



NEWS



News Headlines 05/09/2019

- Crash between car and OmniTrans bus in San Bernardino sends 1 to hospital with life-threatening injuries
- When it comes to wildfires, Mohave County is now the second-most active region in the state
- Judge rules lawsuit over fire tax filed too late

Crash between car and OmniTrans bus in San Bernardino sends 1 to hospital with life-threatening injuries

Robert Gundran, San Bernardino Sun

Posted: May 8, 2019, 8:19 pm



One person was sent to the hospital with life-threatening injuries after a crash between a car and an OmniTrans bus in San Bernardino. (Photo courtesy of William Hayes)

One person was sent to a hospital with life-threatening injuries and six people were treated for minor injuries after a car and an OmniTrans bus crashed in San Bernardino on Wednesday evening.

Eric Sherwin, spokesman for the **San Bernardino County Fire** Department, said the department received a call about the crash near Sierra Way and Base Line Street at around 5:30 p.m.

Wendy Williams, spokeswoman for OmniTrans, said the bus was driving east on Base Line Street when a car that was driving west on the same road veered into the path of the bus.

Sherwin said fire personnel had to extricate a person from the car, and six people on the bus were treated for minor injuries.

“We transported the person from the car to Loma Linda University Medical Center,” Sherwin said. “Everyone else was transported to local hospitals by American Medical Response ambulances.”

Williams said the driver of the bus declined medical assistance at the site of the crash.

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/05/08/crash-between-car-and-omnitrans-bus-in-san-bernardino-sends-1-to-hospital-with-life-threatening-injuries/>

When it comes to wildfires, Mohave County is now the second-most active region in the state

Agata Popeda, Daily Miner News

Posted: May 8, 2019, 7:27 pm



(San Bernardino County Fire Department photo)

San Bernardino County Fire Department from California helped fight the Walnut and Beach Fire on March 31 that went through 80 acres of land.

<https://kdminer.com/news/2019/may/08/when-it-comes-wildfires-mohave-county-now-second-m/>

Judge rules lawsuit over fire tax filed too late

Martin Estacio, Daily Press

Posted: May 8, 2019, 5:18 pm

SAN BERNARDINO — A judge has ruled that a lawsuit challenging San Bernardino County's imposition of an annual parcel tax was not filed in time.

In an April 4 decision, Judge Donald Alvarez ruled that the nonprofit Red Brennan Group, and other parties, failed to file a reverse validation action against the County Board of Supervisors within the required time period of 60 days.

The Red Brennan Group is suing the Board due to its decision in approving Fire Protection Zone 5's (FP-5) expansion in October.

Alvarez' ruling does not mean the case has been dismissed. Aaron Burden, an attorney for RBG, said a final judgment on the case has not been rendered. An upcoming hearing will ultimately determine the status of the lawsuit on June 11.

The Board's October action levys a \$157.26 annual tax on unincorporated parcels and some incorporated parcels, vacant or not, with a possible 3% increase.

San Bernardino County Fire Department officials said the revenue is necessary to maintain current fire service levels and help address a "structural deficit."

RBG alleged that the tax was unconstitutional because it wasn't approved by a two-thirds vote of the electorate, as required by the California Constitution.

Instead of calling for an election, the Board instituted a LAFCO protest process and sent mailers to affected landowners.

The process required an election if 25 percent of landowners mailed forms saying they opposed the expansion.

If more than 50 percent protested, the proposal for expansion would be withdrawn.

According to the final count at the October hearing, about 3% of landowners responded.

In his April ruling, Alvarez agreed with the County's contention that the Red Brennan Group should have followed procedures outlined in civil code for a reverse validation action, instead of suing in an effort to have the tax declared unconstitutional.

Alvarez ruled that because the group was challenging the validity of the County's action, it was required to follow certain procedural steps within 60 days. The steps include publishing a summons in a newspaper notifying the public of the suit, according to court documents.

The judge also disagreed with the group's claim of the tax's unconstitutionality.

He cited earlier court decisions that ruled language in the constitution requiring a two-thirds vote on general or special taxes didn't address those imposed in annexations.

“Annexations were simply not on the radar of the initiative’s proponents,” Alvarez quoted a ruling referring to the supporters of Proposition 218, which required the majority vote.

Proposition 218 was passed by California voters in 1996. The amendment triggers a ballot measure when a local government proposes to “impose, extend, or increase any general tax” or special tax, according to the California constitution.

<https://www.vvdailypress.com/news/20190508/judge-rules-lawsuit-over-fire-tax-filed-too-late>