

Dear Felton Neighbors,

Those of us who lived here in 2020 remember evacuations, fear and uncertainty, and devastation from the CZU Lightning Complex Fire. We put our trust in our own Felton Fire and share a deep gratitude for all those who helped limit the damage. The Felton Fire Protection District (FFPD) has provided emergency medical response and disaster services for our residents since 1935.

Today we are at a crossroads.

The Challenge

Our funding formula is unchanged since 1946, but demand for service has grown significantly - from 300 calls annually in 1999 to more than 900 calls today. This increase comes as the pool of volunteers is shrinking. Combined with rising costs, aging equipment and facilities, and more stringent state and federal requirements.

The Options

LAFCO has identified 3 theoretical paths: remain independent, be taken over by another agency, or contract out services. Each option carries important implications for cost, service level and local control. Our interim Chief has restored services to NFPA standards but without additional funding those improvements are not sustainable.

Response Time

How quickly help arrives when you dial 911 is a critical measure in an emergency. FFPD strives to exceed the NFPA 1710 standard, boasting average time in route in under 120 seconds 80-90% of the time. If we're taken over by another agency, response times are likely to be extended.

Keeping Local Control

Despite repeated requests, the various agencies nominated by LAFCO to take us over have not been willing to commit to our current standard - or share their plans for our District. If the upcoming assessment passes, we secure local control and our funds will stay in Felton to maintain our station, upgrade equipment, and ensure fast, professional, reliable response. If the assessment fails, an outside entity will take over and at whatever level they decide to tax us, the choice will be theirs, not ours. In addition - as recent events in Pajaro Valley have demonstrated - property owners could be required to pay more than the ballot assessment and there will be no guarantee that our tax dollars will be used to support emergency response in Felton.

The Felton Fire Prop 218 Special Benefit Assessment coming to your mailbox in late May will ask you to approve an assessment preserving the Felton Fire District and affirming local control. More detailed information is available on request, and upcoming Town Hall meetings will be held to explain the issues at hand and address individual questions. Interim Fire Chief Isaac Blum will be available for smaller neighborhood gatherings if requested to provide facts to make an educated decision. As you consider your vote, we encourage you to speak with your neighbors and think carefully about what is at stake in terms of safety, reliability, and community autonomy.





How to Vote

Timeline for the 218 Special Benefit Assessment for the Felton Fire District

- Ballot will be mailed to property owners on **May 20**
- Ballot must be returned by **July 24**

Votes will be tallied at the Felton Fire Station by SCI Consulting at 6pm, July 24th, and open to the public.

A series of informational Town Halls are scheduled at the Felton Fire Station, 131 Kirby St., to address voter questions.

- Wednesday May 6, 2026, 6pm - 7:30pm
- Saturday May 16, 2026, 11am - 12:30pm
- Wednesday June 17, 2026, 6pm - 7:30pm
- Saturday June 27, 2026, 11am - 12:30pm

Your ballot will indicate the exact amount of the assessment for your property. Votes are weighted by the benefit each individual property is calculated to receive from the services funded by the Assessment.

Monies raised can only be used for the purposes outlined in the assessment measure text.

There is mandated legal reporting annually for use of the funds, and there will also be a Citizens' Oversight Committee specifically for the assessment funds.

Your Yes vote will approve the measure, a No vote will reject it.

Keep an eye out for your ballot just after May 20th.