

## **SAMPLE OPPOSE LETTER FOR SENATE BILL 1617**

April X, 2008

The Honorable Christine Kehoe  
Member, California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### **RE: Senate Bill 1617 (Kehoe) – OPPOSE State Responsibility Areas: Fees**

Dear Senator Kehoe:

On behalf of \_\_\_\_\_, I am writing to express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 1617, which would impose an unspecified fee on the owners of structures located in State Responsibility Areas (SRA) in order to fund CAL FIRE's fire protection and fire prevention activities.

This measure raises a number of equity, administrative, legal and logistical issues that make it a flawed alternative to address the budgetary concerns of CAL FIRE.

CAL FIRE often fights fires and responds to emergencies in portions of the state that are not part of the SRA. Additional fees upon landowners in an SRA are likely to result in assisting emergency response efforts in Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). This funding scheme is clearly inequitable for SRA landowners.

Additionally, many landowners in the SRA have already agreed to assess themselves for fire protection services. These landowners will perceive the SRA fee as double taxation without any additional benefit. Consequently, the SRA fee will make it more difficult for local jurisdictions to pass an assessment for fire protection services.

From an administrative and logistical perspective, the resources needed by CAL FIRE and the counties to implement SB 1617 will clearly negate any expected benefit. From a legal perspective, the SRA fee very likely will result in litigation against the county by groups that believe the SRA fee is unconstitutional.

It is for these reasons that \_\_\_\_\_ County must respectfully oppose SB 1617.

Sincerely,