

The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection met yesterday and adopted the SRA Fee 5-2. The changes that were made will be submitted to the LAO today. The public comment period ends on January 17th.

According to Board Executive Officer Eric Huff, the Board adopted the regulation in December, but was withdrawn to make substantive changes to address some of the LAOs concerns.

These substantive changes include:

- Striking out “non residential structure” from the definition of a habitable structure.
- Striking out references to “state fire plan”
- \$125 fee for multi-dwelling structures

During the public comment period of the hearing the following issues were noted:

- Fee level of \$150 may have adverse impacts on local governments
- Concerns about mis-designation/ misclassification of SRA areas
- CSAC:
 - Opposition to fee and emergency regulations. Has concerns about its effect on local programs and mutual aid.
 - Needs clarification of definitions of habitual structures.
- County Board of Supervisors of San Diego:
 - Opposed. Board of supervisors wants greater clarification of definitions.
- Association of Contract Counties:
 - Opposed to emergency and permanent regulations
 - Needs clarification if the fee is for old or new services
- Regional Council of Rural Counties:
 - Opposed. Wants greater definition of habitual structure and dwelling units. Want to clarify if this includes jails, hospitals etc.

The Chairman of the board voted no on these changes. In his comments he noted that he thought it was a big mistake to have a \$150 fee, and believes that this is a wrong direction.