



CITY OF FORT BRAGG
Incorporated August 5, 1889
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MEMO

DATE: February 2, 2026
TO: Community Development Committee
FROM: Sarah Peters, Associate Planner
SUBJECT: Fireworks Drone Show Survey Results

ISSUE

At the November 3, 2025, Community Development Committee (CDC) meeting, staff were directed to conduct a survey to ascertain community interest in drone light shows replacing the fireworks shows the City has traditionally provided during our annual 4th of July celebrations. A survey was conducted by staff and posted online on December 5, 2025. The survey is still up, however the data for this report was pulled on January 27, 2026. To date there are 419 respondents to the survey.

ANALYSIS

Demographics

Most respondents were over 35 years of age and were local. Most respondents attend the 4th of July fireworks display in Fort Bragg at least once every 3-5 years, with 67% attending most years or every year and almost 15% stating that they never attend these events.

Aerial Display Preferences

Out of 418 respondents, 52.63% prefer a drone light show, and 39.95% prefer the traditional fireworks show. Out of 419 respondents, 49.16% would be more likely to attend the 4th of July event if it featured a drone light show instead of fireworks, and 39.66% would not be more likely to attend a drone light show instead of fireworks. 10.98% may be more likely to attend the drone light show.

There was a wide variety of responses to Questions 9-12, reflecting many similar and many differing opinions and expressing passionate feelings on both sides of the issue. Between the four questions shown below, there were a total of 1,285 responses -

Q9 - What do you most enjoy about traditional fireworks display? (358 answered, 66 skipped)

Q10 - What concerns do you have about a drone light show? (331 answered, 93 skipped)

Q11 - What concerns do you have about traditional fireworks shows? (359 answered, 65 skipped)

Q12 - Do you have any other comments or suggestions regarding the 4th of July holiday celebration? (237 answered, 187 skipped)

In Question 13, respondents were asked to rate the importance of the following factors determining their preference (as stated in Question 7) on a scale of 1-5, where 1 = Not Important, and 5 = Very Important. The top three factors were:

1. Visual experience - 59.95%
2. Environmental impacts (pollution, debris) – 50.97%
3. Noise level (impact on pets, wildlife, people) – 48.79%

	1	2	3	4	5	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Noise level (impact on pets, wildlife, people)	18.60% 77	11.59% 48	14.49% 60	6.52% 27	48.79% 202	414	3.55
Visual experience	5.58% 23	3.88% 16	18.20% 75	12.38% 51	59.95% 247	412	4.17
Cost of show	16.46% 67	9.34% 38	39.80% 162	13.51% 55	20.88% 85	407	3.13
Environmental impacts (pollution, debris)	19.42% 80	8.01% 33	14.56% 60	7.04% 29	50.97% 210	412	3.62
Safety (fire risk)	22.87% 94	6.57% 27	15.33% 63	8.52% 35	46.72% 192	411	3.50
Tradition – fireworks nostalgia	34.94% 145	6.99% 29	13.49% 56	6.75% 28	37.83% 157	415	3.06

ATTACHMENTS:

Att. 1 – Fort Bragg 4th of July Aerial Display Survey