

**OFFICIAL NOTICE AND BALLOT
INFORMATION GUIDE**

FOR THE PROPOSED

**FIRE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE SERVICES ASSESSMENT**



FOR THE

SPRINGLAKE FIRE

PROTECTION DISTRICT

Why Did You Receive This Ballot?

You are a property owner served by the Springlake Fire Protection District (“Springlake Fire” or the “Fire District”). You are being asked to vote on a proposed funding measure to ensure continued and improved fire protection and emergency response services in your area. Your ballot is your opportunity to participate in deciding whether local funding should be approved for continued and improved fire protection, fire suppression, and emergency response services. Your vote on this matter is crucial because only returned ballots will be counted.

Springlake Fire Protection District

Springlake Fire Protection District was originally formed in 1942 and provides fire protection, fire prevention and emergency response services to the unincorporated area between the City of Davis and the City of Woodland and the unincorporated area northeast of the City of Woodland between Yolo Fire Protection District and Elkhorn Fire Protection District. The Fire District covers approximately 51 square miles and serves a population of 4,500.

Springlake Fire responds to over 240 service calls per year in the Fire District, including structure fires, brush fires, vegetation fires, vehicle fires, traffic collisions, search and rescues, hazardous materials incidents and emergency medical calls. In addition, Springlake Fire provides fire prevention, community education, emergency preparedness and other services relating to the protection of lives and property. The Fire District is governed by a five-member Board of Fire Commissioners appointed by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. The Fire District contracts with the City of Davis and City of Woodland (“the Cities,” or “Fire Departments”) for fire services, staffing, equipment and apparatus.



Why Is A Funding Measure Needed?

Springlake Fire is funded through a small portion of local property taxes and a static \$75 dollar per residence special assessment that has remained unchanged since 1997. This existing assessment does not include a cost-of-living index adjustment mechanism. Due to the lack of a cost-of-living adjustment on the existing assessment and rising expenses, the Fire District's current revenue is not adequate to continue providing services at what is considered a safe level for the community.

The cost of providing fire protection and emergency response services continues to rise each year due to more emergency calls, increased firefighter training requirements and substantial increases in operational costs, including fuel, utilities, equipment, insurance and personnel over the last 28 years. The lack of a cost-of-living adjustment in the existing assessment has left the District unable to keep pace economically with the increased costs.

Competitive wages in other agencies have made it increasingly difficult for the Fire Departments to retain and attract firefighters. A new funding source will help with increased firefighter staffing and retention, as well as equipment and apparatus replacement. To enter a burning structure, State safety standards generally require four (4) firefighters at the scene, with two (2) firefighters entering the structure and two (2) remaining outside for support - known as the "2 in, 2 out rule."

Additional funding means the Fire Departments would have the ability to retain and hire more firefighters to meet the required standards more frequently, and to put out a fire quickly. This would also allow the Fire District to respond more quickly to calls, and could lower your Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating which could lower insurance rates. With a typical residential fire doubling in size every minute, adequate staffing is critical to provide our local firefighters with a strengthened layer of protection for our community, your family, and your property.

Why Is A Funding Measure Needed? (Continued)

Despite working on a limited budget, the Fire Department's current revenue is not adequate to continue providing services at a level that is safe for the community and costs will still continue to increase over time. A new assessment would provide funding for additional firefighter staffing, training and improved maintenance and replacement of equipment and apparatus.

Currently the The Fire District relies on a 30-year-old water tender that is overdue for replacement. The water tender is used exclusively in the Springlake Fire District because the Fire District area does not have water service. It is not used in the Cities. If approved, the proposed assessment will fund replacement of the water tender.

Rapid response times to fire and other emergencies, with up-to-date equipment and safe staffing levels, are vital to saving lives and property, especially during periods of concurrent emergencies.

How Was The Assessment Determined?

The total annual costs of the proposed additional firefighter staffing, apparatus and equipment replacements as needed and other services to be funded by the assessment would be allocated to each property based on the estimated special benefit received. The method of benefit allocation is based on the relative special benefit to a property in relation to a single-family home, the type of property, and its size. The total proposed assessment amount for your property is shown on the enclosed ballot. If you own multiple properties, your ballot will show the total proposed assessment amount for each one.

The types of special benefits would primarily include increased safety and protection of real properties. An Engineer's Report describing the proposed improvements, method and basis upon which the amount of the proposed assessment was calculated, special benefits, budget, and the proposed assessment for each parcel is available for review at the City of Woodland Fire Department, 1000 Lincoln Avenue, Woodland, CA 95695 and on the District's website (<https://www.springlakefpd.org/>).

What Would This Measure Provide?

The Fire District has identified the following areas that require additional funding to maintain and improve services. The increased funding would be used to:

Ensure Rapid Response Times To 9-1-1 Emergencies

State safety standards require that when firefighters use self-contained breathing apparatus, a minimum of 2 firefighters work as a team inside the impacted structure. A minimum of 2 firefighters must be on standby as support outside the structure to provide aid or perform a rescue. Essentially, the “2 in, 2 out rule” protects our firefighters but requires sufficient staffing levels. Funding from this measure would increase staffing, allowing firefighters to arrive and assemble on scene faster, effectively reducing the impact of the emergency.

Additional Firefighter Staffing and Training

This measure would support firefighter staffing and training to help provide adequate coverage to the community. This would also allow the Fire Department to respond faster to calls, and meet State safety standards more frequently.

Provide Updated Equipment For Our Firefighters

This measure would support improved maintenance, repair, upgrade, and/or replacement of outdated fire apparatus and equipment that are not up to current safety standards. Currently the water tender the Fire District relies on is 30 years old, safety standards recommend replacement after 30 years in service.

Public Accountability Standards

The funds from this assessment can only be used to provide fire protection and emergency response services within the Springlake Fire Protection District boundaries.

How Much Is the Proposed Assessment?

The proposed assessment for your property or properties for 2025-26 is printed on the Official Ballot, which is included with this notice and information guide. The typical base annual assessment for single-family homes is proposed to be \$149.98. The proposed base assessment for other residential property types is calculated based on the number of dwelling units and parcel size. Multi-family dwellings have a proposed base assessment of \$46.43 per unit. Agricultural, commercial, industrial, and other properties are assessed according to their parcel size and type. For example, agricultural property would be assessed at \$2.83 per acre and range land and open space would be assessed \$1.86 per acre. The annual assessment amount a property is proposed to pay would be that property's base rate adjusted by a travel time factor based on the travel time from the closest fire station to your property. For example, if a property is three to six minutes from the fire station, the assessment would be adjusted by a factor of 0.91, and the assessment for a single family home would be \$136.48 ($\149.98×0.91). The total estimated amount assessed to the entire area subject to this assessment would be approximately \$161,708 for 2025-26. For more information refer to the Engineer's Report which is available for review at the City of Woodland Fire Department, 1000 Lincoln Avenue, Woodland, CA 95695 and on the Fire District's website (<https://www.springlakefpd.org/>)

Will This Assessment Increase in the Future?

The assessment will be continued annually in future years until the District Board of Commissioners determines that the assessment is no longer necessary. The maximum allowed assessment rate will only be adjusted for inflation by an amount equal to the change in the Northern California (San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward) Consumer Price Index, but not to exceed 3% per year. **The District will not increase the assessment rate for at least 5 years,** commencing no earlier than fiscal year 2031-32. The actual assessment rate will not be raised automatically. The updated proposed budget and assessment rate will be reviewed and approved annually by the District Board at a public meeting. These controls and adjustments will protect the public by keeping assessment revenues in line with the cost of providing fire protection and emergency response services and ensuring inflation adjustments align with community expectations.



Method of Voting

To complete the enclosed official ballot, mark the oval next to either Yes or No, sign the ballot, fold it in half and place it in the provided postage-paid return envelope, and mail it to the Springlake Fire Protection District, c/o City of Woodland Fire Department, 1000 Lincoln Ave, Woodland CA 95695. You may also hand deliver it at the public hearing (see below for the time and location). Only official ballots which are signed and marked with the property owner's support or opposition will be counted. Ballots must be received prior to the end of the public input portion of the Public Hearing scheduled on Tuesday, July 22, 2025. The meeting will begin at 1:00 pm. If you lose your ballot, require a replacement ballot, or want to change your vote before the close of the public hearing, call the Fire Department at (530) 661-5860 for another ballot. See the enclosed ballot for additional instructions. Ballots are weighted by the proposed assessment amount and will be tabulated accordingly. The assessment will not be imposed if, upon the conclusion of the public hearing, weighted ballots submitted in opposition to the assessment exceed the weighted ballots submitted in favor of the assessment. If the ballot measure passes, the assessment may be levied for the fiscal year 2025-26 and may be continued in future years unless and until ended by the District Board.

Public Hearing

A public hearing will be held on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 1:00 pm at the City of Woodland Fire Department, 1556 Springlake Court, Woodland, CA 95776. The public is encouraged to attend. Ballots will not be tabulated before the close of the public input portion of the public hearing, but ballots will be public records during and after tabulation. A ballot may be submitted, changed or withdrawn by the person who submitted it before the conclusion of the public input portion of the public hearing. Tabulation of the returned ballots will commence after the close of the public input portion of the public hearing. The results of the tabulation are expected to be announced at the Board meeting that day.

Written Objections

You may find more information about the proposed assessment here <https://www.springlakefpd.org/>. If you wish to object to this assessment on the grounds that you allege it does not comply with the California Constitution please submit a written objection to Springlake Fire Protection District, c/o City of Woodland, 1000 Lincoln Ave, Woodland, CA 95695, which must be received by July 16, 2025. Do not include your objection with your ballot. The objection must specify the grounds on which you are alleging noncompliance with the California Constitution (Article XIII D, Sec. 4), and include an address where we can respond to your concern(s) in writing. Timely written objections will be presented to the District Board for consideration prior to the close of the public hearing on July 22, 2025. If you fail to submit a timely objection in writing, your right to challenge the assessment in a legal proceeding will be barred.

Springlake Fire Protection District Governance and Transparency

Regular meetings of the Springlake Fire Protection District Board are held quarterly at 1000 Lincoln Ave, Woodland, CA 95695. The public is encouraged to attend. Agendas are available on our website at <https://www.springlakefpd.org>. Please contact the Fire District at (530) 661-5860 if you need any additional information.

Additional Information

For additional information concerning Springlake Fire District services, the proposed assessment, or this ballot, please contact Chief Eric Zane at Woodland Fire Department, 1000 Lincoln Ave, Woodland, CA 95695 or (530) 661-5860. For information about upcoming community meetings visit our website at <https://www.springlakefpd.org>.