

# **FACT SHEET**

**Background:** For more than 50 years, victims of heart attacks, strokes, and other medical emergencies in Baldwin Lake, Fawnskin, Big Bear Lake, Sugarloaf, Big Bear City, and surrounding unincorporated Bear Valley Mountain communities, have relied on Bear Valley Community Hospital for life-saving emergency medical services close to home. Particularly in life-threatening medical emergencies *when every second counts*, Bear Valley Hospital is saving lives every day, operating the ONLY Emergency Room (ER) on the mountain. In 2024 alone, we recorded 12,414 visits to our Bear Valley Community Hospital Emergency Room (ER).

Our community has continually supported this local funding for Bear Valley Hospital in the past. In 1994, local voters first approved Measure G, a modest local parcel tax measure supporting our local ER, hospital, and vital emergency medical services with stable, locally controlled funding. Funding for an additional 20-years was once again approved by local voters in two additional and overwhelmingly supported 2003 and 2014 ballot measures. Funds from all three measures have been essential in keeping the Hospital's ER fully operational, 24-7, and funding qualified doctors and nurses, advanced medical technology and related services for more than two decades. The Hospital's local parcel tax funding will expire on June 30, 2025. Without it, difficult decisions lie ahead to ensure local access to quality ER medical services for our mountain community.

**Measure U UPDATE:** Measure U, was approved overwhelmingly by Big Bear Valley voters this past November (2024) with more than 72% support. Now, due to a technicality in state law discovered after Election Day, **Measure U** is out of compliance. Because this funding is so vital to the hospital's operation, our Board of Trustees is now considering bringing **a Replacement Ballot Measure** to Big Bear Valley voters this June. The replacement measure would simply confirm (before our current funding expires on June 30th) what voters already approved last November, while also bringing this vitally needed funding authorization into full compliance with state law.

**If approved by voters, the REPLACEMENT Ballot Measure would:**

- **KEEP** Bear Valley Community Hospital's Emergency Room (ER) open and fully operational, 24/7. (Without Measure U, the district would likely have to limit new Emergency Department programs and lifesaving advancements such as General Surgeons on-call, Board Certified Emergency Physicians, Stroke Accreditation, Level 4 Trauma Designation and other technology and staffing improvements.)
- **MAINTAIN** access to advanced, rapid-response lifesaving emergency medical services on the mountain.
- **CONTINUE** access to up-to-date technologies and treatments for victims of accidents, strokes, and heart attacks.
- **RETAIN** qualified nurses and physicians at Bear Valley Community Hospital.
- **PROTECT** patient safety and minimize wait times in our hospital ER.

**FACTS: The REPLACEMENT Measure Proposal currently under consideration would:**

- **Lower the current tax rate for approximately 82% of Big Bear Valley property owners.** If voters approve the replacement measure as proposed, the cost to local taxpayers would be reduced from \$45 per improved parcel to \$40 per year for 10 years. (The cost for unimproved parcels would increase from \$20 for to \$40 per year for 10 years.) This uniform tax rate is required by state law.
- **REQUIRE strict accountability and taxpayer protections.** ALL funds stay local, dedicated to Bear Valley Community Hospital. Public spending disclosure, and annual independent financial audits ensure funds are used as promised.
- **Without the Measure U Replacement Measure Bear Valley Hospital's budget will need to be cut by \$500,000 a year (\$5 million over 10 years).** This will force all the Hospital to limit new Emergency Department programs and lifesaving advancements. The Bear Valley Community Healthcare District will ONLY be asking our community to continue maintaining this critical funding as they have 4 previous times - in 1994, 2003, 2014, and 2024.
- Now more than ever this funding is needed due to potential Federal Healthcare Funding cuts in California totaling \$40 billion and cancelling \$1.7 million Californians' healthcare eligibility. These cuts will severely impact BVCHD.

**FOR MORE INFO:** Visit the Hospital's website: [bvchd.com](http://bvchd.com). Or contact Ryan Orr via email at: [ryan.orr@bvchd.org](mailto:ryan.orr@bvchd.org) or phone at (909) 878-8231.

This fact sheet is provided for your information only as a public service from Bear Valley Community Healthcare District.