



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Governmental & Legislative
Affairs Director

March 28, 2016

The Honorable Mike Morrell
California State Senate
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: SB 1136 (Morrell) – As introduced on February 19, 2016 – **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Morrell:

The County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 1136, legislation that will require the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Department (Department) to submit additional information regarding State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Prevention Fee expenditures in its annual report to the legislature.

The fee applies to about 100,000 properties in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Many of these property owners already pay an assessment for fire protection and prevention services. The original imposition of the fee raised a number of equity, administrative, legal and logistical concerns in our mountain communities.

It has become apparent that the existing reporting requirements are too vague. The Department currently publishes most SRA fee spending under a category titled fire prevention, which includes numerous items such as education, fire engineering, defensible space inspections, and law enforcement, among others. This single line item reporting does not provide the legislature or the public a clear breakdown of how SRA fees are spent. SB 1136 will require the Department to report more detailed information on how it spends SRA fire fee revenue.

For these reasons, the County of San Bernardino is pleased to support SB 1136. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please contact Josh Candelaria, Director of Governmental and Legislative Affairs at (909) 387-4821 or jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James Ramos in black ink.

JAMES RAMOS
Board of Supervisors Chairman
Third District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

Handwritten signature of Janice Rutherford in black ink.

JANICE RUTHEFORD
Board of Supervisors
Second District Supervisor
County of San Bernardino

c: San Bernardino County Legislative Delegation

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