



11/3/25

Dear Board of Supervisors,

The Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association firmly opposes “Option 2: Utilize Existing Revenue Sources” of the County’s sustainable EMS funding presentation in Agenda item 4c & 4d 11/4/25.

Option 2, vaguely suggests that a reshuffling of existing Measure P revenue may stabilize and enhance EMS services. It won’t, here’s why:

1. Fire Agencies already provide EMS services. The vast majority of emergency calls Fire Agencies respond to are medical calls. Whether or not agencies operate an ambulance, they provide triage and lifesaving care. Revenues from Measure P, Measure D and Prop 172 are what fund the infrastructure of EMS services: radios, rescue vehicles, medical supplies, training etc. Diverting Measure P funds away from agencies to “stabilize” and “enhance” EMS services is counterproductive, because Fire Agencies are already what stabilizes and enhances EMS services. Especially when considering the overwhelming number of first responders in this County are volunteers.
2. The County lacks a clear long-term strategy, which should come well before suggesting a redirect of voter-supported funding allocations. The County should work directly with Fire Agencies to define a credible, collaborative and transparent plan. That means understanding the service, infrastructure, personnel, training and administrative needs in coordination with the agencies that provide those emergency services. By not engaging with Fire Agencies to develop solutions, the County undermines the cooperative planning and trust needed to strengthen EMS services countywide.
3. Voters were told clearly and repeatedly that Measure P would be distributed according to the method defined by Fire Agencies for Fire Agencies. Voters understood Measure P as a commitment to funding Fire Agencies, not creating a revenue stream for the County to re-prioritize later. Redirecting Measure P would damage the credibility of the County, the Board of Supervisors and any future tax measures.

MCFCFA urges the Board of Supervisors to reject Option 2 and direct staff to cease bringing similar recommendations forward. Continuing to suggest dismantling Measure P does nothing but foster a relationship of mistrust and frustration with the Fire Agencies that are relied on to ensure a safe community.

Sincerely,

*Doug Hutchison*

Chief Doug Hutchison

President, Mendocino County Fire Chiefs Association