

RESOLUTION 19-\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX  
AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO SIGN THE JOINT EXERCISE OF POWERS  
AGREEMENT FOR THE TOWN TO JOIN AND PARTICIPATE IN THE MARIN WILDFIRE  
PREVENTION AUTHORITY**

**WHEREAS**, Marin County residents, including those in the Town of Fairfax, are faced with significant and increasing risk of wildfires that do not respect jurisdictional boundaries, with immediate action and sustained commitment needed to protect Marin residents, homes and businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, intensifying climate change and extensive fuel build-up are contributing to the increased threat of wildfire throughout Marin County and, to the extent possible, should be addressed through ecologically sound practices that minimize release of greenhouse gases and protect the biodiversity and resilience of Marin's landscapes; and

**WHEREAS**, our county's nearly 260,000 residents receive fire protection and emergency response services from 19 separate cities, towns fire districts and county, where no single agency currently exists for coordinating wildfire prevention; and

**WHEREAS**, local fire agencies and emergency service providers must work together in close coordination to develop and implement a comprehensive wildfire prevention and mitigation plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the most effective way to protect all of our community from the risk of wildfire is to come together in a joint powers authority to implement a countywide program of priority wildfire prevention, education and suppression actions; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 Marin County published *Lessons Learned from North Bay Fire Siege*, summarizing key findings and conclusions from the 2017 wildfires that devastated Sonoma, Napa, Lake, Solano and Butte counties, burned nearly 250,000 acres, destroyed nearly 9,000 structures, forced 90,000 evacuations, caused \$14.5 billion in property damage and killed 44 people; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority will be a collective effort by all residents and property owners to build a resilient community and reduce the threat of wildfire, including improving emergency alert and warning systems to enhance early alert for organized evacuations, expanding coordinated efforts to reduce combustible vegetation; improving evacuation routes and infrastructure to enhance traffic flow and promote safe evacuations; enhancing defensible space and structure evaluations and educating owners about how to reduce the vulnerability of buildings to wildfire; creating and sustaining a coordinated local wildfire public safety and disaster preparedness program; and

SUPPLEMENT TO  
AGENDA ITEM # 10

ATTACHMENT A

**WHEREAS**, efforts are needed to assist seniors, persons with disabilities, and low-income households to maintain defensible space, make homes fire resistant, and prepare for emergencies to mitigate wildfire threats to structures and defensible space; and

**WHEREAS**, each of Marin's communities has unique local needs, the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority will seek to address these specific local needs with a local wildfire mitigation program that assists local fire agencies in meeting unique community needs while sustaining a core countywide program for consistency; and

**WHEREAS**, this Town's elected body is presented for its consideration and acceptance a Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement authorizing the Town of Fairfax's participation in the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority to jointly develop and fund protection of all Marin communities from the risk of wildfire on a regional basis; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Fairfax shall do as follows:

1. Join the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to create the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority;
2. Authorize the Town Manager to sign the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement including any amendments to the JPA agreement made by the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) prior to the BOS placing a Tax Measure on the March 2020 ballot; and
3. Request that the County of Marin place a Parcel Tax Measure on the March 3, 2020 ballot.

The foregoing resolution was duly introduced and adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax held in said Town on the 2nd day of October 2019, by the following vote, to wit:

**AYES:**  
**NOES:**  
**ABSENT:**

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BARBARA COLER, Mayor

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hannah Politzer, Deputy Town Clerk