

Fiscal Year [2014-15]

TITLE OF PROPOSAL

Fire Prevention Fee

DIVISION PRIORITY NUMBER

PROGRAM IMPACTED

Fire Prevention Fee Program

SUMMARY OF REQUEST *(including impact if request denied)*

This proposal requests permanent funding in various Departments within the BOE for the continuation of the Fire Prevention Fee (FPF) positions. The BOE received 56.5 two-year limited term positions during the FY 2012-13 Budget Process that are set to expire on June 30, 2014, to address workload associated with ABx1 29 State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Prevention Fee. ABx1 29 created a substantial workload the BOE cannot absorb. These positions are responsible for registering and maintaining feepayer accounts, issuing billings, processing payments, performing collection actions, issuing refunds, processing petitions, providing feepayer advisory services, and performing program support functions on behalf of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Permanently funding these requested resources will allow the BOE to continue to perform mandated workload, provide high quality service to approximately 800,000 feepayers, and protect special fund revenue. Furthermore, the BOE will be evaluating the need for additional resources.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ABx1 29 (Chapter 8, Statutes of 2011, effective July 1, 2011) authorized a fee to be assessed on habitable structures located within SRAs in order to pay for fire prevention activities in the SRA that specifically benefit owners of the structures within the SRA. The bill required the BOE to assess and collect the SRA Fire Prevention Fee (FPF) on behalf of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. In response to the enacted legislation, the BOE submitted the FY 2011-12 State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fee Budget Change Proposal and obtained necessary resources to implement the new program. These resources were approved for a 2-year, limited term basis and are set to expire on June 30, 2014. However, due to the controversial nature of the fire prevention fee and complexity in administering the program, actual workload was vastly underestimated. The BOE requests permanent establishment of existing resources and additional resources (yet to be determined) to efficiently administer ABx1 29, SRA FPF.

STATE LEVEL CONSIDERATIONS *(including impact to other departments)*

The BOE is mandated by the provisions of ABx1 29 to administer the assessment and collection of the FPF from owners of habitable structures located within SRA, on behalf of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The presence of habitable structures within state responsibility areas can pose an increased risk of fire ignition and an increased potential for fire damage with the state's wild lands and watersheds. The Legislature determined that the cost of fire prevention activities aimed at reducing the effects on habitable structures in state responsibility areas should be borne by the owners of these structures. The FPF are deposited into the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund which supports fire prevention activities in SRAs.

JUSTIFICATION *(including link to Strategic Plan)*

This request is consistent with the BOE's mission to serve the public through fair, effective, and efficient tax administration. Specifically, Goal 4: Enhance Operational Effectiveness through improved partnerships with other agencies. Additionally, this proposal will provide the necessary staff and resources on a permanent basis along with the need of additional resources to address mandated workload, provide for high quality service to feepayers, and administer the Fire Prevention Fee program in an efficient and effective manner.

COSTS AND BENEFITS (BUDGET YEAR ONLY – FISCAL YEAR [2014-15])

New funding Continuation Redirection

COST	REVENUE <i>(if applicable)</i>
\$ Pending	\$ Pending
POSITIONS <i>(if applicable)</i>	COST SAVINGS <i>(if applicable)</i>
Pending	\$ N/A

PREPARED AND APPROVED

PREPARED BY Chris Lee	DIVISION CHIEF APPROVAL Lynn Bartolo
AUTHOR'S TELEPHONE NUMBER (916) 327-7174	DATE 4/3/13

ACTION

Concept Approved Request Denied

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *(signature)*
