

Cyndie Martel

From: Erin Mozaffarian <eringmoz@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 11:33 AM
To: CouncilAll
Cc: Cyndie Martel; Darius Mozaffarian
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save the Ross Fire Station

Dear Members of the Town Council,

This is Erin and Darius Mozaffarian, and we live at 1 Ames Avenue. We are writing to voice our strong opposition against the Ross Fire station closing, and to urge the Council to reconsider alternatives to save this vital resource for our community.

Let's learn from recent events

We have lived in Ross for 10 years, and we are so grateful to have our children grow up in such a truly special place. We watched in horror as the fires destroyed several Southern California communities a few months ago, and we must not allow the same to happen to our town. Closing our fire station, our first line of defense for our community, at the start of fire season is dangerous and would leave us all vulnerable. We cannot rely on the Ross Valley Fire Department to prioritize Ross above all of the other at-risk communities here. In addition, I was not aware until recently that the closure of our fire station would leave the RVFD with only 3 fire engines instead of 4, leaving the existing station with reduced resources to serve a wider community. A fire here is an inevitability. The least we can do is learn from recent disasters and plan accordingly to protect our town.

Let's pivot based on new facts

We are more educated on the ramifications of the closure of our fire station than when the Town Council made the decision in 2021. The assurances then that the emergency medical function in Ross would be unchanged for 85% of calls have been shown to be incorrect. If the reality means that emergency response times will increase by a minimum of 2 minutes for nearly all calls, we must consider the potentially life-threatening delays it would cause for our family and our neighbors. Certainly, the Town Council's analysis in 2021 would have been different had it known this information or received more accurate assurances from the fire officials. We owe it to each other in this community to have access to basic emergency aid without unstandard delays.

We are all in this together

Our property is 0.4 miles from the Ross Town Hall and 0.2 miles from the Ross School, in the flats. We lost our homeowners insurance last summer due to wildfire risk. If an insurance carrier will drop our property in the center of our town for that reason, I am sure many others in Ross have had the same happen to them, especially those in wooded or hilly areas. It was very difficult for us to obtain new insurance, but we finally found a small, relatively unknown company who charges us more for less coverage. Even so, I'm grateful to have found a carrier at all, and pray that they do not drop us this summer given the fires in Southern California. After the recent fires, the FAIR plan will likely not be an option, leaving many with very little insurance options. Having a dedicated fire station for our community is absolutely vital - not just to save our properties but perhaps the lives of our families and neighbors.

Much has changed from the Town Council's decision in 2021, and none of it seems to support closing our fire station which would leave us all so vulnerable to risk. I believe that the citizens of Ross will go to great lengths to support keeping the fire station as a vital resource for us all, and we respectfully urge the Town Council to consider any and all alternatives to closure.

We greatly appreciate your time and your consideration on this matter.

Best Regards,
Erin and Darius Mozaffarian
1 Ames Avenue, Ross