DOGS  
HOT LINKS  
BEANS & SLAW  
BEER & WINE  
SODAS & DESSERTS**

**ADULTS: \$25**

**KIDS (5-12): \$15 UNDER 5: FREE**

# *NSCFPD Status and Outlook*

- NSC has been able to maintain minimum career CAL FIRE staff and improve apparatus since forming the District.
- Most administrative tasks have been done by volunteers.
  - We do have a bookkeeper
  - Recently hired part-time administrative assistant
- Our Volunteer firefighter base is aging out and we are not getting new volunteers

# *Status and Current Funding*

- Unable to increase career (CAL FIRE) staffing to recommended minimum standard (3 on duty)
  - (Future state labor agreements might require 3-person staffing)
- Could support some paid full-time admin staff for a while but not forever
- Are unable to support meaningful community projects or engagement
- Unable make fire station improvements
- Using volunteers for overall District administration is unacceptable risk to the District

# *Operational and Administrative Needs*

- Increase career CAL FIRE staffing to recommended minimum standard of 3 on duty
- Hire paid administrative staff to manage district and enable support of community education, preparedness, mitigation and safety projects
- Expand and complete North Fire station to:
  - Support 24x7 residential staff
  - Add equipment and apparatus storage
  - Provide district office space

# Projection Scenarios

## Yearly Net Operating Income (Loss) Without Additional Funding

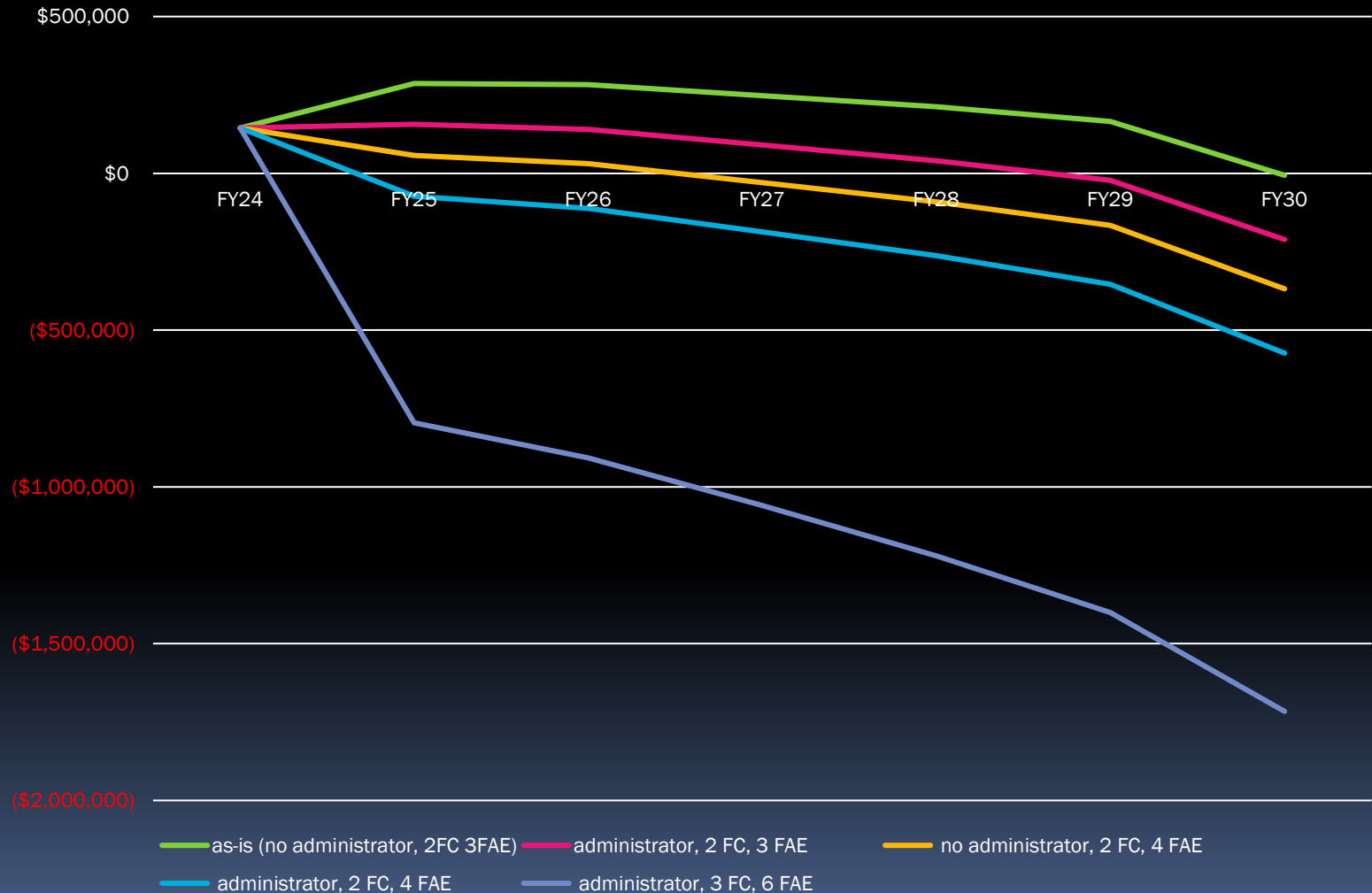
Scenario	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
as-is (no administrator, 2FC 3FAE)	\$144,400	\$286,200	\$283,000	\$247,200	\$212,100	\$165,600	(\$6,200)
administrator, 2 FC, 3 FAE	\$144,400	\$156,200	\$140,000	\$90,200	\$40,100	(\$22,500)	(\$211,600)
no administrator, 2 FC, 4 FAE	\$144,400	\$57,000	\$30,800	(\$29,700)	(\$91,200)	(\$166,200)	(\$368,400)
administrator, 2 FC, 4 FAE	\$144,400	(\$73,000)	(\$112,200)	(\$186,600)	(\$263,200)	(\$354,300)	(\$573,900)
administrator, 3 FC, 6 FAE	\$144,400	(\$796,100)	(\$907,600)	(\$1,059,700)	(\$1,219,800)	(\$1,400,500)	(\$1,716,400)

## Annual Net Operating Income (Loss) if Measure H passes

Scenario	FY24	FY25	FY26	FY27	FY28	FY29	FY30
administrator, 3 FC, 6 FAE	\$144,400	(\$96,100)	\$527,400	\$517,100	\$509,300	\$492,200	\$352,000

# Projection Scenarios

Annual Net Operating Income Without Additional Funding





# Projection Scenarios

Annual Net Operating Income if Measure H Passes



# ***NSCFPD Status and Outlook Summary***

- We have done well maintaining equipment and response
- We do not have funding to make any significant improvements
- Call volume is increasing, volunteer engagement is decreasing
- Eventually as rising expenses outrun gains in property tax we will not be able to support what we are doing now, let alone make improvements

# *Where does the money come from?*

- NSCFPD is funded by Property Tax (ad valorem; no parcel tax)
- Supplemented by donations made to NSCVFA which help with equipment, training, station maintenance and general support

# *Other Possible Funding Sources*

- Ballot Measure H would provide about \$1.4 million a year
- Pass a parcel tax or tax assessment (amount requires analysis but might average \$400/parcel)
- Sonoma County has stated that it will not provide any additional fire services funding
- Some Transient Occupancy Tax money might be available but not enough for staffing
- Grants (difficult to get, and not forever)



# *Measure H*

- Chief Akre will discuss:
  - Background
  - How Measure H was created
  - Effects
  - Oversight

## *Measure H: How Will It Be Used Here?*

- Increase full-time career CAL FIRE staffing from 5 to 9 people (minimum of 3 on duty 24x7)
- Increased staff is needed because:
  - Number of calls increases each year
  - Volunteer base is shrinking
  - 3 persons is minimum recommended standard for an engine company

# *Measure H: How Will It Be Used Here?*

- Hire paid staff to :
  - Manage required day-to-day administration of a government agency
  - Support projects to serve the community such as:
    - District-wide Community Wildfire Protection Plan
    - Vegetation management projects
    - Community educational outreach on preparedness, resilience, evacuations, home-hardening
    - Grant identification, application, execution and management

# *Measure H: How Will It Be Used Here?*

- North Fire Station Improvements:
  - District office space
  - Better apparatus and equipment storage
  - Expanded training facilities
  - Residential facilities to allow for 24x7 staffing



# *Measure H: How Will It Be Used Here?*


- Timber Cove Fire Protection District
  - Upgrade or build station to support 24x7 career staff
  - Hire career firefighters to provide 24x7 coverage similar to what NSC has now
- Fills the gap between Sea Ranch and Bodega Bay

# Measure H: Endorsements

- Measure H has been endorsed by:
  - NSCFPD Board of Directors
  - Sonoma County Board of Supervisors
  - Goldridge, Northern Sonoma County, Graton, Rancho Adobe, and Kenwood Fire Protection Districts
  - Senator Mike McGuire, Congressman Mike Thompson, Assemblyman Jim Wood, and many other local representatives.
  - Full list of endorsers can be found at:  
<https://www.safersonomacounty.org/endorsements>



# *Information Sources*

- <https://www.northsonomacoastfpd.org/march-2024-ballot-measure/>
  - <https://sonomachiefs.org/>
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# Thank You For Your Time!



# Comments?

# Questions

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