



To: Summit County Council

From: Brian Hanton, District Director
Megan Suhadolc, District Administrator

Date: October 4, 2019

Re: Intent to Increase 2020 Property Taxes

In the early 1990s, the Snyderville Basin was caught up in what was referred to as a community recreation “crisis.” It developed over a period of time due to a combination of factors, which included tremendous residential growth in the Snyderville Basin, few planning tools to provide for public recreation facilities, and a lack of funding. To address the situation, the Snyderville Basin Special Recreation District (“District”) asked voters in 1995 to decide if they wanted to issue \$7.5 million in general obligation bonds for acquisition of land and construction of facilities and to levy a .0006 tax rate for operation and maintenance expenses. In a 3 to 1 vote, residents of the District approved the bond and tax levy and so began the development of the District we have today. Since then, District voters have approved another four general obligation bonds authorizing an additional \$66 million for parks, trails, recreation facilities, and recreational open space. Of these improvements, approximately 84% are non-revenue generating amenities which rely on the District’s operations and maintenance property tax levy to operate.

The last truth in taxation increase the District implemented was in 2004. At that time, District operations included 1 community park, 80 miles of trail, 66 acres of open space, and 19 full-time equivalent employees. Fifteen years later, the District now operates three community parks, 172 miles of trail, 2,200 acres of open space, owns 94 acres of land for park and recreation facility development, and has 52 full-time equivalent employees. The District has responsibly managed the additional operations within budget to the best of its ability, but has come to recognize the need for additional revenue to keep up with the demands of the active and growing community. With this increase in property tax revenue, the District will be able to maintain its current assets, replace aging assets, and prepare for future capital investments. Without additional revenue, the level of service the Snyderville Basin residents have come to expect and enjoy will decline.

The next steps to satisfy the requirements of Utah Code Section 59-2-919 are below, which will then enable the District to levy a tax rate that exceeds the certified tax rate.

October 25, 2019: Parcel specific notices detailing the impact of the proposed increase and the date, time, and place of the public hearing will be mailed to residents.

November 20, 2019: The District will notify the public with a newspaper advertisement in the Park Record and post on the Utah public notice website.

November 27, 2019: The District will notify the public with a second newspaper advertisement in the Park Record.

December 4, 2019: The District will hold a public hearing at 6:00pm, as part of the Summit County Council meeting, on the proposed property tax increase. A second public hearing will be held afterwards on the District's proposed 2020 budgets. Following each public hearing, the County Council may adopt resolutions accepting the property tax increase and the 2020 budgets.

Following this memo is a presentation explaining the District's intent to increase 2020 property taxes in the amount of \$2,379,231, which is a 72% increase in property tax revenue.