



# NEWS



## News Headlines 06/12/2019

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## A fire has gutted the mobile home of park manager

Leslie Shaw, Hi-Desert Star

Posted: June 12, 2019



A fire from an as yet undetermined cause gutted the mobile home of park manager Rick Greenwood at Apache Mobile Home Park Wednesday morning.

Rick's wife Kim Greenwood and their dog escaped in time. Rick had some burns, but an hour after the blaze was extinguished, he was on site trying to help determine the cause of the fire.

**San Bernardino County firefighters** were enroute from another call and were close by when they received the call for the Apache fire.

They responded very quickly and prevented the fire from spreading to any other homes.

[http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article\\_5f7bd0f0-8d2c-11e9-b933-0f7a1ab9519d.html](http://www.hidesertstar.com/news/article_5f7bd0f0-8d2c-11e9-b933-0f7a1ab9519d.html)

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## YUCCA VALLEY MOBILE HOME DESTROYED IN FIRE WEDNESDAY MORNING

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: June 12, 2019



A mobile home is a complete loss following a fire this morning.

**County Fire** Battalion Chief Kelly Anderson said firefighters were called to the Apache Mobile Home Park in the 56200 block of 29 Palms Highway in Yucca Valley at 7 a.m.

The blaze threatened a nearby mobile home, but firefighters were able to keep the fire from spreading.

The occupants were able to get out of their home safely and there were no injuries. The cause is under investigation.

<http://z1077fm.com/yucca-valley-mobile-home-destroyed-in-fire-wednesday-morning/>

## **FIRE DESTROYS JOSHUA TREE GARAGE, THREATENS HOME**

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: June 12, 2019



A garage is a complete loss, and another structure was damaged, from a fire in Joshua Tree Tuesday evening.

According to **County Fire** Battalion Chief Kelly Anderson, firefighters from Joshua Tree, Yucca Mesa, Yucca Valley, and Twentynine Palms were called to the 62700 block of Golden Street at 5:37 p.m.

Anderson said the garage was fully involved with flames. An adjacent structure, which she identified as a one-bedroom apartment, suffered moderate damage from the blaze.

The flames burned about two acres of vegetation and threatened the AirBnB home.

Kelly added that while the cause of the fire is unknown, it started in the garage.

<http://z1077fm.com/fire-destroys-joshua-tree-garage-threatens-home/>

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## **Community chipping day for Fawnskin**

Staff Writer, Big Bear Grizzly

Posted: June 12, 2019

**San Bernardino County Fire** Department hosts a community chipping day June 30 at Fawnskin Fire Station 96.

Build your defensible space around your home and reduce the community's fire risk.

Bring cut brush and branches to the fire station on June 30 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Limbs up to 15 inches in diameter and 10 feet in length are acceptable. Leaves and pine needles cannot be chipped. Chipping and chips are available at no charge.

The Fawnskin Fire Station 96 is at 39188 Rim of the World Drive, Fawnskin.

[http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/community-chipping-day-for-fawnskin/article\\_89a70cd8-8bd7-11e9-b490-63cfe494d9cd.html](http://www.bigbeargrizzly.net/news/community-chipping-day-for-fawnskin/article_89a70cd8-8bd7-11e9-b490-63cfe494d9cd.html)

## Highway 18 in Lucerne Valley shut down due to overturned semi

Staff Writer, Victor Valley News

Posted: June 11, 2019



(Photo courtesy of SB County Fire via Twitter)

LUCERNE VALLEY, Calif. (VVNG.com) — A semi driver was airlifted with serious injuries after his truck overturned Tuesday afternoon.

It happened at about 2:31 pm in the 34500 block of Highway 18, near Midway Avenue in Lucerne Valley and involved a Robertson's Ready-Mix truck and a silver minivan.

**San Bernardino County Fire** arrived at the scene and located the semi-truck on it's side with the driver trapped and requiring extrication, according to a tweet from the department.

Firefighters requested a helicopter Reach H325 to airlift the driver to Loma Linda University Medical Center. The occupant of the van was also transported to a local hospital with minor injuries.

The crash is blocking all lanes of the highway and motorists are advised to avoid the area as officials work to clear the roadway.

The cause of the accident is under investigation by the California Highway Patrol.

<https://www.vvng.com/highway-18-in-lucerne-valley-shut-down-due-to-overturned-semi/>

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## COUNTY SUPERVISORS VOTE TO END CONTROVERSIAL FIRE TAX

Staff Writer, Z107.7 FM News

Posted: June 12, 2019

Third District County Supervisor Dawn Rowe joined three other San Bernardino County Supervisors Tuesday in voting to temporarily suspend the increase in the controversial special fire fee known as FP-5, which partially funds the **County Fire** Department. The fee may be completely eliminated altogether. Rowe was joined by Supervisors Curt Hagman, Josie Gonzales, and Janice Rutherford. During the meeting, supervisors rejected the fire department's request to increase the fee 3 percent next year, to \$162. Property owners will still see the \$157 fee on their 2019-20 property taxes. The supervisors also directed county staff to come up with alternatives to the unpopular fee within 90 days, including a possible tax measure to be put on a future election, and a sunset date for the fee. For more information about the FP-5 fee, see this story at z1077fm.com.

Third District County Supervisor Dawn Rowe joined 3 other San Bernardino County Supervisors Tuesday in voting to end the controversial special tax known as FP-5, which partially funds the County Fire Department. Rowe was joined by Supervisors Hagman, Gonzales, and Rutherford. During The meeting, the Board of Supervisors supported a motion by Supervisor Rutherford to end the FP-5 special tax, requiring the County's

Chief Executive Officer to report back to the Board in 90 days with funding alternatives for County fire services. At that point, the Board will consider placing the preferred alternative on the November 2020 General Election ballot for a vote of the people. “Property owners deserve to have a voice in this process, which is why I believe FP-5 should be put before the public for a vote,” said Rowe. “I understand that taxpayers must fund basic government services like fire protection, but they should have an opportunity to weigh in on how much of their hard-earned dollars are collected by the County,” she added. In addition, Supervisor Rowe added a provision that eliminated the 3% proposed increase to the FP-5 special tax that would have taken effect in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. “Removing the proposed tax increase was the right move in light of the serious concerns I have over how the FP-5 assessment was imposed on citizens. I couldn’t, in good conscience, support the increase before the public has a chance to vote on the matter,” explained Rowe.

The essentials of the approved motion are:

Supervisor Rutherford’s motion:

- FP-5 tax goes on the 2019/2020 tax roll.
- County staff has 90 days to bring multiple options on how to fund County Fire
- Supervisors decide which of the recommendations to place before the voters some time prior to January 1, 2021.
- FP-5 sunsets after the vote and the solution approved by voters is implemented.

Supervisor Rowe’s amendment:

- Disallowed the 3% increase for 2019/2020 (You will see a \$157.26 FP-5 charge on your 2019 property tax rather than \$161.98.)
- Requires county staff to provide a variety of background material to justify claims associated with the solutions they will present in 90 days.

<http://z1077fm.com/county-supervisors-vote-to-end-controversial-fire-tax/>

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## **Adelanto City Council: On the agenda**

Garrett Berghold, Daily Press

Posted: June 11, 2019, 5:48 PM

ADELANTO — The City Council meets on Wednesday inside Council chambers at City Hall, 11600 Air Expressway, where a full agenda awaits.

Notable agenda items include:

Closed session, 5 p.m.

- The Council will discuss six items, mostly related to employees, which are explained in little detail on the posted agenda.

- Jessie Flores will be evaluated by the Council for his performance as city manager.
- Council will consider the “discipline, dismissal or release” of an unspecified city employee.
- Planned negotiations with multiple labor unions and organizations include: Teamsters Local 911, Confidential/Professional Employee Group and City Management Employees Group.
- The Council will also be briefed on a single item that exposes the city to possible litigation.

Open Session, 7 p.m.

#### Presentations

- Brad Eckenweiler will be giving a presentation on “environmental power generation.” Eckenweiler is the CEO of Lifestyle Delivery Systems Inc., which produces the cannabis breath strip brand CannaStrips in Adelanto.

#### Consent calendar

- More than \$4.3 million in warrants from May 3 to June 6 will be approved. Some payments stem from last meeting’s warrants, which were continued to this meeting. Payments include:
  - A \$4,700 donation from the city to the Adelanto Little League in May.
  - A \$8,173.75 payment to Katherine Bishop, the city’s contract grant writer, for her services from April 1 to April 29.
  - More than \$12,000 in legal fees payable to Ecoff Campain & Tilles, LLP for the firm’s work in the High Desert Mavericks case. The city settled for \$3.8 million in March.

#### The Adelanto Public Utility Authority Board

- A vote approving the purchase of a “sole-source procurement of a dewatering centrifuge totaling \$749,950 to accommodate city expansion” is also on the agenda.
- Council members, acting in their roles as board members, plan a vote to approve an updated sewer system management plan.

#### New business

1. The City Council will consider approving seven resolutions which are all related to the city’s need to obtain new insurance coverage.
  - Affirmative votes would see the city joining Independent Cities Risk Management Insurance Program, a joint powers authority, which will allow the city to “obtain its’ excess liability insurance, excess workers compensation insurance and property insurance,” according to a staff report.

- The need for the vote comes as Employment Risk Management Authority, or ERMA, could potentially terminate employee-related insurance coverage by the end of June.
- ERMA, which is comprised of a pool of public entities that provide employment liability insurance, is connected to Public Entity Risk Management Authority, or PERMA, which covers workers compensation and other liabilities incurred by the city.
- The city sent PERMA a notice to withdraw coverage in February, according to a PERMA Board of Directors meeting agenda, meaning the city could be out of all insurance if new options are not found and PERMA decides not to rescind Adelanto's requested cancellation.
- ERMA meets on June 11, where the general manager will provide an update on the city's looming insurance cancellation, the PERMA agenda reads.
- The resolution includes a "to be determined" initial annual contribution amount listed, meaning the Council could vote on a resolution without publicizing the true fiscal impacts of the move.

2. The Council will then consider a resolution that would begin the process of the city joining **San Bernardino County Fire's** Service Zone FP-5.

- Under the move, landowners would pay \$161.98 per parcel, per year, for fire protection services, the staff report says. To be annexed into the district, the city has to first file an application with the Local Agency Formation Commission, or LAFCO.
- Finance Director Ward Komers said during a special budgetary meeting late last month that the city's joining FP-5 would bring the city much needed cost savings.

"In all, the estimated savings include \$2 million in contract savings per year, \$1.2 million in equipment replacement, and an unknown amount of deferred maintenance savings," according to the staff report.

3. A resolution will be considered that creates a list of proposed capital improvement projects that could be eligible for Senate Bill 1 funding.

- To be eligible, all proposed projects must be included in an operating budget that is adopted or amended by the City Council, according to the agenda,
- As of 4:30 p.m. Tuesday the proposed projects were not attached to the posted agenda.

4. The Council will consider authorizing a partial bond release of \$95,874.25 for public improvements near a housing tract near Aster Road and Bartlett Avenue owned by D.R. Horton.

- The improvements are required for final occupancy, the staff report reads.

5. The cannabis dispensary overlay zone will then be discussed.

Community Benefit Corporation

- Council will discuss a possible \$2,500 donation to an unspecified origination named Stars and Stripes.

- A donation of \$250 to the diversity committee is also slated for discussion.

Meetings can be watched live online on the Adelanto city website or viewed later as archived versions. The agenda can also be viewed online.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20190611/adelanto-city-council-on-agenda>

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## **San Bernardino County reconsiders fire tax; won't raise it for now**

**Sandra Emerson, The Sun**

Posted: June 11, 2019, 5:01 PM

A controversial tax placed on San Bernardino County property owners to help cover fire and emergency services is not going up next year.

In fact, it may go away altogether, depending on what voters say during a future election.

On Tuesday, June 11, the Board of Supervisors rejected the Fire Protection District's request to increase the annual tax for properties in the fire protection zone, known as FP-5, from \$157.26 to \$161.98. That means property owners in unincorporated county areas and some cities will see the \$157.26 charge on their 2019-20 property tax rolls this summer.

The supervisors also gave county staff 90 days to come up with options to replace the tax, including possible tax measures that can be put before voters during an election by January 2021, as well as an expiration date for the current tax.

"I don't know that FP-5 is the mechanism that we are looking for for stable funding for the fire district," said Supervisor Janice Rutherford, who made the recommendation.

"There might be a different way to fund it."

In October, the supervisors narrowly approved extending the fire protection zone known as FP-5 to all unincorporated county areas, and some cities, as a way to create a steady revenue stream for the district and address a \$29 million budget shortfall. At the time of approval, the expansion came with an annual \$157.28 parcel tax that could be increased by up to 3% every year.

On Tuesday, the Fire Protection District asked the supervisors to raise the tax by 3%, to \$161.98. That increase would have taken effect before property owners in the newly expanded area have even paid the tax, and it would have added \$1.2 million to district's budget in the fiscal year, starting July 1.

The money was meant to help alleviate the fire district's burden on the county's General Fund, which is estimated to be about \$13.7 million next year, and to build up reserves and pay for capital improvements.

Revenue from property taxes, contracts and fire protection service zones have not been enough to cover the district's rising costs. As a result, the agency increasingly has relied on county general funds and its own reserves.

The district expects to get \$42.7 million from the entire protection zone, including \$27.1 million from the new expanded area, in fiscal year 2019-20.



Supervisors Curt Hagman, Josie Gonzales and then-Supervisor James Ramos voted in October to support the expansion, after too few property owners submitted written protests to send the idea to the ballot or defeat it outright. Rutherford and Supervisor Robert Lovingood were opposed, favoring putting the matter up to a traditional vote.

Two lawsuits were filed against the county and fire protection district challenging the legality of the expansion.

Lovingood, who was the sole dissenter Tuesday, said the amount of the tax exceeds the value of some of the properties in the 1st District, which includes much of the county's rural area.

Supervisor Dawn Rowe, who was appointed to the board in December, recommended the supervisors keep the tax rate at \$157.26 for the upcoming fiscal year.

Rowe said she heard from constituents who said they were frustrated at not getting to vote on the question, but that funding needs to be in place for fire services.

"There would be cost reductions that would be made if this went away that would not be in anyone's best interest at this point," Rowe said. "I would commit to educating the partners that I have, and constituents, and let them know what would be lost if we did not have a mechanism in place to fund services."

<https://www.sbsun.com/2019/06/11/san-bernardino-county-reconsiders-fire-tax-wont-raise-it-for-now/>