



AGENDA ITEM NO.  
**C-2**

# COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

For the meeting of: April 12, 2016

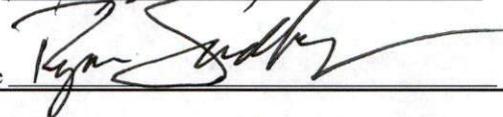
Date: April 5, 2016  
To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Supervisor Rex Bohn and Supervisor Ryan Sundberg  
Subject: Support for SB 1136 – Fire Prevention: State Responsibility Areas (SRA) Reporting

RECOMMENDATION(S): That the Board of Supervisors authorize the Chair to sign a letter in support of SB 1136.

SOURCE OF FUNDING: N/A

DISCUSSION: California Senate Bill 1136, authored by Senator Mike Morell, is a bill which seeks a detailed report on how the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spends monies collected from rural homeowners through the fire prevention fee adopted as a result of the passage of AB X1 on July 29, 2011.

Existing law requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to adopt emergency regulations to establish a fire prevention fee. This fee is not to exceed \$150 and is to be charged on each structure, defined as a building used for human habitation, on a parcel that is within a state responsibility area (SRA), as defined. Existing law also requires that the state board adjust the fire prevention fee annually using prescribed methods, and requires the state board adjust the fire prevention fee annually using prescribed methods, and requires the state board, until January 31, 2017, to report to the legislature every January 31 on the status and uses of the fund.

Signature   
Signature 

Prepared by Kathy Hayes

REVIEW: Auditor \_\_\_\_\_ County Counsel \_\_\_\_\_ Personnel \_\_\_\_\_ Risk Manager \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF ITEM:  
 Consent  
 Departmental  
 Public Hearing  
 Other

PREVIOUS ACTION/REFERRAL:

Board Order No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Meeting of: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**  
Upon motion of Supervisor Fennell Seconded by Supervisor Sundberg  
Ayes Sundberg, Fennell, Lovelace, Bass  
Nays \_\_\_\_\_  
Abstain \_\_\_\_\_  
Absent Bohn

and carried by those members present, the Board hereby approves the recommended action contained in this Board report.

Dated: April 12, 2016  
By:   
Kathy Hayes, Clerk of the Board

SB 1136 would extend the time in which the state board is required to report to the legislature from January 31, 2017 to January 31, 2021 and would additionally require that the report include specified information on each and every program which the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection uses monies that come from the fire prevention fee.

Recent reports estimate a surplus of 43 million dollars as a result of collection of this fee without taking into account that the fire fund began the current fiscal year with reserves totaling more than half of the prevention money produced by the fee last year.

In supporting SB 1136, the public is being ensured that the fees are being used for the appropriate reasons while also providing a factor of transparency into the way money is being spent by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Fires and the damage they cause are a serious issue within Humboldt County. It is vital to have information regarding how each and every dollar is used and whether they are being used for the intended purpose.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT: N/A

ALTERNATIVES TO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: Board discretion.

ATTACHMENTS: Letter of Support



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

825 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET

EUREKA, CALIFORNIA 95501-1153 PHONE (707) 476-2390 FAX (707) 445-7299

April 12, 2016

Senator Mike Morell  
State Capitol, Room 3056  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for SB 1136 – Fire Prevention: State Responsibility Area Reporting

Dear Senator Morell:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing in full support of SB 1136, a bill which seeks a detailed report on how the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection spends monies collected from rural homeowners through the fire prevention fee adopted as a result of the passage of AB X1 on July 29, 2011.

Recent reports estimate a surplus of 43 million dollars as a result of collection of this fee without taking into account that the fire fund began the current fiscal year with reserves totaling more than half of the prevention money produced by the fee last year.

SB 1136 will ensure the public that the fees are being used for the appropriate reasons while also providing a factor of transparency into the way money is being spent by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Fires and the damage they cause are a serious issue within Humboldt County. It is vital to have information regarding how each and every dollar is used and whether they are being used for the intended purpose. Thank you for sponsoring this very important legislation.

Sincerely,

Mark Lovelace, Chair  
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

ML:kh