

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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**Terri Daly**  
Acting Clerk of the Board



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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August 20, 2012

State Board of Equalization  
The Honorable Jerome E. Horton  
PO Box 942879  
Sacramento, CA 94279

Re: State Fire Prevention Tax

Dear Chairman Horton:

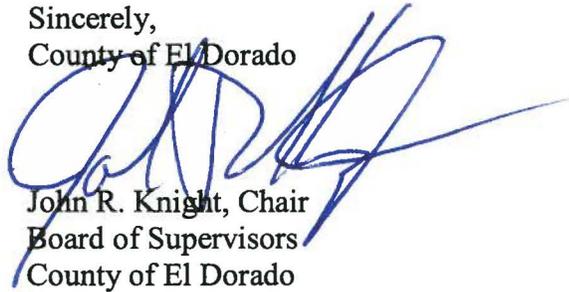
The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors is very concerned about the impact of the forthcoming Cal Fire invoices on our constituents. Setting aside for the moment the nature of this tax, which we oppose, we have identified the following areas of concern:

- 1) This tax is new to our citizens and certain to cause confusion to a large portion of our property owners when the bill arrives in the mail. Despite efforts by the State and our County officials to educate the public, we believe that many of our citizens will remain confused, not accept the billing at face value and insist on hearing from local officials. This is understandable, but will consume some of the limited time allowed for payment or petition.
- 2) County officials familiar with the process have expressed concern about the accuracy of the billing. So, in addition to the confusion and questions from our citizens, we expect a significant number of property owners seeking documentation to support a request for redetermination. Again these requests will take time to process in spite of our efforts to be prepared.
- 3) In rural El Dorado County, not all residents have the necessary access to the Internet which is a required component of the redetermination process. We believe that the 30 day deadline for submitting payment or filing a petition for redetermination to be insufficient time for our citizens to obtain answers to questions and gather the documentation necessary to support legitimate challenges to the tax.
- 4) We also unanimously find that the imposition of a 20% penalty is onerous and abusive of our citizens who may not have sufficient immediately available financial resources to respond to this new unexpected demand.
- 5) Based on the probable cost to our county, we will be submitting a SB 90 claim.

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Based on the foregoing, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors is in unanimous agreement in requesting that the State Board of Equalization use any and all authority, power and influence to suspend the imposition of all penalties provided for in §4225 of the Public Resource code for at least the 2012/2013 fiscal year. We further request that the period for payment or filing a petition for redetermination be extended to not less than 60 days.

Sincerely,  
County of El Dorado

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John R. Knight', is written over the typed name and title.

John R. Knight, Chair  
Board of Supervisors  
County of El Dorado

cc: Board Member Ms. Betty T. Yee, First District  
Board Member Mr. George Runner, Second District  
Board Member Ms. Michelle Steel, Third District  
Board Member Mr. John Chiang, California State Controller  
Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.  
State Senator Ted Gaines  
Assemblymember Beth Gaines  
Assemblymember Alyson Huber