

How to “Officially” Oppose the Fire Fee

Many residents in the Greater Tehachapi Area are opposing the Fire Fee. The Stallion Springs Board of Directors has officially opposed the fee as well. We have written and mailed letters of opposition to various lawmakers and appropriate agencies.

Our opposition stems from the fact that the fee is positioned as a “Prevention” fee and yet there is no plan to provide prevention services to the paying jurisdictions. In addition to the prevention misnomer, is the fact that the fee was invoked without due process. Truth is, the California Constitution prohibits the courts from enjoining the collection of a tax. The Howard Jarvis Foundation (HJTA) is going to bring a class action lawsuit against the fee. That said, you must pay the fee by the due date in order to avoid the assessment of late fee charges.

If Howard Jarvis is successful, the fee will be over turned and residents will have to be refunded what they have paid. However, you must petition for a redetermination in order to receive a refund. To learn how to qualify, visit www.firetaxprotest.org. If you don't follow the directions exactly, the State will keep your money regardless of how the suit comes out.

Go to the link, www.firetaxprotest.org, click on the top tab that says "REFUND". The screen will change. Read all the info that is displayed and following its instructions to the letter. It tells you that you need to complete the formal petition - button upper right corner. It also tells you that you need to send the petition and attachments to three addresses. Be sure to send it to all three.

Re: the Petition: Complete the form as indicated. All info is located on your Fire Prevention Tax bill. The HJTA has already checked the "other" box and the attachment has already been written for you on the second page. Print and sign the petition (suggest all three copies have original signatures). Mail them.

NOTE: the info about what to write on your check and make appropriate copies. If you attach a copy of the check to the petitions, at least write: "COPY" in bold letters across each copy of the check. This way the check copy cannot be considered the tax payment check.

SSCSD has also written a letter which can be sent to appropriate lawmakers to oppose the fee. If you would like a copy of it to personalize for yourself, drop by the CSD and pick one up. We have also included a list of addresses to mail your letter of opposition to.

Hope this has been helpful. Share with anyone you want to. The more people who oppose the fee, the more likely the tax will be reversed.

Mary Beth