Agenda Item 3A:
State Advocacy Letters

AGENDA ITEM 3A

SALUD CARBAJAL
First District

JANET WOLF
Second District

DOREEN FARR
Third District, Vice Chair

PETER ADAM
Fourth District, Chair

STEVE LAVAGNINO
Fifth District

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County Administration Building
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
Telephone: (805) 568-2190
www.countyofsb.org

January 26, 2016

Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
State Capitol, Rm 2032
Sacramento, CA 95814

Fax No.: (916) 651-4919

RE: SB 900 – State lands: coastal hazard removal and remediation program – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Jackson:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to offer our support for SB 900 State lands: coastal hazard removal and remediation program.

Senate Bill 900, the Coast Oil Well Cleanup Act, would require that the California State Lands Commission plug very old "orphaned" oil wells in California waters when the original oil company that operated the well is out of business and cannot be held responsible. It will also require an in-depth study of similarly abandoned and unused oil wells along the California coast. It is estimated that there are more than 200 of these so-called 'legacy' wells in California, the majority located along the Summerland and Ellwood beaches in Santa Barbara County and along the Central Coast. In addition, the bill would require the removal of coastal hazards such as wood and steel pilings, railroad irons, pipelines, wooden beams and other hazards. It would also require the monitoring and studying of the phenomenon known as natural seepage.

Furthermore, the County's 2016 Legislative Platform includes the Oil Research and Infrastructure plank to support efforts that SB 900 intends to accomplish. For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports SB 900. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates
Glenn Russell, Director, Planning and Development, County of Santa Barbara

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February 1, 2016

The Honorable Jay Obernolte
California State Assembly
State Capitol, Room 4116
Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX No.: (916) 319-2133

RE: AB 1642 State Responsibility Areas: fire prevention fees – SUPPORT

Dear Assemblyman Obernolte:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to reiterate our support for extending the period for paying or disputing a fire prevention fee from 30 days to 60 days from the date of assessment. Our Board previously supported Assembly Bill (AB) 203 in 2015, and is again supporting the same effort now in the form of AB 1642 State Responsibility Areas (SRA): fire prevention fees.

Created by the Legislature and Governor as part of the 2011 Budget, the Fire Prevention Fee charges property owners $152.33 for each habitable structure located in a SRA, with a $35 reduction if they live within the boundaries of a local fire protection district. About 700,000 rural Californians receive a yearly Fire Prevention Fee bill, due 30 days from the date on the notice.

Due to the rural nature of those being billed, many individuals do not receive their bills in a timely manner. Additionally, many of these individuals are on fixed incomes, making it nearly impossible for them to pay their Fire Prevention Fee by the 30-day deadline.

Santa Barbara County has a large amount of SRAs, estimated at over 10,000 parcels. Increasing the payment due date of the Fire Prevention Fee from 30 days to 60 days will ensure greater compliance with the law by giving all owners of habitable structures in an SRA more time to receive their bills. AB 1642 will also give those taxpayers on fixed incomes more time to adjust their budgets.

For these reasons, Santa Barbara County supports AB 1642. If you have questions about the Board's position, please contact the County's Legislative Coordinator, Joseph Toney at 805-568-2060 or jtoney@countyofsb.org.

Sincerely,

Peter Adam
Chair, Board of Supervisors

cc: Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, 19th Senate District
Assemblymember Katcho Achadjian, 35th Assembly District
Assemblymember Das Williams, 37th Assembly District
Members, County of Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors
Mona Miyasato, County Executive Officer
Monica Miller, Governmental Advocates
Cliff Berg, Governmental Advocates