

CARMEL J. ANGELO
Chief Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

CONTACT INFORMATION
501 Low Gap Road • Room 1010
Ukiah, California 95482
TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4221
FAX: (707) 463-7237
Email: bos@co.mendocino.ca.us
Web: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/bos

February 9, 2016

The Honorable Jay Obernolte
State Capitol, Room 4116
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT ASSEMBLY BILL 1642 (OBERNOLTE)

Dear Assemblyman Obernolte,

On behalf of the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors, I am pleased to report that our Board has decided to support AB 1642, which would increase the payment due date of the Fire Prevention Fee from 30-days from the date of assessment to 60-days.

Created by the Legislature and Governor as part of the 2011 Budget, the Fire Prevention Fee charges property owners \$152.33 for each habitable structure located in a State Responsibility Area (SRA), with a \$35 reduction if they live within the boundaries of a local fire protection district. About 700,000 rural Californians receive a yearly Fire Prevention Fee bill, which is due 30-days from the date on the notice. Additionally, the SRA provides a 30-day period to dispute the fee by filing a petition for redetermination. If a taxpayer misses the filing deadline to appeal the assessed liability, they must first pay the fee in full and file a claim for refund. In Mendocino County, 17,385 parcels of land were billed for the Fire Prevention Fee in 2015.

Due to the rural nature of those being billed, many individuals do not receive their bills in a timely manner. Many of these individuals are on fixed incomes, making it nearly impossible for them to pay their Fire Prevention Fee by the 30-day deadline. The limited time frame can make obtaining assistance and documentation by the deadline difficult.

Increasing the payment due date of the Fire Prevention Fee from 30 to 60 days will ensure greater compliance with the law by giving all owners of habitable structures in an SRA more time to receive their bills. AB 1642 will also give those taxpayers on fixed incomes more time to adjust their budgets.

For these reasons, the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors supports AB 1642.

Sincerely,

Dan Gjerde, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Mike McGuire, Senator
The Honorable Jim Wood, Assemblymember

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