



To: Board of Directors
From: Steve Simons, Fire Chief
Date: June 19, 2019
Subject: Authorize Chief Simons to Sign Letter of Opposition to Senate Bill 13

Background:

Senate Bill 13 was written in attempt to incentivize the construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU) (i.e. mother-in-law units) by prohibiting impact/developer fees on ADUs smaller than 750 square feet. This has the potential of increasing the demand for service and reducing local government funding for public safety.

Recommendation:

Authorize Chief Simons to sign the attached letter opposing Senate Bill 13.



Meeks Bay Fire Protection District

Post Office Box 189
Tahoma, CA 96142
Lake Tahoe

PHONE 530-525-7548
FAX 530-525-4502
www.MeeksBayFire.com

Steve Simons, CHIEF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Edward I. Miller
Jane L. Warmack
Stephen W. Hyde
Elleyne "Ellie" Beals

June 16, 2019

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski
STATE CAPITOL
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Senate Bill 13 (Wieckowski) - Oppose [As Amended May 17, 2019]

Dear Senator Wieckowski:

On behalf of the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District, I am writing to respectfully oppose Senate Bill 13. SB 13 prohibits impact fees on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) smaller than 750 square feet and significantly limits the impact fees that may be charged to larger ADUs.

Given that revenue for local governments is tightly restricted by the California Constitution, fees are one of the few ways that special districts can offset the indirect costs of growth. Impact fees are termed developer fees by our District and they help mitigate the increased cost of providing service to our growing population when homes and businesses are built. Our locally elected Board of Directors have wisely approved our developer fee schedule to address improvements in fire/medical apparatus and equipment to continue serving our current and future constituents.

SB 13's restrictions on impact fees could not come at a more critical time for the bottom line of fire districts like ours already stretched thin by California's ever more dangerous fire season. More buildings equate to more risk. Impact fees pay for increasing our firefighting capacity, facilities, vehicles and equipment to maintain service levels in our growing community. With substantial increases in neighborhood density, comes the need to purchase additional fire and medical response apparatus.

We understand the importance of incentivizing ADU construction to address California's housing crisis. SB 13 may help lower the cost to build these homes but it would definitely reduce local government's ability to help pay for the increased demand for service. The impact fee caps in SB 13 will reduce local government funding for public safety and quality of life investments. For these reasons, Meeks Bay Fire Protection District respectfully opposes SB 13 unless it is amended. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Steven Simons
Fire Chief

CC: Francisco Montes, Office of Senator Bob Wieckowski [francisco.montes@sen.ca.gov]
Senator Brian Dahle, District 1
Assemblyman Frank Bigelow, District 5
Rylan Gervase, Legislative Representative, California Special Districts Association [advocacy@cstda.net]