

MAY 09 2023BY  DEPUTY
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS**WRITTEN TEXT OF THE INITIATIVE****SECTION 1****(a) Findings**

(1) In 2006, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors proposed and, just 1,022 voters approved, creation of County Service Area 70, Improvement Zone FP-5 (Helendale/Silver Lakes), encompassing a small area just over five square miles, and imposed a yearly special tax of \$117.00 per parcel with an annual inflationary increase of up to 3%, to finance fire and emergency services within the FP-5 boundaries.

(2) In 2008, FP-5 was reorganized as San Bernardino County Fire Protection District Service Zone FP-5 and its boundaries were expanded. In 2016 and 2018, its boundaries were again expanded.

(3) In 2022, the special tax rate was set by the Board of Directors of the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District at \$166.84 per parcel for 2022-2023.

(4) Unless the special tax is repealed, the Board of Directors of San Bernardino County Fire Protection District can continue to increase the special tax by up to 3% every year. Meanwhile, government agencies can continue adding territory to the District, thus imposing the tax on new parcels without voter approval.

(b) Purposes

(1) Article XIII C, Section 3 of the Constitution of California provides: "Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, including, but not limited to, Sections 8 and 9 of Article II, the initiative power shall not be prohibited or otherwise limited in matters of reducing or repealing any local tax, assessment, fee or charge. The power of initiative to affect local taxes, assessments, fees and charges shall be applicable to all local governments and neither the Legislature nor any local government charter shall impose a signature requirement higher than that applicable to statewide statutory initiatives."

(2) The purpose of this measure is to repeal the special tax on parcels in Service Zone FP-5, in accordance with the express power of voters granted by Article XIII C, Section 3 of the Constitution of California.

(3) Adoption of this initiative measure is essential to the preservation of the quality of life, property values, and the health, safety, and general welfare interests of the residents and property owners within the San Bernardino County Fire Protection District.

SECTION 2. REPEAL SERVICE ZONE FP-5 SPECIAL TAX

The special tax for Service Zone FP-5, originally authorized by voters in 2006 in the amount of \$117 per parcel, per year with an annual 3% cost of living increase, and most recently set by the Board of Directors with Resolution No. 2022-171 at \$166.84 per parcel for Fiscal Year 2022-23, is hereby repealed.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

This initiative shall go into effect on the first day of the fiscal year following the election at which the measure is adopted by voters.

SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE

If any provision of this measure or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, that invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of the measure that can be given effect in the absence of the invalid provision or application. To this end, the provisions of this measure are severable.