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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



NOVATO FIRE DISTRICT

Fire District Board Votes NO on Fire Tax Increase

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The Novato Fire District Board of Directors has unanimously voted not to raise the fire tax on District residents. Since 1980, the voter approved tax has been utilized to support paramedic, fire and all-risk rescue services to the Fire District.

The Board annually sets the fire tax rate prior to adopting a final budget. Board President Farhad Mansourian said, “The Board recognizes the tough economic times for our communities and the Fire District did not want to add any financial hardships, even a nominal cost of living adjustment.”

According to President Mansourian, the District is in a position to go without a tax increase this year because “the District’s Board and Staff have demonstrated sound budget policies and excellent management practices without compromising the high level of service to the community”. The District will rely on reserves to make up for any shortfalls brought on by the economic conditions and the State’s borrowing of \$1.2 million under the suspension of Proposition 1A. The District also continues to identify cost cutting measures and revenue enhancement opportunities.

The Novato Fire District recently froze vacant administrative positions which have resulted in a savings of over \$600,000. The District also saved approximately \$48,000 per year by installing energy efficient lighting and electronics. The District has expanded its ambulance billing service to the communities of San Rafael, Corte Madera, Albany and Piedmont, adding revenue of nearly \$100,000 annually towards the District’s budget. The District recently began providing administrative office space and support to the Marin Emergency Radio Authority (MERA) which raised an additional \$55,000 in revenue.

Fire Chief Marc Revere stated, “The community continues to receive a high level of service as our District members seek to add value to every contact, whether it be an emergency call, a fire inspection or a visit to the

fire station. While other communities are closing fire stations or laying off firefighters, our members have stepped up to make sure the service to community remains the same.”

Novato Fire District is an independent Special District providing all risk fire, rescue, emergency medical paramedic service and risk reduction to the City of Novato and the county communities of Bel Marin Keys, Loma Verde, Black Point, Green Point, Wildhorse and Indian Valleys. The Fire District serves a community of nearly 63,000 residents and responds to over 5,000 incidents annually. An independently elected Board of Directors provides policy and budget direction to Fire Chief Marc Revere and 86 full-time employees.

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