



DIANNE JACOB

SUPERVISOR, SECOND DISTRICT
SAN DIEGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

July 18, 2011

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Mr. Stan L. Dixon, Chairman
Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Dear Chairman Dixon:

As the Supervisor representing the Second Supervisorial District, I'm writing regarding ABX1 29. Despite the bill being signed into law last week, I remain staunchly opposed to this unjust \$150 annual parcel tax on rural property owners within the State Responsibility Area. I respectfully request that San Diego County be exempt from this tax.

The County of San Diego has made a significant commitment to fire protection by providing \$15.5 million annually to augment rural fire protection in our most vulnerable areas. Approximately two-thirds of this money (\$10.2 million) is contracted with CAL FIRE. This has resulted in enhanced fire protection services with 24/7 coverage, 365 days-a-year at more than 50 stations throughout the entire unincorporated area of San Diego County.

Because of this commitment, San Diego County should be exempt from this tax. This tax also amounts to double taxation because rural property owners are already paying for fire protection through their property taxes. In addition, many of them are paying additional taxes and benefit assessment fees to their local fire districts.

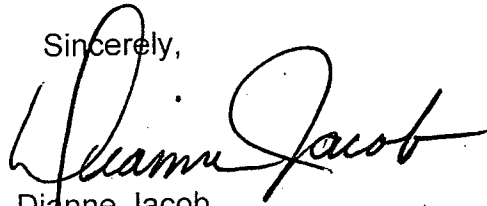
In less than a decade, this region has been engulfed by two major firestorms and battled more than 50 additional fires that have each totaled over 100 acres. These fires have resulted in the destruction of thousands of homes, the devastation of nearly one-million acres and the tragic loss of innocent lives. This tax is victimizing many residents who lost their homes and would be the same as burning them twice!

This tax is a desperate measure by the California State Legislature and Governor to unfairly target rural property owners to make up for the State's inability to balance its budget and adequately fund fire protection.

The money generated by this tax provides zero additional services and fleeces rural property owners while allowing the legislators of California to avoid prioritizing the State's most basic responsibilities. Public safety and wildland fire suppression should be a core responsibility of State government and the number one priority. Balancing the State budget through continual gimmicks such as this is both troubling and unacceptable.

I strongly urge you to exempt San Diego County from this excessive tax. Thank you in advance for your full consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dianne Jacob". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "D".

Dianne Jacob
Supervisor, District 2

Cc: Mr. Mark Andre, Board Member
Ms. Pam Giacomini, Board Member
Mr. Gary Nakamura, Board Member
Mr. James Ostrowski, Board Member
Mr. Bruce Saito, Board Member
Mr. George Gentry, Executive Officer