



Orleans Volunteer Fire Department

January 29, 2021

MEASURE Z QUARTERLY REPORT, 2nd QUARTER, FY20-21

BACKGROUND

The Orleans Volunteer Fire Department (OVFD) has been the grateful recipient of two sources of funding through Measure Z. The Humboldt County Fire Chiefs Association (HCFCA) was awarded funding FY17-18 for several simple “barns” or buildings to house additional fire apparatus for several rural fire departments throughout Humboldt County, and we were awarded \$85,000 of that allocation. With the support of the HCFCA, we applied for Measure Z additional funding for FY 19-20 and were awarded \$140,000 of a total request of \$200,000 towards a complete fire station. We are very grateful for the approval of an extension for the use of the funding through FY 20-21.

In addition to those two welcome awards of funding, there has been an outpouring of support, some financial but most in terms of donated materials, labor, and expertise. Our small local businesses have helped out tremendously. As noted below, the Karuk Tribe has stepped up to help with the building as well. The building continues to be constructed using volunteer labor with some additional skilled labor from a local contractor who also donates some of his time to the community.

ACTIVITIES COMPLETED

FY 20-21 2nd Quarter (October 2020 through December 2020) was characterized by the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic as it ramped up its impacts in Humboldt County, and the typical northeast Humboldt County winter weather.

In spite of these challenges, we continued to respond to medical, traffic collision, and fire-related emergencies. We also kept working on building our new fire station, holding work days nearly every week.

- Purchased and installed the heavy-duty underground electrical service from the pole on our property with overhead service from PG&E to inside the building. This involved installing and wiring a 200A transfer switch on the pole for a future connection for a generator, pulling heavy wires through the previously-installed conduit and into the building, and purchasing and installing a 200A service box inside the building. All the wiring was completed and service is now available inside the building.
- Purchased and installed three ADA-accessible person-doors with ADA-accessible locksets, allowing us to secure the building, move building supplies inside, and return the loaned ConEx to TT Construction, who provided it without charge for several months.
- TT Construction donated, and we installed, tempered glass windows in the building.

PO Box 312, 38162 Highway 96, Orleans CA, 95556

- Completed the installation of the metal siding and started work on the finish trim for the bay doors, person doors, and windows. Purchased additional custom flashing and three additional sheets of metal siding to complete the work.
- Paid for the purchase and installation of gutters for the east and west side of the building, a total of 180' of gutter, with four downspouts.
- Purchased and installed the needed plumbing wall so that the Karuk-funded plumbing could be installed, and purchased and installed the needed sheetrock for the inside of the new bathroom so that the fixtures could be installed.

PEOPLE SERVED AND BENEFITTED

When the new fire station is complete, it will provide a safe, clean, and central location from which the OVFD volunteers can continue to respond to our local emergencies, including fire, accident, and medical calls. The OVFD serves a first-out response area of over 1,000 people scattered over 198 square miles, and will continue to serve these communities. The new fire station will also serve as an ADA- accessible command center, with power, water, communications, and meeting room space that can be used during local incidents including fire, rescue, etc. Beneficiaries include not only the entire extended community from Somes Bar to Weitchpec and including Orleans and outlying properties, but our fellow responders in law enforcement including the CHP, Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, and the Forest Service.

INFLUENCE OF MEASURE Z FUNDING

The OVFD is a "bake sale" department, dependent on local fundraising to keep the doors open. This year, due to COVID-19, we were unable to engage in our usual fundraising activities (largely food service) and are therefore short around \$20,000 for operating costs. In addition to the Coast Central Credit Union \$4,000 grant noted last quarter, local and more distant friends have donated several thousand more dollars. Most recently, we completed the installation of the bathroom with the assistance of the Karuk Tribe's donation of \$25,420. Our local businesses, including TT Construction, routinely provide labor and materials at steeply discounted rates to assist our work. Though we must continue to dip into our savings to keep the doors open, the support of Measure Z is absolutely essential. Without it, we could not hope to have a safe, clean building in which to store and maintain apparatuses and PPE and provide for prompt, efficient, and safe first response in our area.