



# NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## RESOLUTION 2009-06

### A RESOLUTION FINDING A SEVERE FISCAL HARDSHIP WILL EXIST IF ADDITIONAL LOCAL PROPERTY TAX REVENUES ARE SEIZED AND ADDITIONAL UNFUNDED MANDATES ARE ADOPTED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**WHEREAS**, the current economic and housing crises have placed independent special districts under immense financial pressure and caused special district officials to reopen already adopted budgets to make painful cuts, including layoffs and furloughs of employees, decreasing maintenance and operations of public facilities, and reductions in direct services to keep spending in line with declining revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, since the early 1990s the state government of California has seized over **\$6.807 billion** of independent special district property tax revenues statewide to fund the state budget; and

**WHEREAS**, in FY 2007-08 alone, the state seized nearly **\$618 million** in independent special district property tax revenues statewide to fund the state budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the most significant impact of taking local property tax revenues is the reduction of quality and effectiveness of vital services provided to constituents; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2004 the voters by an 84 percent vote margin passed Proposition 1A which adopted substantial constitutional protections for local revenues, but the Legislature can still “borrow” local property taxes to fund the state budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor recently proposed to suspend Proposition 1A (2004) and “borrow” \$2 billion in local property taxes from independent special districts, cities, and counties to balance the state budget, which would cause deeper cuts to fire protection, water and wastewater, mosquito abatement, recreation and park, and many other vital services; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past the Governor has called such “borrowing” proposals fiscally irresponsible because the state will find it virtually impossible to repay and it would only deepen the state’s structural deficit, preventing the state from balancing its budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature is currently considering hundreds of bills, many of which would impose new costs on local governments that can neither be afforded nor sustained in this economic climate; and

**WHEREAS**, state agencies are imposing, or considering, many regulations imposing unfunded mandates on local governments without regard to how local agencies will be able comply with these mandates while meeting their other responsibilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the combined effects of the seizure of the Special District’s property tax revenues, increasing unfunded state mandates, and the revenue losses due to the economic downturn have placed the Special District’s budget under serious fiscal pressure; and



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**WHEREAS**, this Special District simply cannot sustain the loss of any more property tax funds or to be saddled with any more state mandates as they will only deepen the financial challenge facing this Special District and impact the services to the constituents we serve.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NORTH COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT** has determined that the Special District will experience a severe fiscal hardship if the state "borrows" local property taxes to solve the state's budget deficit; and

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board of Directors strongly and unconditionally opposes the Governor's proposal and any other state government proposals to borrow or seize any additional local funds, including property tax; and

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board of Directors strongly urges the Legislature and Governor to suspend the enactment of any new mandates on local governments until such time as the economy has recovered and urges the state to provide complete funding for all existing and any new mandates.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the Board Secretary shall send copies of this resolution to the Governor, our state Senator(s), our Assembly Member(s) and the California Special Districts Association.

**PASSED, ADOPTED AND SIGNED** by the Board of Directors, North County Fire Protection District, County of San Diego, State of California, on this 26<sup>TH</sup> Day of May, 2009, by the following vote:

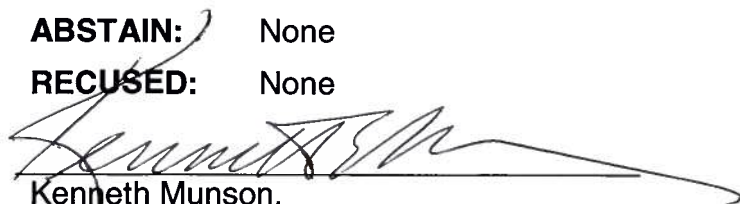
**AYES:** Directors Harris, Hooper, Munson, Schaden and Thuner

**NOES:** None

**ABSENT:** None

**ABSTAIN:** None

**RECUSED:** None

  
Kenneth Munson,  
Board President



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**ATTEST:**

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the resolution duly and regularly adopted by the Board of Directors of the North County Fire Protection District thereof held on the 26<sup>TH</sup> day of May, 2009, and that the same now appears on record in my office.

**IN WITNESS THEREOF**, I hereunto set my hand and affixed by official seal this 26<sup>TH</sup> day of May, 2009.

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Loren A. Stephen-Porter  
Board Secretary