

DRAFT NEWS RELEASE

BOULDER CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OPPOSES NEW FEE IMPOSED ON CONSTITUENTS

State Levies Additional Cost With Out Providing Additional Services

BOULDER CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT Board of Directors adopted a resolution opposing the newly implemented State Responsibility Area (SRA) fees, which will impose additional financial burden on its constituents without providing additional fire services.

SRA fees mandate that many homeowners living in forested or wildfire-prone areas pay an annual fee of \$150 to the State of California for fire-prevention services. The Fire Districts Association of California (FDAC) has actively opposed the bill on behalf of its fire district members since the idea was presented a few years ago as a way to generate additional revenues for the state.

BOULDER CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT has homes located in these State Responsibility Areas (SRAs), which are designated zones that are already primarily protected by fire districts or the county fire department. These homeowners already pay local taxes for year-round fire prevention and protection services. It is the position of the **BOULDER CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT** that this annual \$150 SRA fee is onerous to the residents who will not see any direct benefit from California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the state's firefighting agency. Local fire districts will not receive any of the estimated \$125 million collected as the state struggles to fill its budget gaps.

BOULDER CREEK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT and FDAC did not support this legislation nor believe that this fee should be imposed on the residents served. California's Master Mutual Aid System, which is a model for the rest of the nation, has for decades inspired collaboration between local fire agencies and the state and will be jeopardized by these fees. Local fire agencies are concerned that with the implementation of the SRA fees, any future measures supporting local fire protection, prevention and paramedic services will simply not be approved by voters on top of the SRA fee charged by the state putting the local agency and its constituents at risk. "If the State Legislature wishes to reduce the burden on the State's General Fund for CALFIRE costs, an alternative and more equitable mechanism is necessary," said District Board President, Rick Rogers.

Boulder Creek Fire Protection District

Resolution 12-04

RESOLUTION OF OBJECTION TO SRA FEE

WHEREAS, the Legislature Adopted ABX1 29 in the final days of the Budget Act of 2011, without the benefit of legislative hearings or public comment; and

WHEREAS, the Legislation established statutes that directed the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to adopt emergency regulations implementing a Fire Prevention Fee on structures within State Responsibility Areas (SRA); and

WHEREAS, the SRRA Fee will be imposed on habitable structures within the SRA regardless if it falls within the boundaries of a recognized Fire Protection District; and

WHEREAS, the funds collected will not directly benefit the constituents and will challenge local measures for fire protection, prevention and emergency medical services; and

WHEREAS, the efforts of Local Governments to repeal the implementation of the SRA Fire Prevention Fee have been ignored.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ORDERED AND DECLARED that the Board of Directors of the Boulder Creek Fire Protection District hereby continues to support the work of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) but declares that AB X 1 29 and its statutes are ill-conceived, based on misinformation and will negatively impact the long-standing strategy for protecting California's wildlands.

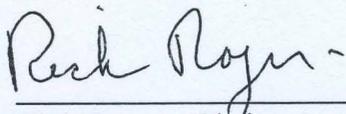
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the Boulder Creek Fire Protection District at a regular meeting held on the 11th day of September 2012 by the following called vote:

AYES: Dirs. Locatelli, Baker, Kuehl, Presswood, Rogers

NOES: None

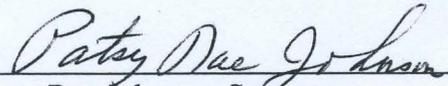
ABSENT: None

APPROVED:



Rick Rogers, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:



Patsy Rae Johnson, Secretary