



Northstar Community Services District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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1/22/2008

Dear Northstar Property Owner,

A wildfire at Northstar would be devastating for all of us!

2007 was the second most destructive California fire season on record in almost 50 years. Although the Southern California fires were the most publicized, the Truckee Tahoe region experienced one of the most devastating seasons as well -- the Angora Fire (South Shore), the Washoe Fire near Homewood (West Shore) and the Interchange Fire in the town of Truckee.

Northstar Community Services District (NCSD) and the Northstar Fire Department have aggressively promoted defensible space and fuels reduction fire prevention programs within the community. Still, much more must be done on lands within and around Northstar.

These projects are expensive, but we believe they are worth the investment. And your District Board of Directors has devised a plan to do more fire prevention **without** asking for additional monies. However, we want your opinion.

In 1998, your Northstar road system was in dire need of repair and improvement, and so the NCSD voters overwhelmingly approved Measure "E." This special property tax, currently \$ 313.54 per parcel, is specifically set aside to maintain your road system and supplement NCSD's snow removal budget. As a result, Northstar has one of the finest and well maintained road systems in Placer County and our snow removal program is second to none.

NCSD can continue this high level of road service, but we can also reduce the Measure "E" tax by two-thirds. We propose to ask the voters to approve a ballot measure that will authorize collection of fire prevention funds in exactly the same amount of the road tax reduction. Under this plan there would be **no change** in the total assessment on any parcel – just a change in how the assessment may be allocated. The new funds will be designated for forest restoration and fuels reduction projects. The remaining one-third of the Measure "E" revenues, along with capital reserves, will be sufficient to continue the District's road care program, including snow removal.


This proposed new measure can be approved and enacted only by registered voters of the District. However, because of the low number of registered voters within the District compared to the number of property owners, the NCSD Board of Directors is circulating this information to all property owners to gauge support for the new measure prior to placing it on the June election ballot.

The Board of Directors unanimously supports this measure and will be recommending a "Yes" vote. Please read the enclosed brochure, then complete and return the prepaid postcard by February 18, 2008.


Remember, this is only a survey. Final approval is by vote of the District's registered voters, but the Board of Directors is definitely interested in your opinion.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,


Michael Staudenmayer
NCSD General Manager


Mark Shadowens
Fire Chief


Duane E. Evans
NCSD Board President



The
Northstar Fire
Department Is In Need Of
Your
Support

Vote
“YES”
on
Measure “K”

Mission-Vision-Purpose

**Property Owner Survey
Enclosed For Proposed
Special Tax**

The State of California has seen a steady increase in wildfires during the last five years.

Within our immediate area, the Lake Tahoe Basin experienced the Angora Fire which destroyed over 3100 acres, 309 structures and had a cost of \$13 million to contain. There were other fires in the Tahoe-Truckee region that had the potential of being just as devastating. Firefighters battled the Washoe Fire near Homewood (West Shore) and were able to contain the fire at only 15 acres, but five homes were destroyed and it cost an estimated \$25,000 to contain. The Town of Truckee experienced the Interchange Fire, which grew to 80 acres and cost \$600,000 dollars to contain.



Angora Fire, South Lake Tahoe, 2007



Many conditions contribute to the increase of catastrophic wildfires. Conditions such as high winds, dry fuels, and overstocked forests are just some of the factors.

Although we cannot control all of the contributing factors, we can control one particular factor---**overstocked forests**. Today's California forests stand in sharp contrast to our historic forests. Historically, our forests were less dense and populated with fewer trees.



Example of overstocked forest.



This healthy forest withstood the Angora wildfire. In fact, in this treated area the fire dropped out of the tree canopy and stayed on the ground to allow firefighters to extinguish.

By utilizing proven forestry restoration techniques, we can maintain the health and survivability of our forests. The Northstar Community Services District is committed to restoring our surrounding forests to reduce the threat of catastrophic wildfire. Thinning overstocked forest by removing dead and dying trees, thick underbrush, and ladder fuels can only be achieved with proper funding. The average cost of remediation for this type of work in our area is approximately \$2,000 per acre. Limited state and federal resources are not enough to effectively accomplish the magnitude of restoration needed.

For this reason NCSD is proposing a new tax measure that will help acquire necessary funds to immediately address forest restoration and fuels reduction projects at Northstar.

The new tax measure **will not result in an increase in taxes**, but rather a reallocation of existing funds.

The re-allocated monies **will be** designated specifically for:

1. **Forest restoration projects that are outside and in addition to what is required by the Northstar Community Services District ordinances and Codes.** Currently, the District requires a 300ft. fuels reduction zone on common area lands adjacent to residential structures.
2. **Costs associated with the District's current residential curbside debris pick-up program.**
3. **Funding of a full-time Registered Professional Forester** who will manage all of the District's forest restoration projects.

The re-allocated monies will **not** be used for:

1. **Forest restoration projects on private or residential parcels.** Homeowners will still be required to maintain their property to the District's ordinances and codes.

2. **Forest restoration projects on common area lands within the boundaries of the required 300ft fuels reduction zones.** All common area land owners will still be required to maintain their lands per the District's ordinance 4-00, and the Public Resources Code 4291.

The Pictures below illustrate a Northstar Fire Department defensible space project completed in 2006.



Before



After

The Northstar Fire Department strongly encourages Northstar Property Owners to support the measure by voting "Yes"

If you have questions or comments related to the proposed measure please contact Fire Chief Mark Shadowns @ mshadowens@northstarfire31.com (530) 562-1212 or NCSD General Manager Mike Staudenmayer @ mikes@northstarcsd.com (530)562-0747.