



Agenda Date: 9/19/2006
Agenda Placement: 10A

NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Britt Ferguson for Nancy Watt - County Executive Officer
County Executive Office
REPORT BY: Andrew Carey, Management Analyst, 253-4477
SUBJECT: Letter to the Governor urging his veto of AB 2683, State Employees, Bargaining Unit 8, Compensation.

RECOMMENDATION

Approval of and authorization for the Chair to sign a letter to the Governor urging him to veto AB 2683, State Employees, Bargaining Unit 8, Compensation. (Unanimous vote of the Board members present required)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Napa County Fire Department consists of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF), under contract with the County for fire protection services, and nine volunteer fire departments. The County's expense for its contract with CDF for fire protection services for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 is approximately \$6,800,000.

AB 2683, which was passed by both houses of the the State Legislature in the final days of the 2006 legislative session as a "gut and amend bill", would change current law to require the State to pay its Bargaining Unit No. 8 (CDF firefighting personnel) the estimated average of salaries for other jurisdictions (primarily urban and suburban municipalities) employing 75 or more full-time firefighters. Staff from the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the Regional Council of Rural Counties (RCRC) have estimated that AB 2683, if signed by the Governor, would result in state-wide compensation increases of between fifteen and twenty-five percent for the various classifications of employees in Bargaining Unit No. 8. It is estimated that AB 2683 would increase Napa County's costs for CDF fire protection services by anywhere from \$1 million to \$1.7 million annually.

Because AB 2683 was passed quickly in the final days of the legislative session, the County's Legislative Subcommittee has not had an opportunity to consider the bill. However, due to the huge impact the bill would have on the County's expenses for fire protection services, AB 2683 is being brought before the Board of Supervisors for discussion with a staff recommendation that the Board authorize the chair to sign a letter to the Governor urging him to veto the bill. CSAC and RCRC both oppose AB 2683.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The proposed action is not a project as defined by 14 California Code of Regulations 15378 (State CEQA Guidelines) and therefore CEQA is not applicable.

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

Existing law requires the State's Department of Personnel Administration, in order to provide comparability in pay for CDF personnel, to take into consideration the salary and benefits of other jurisdictions employing 75 or more full-time firefighters who work in California. These jurisdictions are primarily urban and suburban municipalities.

AB 2683, which has been sent by the Legislature to the Governor for his signature, was amended in the final days of the legislative session in a "gut and amend" action. This bill would take effect immediately as an urgency statute. AB 2683 would change existing law to do the following:

- | Require the State and the exclusive representative for State Bargaining Unit 8 (representing CDF firefighting personnel) to jointly survey annually other jurisdictions employing 75 or more full-time firefighters who work in California; and to calculate the estimated average total compensation for these jurisdictions.
- | Require the state to pay rank and file members of State Bargaining Unit 8 the estimated average total compensation for each corresponding rank the average salary and benefits received by other jurisdictions employing 75 or more full-time firefighters who work in California.
- | Require the Department of Personnel Administration and the employee representative to utilize the survey methodology used by the California Highway Patrol in its negotiations with the State.

CSAC and RCRC staff have estimated that the fiscal impact of the bill would increase state-wide CDF salary expenses by approximately 15% - 25%. For Napa County, staff estimate AB 2683 would result in an increase to the county's cost for CDF fire protection services by at least \$1 million (15%) annually. However, the increase could be as much as \$1.7 million (25%) annually.

Given the significant increase to the County for fire protection services if AB 2683 becomes law, staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors authorize the chair to sign a letter to the Governor urging him to veto AB 2683.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . Letter urging the Governor to veto AB 2683
- B . AB 2683 text

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Maiko Klieman