

October 1, 2012

Dear Big Sur residents:

Attached is a copy of a letter the Fire Brigade wrote over a year ago listing our concerns about the SRA fee. There are many more problems we see regarding this “fee”. Here is some additional information you may want to read.

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association has indicated that they will take this fee to court to determine whether it is a legal fee or an illegal tax. If determined to be illegal, it could be repealed or nullified and any fees paid refunded. If you do protest the fee, it is recommended that it be paid to avoid interest and penalties.

Here is one example of a FAQ.

### **What does the fee pay for?**

Over time, this fee will fund a variety of important fire prevention services in SRA. Such activities include fire break construction and other fuel reduction activities that lessen the risk of wildfire to communities and evacuation routes. This may include brush clearance around communities on public lands, along roadways and evacuation routes. Other activities include defensible space inspections, fire prevention engineering, emergency evacuation planning, fire prevention education, fire hazard severity mapping, implementation of the State Fire Plan and fire-related law enforcement activities such as arson investigation.

Please note, nowhere is there mention of any fire **protection!** This “fee” does not include that. While we are very much in favor of fire prevention, we feel that there will be so many challenges by environmentalists, and all the studies and CEQA reviews. How many years will it take before a single bush is trimmed, and even then we cannot be assured this will be done in Big Sur.

### **Other links:**

Official California government website about the fee: Click on FAQs for further information: <http://firepreventionfee.org/>

News and information about the fee including links to the Legislation and how to appeal: <http://www.calfirefee.com/2012/08/howard-jarvis-launches-fire-tax-protest-site/>

Howard Jarvis web site dedicated to information about the fee: <http://firetaxprotest.org/>

California Farm Bureau info on protesting the fee: <http://www.cfbf.com/sra/>

Please contact the following people with your comments/concerns:

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You will need to go to his web site at: [www.house.farr.gov](http://www.house.farr.gov)

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