



Comprehensive
Annual Report
2024|2025

The Improved and Enhanced Local
Fire Protection, Paramedic Services
and Disaster Response Tax

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Executive Summary



In March 2024, Sonoma County voters approved Measure H, the Improved and Enhanced Local Fire Protection, Paramedic Services and Disaster Response Initiative (Ordinance), with 61.71 percent voter approval. The measure established a countywide one-half cent transactions and use tax to provide stable, long-term funding for local fire protection, paramedic services, wildfire prevention, and disaster response. The tax became operative on October 1, 2024, making FY 24-25 the first fiscal year in which revenues were collected and distributed.

61.7%
Voter Approval

Measure H requires an independent Oversight Committee to provide transparency and fiscal accountability for revenues generated by the tax. Agencies receiving Measure H funds submit annual reports to the Committee, which reviews revenues and expenditures to evaluate whether spending is consistent with the Ordinance. The Committee compiles this information into a Comprehensive Annual Report for the Board of Supervisors.

During FY 24-25, Measure H generated approximately \$46.2 million in total revenue, including tax receipts and interest earnings, reflecting partial-year collection following the October 1, 2024 operative date. After administrative costs, about \$45.7 million went to local fire agencies and designated countywide programs in accordance with the allocation structure established in the Ordinance.

MEASURE H HIGHLIGHTS:

\$46.2m
In Revenue

\$45.7m
Distributed Funds

Agencies reported approximately \$17.8 million in expenditures during the fiscal year.

Agency reports show Measure H funds supported the categories authorized by the Ordinance, including firefighter hiring, vegetation management projects, apparatus purchases, facility planning, and regional coordination. Many agencies reported phased implementation of staffing and capital improvements, consistent with expectations for first-year funding and partial-year revenues. Agencies also reported meeting the maintenance of effort requirement, indicating that Measure H funds expanded services rather than replace existing funding.

As part of its first-year review, the Committee discussed parity increases and administrative costs to support consistent evaluation of expenditures. As Measure H moves beyond its first year of implementation, the Committee will continue working with agencies to support transparent reporting and review of Measure H revenues and expenditures.



ACHIEVEMENTS:



Firefighter
Hiring



Vegetation
Management



Apparatus
Purchases



Facilities



Regional
Coordination

About Measure H



Measure H provides stable, long-term funding for local fire protection, paramedic services, wildfire prevention, and disaster response. The tax is expected to generate approximately \$60 million annually.

Measure H is expected to generate approximately

\$60
million annually

The Ordinance directs that revenues remain local and be distributed to fire agencies according to a defined allocation structure. The Ordinance and

subsequent funding agreements between the County of Sonoma and funding recipients require that the tax proceeds supplement existing funding for fire protection, paramedic services, wildfire prevention, and disaster response rather than replace existing sources.

The Ordinance also requires independent oversight and annual reporting to ensure transparency and fiscal accountability. The [Ordinance is available on the County of Sonoma's website.](#)

AGENCIES RECEIVING MEASURE H FUNDING

Measure H revenues support local fire agencies and designated countywide programs according to the allocation plan established in the Ordinance.

The Ordinance provides that if a recipient agency consolidates with another recipient agency, the successor agency receives the associated allocation. As a result, some allocation percentages below differ from those in the Ordinance. Additionally, the allocation percentages shown below reflect distributions after administrative costs and therefore differ slightly from those specified in the Ordinance. This difference is more pronounced in FY 24-25 due to one-time state implementation fees and partial-year revenue collection. Administrative costs are expected to represent a smaller share of revenues in future years.

DURING FY 24-25, FUNDS WERE DISTRIBUTED AS FOLLOWS:

AGENCY	ALLOCATION
City of Healdsburg	2.50%
City of Petaluma	7.17%
City of Rohnert Park	5.49%
City of Santa Rosa	14.36%
City of Sebastopol*	1.17%
City of Sonoma	1.18%
Cazadero Community Services District	1.14%
Cloverdale Fire Protection District	2.77%
Gold Ridge Fire Protection District*	11.11%
Graton Fire Protection District	1.06%
Kenwood Fire Protection District*	1.22%
Monte Rio Fire Protection District*	1.59%
North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District	2.38%
Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District	4.99%
Occidental Community Services District	1.61%
Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District	3.49%
Schell-Vista Fire Protection District	1.20%
Sonoma County Fire District	6.59%
Sonoma Valley Fire District*	5.83%
Timber Cove Fire Protection District	2.46%
Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District - Vegetation Management Program	4.99%
County of Sonoma Fire (Permit Sonoma)	0.42%
Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association	14.03%
Administration (program implementation and oversight)	1.25%

*During FY 24-25, Kenwood Fire Protection District was consolidated into Sonoma Valley Fire District, and Monte Rio Fire Protection District and fire services previously provided by the City of Sebastopol were consolidated into Gold Ridge Fire Protection District.

ALLOWABLE USES OF MEASURE H FUNDS

The Ordinance establishes six categories of allowable expenditures for tax proceeds to strengthen wildfire preparedness, fire protection, paramedic services, and disaster response throughout Sonoma County.

Wildfire Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Vegetation Management

Recruitment and Retention of Local Firefighters

Update Essential Equipment and Facilities

Transfer of Funds Among Designated Local Agencies or Other Entities

Implementation Costs

Countywide Expenditures

Wildfire Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Vegetation Management



Support wildfire prevention and response activities, including the addition of firefighters to enhance fire response, paramedic services, and wildfire prevention. Funds also support regional fire inspectors, a countywide vegetation management crew, and vegetation management activities conducted by local agencies, including defensible space inspections and fuel reduction projects.

Recruitment and Retention of Local Firefighters



Support the recruitment and retention of firefighters and paramedics who provide wildfire suppression, emergency response, and vegetation management fire prevention services.

Update Essential Equipment and Facilities



Improve or replace fire facilities and equipment that support fire suppression and prevention. With approval from their governing bodies, agencies may also issue bonds backed by their Measure H allocation to finance capital improvements.

Transfer of Funds Among Designated Local Agencies or Other Entities



Enter into agreements with other agencies to deliver services that accomplish the purposes of the Ordinance.

Implementation Costs



The County of Sonoma may allocate revenues for implementation and administrative, including revenue distribution, Oversight Committee operations, and required reporting.

Countywide Expenditures



The Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association may support countywide fire service activities, including dispatch services, regional recruitment and training programs, vegetation management initiatives, emergency up staffing during major weather events, and other countywide fire service needs.



Oversight Committee



COMMITTEE PURPOSE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors established the Oversight Committee on January 14, 2025, as required by Measure H. The Committee reviews revenues and expenditures, including annual reports submitted by agencies receiving Measure H funds, to evaluate whether spending aligns with the Ordinance.

The Committee compiles information from agency annual reports into a Comprehensive Annual Report and presents it to the Board of Supervisors before the beginning of the following fiscal year.

The Committee does not make decisions regarding spending priorities, financing plans, or tax rate projections, and it does not direct County staff or fire agency staff.

The Committee may recommend investigations of potential misuse of funds to the California State Attorney General, the Sonoma County District Attorney, or the Sonoma County Grand Jury.

More information on the Committee, including the bylaws, is available on the [County of Sonoma's website](#).

MEMBERSHIP LIST

The 11-member Measure H Oversight Committee includes representatives appointed by the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors, the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association, and the Sonoma County Fire Districts Association, representing local government, labor organizations, and county residents. Members serve three-year terms on the Committee and are eligible to be reappointed.

11-member

Measure H Oversight Committee

Members serve

3-year terms

THE 11-MEMBER MEASURE H OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE:

NAME	APPOINTING BODY	STAKEHOLDER GROUP
Christopher Derner	Sonoma County Board of Supervisors	Labor organizations
Becky Ennis	Sonoma County Board of Supervisors	Countywide independent resident
Jeff M. Lemelin	Sonoma County Board of Supervisors	Countywide independent resident
Jeff Okrepkie	Sonoma County Board of Supervisors	Mayors' and council members' association
Sandra Lowe	Sonoma County Board of Supervisors	Mayors' and council members' association
Matt L. Tognozzi	Sonoma County Board of Supervisors	Labor organizations
Michael LeComte	Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association	Independent resident
Tony Gossner	Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association	Independent resident
Todd Derum	Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association	Independent resident
Lisa Yoshida	Sonoma County Fire Districts Association	Independent resident
William Jackson	Sonoma County Fire Districts Association	Independent resident

COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The Committee met in September and December of 2025 and in February, March and April of 2026 to establish bylaws, define roles and responsibilities, review agency annual reports, and develop the Comprehensive Annual Report.

Revenue and Expenditures



REVENUE AND DISTRIBUTION

Measure H generated \$46,244,786.89 in total revenue during FY 24-25, including \$46,120,314.75 in tax receipts and \$124,472.18 in interest earnings.

The Sonoma County Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector distributes Measure H revenues quarterly. The tax became operative in October 2024.

In total, \$45,665,896.38 went to agencies and programs. Distributions to individual agencies ranged from \$193,734 to \$6,642,312, depending on each agency's assigned percentage.

Administrative costs totaled \$578,890. These costs are deducted from total revenues prior to distribution to agencies, as provided in the Ordinance. The majority of these costs reflects California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) collection fees, including three quarterly administration charges and a one-time CDTFA implementation fee. County administrative costs totaled \$7,136.



REVENUE:

Tax Receipts:

\$46,120,314.75

Interest Earnings:

\$124,472.18

TOTAL Revenue:

\$46,244,786.89



DISTRIBUTION:

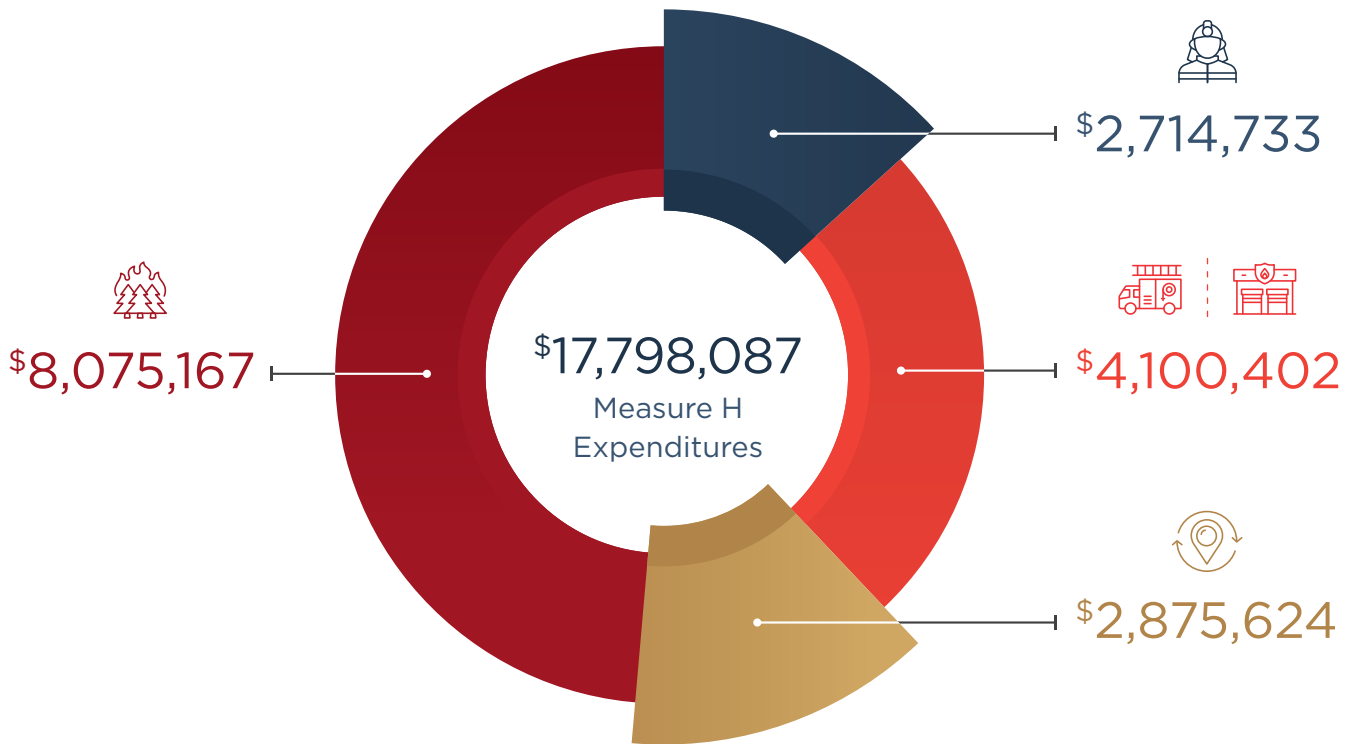
\$45,665,896.38

To Agencies and Programs

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

FY 24-25 represents an initial implementation year for Measure H. Many agencies reported phased implementation of staffing and capital improvements, with expenditures reflecting early-stage activities such as capital planning, permitting and design work, and partial-year staffing costs for newly hired personnel.

Agencies reported a total of \$17,798,087 in Measure H expenditures during FY 24-25. The sections below summarize expenditures within the primary categories that agencies used when reporting Measure H spending in their annual reports.



- Wildfire Prevention and Vegetation Management
- Recruitment and Retention of Local Firefighters and EMS
- Essential Equipment and Facilities
- Countywide Services

Wildfire Prevention and Vegetation Management

\$8,075,167

Wildfire prevention and vegetation management activities occurred locally and through countywide programs. Several agencies reported fuels reduction and defensible space inspection activities, while the Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District operated a countywide fuels crew supporting vegetation management projects throughout Sonoma County.

Recruitment and Retention of Local Firefighters and EMS

\$2,714,733

Expenditures supported firefighter and emergency response staffing. Agencies reported using Measure H funds for firefighter positions, supervisory roles, and other personnel supporting emergency response and related services. Numerous agencies reported increasing staffing to three-person crews per apparatus. Three-person staffing is a critical standard in fire service operations, allowing crews to perform essential firefighting and rescue tasks safely.

Essential Equipment and Facilities

\$4,100,402

Most agencies reporting capital investments described projects in planning or early implementation phases, including facility assessments, planning activities, reserve accumulation for future projects, and long-lead apparatus procurement.

Countywide Services

\$2,875,624

Measure H funds allocated to the Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association supported countywide fire service activities including emergency dispatch services through REDCOM, wildfire prevention coordination through Fire Safe Sonoma, regional recruitment efforts, wildfire up staffing during high-risk periods, and technology and administrative support for Measure H implementation.

FUND BALANCE

Agencies reported a combined fund balance of \$19,656,737 at the close of FY 24-25. Many agencies reported phased implementation of staffing and capital improvements, and as a result, fund balances remain available for planned future expenditures such as staffing, apparatus purchases, and capital construction.

Expenditures and fund balances do not equal total revenue due to the timing of agency reporting. Fourth quarter disbursements occur after the close of the fiscal year, and several agencies did not include these revenues in their FY 24-25 reports. The Committee will work with agencies in future reporting cycles to support annual reports that reflect the complete fiscal year.



Balance at the close of FY 24-25:

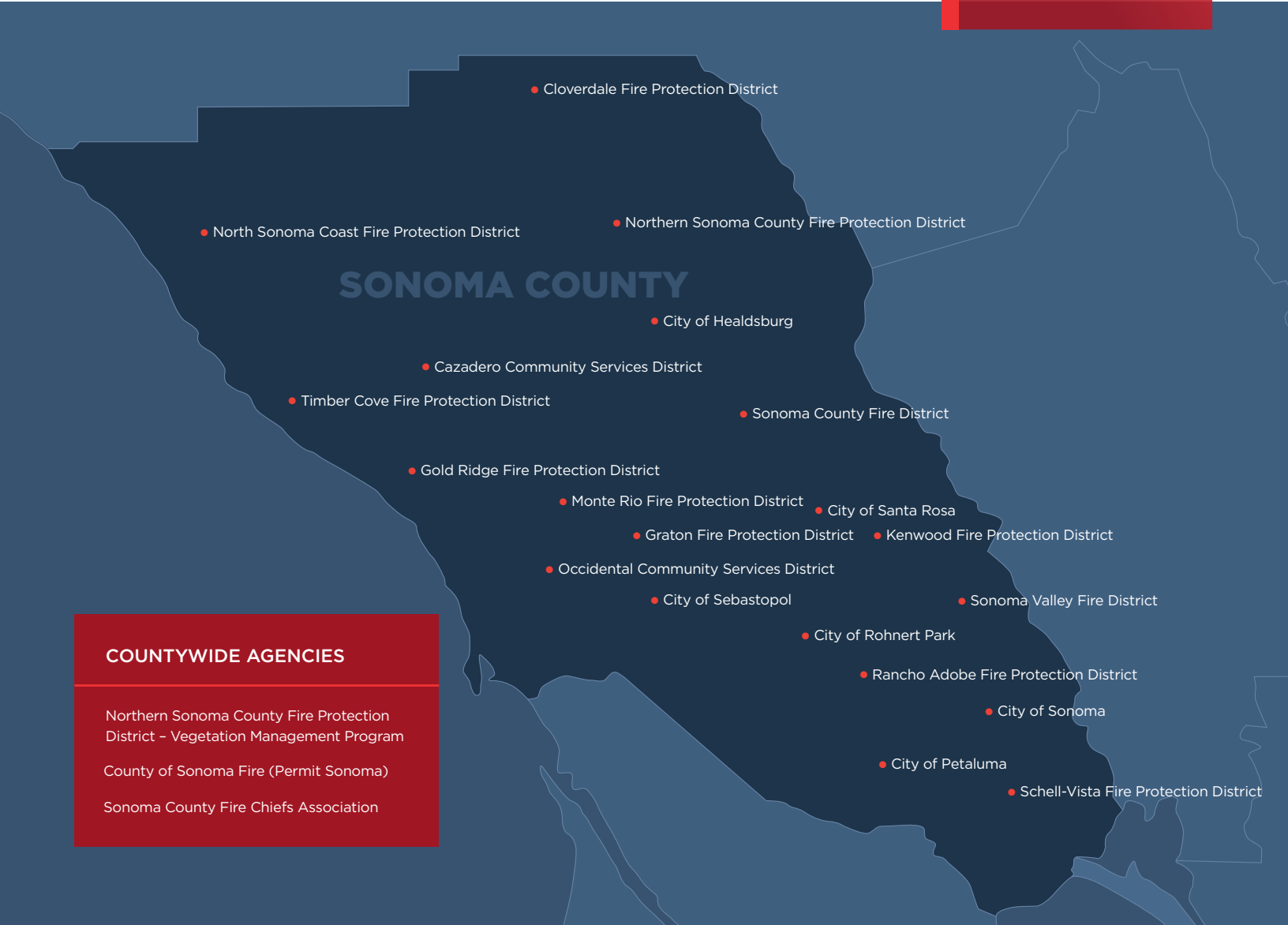
\$19,656,737

Program Highlights



The following examples highlight select Measure H funded activities during FY 24-25, including staffing, equipment purchases, vegetation management, and capital planning. Twelve agencies used funds to plan or implement capital improvement projects, and agencies hired 77 firefighter positions during the reporting period.

77
Firefighter
positions filled



COUNTYWIDE AGENCIES

- Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District - Vegetation Management Program
- County of Sonoma Fire (Permit Sonoma)
- Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association

ACHIEVEMENTS:



Firefighter
Hiring



Vegetation
Management



Apparatus
Purchases



Facilities



Regional
Coordination



City of Healdsburg

Added a full-time Fire Inspector, increasing the City's capacity to conduct fire safety inspections and enforce fire codes, installed technology infrastructure at the new fire station, and began an assessment of fire and emergency services.



City of Rohnert Park

Added two Public Safety Officers and expanded 24-hour Battalion Chief coverage. These positions support three-person staffing per apparatus and expanded supervisory coverage.



City of Petaluma

Added an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator position responsible for EMS operations, training, and quality improvement. Purchased a Type 1 fire engine (anticipated delivery in 2029), a Battalion Chief vehicle, and equipment for a pre-owned Type 3 wildland engine donated by Marin County.



City of Santa Rosa

Conducted planning activities, including initial recruitment activities for Firefighter/Paramedics, established promotional lists for new positions, planned a new engine company and Battalion Chief, conducted property due diligence for a future station, and purchased equipment for new positions.



City of Sebastopol

Completed a fire station assessment and feasibility study.



City of Sonoma

Increased full-time staffing from six to nine positions, including Fire Captains, Engineers, and Firefighter/Paramedics, to bring minimum 24/7 staffing to three-person. Contributed funding to a Regional Vegetation Management Coordinator who reduces fire risk through fuels reduction and inspections.



Cazadero Community Services District

Performed vegetation management activities, including roadside vegetation treatment along Cazadero Highway and Kidd Creek Road, purchased vegetation management equipment, and initiated an expansion of Fire Station 2.



Cloverdale Fire Protection District

Implemented a fire dozer program for vegetation management and wildfire resiliency, hired full-time firefighters,

and provided parity increases to support workforce stability.



Gold Ridge Fire Protection District

Expanded to three-person engine staffing across three stations and staffing of a fourth station, including hiring ten Captains, five Engineers, and nine Firefighters, purchasing personal protective equipment and uniforms, and station improvements to accommodate increased staffing.



Graton Fire Protection District

Hired three full-time firefighters to achieve three-person staffing 24/7 and provided parity increases to support workforce stability.



Kenwood Fire Protection District

Increased full-time staffing from five to nine positions, including Fire Captains, Engineers, and Firefighter/Paramedics, to bring minimum 24/7 staffing to three-person and reduced fire risk with business inspections.



Monte Rio Fire Protection District

Purchased personal protective equipment purchases, repairs to station access stairs and exterior siding and paint at two stations, and provided parity increases to support workforce stability.



North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District

Expanded contracted CAL FIRE staffing from five to nine positions and the hired of a full-time District Administrator beginning in October 2024.



Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District

Converted three temporary firefighter positions to permanent positions, hired four additional firefighters, and improved emergency medical services by funding a regional Quick Response Vehicle and personnel to provide additional medical services.



Occidental Community Services District

Installed a 200-amp meter and power pole to facilitate training exercises.



Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District

Funded recruitment and retention expenses, including a full-time Fire Mechanic and a part-time temporary Fire Marshal.



Schell-Vista Fire Protection District

Increased full-time firefighter staffing from six to nine positions to achieve three-person staffing, implemented 24-hour Duty Chief coverage, and provided parity increases to improve workforce stability.



Sonoma County Fire District

Hired response personnel, including a Training Captain, Battalion Chief, and two Firefighter/Paramedics.



Sonoma Valley Fire District

Added six Firefighter/Paramedics, a fire mechanic, and two deputy fire chiefs. Funded payments for property purchased for construction of Fire Station 2. Contributed funding to a Regional Vegetation Management Coordinator who reduces fire risk through fuels reduction and inspections.



Timber Cove Fire Protection District

Added staffing, including a shared Fire Chief, duty officer, firefighter, and an Administrative Battalion Chief. New staff increased fire prevention through inspections and landowner agreements for fuels reduction projects. Funded training, personal protective equipment, communications and rescue equipment upgrades, and a down payment on a new water tender.



Northern Sonoma County Fire Protection District - Vegetation Management Program

Completed fuel reduction projects along Chalk Hill Road, Old Cazadero Road, and Sweetwater Springs Road.



County of Sonoma Fire (Permit Sonoma)

Added two Extra Help Fire Inspector II positions who performed defensible space inspections, and purchased equipment for vegetation management, inspections, and chipper operations.



Sonoma County Fire Chiefs Association

Funded countywide fire service activities including vegetation management coordination through Fire Safe Sonoma, REDCOM dispatch costs, red flag up staffing, technology investments, and administrative operations.



Committee Findings



The Oversight Committee provides transparency and fiscal accountability for Measure H. The Committee reviews the receipt and expenditure of these revenues to evaluate whether expenditures are consistent with the Ordinance.

First-year investments improved services through increased staffing, expanded fire prevention activities, and early capital planning that will support reduced response times and increased service capacity. The Committee found that agencies reported meeting the maintenance of effort requirements, showing that Measure H increased services rather than replaced existing funding.

As this report reflects the first year of Measure H implementation, the Committee reviewed areas of the Ordinance where additional discussion may support consistent evaluation of expenditures, including administrative support expenditures and compensation adjustments related to recruitment and retention.

Some agencies reported administrative expenditures, including the addition of administrative positions in smaller districts that had previously relied on volunteer capacity. The Committee discussed

these costs in the context of first-year implementation, noting that Measure H created additional administrative responsibilities, including fiscal management and program coordination. The Committee will continue to monitor administrative spending over time, including in relation to service delivery.

The Committee also discussed the use of Measure H funding to support compensation parity for smaller agencies where it may affect workforce stability. The Committee noted the importance of consistent reporting and clear documentation to support transparency and ongoing evaluation.

The Committee will continue to provide independent oversight to support transparency and fiscal accountability through ongoing review of agency reports and annual reporting to the Board of Supervisors.

Appendix

MEASURE H DISBURSEMENTS, REPORTED REVENUES, AND EXPENDITURES BY AGENCY

The table below summarizes Measure H funds disbursed to each agency, along with reported revenues, expenditures, and fund balances for Fiscal Year 24-25. Differences between disbursed amounts and reported revenues reflect the timing of reporting relative to the receipt of fourth-quarter revenues.

AGENCY	DISBURSED AMOUNT	REPORTED REVENUE	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	FUND BALANCE
City of Healdsburg	\$1,157,792	\$767,618	\$260,172	\$507,446
City of Petaluma	\$3,316,543	\$3,316,543	\$1,730,585	\$1,585,958
City of Rohnert Park	\$2,536,994	\$2,596,474	\$357,162	\$2,239,312
City of Santa Rosa	\$6,642,312	\$4,469,577	\$51,499	\$4,418,078
City of Sebastopol	\$543,060	\$543,174	\$537,143	\$6,031
City of Sonoma	\$544,301	\$544,301	\$544,301	\$0
Cazadero Community Services District	\$525,850	\$343,938	\$60,476	\$283,461
Cloverdale Fire Protection District	\$1,282,335	\$1,282,335	\$556,010	\$726,325

AGENCY	DISBURSED AMOUNT	REPORTED REVENUE	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	FUND BALANCE
Gold Ridge Fire Protection District	\$5,135,487	\$2,917,436	\$2,432,036	\$485,400
Graton Fire Protection District	\$488,948	\$488,948	\$328,326	\$160,622
Kenwood Fire Protection District	\$564,178	\$862,580	\$784,103	\$78,477
Monte Rio Fire Protection District	\$733,130	\$733,130	\$755,997	(\$22,867)
North Sonoma Coast Fire Protection District	\$1,102,439	\$1,102,439	\$567,373	\$535,066
Occidental Community Services District	\$742,647	\$485,737	\$6,320	\$479,416
Rancho Adobe Fire Protection District	\$1,614,451	\$1,614,451	\$797,875	\$816,575
Schell-Vista Fire Protection District	\$553,526	\$553,526	\$722,438	(\$168,912)
Sonoma County Fire District	\$3,049,006	\$1,994,235	\$535,163	\$1,459,072
Sonoma Valley Fire Protection District	\$2,697,012	\$2,398,610	\$2,398,610	\$0

AGENCY	DISBURSED AMOUNT	REPORTED REVENUE	TOTAL EXPENDITURES	FUND BALANCE
Timber Cove Fire Protection District	\$1,139,341	\$745,198	\$455,417	\$289,782
North Sonoma Coast - Vegetation Management	\$2,306,358	\$1,508,499	\$427,614	\$1,080,885
Permit Sonoma	\$193,734	\$187,484	\$27,557	\$159,927
Sonoma County Fire Chief's Association	\$6,490,093	\$6,490,093	\$2,875,624	\$3,614,468
TOTAL	\$45,665,896	\$37,454,824	\$17,798,087	\$19,656,737



The Improved and Enhanced Local Fire Protection, Paramedic Services and Disaster Response Tax

Comprehensive Annual Report - FY 2024-2025

Prepared by the Measure H Oversight Committee

April 30, 2026

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sonomacounty.gov/measure-h

