

2015 Status Report on the State Responsibility Area (SRA) Fire Prevention Fee



September 28, 2016

The mission of the Board is to lead California in developing policies and programs that serve the public interest in environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable management of forest and rangelands and a fire protection system that protects and serves the people of the state.

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STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION**

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1.1 Board of Forestry and Fire Protection Overview:

The California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) is a Governor-appointed body within CAL FIRE. Members are appointed on the basis of their professional and educational qualification and their general knowledge or interest in problems that relate to watershed management, forest management, fish and wildlife, range improvement, forest economics, or land use policy. Of its nine members, five are chosen from the general public, three are chosen from the forest products industry, and one member is from the range-livestock industry.

The Board is responsible for developing the general forest policy of the State, determining the guidance policies of the Department and for representing the State's interest in Federal land matters located within California. Together, the Board and the Department work to carry out the California Legislature's mandate to protect and enhance the State's unique forest and wildland resources.

1.2 State Responsibility Area and State Responsibility Fire Prevention Fee Overview

Pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) 4125 – 4128, the Board is additionally responsible for classifying State Responsibility Area (SRA) and periodically reviewing and revising SRA classification. The revision process of lands classified as SRA is a comprehensive process in which the Board works closely with CAL FIRE to make revisions based primarily on changes to land use that occur on lands previously classified as SRA. This periodic review occurs every five (5) years, with the last revision occurring in 2015.

In 2011, the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fee (SRA fee) was enacted by Assembly Bill X1 29. The law approved the new annual SRA fee to pay for fire prevention services within the SRA. The fee is applied to all habitable structures within the SRA. Pursuant to PRC 4212, the fee is reviewed annually by the Board, and based upon an identified necessity; the Board may adjust the fee. Under 14 CCR 1665.6 the fee is currently levied at the rate of \$152.33 per habitable structure, which is defined as a building that can be occupied for residential use. Owners of habitable structures who are also within the boundaries of a local fire protection agency will receive a reduction of \$35 per habitable structure. The fee is assessed annually on a fiscal year basis (July 1- June 30).

The Board of Equalization is the agency responsible for sending bills to assessed landowners, as well as the collection and deposit of revenue into the State Responsibility Fire Prevention Fund (SRA fund). CAL FIRE is the agency responsible for implementation of the fire prevention program that is funded through the fee.

The fire prevention program includes activities such fuel reduction projects that lessen the risk of wildfire to communities, evacuation routes, and infrastructure. Other activities include defensible space inspections, helping communities create and update their Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs), fire prevention education, fire hazard severity mapping, implementation of the State and local fire plans, and fire-related law enforcement activities such as arson investigation.

2.1 Board's Annual Reporting on SRA Fee

The above mentioned administrative responsibilities of the Board are coupled with a reporting responsibility as well. The Board is required, pursuant to PRC § 4214, to submit to the Legislature a written annual report on the status and uses of the SRA fund. There are specific mandated metrics of interest that shall be addressed in this report. They are as follows:

- An evaluation of the benefits received by Counties based on the number of habitable structures in the SRA;
- The effectiveness of the Board's grant programs;
- The number of defensible space inspections in the reporting period;
- The degree of compliance with defensible space requirements,
- Measures to increase compliance; and
- Recommendations to the Legislature.

2.3 Evaluation of the Benefits Received by Counties Based on the Number of Habitable Structures in the SRA

The ability for the Board to evaluate benefits on a county by county basis is limited because records are kept by CAL FIRE units, which do not coincide with county boundaries. The Board relies on CAL FIRE to compile fiscal data on the implementation of the fire prevention program that is funded by the SRA fee. CAL FIRE is an agency that is distributed statewide in 21 distinct Units, and has been geographically distributed in this manner for decades. The accounting system of the Department is dedicated to tracking fiscal expenditures and revenues by program (e.g. fire prevention program) in each individual Unit, rather than on a county basis. An individual CAL FIRE unit may, at times, utilize county jurisdictional boundaries as a Unit boundary, but in many cases may also use a physical feature such as a waterway, roadway or topographic feature to determine a Unit boundary. As a result individual CAL FIRE Units may contain entire, or portions thereof, of up to 3 counties. Chart 2.0 below provides a graphical depiction of the Counties of the State in contrast to CAL FIRE Units.

CAL FIRE has developed an in-depth accounting system for the SRA fee over the course of several years of building and refining the program and has provided the Board with detailed fiscal data that demonstrates the benefit received by CAL FIRE Unit. These data are based upon revenue received and expenditures for individual CAL FIRE Unit. The Board has determined that the system of reporting and maintenance of records on a Unit basis provides clear data on the distribution of benefit across the State, even though the data is not reported on county jurisdictional basis. Charts 2.1 – 2.2 below provides those fiscal data.

CHART 2.0: CAL FIRE ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS AND CONTRACT COUNTIES



CHART2.1: TOTAL FEES COLLECTED COMPARED TO EXPENDITURES BY CAL FIRE UNIT

Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar

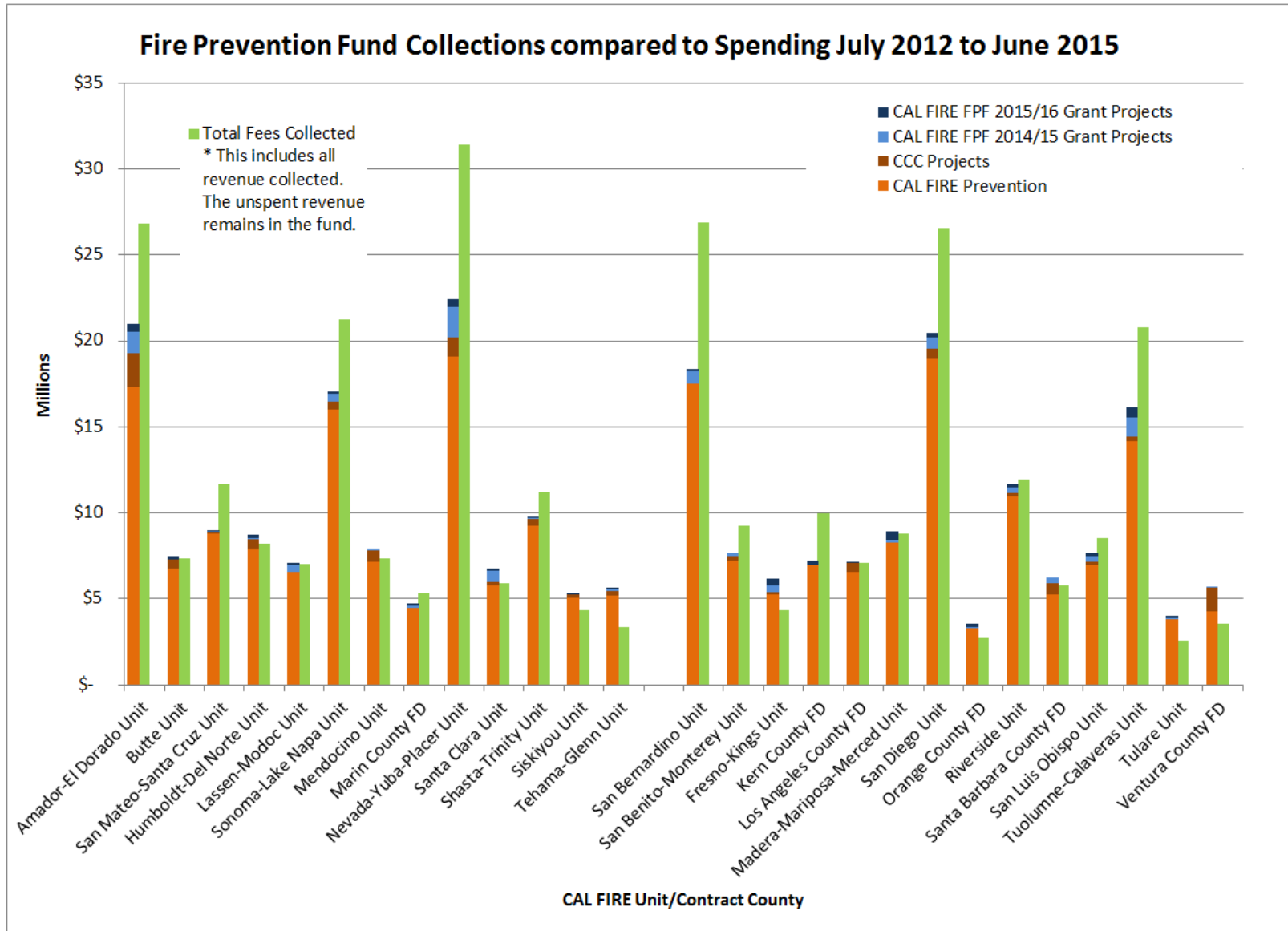
Unit/Contract County	Revenue Proportion by Unit (%)	Revenue Rec'd by Unit (\$)	Region and Sac Costs Supporting Units	Global Admin Costs (CAL FIRE, BOE, SCO, & FISCAL)	CCC Projects Funded	FPF Grants (\$)	Program Startup	Program Expenditures	Program Expenditures	Program Expenditures	Budgeted Expenditures (Estimated)	Total Program, CCC, Grants and Administration Expenditures
			11/12 - 14//15	11/12 - 14/15	Fiscal Years 11/12 - 14/15	Fiscal Year 2014/15	Fiscal Year 2011/12	Fiscal Year 2012/13	Fiscal Year 2013/14	Fiscal Year 2014/15	Fiscal Year 2015/16	Fiscal Years 11/12 - 15/16
(Northern Region)												
Amador-El Dorado	9.05%	\$28,842,096	\$3,538,538	\$4,503,306	\$1,005,613	\$1,270,761		\$1,126,690	\$1,397,557	\$1,862,207	\$7,272,800	\$21,977,472
Butte	2.49%	\$7,923,617	\$973,587	\$1,239,031	\$539,702	\$43,000		\$925,137	\$1,120,497	\$1,154,956	\$1,998,013	\$7,993,923
Humboldt-Del Norte	2.79%	\$8,869,689	\$1,090,886	\$1,388,312	\$714,577	\$83,162		\$1,092,182	\$1,497,055	\$1,363,534	\$2,236,574	\$9,466,282
Lassen-Modoc	2.38%	\$7,579,987	\$930,577	\$1,184,295		\$371,223		\$1,040,885	\$1,003,679	\$1,113,311	\$1,911,363	\$7,555,333
Marin County	1.80%	\$5,719,134	\$703,798	\$895,685		\$123,200		\$564,666	\$682,937	\$669,499	\$1,442,132	\$5,081,917
Mendocino	2.49%	\$7,918,903	\$973,587	\$1,239,031	\$1,636,124	\$6,000		\$1,027,109	\$1,243,508	\$1,318,792	\$1,996,824	\$9,440,975
Nevada-Yuba-Placer	10.54%	\$33,547,793	\$4,121,126	\$5,244,734	\$893,303	\$1,808,657		\$858,999	\$1,390,784	\$1,647,958	\$8,459,385	\$24,424,946
San Mateo-Santa Cruz	3.84%	\$12,239,731	\$1,501,435	\$1,910,795	\$25,237	\$98,280		\$844,556	\$1,110,865	\$1,188,682	\$3,086,361	\$9,766,211
Santa Clara	2.00%	\$6,352,867	\$781,997	\$995,206	\$93,363	\$624,680		\$757,022	\$982,030	\$1,180,317	\$1,601,934	\$7,016,549
Shasta-Trinity	3.61%	\$11,484,902	\$1,411,505	\$1,796,346	\$389,298	\$79,493		\$960,701	\$1,561,494	\$1,323,483	\$2,896,024	\$10,418,344
Siskiyou	1.41%	\$4,489,179	\$551,308	\$701,620	\$171,312	\$16,698		\$884,320	\$917,210	\$1,175,930	\$1,131,988	\$5,550,386
Sonoma-Lake-Napa	6.93%	\$22,064,312	\$2,709,621	\$3,448,388	\$379,482	\$439,804		\$1,385,158	\$2,024,274	\$2,335,899	\$5,563,720	\$18,286,346
Tehama-Glenn	1.05%	\$3,346,181	\$410,549	\$522,483	\$78,853	\$127,469		\$1,017,470	\$1,161,109	\$1,368,075	\$843,770	\$5,529,778

Unit/Contract County	Revenue Proportion by Unit (%)	Revenue Rec'd by Unit (\$)	Region and Sac Costs Supporting Units 11/12 - 14//15	Global Admin Costs (CAL FIRE, BOE, SCO, & FISCAL) 11/12 - 14/15	CCC Projects Funded Fiscal Years 11/12 - 14/15	FPF Grants (\$) Fiscal Year 2014/15	Program Startup Fiscal Year 2011/12	Program Expenditures Fiscal Year 2012/13	Program Expenditures Fiscal Year 2013/14	Program Expenditures Fiscal Year 2014/15	Budgeted Expenditures (Estimated) Fiscal Year 2015/16	Total Program, CCC, Grants and Administration Expenditures Fiscal Years 11/12 - 15/16
(Southern Region)												
Fresno-Kings	1.47%	\$4,679,869	\$574,768	\$731,476	\$36,440	\$380,000		\$749,676	\$980,839	\$1,438,317	\$1,180,072	\$6,071,588
Kern County	3.38%	\$10,776,795	\$1,321,576	\$1,681,898	\$0	\$0		\$566,314	\$847,835	\$726,410	\$2,717,468	\$7,861,501
Los Angeles County	2.42%	\$7,693,999	\$946,217	\$1,204,199	\$644,461	\$0		\$879,538	\$1,158,784	\$1,077,826	\$1,940,113	\$7,851,138
Madera-Mariposa-Merced	2.99%	\$9,516,468	\$1,169,086	\$1,487,833		\$161,408		\$880,728	\$1,150,794	\$1,963,140	\$2,399,665	\$9,212,654
Orange County	0.96%	\$3,053,370	\$375,359	\$477,699		\$110,000		\$564,820	\$680,691	\$681,939	\$769,935	\$3,660,443
Riverside	4.02%	\$12,810,753	\$1,571,815	\$2,000,363	\$72,894	\$296,000		\$1,189,637	\$1,209,759	\$2,748,189	\$3,230,349	\$12,319,006
San Benito-Monterey	3.13%	\$9,950,767	\$1,223,826	\$1,557,497	\$152,704	\$203,950		\$740,938	\$784,616	\$1,218,476	\$2,509,177	\$8,391,184
San Bernardino	9.05%	\$28,835,529	\$3,538,538	\$4,503,306		\$707,010		\$1,190,270	\$1,070,323	\$2,295,336	\$7,271,144	\$20,575,927
San Diego	8.85%	\$28,172,708	\$3,460,338	\$4,403,785	\$174,980	\$700,115		\$1,581,904	\$1,881,397	\$2,662,950	\$7,104,008	\$21,969,477
San Luis Obispo	2.86%	\$9,092,420	\$1,118,256	\$1,423,144	\$59,588	\$323,986		\$849,294	\$1,038,387	\$962,220	\$2,292,737	\$8,067,612
Santa Barbara County	1.93%	\$6,144,144	\$754,627	\$960,374	\$826,206	\$326,054		\$721,352	\$847,974	\$879,065	\$1,549,303	\$6,864,955
Tulare	0.79%	\$2,531,034	\$308,889	\$393,106		\$78,056		\$827,164	\$864,633	\$880,714	\$638,223	\$3,990,785
Tuolumne-Calaveras	6.69%	\$21,300,537	\$2,615,781	\$3,328,963	\$80,760	\$1,123,391		\$1,257,012	\$1,440,288	\$1,448,954	\$5,371,127	\$16,666,276
Ventura County	1.08%	\$3,449,366	\$422,279	\$537,411	\$1,719,806	\$22,186		\$796,345	\$884,186	\$878,205	\$869,789	\$6,130,207
Program Startup Costs							\$50,000,000					\$50,000,000
Total Statewide	100%	\$318,386,150	\$39,099,867	\$49,760,286	\$9,694,704	\$9,524,583	\$50,000,000	\$25,279,887	\$30,933,504	\$37,564,384	\$80,284,000	\$332,141,215

Notes in reference to data included in Chart 2.1:

1. This chart provides updated expenditures from Chart #2 as published on page 10 in the SRA Information Report dated June 15, 2016.
2. This chart includes a \$50 million start-up cost during FY 2011-12 which provided for implementation of the program. No individual breakdown of expenditures is provided for this first year as the program was being created and implemented.
3. The expenditure columns reflect costs during FY 2012-13, FY 2013-14, FY 2014-15 and estimated expenditures for FY 2015-16 based upon projections allocated through the Budget.
4. Below is an explanation for each column:
 - a) Revenue Proportion by Unit: The percentage of fee payers broken down by CAL FIRE Units and Contract Counties.
 - b) Revenue Received by Unit: Total amount received statewide from program inception in 2011 (\$318,386,150) and broken down by percentage to each CAL FIRE Unit and Contract County.
 - c) Region and Sacramento Costs Supporting Units: Costs expended by both North and South Region, as well as statewide support from Sacramento, such as mapping efforts by FRAP, and the program costs itself.
 - d) Global Admin Costs (CAL FIRE, BOE, SCO, & FISCAL): Cumulative costs expended as administrative charges from multiple departments.
 - e) CCC Projects Funded: Costs allocated to the California Conservation Corps for use on SRA Prevention Projects.
 - f) FPF Grants: Dollar amounts awarded to successful applicants for SRA Fire Prevention Fund Grants to perform prevention projects throughout the SRA.
 - g) Program Start-Up: One time \$50 million expenditure for program implementation.
 - h) Program Expenditures (3 Fiscal Years – one column for each FY): Costs expended by each CAL FIRE Unit and Contract County for all fire prevention projects and activities that include the Vegetation Management Program, Defensible Space Inspections, Land Use Planning efforts, prevention projects performed by Conservation Camp Crews, Law Enforcement, and Education programs.
 - i) Budgeted Expenditures (Estimated) FY 2015-16: Projected estimates for allocated expenditures as represented from the Budget.
 - j) Total Program, CCC, Grants and Administration Expenditures.

CHART 2.2: FIRE PREVENTION FUND COLLECTIONS COMPARED TO SPENDING JULY 2012 THROUGH JUNE 2015 UNIT



3.0 Effectiveness of the Board’s Grant Program

The Board has not yet been allocated fund for a grant program. The Board has taken the necessary administrative steps towards developing a transparent process for a SRA grant program in preparation of potential funding in the future. During 2015 and 2016 the Board engaged in rulemaking under the Administrative Procedures Act to develop regulations, known as “SRA Fire Prevention Grant Program”. The goal of the regulatory action was to provide the public with process that could be utilized should funding be allocated. The final rulemaking package has been submitted to Office of Administrative Law and is currently under final review. The Board expects an effective date of the regulation to occur on October 1, 2016. A copy of the Board adopted regulations can be found on the [Board’s website](#).

The Board felt it prudent to provide data on the grant program that has been funded by the fee that is currently being administered by CAL FIRE as a surrogate for the Board’s grant program. In FY 14/15, CAL FIRE was allocated \$10 million to award as grants through the [SRA Fire Prevention Grant Program](#). \$475, 417 was spent, commensurate with the Governor’s budget on administrative overhead, while \$9,524,583 was delivered in the form of 83 funded projects throughout the state. Chart 3.0 provides detailed information on the each of the 83 projects that were funded under the SRA Fire Prevention Grant Program in FY 14/15. The Board has determined that CAL FIRE is making an excellent effort to distribute the funds in grants proportional to how fees are collected.

CHART 3.0: Fiscal Year 14/15 APPROVED SRAFIRE PREVENTION FUND GRANTS

Fiscal Year 14/15 State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund Grants- Drought Augmentation

	Projec			
14-SRA-HF-01-0005	Hazen C-Line Fuel Break	\$95,549	TGU	Tehama
14-SRA-HF-01-0006	Twain Harte Green Waste Curbside Pick-up	\$50,000	TCU	Tuolumne
14-SRA-HF-01-0014	Highway 162 Fuel Break	\$31,920	TGU	Glenn
14-SRA-HF-01-0020	Calaveras County CWPP Update	\$10,000	TCU	Calaveras
14-SRA-HF-01-0027	Big Bear Valley SRA Chipping Grant	\$199,500	BDU	San Bernardino
14-SRA-HF-01-0045	Dead, Dying and Diseased Tree Removal - Descanso, Guatay and Pine Valley	\$450,000	MVU	San Diego
14-SRA-HF-01-0047	Deer Springs Community Fuels Reduction and Chipping Project	\$29,610	MVU	San Diego
14-SRA-HF-01-0052	Goat Grazing, East Bay Hills SRA	\$204,000	SCU	Contra Costa
14-SRA-HF-01-0055	Butte County Sheriff Office Inmate Roads Maintenance	\$43,000	BTU	Butte
14-SRA-HF-01-0057	Chrome Ridge Wildfire Protection Project.	\$100,000	AEU	El Dorado
14-SRA-HF-01-0062	El Dorado Integrated County Wildfire Protection Plan (Master CWPP)	\$73,870	AEU	El Dorado
14-SRA-HF-01-	Dunsmuir Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update	\$16,698	SKU	Siskiyou

0070					
14-SRA-HF-01-0074	Rancho Calaveras Fuels Reduction	\$150,000	TCU	Calaveras	
14-SRA-HF-01-0075	Blue Lake Springs H.O.A. Fire Safety Project	\$272,580	TCU	Calaveras	
14-SRA-HF-01-0076	Central Calaveras Fire and Rescue Protection District Wildland Fire Pre-Plan	\$44,800	TCU	Calaveras	
14-SRA-HF-01-0080	SRA Greater Valley Center Community Chipping Days	\$50,000	MVU	San Diego	
14-SRA-HF-01-0082	Woods Valley and Paradise Mountain Road Fuel Reduction Project	\$130,000	MVU	San Diego	
14-SRA-HF-01-0084	SRA Greater Valley Center Community Including Eden and Hidden Valley Fuel Reduction Evacuation Route	\$8,000	MVU	San Diego	
14-SRA-HF-01-0085	Palomar Park Hazardous Fuel Reduction Program	\$79,750	CZU	San Mateo	
14-SRA-HF-01-0093	Clayton-Morgan Territory Fire Safe 2015	\$170,680	SCU	Alameda	
14-SRA-HF-01-0112	North Tahoe Multi-Jurisdictional Request for Emergency Evacuation Planning Materials	\$43,617	NEU	Placer	
14-SRA-HF-01-0113	Loma Vista Community Perimeter Shaded Fuel Break	\$56,000	LNU	Napa	
14-SRA-HF-01-0115	Foss Valley Community Perimeter Shaded Fuel Break	\$79,000	LNU	Napa	
14-SRA-HF-01-0121	Unincorporated Big Bear City, Running Springs & Arrowbear Wood Shake/Shingle Cost Share Roof Replacement	\$214,916	BDU	San Bernardino	
14-SRA-HF-01-0131	Parkhill Area Fuel Breaks	\$323,986	SLU	San Luis Obispo	
14-SRA-HF-01-0132	American River Canyon Perimeter Shaded Fuel Break (PSFB)	\$100,000	AEU	El Dorado	
14-SRA-HF-01-0136	Development of Fire Adapted Communities on the California Side of the Lake Tahoe Basin	\$200,000	AEU	El Dorado	
14-SRA-HF-01-0137	Sierra County Residential Chipping Program	\$53,200	NEU	Sierra	
14-SRA-HF-01-0138	Anderson Springs Interface Project	\$42,020	LNU	Lake	
14-SRA-HF-01-0139	Sierra City SC1 SC3 Fuels reduction	\$53,725	NEU	Sierra	
14-SRA-HF-01-0142	Muniz Ranches Property Owners Association Fire Prevention Project	\$41,716	LNU	Sonoma	
14-SRA-HF-01-0149	North Bottle Rock Road Fuel Break	\$37,471	LNU	Lake	
14-SRA-HF-01-0151	Mt. Konocti Interface Fuel Break	\$108,597	LNU	Lake	
14-SRA-HF-01-0156	Alpine Meadows Subdivision Roadside Clearing	\$76,880	NEU	Placer	
14-SRA-HF-01-0163	Burney Basin Fire Safe Council --CWPP	\$14,000	SHU	Shasta	
14-SRA-HF-01-0168	Fresno Fairgrounds Public Education Project	\$380,000	FKU	Fresno	
14-SRA-HF-01-0171	Morning Canyon Fuels Reduction Evacuation Project	\$154,836	AEU	El Dorado	

14-SRA-HF-01-0184	Mountain Rim Fire Safe Council Community Wildfire Protection Plan	\$21,000	BDU	San Bernardino
14-SRA-HF-01-0186	Truckee Fire Protection District Community Wildfire Protection Plan	\$27,000	NEU	Nevada
14-SRA-HF-01-0188	Yuba County Service Area 2 Shaded Fuel Breaks	\$29,750	NEU	Yuba
14-SRA-HF-01-0189	Lake Tahoe Wildfire Hazard Awareness and Mitigation Public Outreach Campaign	\$77,250	AEU	El Dorado
14-SRA-HF-01-0192	American Valley Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project	\$317,856	LMU	Plumas
14-SRA-HF-01-0201	Crest Forest Fire Safe Demonstration Sites	\$10,300	BDU	San Bernardino
14-SRA-HF-01-0206	San Juan Canyon Road Shaded Fuel Break & Residential Chipping	\$117,150	BEU	San Benito
14-SRA-HF-01-0207	Santa Barbara Foothill Community Defensible Space Project	\$326,054	SBC	Santa Barbara
14-SRA-HF-01-0233	Tuolumne County Roadside Brushing	\$84,000	TCU	Tuolumne
14-SRA-HF-01-0236	Central Ventura County Fire Safe Council Community Chipper Days Project	\$22,186	VNC	Ventura
14-SRA-HF-01-0238	Trinity County Community Wildfire Protection Plan 2015 Update	\$65,493	SHU	Trinity
14-SRA-HF-01-0249	2015 Klamath River Prescribed Fire Training Exchange (TREX)	\$83,162	HUU	Humboldt
14-SRA-HF-01-0255	Lake Tahoe Community Chipping Project	\$153,797	AEU	El Dorado
14-SRA-HF-01-0262	OCFA - County-Wide Wildfire Protection Plan for Orange County, CA	\$110,000	ORC	Orange
14-SRA-HF-01-0265	2015 Marin County Community Wildfire Protection Plan	\$123,200	MRN	Marin
14-SRA-HF-01-0267	Maxwell Trail Hazardous Fuel Reduction Project	\$296,000	RRU	Riverside
14-SRA-HF-01-0268	Special Needs Defensible Space Assistance Program	\$142,366	NEU	Yuba
14-SRA-HF-01-0269	Nevada County Chipping Program	\$159,478	NEU	Nevada
14-SRA-HF-01-0272	Mountain Top Chipper Days	\$33,500	BDU	San Bernardino
14-SRA-HF-01-0273	Soper Company Shakespeare Mastication	\$121,771	NEU	Yuba
14-SRA-HF-01-0276	Abatement Assistance & Advocacy	\$43,200	BDU	San Bernardino
14-SRA-HF-01-0277	Yuba County Residential Chipping Program	\$100,000	NEU	Yuba
14-SRA-HF-01-0287	Santa Clara County CWPP	\$250,000	SCU	Santa Clara
14-SRA-HF-01-0291	Hazardous Fuels Removal Along Non County Maintained Roads Creating a Fireline	\$161,408	MMU	Mariposa
14-SRA-HF-01-0292	Highway 120 Corridor Fire Break and Fuels Reduction	\$244,160	TCU	Tuolumne
14-SRA-HF-01-0294	Franklin Canyon Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Wildfire Hazard Mitigation Project	\$53,367	LMU	Modoc

14-SRA-HF-01-0296	Weber Creek Fuel Reduction Project, PP-1	\$191,075	AEU	El Dorado
14-SRA-HF-01-0304	Bear River Pines Fuels Reduction	\$294,578	NEU	Nevada
14-SRA-HF-01-0307	Lokoya Community Fuel Reduction Project	\$75,000	LNU	Napa
14-SRA-HF-01-0321	Bell Springs Road Community Wildfire Protection Plan	\$6,000	MEU	Mendocino
14-SRA-HF-01-0340	Placer County Chipper Program - Track Chipper Acquisition	\$200,000	NEU	Placer
14-SRA-HF-01-0343	Web-based Map Interface for CWPPs	\$56,970	BDU	San Bernardino
14-SRA-HF-01-0344	North Fork American River Fuel break - CEQA	\$46,063	NEU	Placer
14-SRA-HF-01-0345	Nevada County Landfill Site Fuel Modification	\$31,020	NEU	Nevada
14-SRA-HF-01-0346	Placer County Residential Chipper Program	\$429,209	NEU	Placer
14-SRA-HF-01-0347	River Pines	\$179,933	AEU	Amador
14-SRA-HF-01-0349	Bear Valley Common Area Fuels Reduction	\$40,000	TCU	Alpine
14-SRA-HF-01-0350	Mi Wuk/Sugar Pine Fuel Reduction Program	\$190,516	TCU	Tuolumne
14-SRA-HF-01-0351	Monterey County Regional Fire District Chipping and Pre-Planning Map Grant	\$86,800	BEU	Monterey
14-SRA-HF-01-0360	Fire Prevention Materials and Road Signs	\$16,576	TCU	Tuolumne
14-SRA-HF-01-0361	Turnback Creek Fuel Reduction Phase 2 (Maintenance)	\$60,759	TCU	Tuolumne
14-SRA-HF-01-0367	Tulare County Chipper Days	\$78,056	TUU	Tulare
14-SRA-HF-01-0376	Palomar Mountain Community Chipping Days	\$6,900	MVU	San Diego
14-SRA-HF-01-0377	Palomar Divide SRA Fuel Break	\$25,605	MVU	San Diego
14-SRA-HF-01-0378	Newell Drive Fuel Reduction	\$18,530	CZU	Santa Cruz
14-SRA-HF-01-0400	Wheeler Crest Fuels Reduction, 2015/2017	\$127,624	BDU	Mono

*83 total projects for a total of \$9,524,583 of funded grants statewide.

4.0 Defensible Space Inspections

There are two metrics that are required to report upon in regards to the Defensible Space Inspections that are conducted by CAL FIRE. Those metrics include the number of defensible space inspections conducted during FY 14/15 and the degree of compliance with defensible space inspections. Given the data collection on the inspections were conducted on an annual basis, the Board is able to report on a more extended period of time than what is required by law. Chart 4.0 provides data on the on-the-ground inspections conducted by CAL FIRE

employees between FY 12/13 and 14/15. In addition, the Board is also able to report on the number of citations issued during those inspections, which provides a measure of compliance in regards to homeowners complying with defensible space standards.

CHART 4.0: Defensible Space Inspection Conducted by CAL FIRE for Fiscal Years 12/13 - 15/16

STATEWIDE INSPECTIONS			
Prevention Activities	Totals FY 2012/13	Totals FY 2013/14	Totals FY 2014/15
Citations Issued	890	2,539	631
Inspections	149,672	203,340	207,295

5.0 Measures to Increase Compliance with Defensible Space Standards

The SRA fee has allowed CAL FIRE to increase staffing specifically dedicated to the job of conducting defensible space inspections and has increased the number of properties inspected since the implementation of the fee.. The use of specialized, trained inspectors has improved the quality of interactions with the public, resulting in increased compliance.

Another means of increasing compliance with defensible space standards is through maintenance of a public education and outreach program. CAL FIRE employees spend many thousands of hours in public settings each year with the ultimate goal of education the public on wildfire and resource management and protection issues. These public outreach efforts are conducted at county and state fairs, academic institutions, parades, public workshops and gatherings and other special events. In addition, the public outreach extends to public service announcements during radio and television broadcast and well as media outreach. Given the relative low number of citations issued, the education outreach has been seemingly effective and maintaining this level of public outreach will likely result in is attaining higher level of compliance. This continued outreach is of particular importance as the population within the state increases resulting in additional home density within the wildland urban interface.

6.1 Recommendations to the Legislature

- Currently, the required reporting standards under PRC § 4214(f) state that the annual report provided by the Board shall “include an evaluation of the benefits received by counties based on the number of habitable structures in state responsibility areas within their jurisdictions.” As mentioned within the body of this report, the Board is reliant upon the Department for the data as it pertains to SRA fee expenditures. The Department operates under the structure of Administrative Units. This includes day to day operations as well as fiscal accounting. In order for the Department to recast the SRA fee expenditures on a County by County basis would be very problematic for the Department and ultimately the Board in meeting this reporting standard. This standard of reporting introduces a significant time commitment, would be extraordinarily expensive and could inadvertently introduce error in reporting due to the lengthy and intricate process of reorganizing complex fiscal data. Therefore, in order to maintain efficiency in reporting and congruity with statute, the Board recommends that consideration of revising PRC §

4214(f) to read that the report provided by the Board shall “include an evaluation of the ~~benefits received by counties~~ expenditures within each departmental administrative unit or Contract County based on the number of habitable structures in state responsibility areas within their jurisdictions.”

- Public commentary the Board has received indicates there is considerable public interest in increasing the funding for grant programs to expend these funds directly in the State Responsibility Area. The number of grant applications received exceeds the amount of money appropriated for the grant program thus far and indicates an unmet need for funding for direct fire prevention projects in SRA communities. The Board recommends the Legislature increase the funding to the grant programs under this fee to provide a direct benefit to the fee payers through local fire prevention projects.
- Currently, the required metric to report upon under PRC § 4214(f) in regards grant programs is “the effectiveness of the board's grant programs.” As previously addressed, the Board’s grant program, although established in regulation, is not currently funded. Therefore, the Board has decided to report on the Department’s grant program as a surrogate until the Board’s grant program is funded. In order to make statute congruent with reportable metrics, the Board recommends consideration of revising PRC § 4214(f) to read “the effectiveness of the board's and/or department’s grant programs”.
- For the purpose of efficiency, the Board recommends that beginning in 2017 and every year thereafter, the Department provide to the Legislature a report pursuant to PRC § 4214(f). The fee program is managed by the Department, and therefore a reporting standard that applies to the Department will streamline Board and Department operations. The Department has taken it upon itself to produce an annual report for the purposes of public transparency and plans to produce reports on a semi-annual basis from this year forward. It is these reports that the Board utilizes to gather data that is provided in the required annual report under PRC § 4214(f). The Board respectfully requests that a provision that would allow for the Board to review the Department’s report be considered so that the Board may ensure that substantive public comment that the Board has received within any given year is addressed within the report. Therefore, in order to maintain efficiency in reporting, the Board recommends that consideration of revising PRC § 4214(f) to read “By January 31, 2015, and annually thereafter, the board department, with board approval, shall submit to the Legislature a written report on the status and uses of the fund pursuant to this chapter.....”