



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 6/19/2017

Agenda Placement: 7B

Napa County Legislative Subcommittee Board Agenda Letter

TO: Napa County Legislative Subcommittee

FROM: Gladys Coil for Minh Tran - Interim County Executive Officer
County Executive Office

REPORT BY: Michael Karath, Staff Assistant - BOS - 299-1477

SUBJECT: SB 211 (Bigelow) - State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fees

RECOMMENDATION

County Executive Officer seeks discussion and possible action on AB 211(Bigelow), a bill that would indefinitely continue the annual reporting requirement of State Responsibility Area wildfire fees collections and expenditures, since the reporting requirement's sunset clause of January 31, 2017, has passed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Prevention Fee was enacted as part of the 2011 State Budget and imposed an annual fee of \$150 on each habitable structure located within a SRA.

Monies collected from the fee are deposited into the Fire Prevention Fund and used to pay for specific fire prevention activities across the State that benefit property owners who reside within the SRA.

Current law requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to submit an annual written report to the Legislature notifying them on how the monies are being expended. This reporting requirement, however, will sunset on January 31, 2017. AB 211 would require the reporting to occur annually for an indefinite period of time. It would also require the report to include an itemized accounting of all expenditures from the fund, including a specific itemized accounting relating to equipment expenditures, and a description of any positions that are associated with each expenditure, among other things.

CSAC: Watch
RCRC: Support

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

The State Responsibility Area (SRA) is the area of the state where the State of California is financially responsible for the prevention and suppression of wildfires. SRA does not include lands within city boundaries or in federal ownership.

The State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Prevention Fee was enacted following the signing of Assembly Bill X1 29 in July 2011.

The law approved the new annual Fire Prevention Fee to pay for fire prevention services within the SRA. The fee is applied to all habitable structures within the SRA. Effective July 1, 2014, the fee is levied at the rate of \$152.33 per habitable structure, which is defined as a building that can be occupied for residential use. Owners of habitable structures who are also within the boundaries of a local fire protection agency will receive a reduction of \$35 per habitable structure.

The SRA fee funds a variety of important fire prevention services in the SRA. Such activities include fuel reduction activities that lessen risk of wildfire to communities and evacuation routes. Other activities include defensible space inspections, fire prevention engineering, emergency evacuation planning, fire prevention education, fire hazard severity mapping, implementation of the State and local Fire Plans and fire-related law enforcement activities such as arson investigation.

Current law requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to submit an annual written report to the Legislature notifying them on how the monies are being expended. This reporting requirement, however, sunset on January 31, 2017. AB 211 would require the reporting to occur annually for an indefinite period of time. It would also require the report to include an itemized accounting of all expenditures from the fund, including a specific itemized accounting relating to equipment expenditures, and a description of any positions that are associated with each expenditure, among other things.

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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- A . AB 211 - BILL TEXT - SRA Reporting
- B . AB 211 - SRA Reporting - RCRC Support Letter

Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan