

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

176



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
March 17, 2016

SUBJECT: S.B. 1136 – Fire Prevention: State Responsibility Areas: Report

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:
Support Bill S.B. 1136

BACKGROUND:

Summary

S.B. 1136 :

California Senate Bill 1136 otherwise known as the Fire Prevention: State Responsibility Areas: Report. Authored by California Senator Mike Morrell, 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 A.B. X1 29 in July of 2011.

Departmental Concurrence



Brian Nestande
Deputy County Executive Officer

FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost:	POLICY/CONSENT (per Exec. Office)
COST	\$	\$	\$	\$	Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
NET COUNTY COST	\$	\$	\$	\$	

SOURCE OF FUNDS:	Budget Adjustment:
	For Fiscal Year:

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:



County Executive Office Signature

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

- A-30
- 4/5 Vote
- Positions Added
- Change Order

Prev. Agn. Ref.: | District: All | Agenda Number:

3-5

BACKGROUND:
Summary (continued)

Existing law requires the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection to adopt emergency regulations to establish a fire prevention fee. This fee in amount is not to exceed \$150 and is to be charged on each structure, defined as a building used or intended to be 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, until January 31, 2017, to report to the Legislature every January 31 on the status and uses of the fund.

S.B. 1136 would thus 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.

As per recent coverage on this issue it is estimated that there is a surplus of 43 million dollars as a result of collection of this fee. Yet this is 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.

Riverside County has the 5th highest number of SRAs in the state, with approximately 32,000 homes contained within them. In supporting this bill the public is being ensured that 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 Riverside County. It is vital to have information regarding how each and every dollar is used and whether they are being used for their intended purpose.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

The action presented would affect residents of Riverside County by providing more accountability of their tax dollars.

SUPPLEMENTAL:
Additional Fiscal Information

N/A

Contract History and Price Reasonableness

N/A