



# News Release

Leslie Morgan  
Shasta County  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: November 16, 2012  
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## **SUBJECT: FIRE FEE**

*The following information concerning property assessments is provided to you for dissemination to the public. We would appreciate your using it in your media at your earliest convenience.*

County Assessor-Recorder Leslie Morgan announced on Friday that Shasta County property owners are starting to receive pre-notices for the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fee, with bills soon to follow.

This fee was established by Assembly Bill X1 29, signed into law on July 7, 2011. The billings amount to \$150 per habitable structure located within the State Responsibility Area, with a \$35 credit available for structures situated within a local fire protection district. The fee is being administered by CAL FIRE, and bills are being collected by the California State Board of Equalization.

"Based on experiences in other California counties, these bills have proven to be error prone," stated Morgan. They have been issued on non-habitable structures such as businesses or offices, incidental structures such as detached garages, barns, etc., and even on some bare land parcels. In addition, Morgan said there have been reports of double billings on mobile homes in some counties, and bills issued on properties located outside of the State Responsibility Area in others.

Morgan has been following the issues since bills first started going out back in early August. While the underlying problems for many of the billing errors have been corrected in the interim, she is certain there will be problems for at least some Shasta County property owners.

Morgan is encouraging property owners to contact her office in the event they need documentation to refute the fact that their property does not contain, or is being billed for the incorrect number of habitable structures. Morgan stresses the fact that the County has no involvement with this fee and that she is simply offering assessment-related information to assist taxpayers in this regard. The assessor's office is located at 1450 Court Street, Suite 208-A of the Shasta County Administrative Center, Redding, and can be reached by phone at 225-3600.

Additional information on the fee can be found on-line at [firepreventionfee.org](http://firepreventionfee.org) while protest information can be found at [firetaxprotest.org](http://firetaxprotest.org).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie Morgan".

Leslie Morgan, Shasta County Assessor-Recorder