SRA Fire Prevention Fees Suspended until 2031

What is the State Responsibility Area (SRA)?

The State Responsibility Area (SRA) is the area of the state where the State of California is financially responsible for the prevention and suppression of wildfires. SRA does not include lands within city boundaries or in federal ownership. To see if a parcel is within the SRA enter in the parcel address in the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection's State Responsibility Area Viewer.

Back in 2011, the State of California signed into law a "Fire Prevention Fee" on habitable structures in the state's wildland fire responsibility area also known as the "SRA." This law established a new annual Fire Prevention Fee to pay for fire prevention services within the State Responsibility Area. As a result, property owners were taxed $150 per structure, with that tax most recently raised to $152.33.

On July 25, 2017, Assembly Bill No 398 passed into law, which stated the fire prevention fee is suspended until 2031. The funds will be coming from the State's Cap and Trade Program rather than through property owners. If a person owned a home within the wildland fire hazard area prior to the legislation passing on (July 25th) they are RESPONSIBLE for the fee this tax year. If a home buyer purchased the home after the bill passed, they DO NOT have to pay the fee.

A few items to note:

- If you live in a SRA, Cal Fire's Prevention Program will continue to be a resource for you. This program has been valuable providing services such as defensible space inspections and fire prevention education.

- All SRA fees that were assessed to homeowners prior to July 1, 2017 are required to be paid. If you have SRA notices that are overdue, you could accrue potential late fees.

- As of today, the tax section of DisclosureSave's NHD report will include this new notice regarding the fire prevention fee.

Please visit the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Frequently Asked Questions to obtain additional information and answers to questions regarding the SRA Fire Prevention Fee.

CHICAGO TITLE®