



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

- State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fee -

SANTA BARBARA, Ca. November 13, 2012 – On July 7, 2011, Assembly Bill ABX1 29 was signed into law establishing an annual fee to pay for fire prevention services within the State Responsibility Area (SRA). The fee is assessed on all habitable structures within the SRA, which is roughly 31 million acres across California.

The fee amount is \$150 per habitable structure. Owners of habitable structures within the boundaries of a local fire protection agency will receive a reduction of \$35 per habitable structure. The Board of Equalization is charged with collecting the fee and likely the SRA Fee will be a stand-alone bill much like the Vehicle Registration Renewal.

According to the state and CALFIRE, this fee will fund a variety of important fire prevention services within the SRA including brush clearance and activities to improve forest health so the forest can better withstand wildfire. Other activities funded by the fee include fire break construction, defensible space inspections, fire prevention engineering, emergency evacuation planning, fire prevention education, fire hazard severity mapping, fire related law enforcement and implementation of the State Fire Plan.

The Fire Prevention Fee applies to owners of habitable structures on property located within the SRA. A habitable structure is a building that can be occupied for residential use. Those include: single family homes, multi-dwelling structures, mobile and manufactured homes, condos and apartment buildings. Habitable structures do NOT include buildings such as garages, barns, outdoor sanitation facilities and sheds. The person or entity responsible for paying the fee is the owner on record in the county assessor rolls or the California Department of Housing and Community Development on July 1st for each year for which the fee is due.

The 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.

To confirm if a structure is located within the SRA, visit the Fire Prevention Fee website at www.FirePreventionFee.org/SRAviewer.

For more information about the Fire Prevention Fee, please visit the Fire Prevention Fee website www.FirePreventionFee.org or call 1-888-310-6447.

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