

From: [Becky Steinbruner](#)
To: [Scalia, Melissa@CALFIRE](#); [Petras, Ginny@CALFIRE](#)
Subject: Fw: San Jose Mercury News Article re: Possible Federal Non-Payment of County Fire Costs for Fire Fighting Costs
Date: Thursday, May 23, 2019 3:05:03 PM

Warning: this message is from an external user and should be treated with caution.

Dear Melissa and Ginny,
Would you please forward this to the County Fire Dept. Advisory Commission and include it on the next Commission agenda as either a discussion item or correspondence?

Thank you very much.
Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Becky Steinbruner <ki6tkb@yahoo.com>
To: John Leopold <john.leopold@santacruzcounty.us>; Supervisor Caput <greg.caput@santacruzcounty.us>; Ryan Coonerty <ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us>; Bruce McPherson <bruce.mcpherson@santacruzcounty.us>; Jillian Ritter <jillian.ritter@santacruzcounty.us>
Cc: Ian@CALFIRE Larkin <ian.larkin@fire.ca.gov>; Rosemary Anderson <rosemary.anderson@santacruzcounty.us>; Michael Beaton <michael.beaton@santacruzcounty.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2019, 10:02:47 PM UTC
Subject: San Jose Mercury News Article re: Possible Federal Non-Payment of County Fire Costs for Fire Fighting Costs

Dear County Board of Supervisors,
Below is the link to the San Jose Mercury News article "Trump threatens to cut fire aid" that appeared on the May 21, 2019 front page. I attempted to discuss the importance of this article with your Board during the May 21, 2019 Board meeting public comment, but due to lack of time, was told by Chairman Coonerty to send information about the article for Board consideration later.

Here is the link: <https://www.mercurynews.com/2019/05/20/trump-threatens-to-cut-millions-from-fire-departments-in-california-after-deadly-wildfires-2/>

I am concerned that the 2015 California Fire Assistance Agreement, which expires next year, is at risk and will be detrimental to Santa Cruz County Fire Department reimbursement for strike team expenses. The article (continued on page A5) states, "In particular, the new requirements will have a significant impact on volunteer fire agencies, [state Fire and Rescue Chief Brian] Marshall wrote, because those agencies have to be reimbursed before they can pay their firefighters. Volunteer firefighters make up one-third of the local fire departments that respond to federal and state requests for help fighting fires, he wrote."

On May 14, 2019, California Senator Dianne Feinstein wrote a letter to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and U.S. Forest Service Chief Vicky Christensen protesting impending new burdensome requirements for reimbursement. The California Fire Chiefs Association, California Metro Chiefs, Fire District Association of California and League of California Cities Fire Chiefs have all sent letters of protest on April 25, 2019, "objecting to unilateral, mid-contract changes to its reimbursement protocols for local agencies under the California Fire Assistance Agreement."

I urge the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to also send a letter, in tandem with County Fire Chief Ian Larkin and any other appropriate fiscal directors to support Senator Feinstein and keep secure the reimbursement policies for County Fire Department participation in large mutual aide events.

Please respond in writing. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Becky Steinbruner