

Lenzi, Chelsea

Subject: California Fire Prevention Fee

From: Kuntsal [<mailto:kuntsal@aol.com>]

Sent: Monday, December 10, 2012 8:38 AM

To: Wolf, Janet; SupervisorCarbajal; Gray, Joni; Lavagnino, Steve

Subject: California Fire Prevention Fee

Dear Board of Supervisors:

With many of California's local fire departments, as well as a member of the California Board of Equalization (George Runner), speaking out against this new California Fire Prevention Fee, which is basically a hidden, and unfairly distributed tax, PLEASE stand up for those of us being forced to unfairly pay it.

IF in California we are not adequately supporting our fire prevention and suppression needs, then the legislature should make sure we are. Yes, it is important. But not by arbitrarily charging some Californians and not others. IF it is a true need (not because our taxes are being wasted somewhere else) then most of us would be willing (as we were with Proposition 30) to all pay a bit more in taxes. However, this burden should be more equitably distributed, and the revenues should go directly to local fire departments--not have to rely on possible "grants" from the state.

We live in a small lot subdivision of modest homes in the urban fill area of "Noleta," about a mile from Santa Barbara County Fire Station, a few houses down from a fire hydrant, protected by orchards for miles around. Suddenly as we approach retirement and are trying to trim expenses to live on a fixed, and not very secure, income, we have to fork over a yearly \$100+ which doesn't even go to our local fire departments and for which we don't get any direct services???

And meanwhile, many friends and neighbors just blocks away, and some in the more fire-prone foothills behind us, do not have to pay???

Furthermore, as one argument also goes, does this mean people living in our major cities with higher crime rates should pay the state more because they require more police services???

Thank you for looking into this matter. Please help out your constituents and speak out against this unjust and poorly conceived piece of legislation.

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