

IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF MEASURE Z
PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF THE
SAMOA PENINSULA FPD TO THE PENINSULA CSD

Measure Z will determine if the voters in the communities of Samoa, Fairhaven and Finntown wish to reorganize the Samoa Peninsula Fire Protection District (FPD) into the Peninsula Community Services District (CSD) in order to add water, wastewater, streets, parks and recreation, landscape maintenance, and storm drainage as authorized potential services.

This proposal was initiated by resolution of the Samoa Peninsula FPD for purposes of providing expanded municipal services to the peninsula. State law limits what services a fire protection district may provide. The proposed Samoa Peninsula FPD reorganization into the Peninsula CSD would provide the necessary governance structure to retain the existing volunteer fire department and expand the range of services peninsula residents may receive. The proposal was conditionally approved by the Humboldt Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), subject to confirmation by registered voters within the affected territory.

No new or increased taxes or assessments are proposed as part of Measure Z. The Peninsula CSD would serve as the “successor agency” for purposes of winding up the affairs of the Samoa Peninsula FPD, carrying out all authorized duties and responsibilities, and overseeing the extension or continuation of any previously authorized assessment or tax in the affected territory. As such, all existing tax-related revenue that currently supports fire protection services by the Samoa Peninsula FPD would be transferred to the Peninsula CSD to support the continued operation of the volunteer fire department. Any new services to be provided by the Peninsula CSD would require new sources of revenue, such as benefit assessments and user fees, which require landowner approval in accordance with Proposition 218 requirements.

The proposed Peninsula CSD boundary would be consistent with the current Samoa Peninsula FPD boundary with minor adjustments. In addition, the current five-member Board of Directors of the Samoa Peninsula FPD would serve as the initial Peninsula CSD Board of Directors. For this initial board, the terms of three members would be four years, and the terms of two members would be two years. Thereafter, Board members would be elected at-large for four year terms by registered voters residing within the district.

Voters are encouraged to read the LAFCo Resolution approving the reorganization, which is included in the voter information guide. The resolution’s terms and conditions include provisions for the dedication and transfer of specific assets to the Peninsula CSD. Additional resources, such as the Executive Officer’s report and the Peninsula CSD Management Plan, are available on the LAFCo website (www.humboldtlafo.org).

Voters in favor of the Samoa Peninsula FPD reorganization into the Peninsula CSD should vote “yes” on Measure Z. Voters not in favor of the reorganization should vote “no” on Measure Z. A majority of votes cast in favor of the measure is needed to approve the reorganization. If the measure fails to receive majority voter approval, the reorganization will be terminated and the existing Samoa Peninsula FPD will remain unchanged.

George Williamson, Executive Officer
Humboldt LAFCo