

Can we trust how the money will be managed?

Strict guidelines determine how funds from a special benefits assessment can be used.

The special benefits assessment process, established through Proposition 218 in California in 1996, has rigorous demands that districts must meet to prove the need and proposed use for the funds and to ensure that districts do not consistently collect more than they require.

- An engineering firm must verify the need and proposed use for the funds and ensure the costs are fairly distributed based on the benefit each property owner receives for the service. This comprehensive study was done over several months by SCI Consulting Services, a firm widely respected throughout California as an expert in public agency funding.
- The funds can only be used for expenses noted on the ballot sent to property owners.
- If, in any year, more funds are collected than are spent for the stated purposes, according to the Prop 218 process, the excess amount must either be returned or credited to property owners or spent on enhanced services.

The FFPD Board has announced that if the assessment measure is successful, they will form an independent oversight committee of community members to provide additional confidence in the process.

The assessment can be either reduced or revoked (ended) by the Felton Fire Protection Board if and when they determine that the funding is no longer necessary. The assessment can also be revoked by a voter initiative.

Note: One of the many advantages to an independent FFPD is the ability to vote on our own board members, as will be the case this November with 3 of 5 seats up for election. So our community will determine who will be overseeing the use of these funds. The funds won't be available until December because of the timing of property tax collection.

Passing this measure will stabilize Felton Fire, allowing for reliable staffing 24/7, long-needed maintenance at the firehouse, and equipment replaced within the recommended timeframes.

Produced and provided by the Felton Community for Emergency Response



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