

Cloverdale Fire Districts Information on SRA Fee

Recently residents who live within the SRA lands of the unincorporated area of Cloverdale and outside the city limits, received a letter from the State Board of Equalization/Cal Fire alerting them that they will be receiving a bill from the State of California Cal Fire for fire prevention services (SRA Fire Prevention Fee). The charge amounts to \$150 per habitable structure on their property. Those living within our fire district will receive a \$35.00 credit from the State Board of Equalization.

This fee is not a fee from the Cloverdale Fire Protection District and none of the funds collected by the fee will go to the Cloverdale Fire Protection District.

Below are some facts/frequently asked questions regarding this fee:

- Cal Fire and the Cloverdale Fire Protection District are completely separate agencies. Cal Fire is a state agency and the Cloverdale Fire Protection District is an independent special district.
- The SRA fee was implemented by the State of California to generate additional revenues for the state as a result of Assembly Bill X1 29.
- The tax assessment (direct charge) that appears on your property tax bill for the Cloverdale Fire Protection District is a special tax implemented in 1994 when the district was formed by voter approval. This tax assessment applies to all parcels within the Cloverdale Fire Protection District, which includes the city limits and all unincorporated areas of Cloverdale from Zanzi Lane to Mendocino County line. Twice, our community with two-thirds support approved this local tax revenue. The state fee was not brought to the voters for approval.
- The funds collected will go directly to Cal Fire. This fee is not an assessment from the Cloverdale Fire Protection District and CFPD will receive none of these funds for services for fire prevention activities within our community.
- If you have any questions regarding the new SRA Fire Prevention fee, please call Cal Fire directly at 888-310-6447 or visit their website at www.firepreventionfee.org

Refunds and Disputes:

You must pay your bill. Pay close attention to the due date. Once you receive your bill you have 30 days to pay it. If you are late, steep penalties and interest are compounded monthly.

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association (HJTA) believes this fee is an illegal tax under Proposition 13. They plan to challenge the constitutionality of this tax in court.

The HJTA has established a website that shows how to protest the fee and provides the necessary forms for property owners. The HJTA website is <http://firetaxprotest.org>

If you have any questions regarding your existing assessment charge on your property tax bill for the Cloverdale Fire Protection District, please call 707-894-3545.