



NEWS



News Headlines 6/26/2018

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On proposed County Fire parcel tax, there are exemptions

Shea Johnson, Daily Press

Posted: June 25, 2018, 12:04 p.m.



A San Bernardino County firefighter battles a vegetation fire along Summit Valley Road in Hesperia in July 2017. The proposed broadening of a County Fire services-related annual tax, most notably to include property owners within unincorporated communities, will have certain exemptions. [James Quigg, Daily Press]

The proposed broadening of a **County Fire** services-related annual parcel tax, most notably to include property owners within unincorporated communities, will have certain exemptions.

San Bernardino County Supervisors voted 3-2 earlier this month to initiate proceedings to expand County Fire's FP-5 Service Zone, which can be protested and killed by more than 50 percent of affected landowners when notices are mailed out in August. If at least 25 percent protest, the issue will be sent to voters on a ballot.

The zone currently includes Helendale, San Bernardino, Needles, Twentynine Palms and Upland. Property owners in the zone pay a \$157.26 yearly parcel tax, which can rise up to 3 percent annually, and the revenue is used to fund County Fire operations.

Beyond unincorporated communities, the proposed zone expansion is also set to encompass incorporated cities serviced by County Fire that don't already pay.

Yet the proposal does exempt communities and cities from the plan, according to a list attached to the June 12 meeting agenda.

That exemption, locally, includes lands lying within the boundaries of Yermo, Newberry Springs, Baker and Daggett community services districts.

The exemption also includes the city of Hesperia, which only recently was annexed into the North Desert Service Zone. Adelanto property owners also don't need to worry, and neither do those in Apple Valley, Barstow or Victorville, which operate or — in Victorville's case — will operate their own fire departments.

This is a list of local exemptions, however, there are others for inland areas and places outside the High Desert.

The zone expansion is projected to generate \$27 million more in revenue each year to fill a current County Fire funding gap of about \$29 million. It is being considered as officials believe that areas not generating enough property taxes to fund their level of services have been subsidized by those that do.

The Board of Supervisors during the June 12 meeting also agreed to hire a consultant to review a potential special tax for fire services that would be tested in a March 2020 election. The parameters of that tax have yet to be vetted and won't be known until a roughly three-month analysis is completed.

The special tax, if preferred, would not be supplementary to a zone expansion. Instead, one or the other would be chosen to move forward.

<http://www.vvdaily.com/news/20180625/on-proposed-county-fire-parcel-tax-there-are-exemptions>

Firefighter makes 360-mile journey in full gear to honor Hotshots

Stacy Moore, Hi-Desert Star

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Firefighter Joe Zambrano, wearing full firefighting gear, walks through Yucca Valley Monday as part of a cross-state trek to honor 19 Hotshots who died in the Yarnell Hill Fire June 30, 2013. San Bernardino County fire personnel escorted Zambrano on his journey through the Basin.

MORONGO BASIN — Firefighter Joe Zambrano, wearing full firefighting gear, is walking through the Morongo Basin Monday as part of a cross-state trek to honor 19 Hotshots who died in the Yarnell Hill Fire June 30, 2013.

Zambrano is walking and running from the Los Angeles County Fire Museum in Bellflower to the Granite Mountain Hotshot Memorial State Park in Yarnell, Arizona. He started Saturday and expected his 360-mile journey to take eight days.

He is honoring the fifth anniversary of the deaths of 19 Granite Mountain Hotshots, who were overcome by flames while fighting the Yarnell Hill Fire in 2013. Money he raises will be donated to the Kevin Woyjeck Explorers for Life Association, which supports young men and women in the Fire Explorer Program.

Woyjeck was one of the 19 firefighters killed in the Yarnell Hill Fire. He was 21 years old.

Zambrano, who lives in Corona, is being escorted by **San Bernardino County firefighters** as he makes his way through the Morongo Basin. He plans a stop at the Twentynine Palms fire station.

Zambrano is somewhat used to performing athletic feats in 40 pounds of firefighter gear. He began running marathons in full fire gear for charity in 2013.

For more on his journey or to donate, visit <https://www.facebook.com/RunInFullGear>.

http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_04ed2d98-78d1-11e8-ac0c-a75fa5feca1c.html