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## MEASURE K

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### PROPOSAL TO MODIFY MEASURE B SPECIAL TAX FOR THE NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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**Shall Measure B, which established a parcel tax for Newcastle FPD so it could provide fire protection and rapid response services, be altered so that starting in Fiscal Year 2015-16 the parcel tax shall be reduced from \$146.46 per taxable parcel (with an additional charge for structures starting at 3,000 square feet), to simply \$30.00 per parcel (without any additional charge for larger structures and without increases based on the consumer price index)?**

**YES** \_\_\_\_\_

**NO** \_\_\_\_\_

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#### IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS BY PLACER COUNTY COUNSEL

This measure, if approved by two-thirds of the voters voting thereon, would make amendments to a special tax that was passed by the residents of the Newcastle Fire Protection District (District) in March 2012. This measure, as described by the proponents, would retain the tax rate approved in March 2012 for the first three years to generate tax revenue to fund a new fire station, but would drop to a lesser amount in the fourth year and thereafter.

This proposed special tax must be approved by two-thirds of voters in the district, and if passed, would result in keeping the voter-approved tax of \$146.46 per taxable parcel for the first three fiscal years (2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15) in place. For this three-year period, parcels with structures in excess of 3,000 square feet would be assessed an additional \$0.05 per square foot for the structure area greater than 3,000 square feet. However, after the first three years (beginning in fiscal year 2015-16 and continuing thereafter), the special tax would be \$30 per taxable parcel. This measure eliminates any cost-of-living increases that were included in the March 2012 measure.

Finally, the measure, if approved, would have a process by which a property owner who is assessed the special tax could appeal a determination by the district concerning the nature of the use of the property or the calculation of the amount of the tax to the District

Article 13A of the California Constitution, passed by the electorate in 1978 as Proposition 13, requires approval by the electorate to levy special taxes. California Health & Safety Code Section 13911 and Government Code Sections 50075-50077.5 authorize a process to propose and submit a special tax to the voters. These provisions require accountability measures including a requirement that the proceeds from the tax be placed into a special account and that a report be prepared annually that provides details on the amount of taxes collected in that year and showing that the taxes were used solely for the specific purposes for the tax.

A "Yes" vote is a vote to approve the measure to amend the March 2012 special tax.

A "No" vote is a vote against this measure, which would leave the March 2012 tax in place without change.

This analysis is submitted by the Office of the County Counsel of Placer County, pursuant to the requirements of Section 9313 of the Elections Code of the State of California.

Gerald O. Carden  
County Counsel

By: Brian R. Wirtz  
Deputy County Counsel

**The above statement is an impartial analysis of Measure K. If you desire a copy of the Initiative Measure, please call the Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you. E.C. 9313**

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## ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE K

A vote for Measure K will sustain the Newcastle Fire Protection District, build a new station or remodel the existing station. Measure K will limit the tax burdens on fixed income individuals.

Measure K is designed to amend Measure B which was passed in March, 2012 by a special election that increased your fire tax by 297% with indefinite, annual 3% increases. Every parcel in this district, improved or unimproved will have an added tax of \$146.46 annually. Residents currently pay approximately \$74 per parcel annually (through Measure F passed in 1997), with Measure B that amount would climb to approximately \$220.46, with no enhancement to services or response times.

According to Placer County Code Enforcement, the fire station has never been condemned as was stated in Measure B. It has code violations that need to be rectified.

Measure K will limit the 297% tax increase to a period of three years, allowing for adequate funds to repair the existing station or construct a new modest station.

During the three years Measure B will provide the district with an additional \$1 million in funding. At the end of the three years an additional \$30 will be added to the existing \$74 (Measure F) bringing the total fire tax to approximately \$104 per year. This is a 40% increase from our current fire tax of approximately \$74.

The blank check of Measure B will result in a station being built that the district cannot afford to sustain over time. We all support our firefighters, but with fire stations and fire districts closing every day the stakes are tremendously high. Your YES vote will ensure that the fire district lives within its means and not make dangerously, overly ambitious decisions that put them at risk.

Vote YES on Measure K

Roger Wm Robinson, Resident (NFPD)  
Wilma C. Powers, Resident  
Ronald A. Harmon, Castle City Resident  
Ronald J. Chiaratti, Retired Fireman, Resident  
James R. Gruber, Rancher

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## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE K

It's time to separate fact from fiction.

Fact: Measure K provides inadequate revenue for the Newcastle Fire Station to remain open. It raises less than \$900,000 in three years - not enough to build a new, compliant fire station.

Fact: Measure K takes away modest pay raises and health benefits for firefighters recently made possible by Measure B. Once again, Newcastle will be faced with high turnover rates and appalling treatment of emergency responders risking lives to protect our community.

Fact: Measure K asserts that the tax increases 3% annually, but this cost of living adjustment can be zero, never more than 3%, and always requires approval of the Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled public meeting each year.

Fact: The Fire Station has been declared unsafe for occupation. Firefighters sleep outside the building.

Measure K does not present accurate or realistic costs to build a fire station. Measure K doesn't generate enough funds to repair the current structure or build a new station.

Measure K puts the Fire District in jeopardy, deprives the district of sustainable funds, and will close our local fire station. Measure K threatens our residents, schools and businesses with the loss of life-saving emergency services.

Everyone agrees a new station is needed. Unfortunately, Measure K won't fund it. Before you cast your vote, ask yourself if your health, home and keepsakes are worth \$146 per year. Vote NO on Measure K to keep Newcastle Fire Department.

Samuel Moore, Newcastle School Board Member  
Alex Blanca, Newcastle Business Owner  
Robert W. Stearns, NFPD Board Member  
Heather Marisco, Newcastle School Parent Community Member  
Nianne R. Fisch, Resident Castle City Mobile Park

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## ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE K

Vote NO on Measure K.

Measure K falls severely short of providing sufficient funds to build a fire station for Newcastle. Measure K requires our community to wait three years before there is enough money to even consider a new station and, even then, there will not be enough money to complete a basic fire station.

Without a new fire station, the Newcastle fire department will have no choice but to close its doors and hang up its hoses. Firefighters currently sleep in a cramped travel trailer parked on the street and the public is not allowed in the building at any time.

Measure K does not raise enough revenue to operate the Newcastle fire department.

With increasing fuel, equipment and liability costs, Measure K will not raise sufficient revenue to pay these additional expenses.

Measure K does not raise enough revenue to improve compensation for our low paid firefighters or provide life insurance and a health care plan.

The passage of Measure B by 68% of the vote allowed the Fire District to provide Newcastle firefighters with a

modest pay increase and a basic health care plan. Unfortunately, the Measure K alternative will not raise enough revenue and will result in firefighters' pay being cut back to \$8.50/hr and the loss of their health plan.

Measure K jeopardizes our fire department and our whole community. Without our first responders, we live at the mercy of our compromised neighboring districts who will not offer us firefighting and emergency medical services when they are on calls in their own district.

Let's stay the course with Measure B's overwhelming support and direction. For the health and safety of our residents, our school, our businesses, and our firefighters, vote no on Measure K.

View us on Facebook.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Vote-No-On-Measure-K/411089812273125>

Joanne K. Neft, Newcastle Business Owner, Author  
Yvonne L. Lewis, Chairman Newcastle Fire Board  
Kathleen Daugherty, Superintendent Newcastle Elementary School District  
Howard Willey, Jr., Newcastle Parent  
Jim Holmes, Placer County Supervisor

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## REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE K

Measure K provides the same amount of revenue as the previous measure but limit's the time frame to three years. The Newcastle Fire District will not shut its doors if Measure K passes. Measure K ensures that we have sufficient funding for repairing violations on our old firehouse or for building a modest new station.

The old historic fire station has not been condemned as claimed, which can be verified by Placer County Code Enforcement. This station is still being used by the public.

Measure K provides sufficient revenue to maintain the Newcastle firefighters 20% to 35% salary increase and the health benefits provided by the current fire board of directors retroactive to July 1, 2012.

Measure K allows a tax increase to continue in place for three years. After three years, the \$146.46 tax increase

will be replaced by a \$30 additional tax per parcel to fund firefighters salaries and benefits.

Taxpayers cannot be expected to pay additional taxes with yearly increases not to exceed 3% to fund foolish spending by the Newcastle Fire Protection Board. During the last fiscal year, the board squandered more than \$76,000 on discarded fire house plans, a Bay area consulting firm and an expensive special election. And the waste of taxpayer dollars continues.

A YES on Measure K will force the Newcastle Fire Board of Directors to live within their means as taxpayers do. The Board must learn to budget and spend our tax dollars productively.

Timothy Compton, Resident  
Doreen Compton, Resident

**RESOLUTION NO.: 2012-08-09**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TO COMPLY WITH ELECTIONS CODE SECTION 9310(a)(2) AND TO SUBMIT TO THE VOTERS OF THE NEWCASTLE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT AN INITIATIVE MEASURE, WITHOUT ALTERATION.**

**WHEREAS**, an initiative petition ("petition") has been circulated within the Newcastle Fire Protection District ("NFPD"); and

**WHEREAS**, the Placer County Elections Department has found that the petition contains sufficient signatures to meet the minimum signature requirement established by California Elections Code section 9310(a)(2); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to California Elections Code section 9310(a)(2), the NFPD Board of Directors must take action to either adopt the ordinance, without alteration, or submit the ordinance, without alteration, to the voters of the NFPD; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the NFPD has determined that the petition, without alteration, fails to provide sufficient revenue to fund the operations of the NFPD; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Directors of the NFPD has by a vote of 4 in favor and 1 absent passed a motion to reject the ordinance, without alteration; and

**WHEREAS**, California Elections Code section 9310(a)(2) mandates submitting the ordinance, without alteration, to the registered voters of the NFPD; and

**WHEREAS**, it is desirable that the election be conducted by the Placer County Elections Department, and it is necessary for the NFPD to request services of the Placer County Elections Department; and

**WHEREAS**, all necessary expenses in performing these services shall be paid by the NFPD.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Newcastle Fire Protection District as follows:

**Section 1.** Consistent with the Elections Code, a district-wide election is hereby called, ordered and will be held on November 6, 2012, within the jurisdictional boundaries of the NFPD. This tax measure shall be designated by letter by the Placer County Elections Department. Pursuant to Elections Code section 10400, et seq., the election for this tax measure shall be consolidated with the regular election to be conducted on November 6, 2012.

**Section 2. Boundaries.** The NFPD hereby certifies that there have been no changes to the NFPD boundary lines since its last election held on March 6, 2012.

**Section 3. Statement of Measure.** The ballot for the election shall include the following proposed statement of measure language:

Shall Measure B, which established a parcel tax for Newcastle FPD so it could provide fire protection and rapid response services, be altered so that starting in Fiscal Year 2015-16 the parcel tax shall be reduced from \$146.46 per taxable parcel (with an additional charge for structures starting at 3,000 square feet), to simply \$30.00 per parcel (without any additional charge for larger structures and without increases based on the consumer price index)?

Yes No

An unaltered, full and complete copy of the Initiative Measure is attached hereto directly below. **[If you desire a copy of the Initiative Measure, please call the Office of Elections at 530-886-5650 and a copy will be mailed at no cost to you. E.C. 9312]**

**Section 4.** The Placer County Board of Supervisors is requested to issue instructions to the Placer County Elections Department to take any and all steps necessary for the holding of the election for the NFPD on November 6, 2012.

**Section 5.** The Placer County Elections Department is authorized to canvass the returns of the election.

**Section 6.** The NFPD shall reimburse the Placer County Elections Department for services performed when the work is completed and upon presentation to the NFPD of a properly approved bill.

**Section 7.** The NFPD Secretary is directed to forward, without delay, to the Board of Supervisors and to the Placer County Elections Department, a certified copy of this resolution.

**PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED** by the Board of Directors of the Newcastle Fire Protection District on this 9<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2012, by the following roll call vote:

	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Chairman Lewis	X			
Vice-Chairman Stearns	X			
Secretary Calkins	X			
Director Orsolini				X
Director Poore				X

Attest:

By: Patrice Metz Date: 8/9/2012  
Clerk to the Board

By: Yvonne Lewis Date: 8/9/12  
Board Chairperson