



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

### February 5, 2020

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Michele Gardner, Town Clerk

**SUBJECT:** Adopt Resolution in Support of Measure C - Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt the resolution.

#### **DISCUSSION**

In October 2019, pursuant to Resolution 19-35, the Town joined the Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement creating the Marin Wildfire Prevention Authority (“MWPA”) and requested the County of Marin place a county-wide wildfire prevention parcel tax measure on the March 3, 2020 ballot. That measure is now on the ballot as follows:

#### **MEASURE C – MARIN WILDFIRE PREVENTION AUTHORITY**

**Marin Wildfire Prevention Measure.** To support coordinated wildfire prevention including early detection, warning and alerts; reducing vegetation; ensuring defensible space around homes, neighborhoods and critical infrastructure; and improving disaster evacuation routes/procedures; shall the Marin Wildfire Prevention Measure, levying up to 10¢ per building square foot tax (\$75 per multifamily unit or as described in the full measure) for ten years, providing \$19,300,000 annually, with annual inflation adjustments, independent citizen oversight/audits, and low-income senior exemptions, be adopted?

The Resolution before the Council tonight is to officially support Measure C, as it will provide the funding for MWPA’s efforts. Significantly, under the MWPA structure, all funds shall stay in Marin County and be used for wildfire prevention activities; the funds cannot be diverted.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

A portion of the funds generated by the tax (20%) will be allocated to the taxing agencies (Fairfax being one of them) to enhance and sustain local prevention efforts. The Town’s current budget of approximately \$190,000 for vegetation management and additional defensible space inspections is not sufficient to address our needs, as wildfire prevention requires a regional effort.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

Resolution in Support of Measure C