



P.O. Box 3694, Landers, CA 92285 [www.hvccsite.or](http://www.hvccsite.or)

Agenda for the July 18th, 2011, Homestead Valley Community Council Meeting  
3:00 P.M. at the Yucca Mesa Community Center, 3133 Balsa Avenue

Flag Salute

Roll Call / Delegate List

Approve Agenda

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

Treasurer's Report

1. Guest Comments
2. SB County Code Enforcement – Mike Romage
3. SB County Fire Dept – Dave Benfield
4. Committee Reports:
  - Fund Raising / Events (Earlene McCloskey)
  - Advisory (Nancy Sammons)
  - Public Outreach (Betty Munson)
  - Community Services / Improvements / Cooperation (Rick Sayers)
  - Scenic Hwy 247 (Barbara Harris)
5. Save Our Desert – Cherry Good (windmills on Black Lava Butte & Flat Top Mesa)
6. HVCC position letter: renewable energy on public lands
7. HVCC position letter: SB County redistricting and Lucerne Valley
8. Assembly Bill X1-29: CAL FIRE State Responsibility Areas (SRA) for Fire Protection
9. Homestead Valley Community maps
10. SB County Third District – Alan Rasmussen
11. President's Report
12. Action Items and Community Reports list
13. Adjourn – next meeting in Johnson Valley, Monday August 15th 3:00 P.M.

## HVCC Delegates/Committee list

07/18/2011

### Officers

**President:** Jim Harvey **Vice President:** Rick Sayers **Secretary:** Betty Munson **Treasurer:** Tory Preston

### Council members

Adrienne BISHOP.....Landers .....364-2345  
David Cooper .....YMIA .....809-2590 .....david.cooper@us.bureauveritas.com  
Dale FREDENBURG.....FHCA .....364-3788 .....Shellrswift@hotmail.com  
Jim HANLEY .....JVIA .....364-4829 .....jhaflame@aol.com  
Jim HARVEY .....JVIA .....401-1015 .....johnsonvalley@gmail.com  
Ken JONES .....FHCA .....660-0369 .....Kenjones461@hotmail.com  
Earlene McCLOSKEY .....YMIA .....365-8422 .....emac-r@msn.com  
Betty MUNSON.....JVIA .....364-2646 .....ranchotaj@gmail.com  
Tory PRESTON.....FHCA .....364-3373 .....torypreston2@gmail.com  
Nancy SAMMONS .....YMIA .....365-8507 .....Nansam@mojavewifi.com  
Rick SAYERS .....YMIA .....574-6598 .....rick@ricksayers.com  
Joyce WHEELER.....JVIA .....364-3392 .....shipitshop@peoplepc.com  
Linda WILLGUES .....Landers .....364-9203 .....linda-1954@live.com  
  
Alan RASMUSSEN .....3rd District ...228-5400 .....arasmussen@sbcounty.gov

### Ad Hoc Committees

**Nominating:** April to present officers slate at May meeting for June meeting election

**Audit:** June to submit the audit results by September meeting

**Scenic 247 Committee:** Chairperson Barbara Harris

### Standing Committees

**Fund Raising / Events:** Chairperson Earlene McCloskey

Nancy Sammons, Adrienne Bishop

**Advisory:** Chairperson Nancy Sammons,

Presidents of the 4 HVCC community organizations:

Dave Cooper (YMIA), Lee Gardner (Landers), Betty Munson (JVIA), Tory Preston (FHCA)

Alan Rasmussen, Third District Field Representative

**Community Outreach:** Chairperson Betty Munson

Jim Hanley, Rick Sayers, Linda Willgues

**Community Services / Improvements / Cooperation:** Chairperson Rick Sayers

Jim Hanley, Betty Munson, Joyce Wheeler

**HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES OF MEETING  
IN LANDERS, JUNE 20, 2011**

**Opened with Flag Salute** at 3.00 pm

**Present:** Adrienne Bishop, Jim Hanley, Jim Harvey, Ken Jones, Earlene McCloskey, Betty Munson, Tory Preston, Nancy Sammons, Rick Sayers, Joyce Wheeler, Linda Willgues, Alan Rasmussen  
**Absent:** David Cooper, Dale Fredenburg, Earlene McCloskey

**Guest:** Barbara Harris, Morongo Basin Historical Society

**Delegate list:** OK

**Agenda** approved unanimously

**Minutes** of May meeting, posted to [www.hvccsite.org](http://www.hvccsite.org) in draft form; approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Beginning balance 7,178.44, ending balance 8,073.47.

**1. Guest Comments:** none

[Order of Agenda items changed.]

**5. Election of HVCC Officers** - Jim Harvey, president; Rick Sayers, vice president; Lanee (Tory) Preston, treasurer; Betty Munson, secretary. Sworn in by Alan Rasmussen. Signatories on bank account: Jim Harvey, Lanee Preston, Betty Munson.

**2. SB County Code Enforcement** - Mike Ramage unable to attend. Alan clarified that closing of firehouse in Copper Mtn and the tire recycling center not related. Alan working through supervisors office to try to resume service. \$3 tire recycling charge. Friends of Giant Rock talking to Mitsubishi about taking tires to JV tire garden; Board plans to continue accepting tires.

**3. SB County Fire Dept** - Dave Benfield unable to attend

**9. SB County Third District** - Alan Rasmussen

-redistricting: possibly 3rd will include Lucerne Valley and Barstow. would be good for 247 project.

-Morongo Basin Economic Consortium, changing name of basin that makes more sense to tourism, Homestead Route etc, market to tourists. Historic "High Joshua" map discussed, old Yucca Valley names.

-Jim Hanley told Alan our highway signs still being turned down by Caltrans, to contact local elected official. Will e-mail correspondence to Alan.

-each community submit one or two priorities for "wish list" not in works already, for center or entire community, e-mail to Alan.

**4. Committee Reports**

- **Fund raising / Events:** 3rd of July event. Tory and Ken to do table, next to JVIA table. Need boxes for Marine gifts. Wine & Cheese party Oct 22. Earlene to call wine company, they need 3-month lead for signs etc.

(MBHS hosting Archeology Fair at the Yucca Valley Community Center, Oct 15 and maybe 2nd day)

- **Advisory Committee:** no meeting. Jim made satellite maps for each community to fill in streets as they must appear on the Hospitality Plus map.

- **Community Outreach:** e-mail notices to Fire Dept and Code Enforcement, radio. News column.

Marine Base expansion appeared in the Sunday LA Times. Commentaries on website.

- **Community Services /Improvements /Cooperation** - highway signs discussed under item 9.

- **Scenic 247 Committee**- Barbara Harris. No meeting. Put on hold till we catch up with backlog after Marine commentary work. Need website to back up handouts.

**6. 2011/2012 Goals & Objectives Proposal-**

-ship gifts to VMU-3 Marines in Afghanistan by end of July. 60 boxes, each with a letter identifying corporate sponsors

-finish community street maps for Hospitality Plus

-finish list of supporters for Scenic 247 project, set up website. Solicit support from lawmakers. Approval by mid-2012.

- Obtain portable PA system and projector for meetings and shared use among the communities
- Review burrtec policies and services in 4 HV communities and Lucerne Valley to address inconsistent contracts.
- Federal Rural High Speed Internet Access Program. Barbara Harris to research eligibility.
- Emergency reserve funds (\$5,000 into interest-earning account now, build up gradually?)

**7. Assign Audit Committee** - Jim Hanley and Tory Preston

**8. Homestead Valley Community Maps** - discussed under Advisory committee

**10. President's Report** - \$50 donation from Jim Dickman through PayPal.

**11. Action Items and Community Reports List** - Marine fund signs, jars; signatories on bank account

**12. Adjourn 4:40** - Next meeting in Yucca Mesa, July 18, at 3:00 pm

Betty Munson  
Secretary, 760-364-2646

HOMESTEAD VALLEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
TREASURERS REPORT  
JUNE 30, 2011

BEGINNING BALANCE		\$ 8,073.47
INCOME		
	INTEREST INCOME	\$ .03
	MARINE FUND	\$ 600.00
	GIFT	\$ 50.00
	EVENT INC. YV	\$ 38.60
TOTAL INCOME		\$ 688.63
SUB TOTAL		\$ 8,762.10
EXPENSES		
	BANK CHARGE	\$ 1.75
TOTAL EXPENSE		\$ 1.75
SUB TOTAL		\$ 8,760.35
	CHECK CASHED	\$ 100.00-
	DEPOSIT NOT IN BANK	\$ 38.60-
TOTAL BALANCE		\$ 8,621.75

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

EARLENE MC CLOSKEY  
JULY 13, 2011

HVCC BALANCE SHEET  
JUNE 2011

ASSETS

CASH AND BANK ACCOUNTS

HVCC CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$ 4,484.09
HVCC SAVING ACCOUNT	\$ 4,137.66

TOTAL CASH AND BANK ACCOUNT	\$ 8,621.75
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LIABILITIES & EQUITY

LIABILITIES

MARINE FUND	\$ 1,346.06
EQUITY	\$ 7,275.69

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 8,621.75
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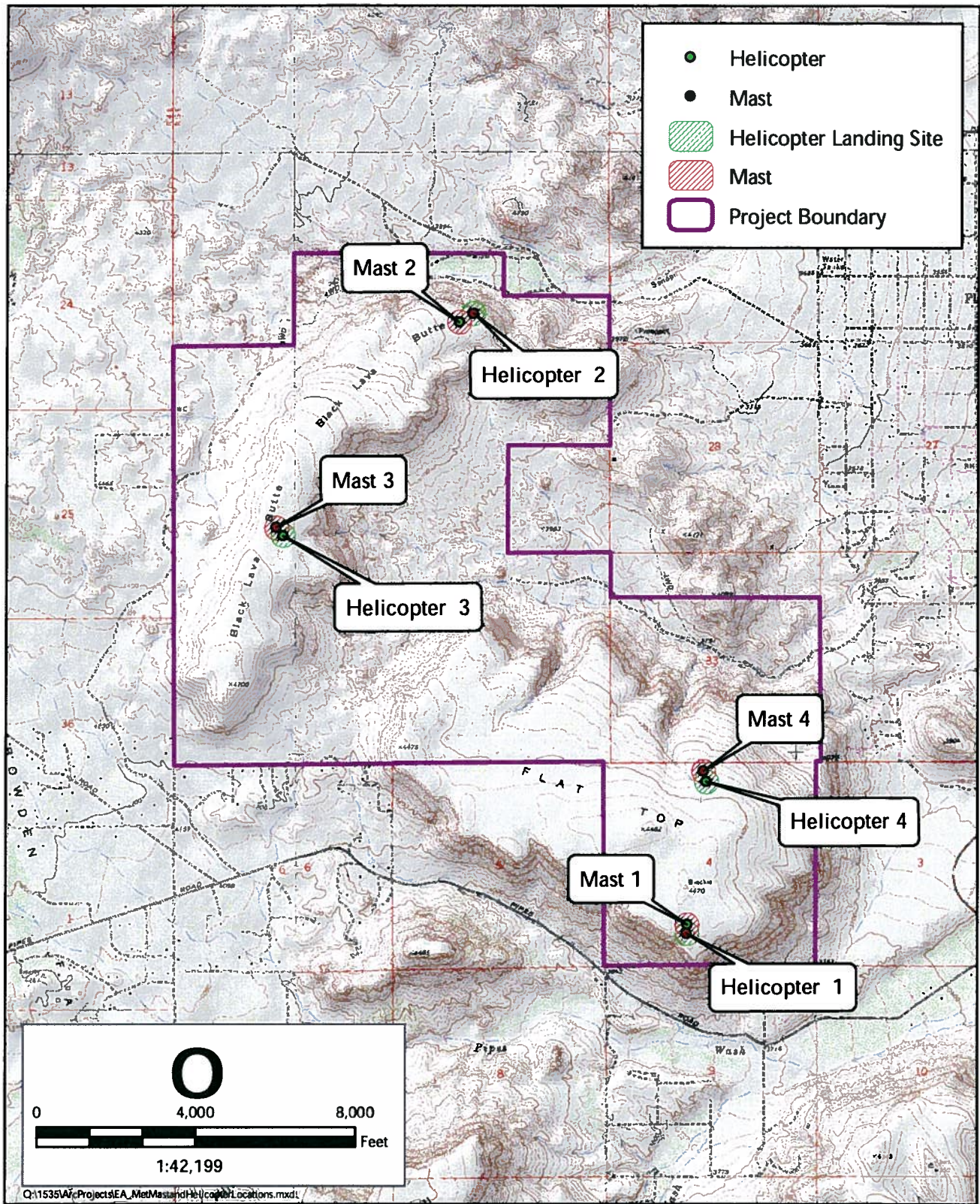


FIGURE 1  
 Proposed Project Location and Elements



P. O. Box 3694 Landers, CA 92285 [www.hvccsite.org](http://www.hvccsite.org)

July 18, 2011

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Homestead Valley is located in the Third District of San Bernardino County in the High Desert of Southern California. The four Homestead Valley communities of Flamingo Heights, Johnson Valley, Landers, and Yucca Mesa formed the Homestead Valley Community Council (HVCC) in 1997 to address matters of mutual interest with local, state, and federal lawmakers.

HVCC is extremely alarmed by the number of solar, wind, and transmission line project/upgrades currently proposed for installation on publicly owned lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Even if only a modest fraction of these projects is approved and built, we believe they will have an immediate, irreversible, devastating impact on our communities and other desert communities in the western states.

There is a long held misconception that the western deserts are little more than vast swaths of sun-baked, lifeless, worthless landscape. Those of us who admire desert ecosystems like the Mojave, who have chosen to live here and experience daily all the diversity and beauty it has to offer know first-hand this misconception could not be further from the truth.

The desert flora consists of an unimaginable number of plant species, including Creosote rings dating thousands of years old, still living and playing an important role to the survival of animal species like the Kangaroo Rat, San Joaquin Kit Fox, and the Desert Tortoise. Eagles, hawks, owls, and raptors fly our desert skies, as they have been for thousands of years. From the flowering yuccas of New Mexico, to the Saguaro cacti of Arizona, to the Joshua Trees of California and Nevada, there should be no doubt our desert open spaces are teeming with life.

Centralized renewable energy projects such as those currently being proposed on publicly owned lands require massive amounts of this land to accommodate them. Nothing demonstrates this better than the proposed 400 MW Ivanpah Solar project, which will permanently destroy approximately **4,000 undisturbed acres** of Mojave desert.

There are over 100 applications to the California BLM for Rights of Ways to build large projects like Ivanpah, many even larger! In the Ivanpah project alone over 10 times the Desert Tortoises were discovered during construction than were estimated and mitigated for by the environmental/biological assessments conducted in the pre-approval/construction stages. What other inadequate surveys and assessments will be uncovered after the fact and how many of these projects will be approved on faulty and under-reported studies?

Large centralized solar and wind projects sited remotely rely upon transmission lines to bring the generated power into the urban load centers. Transmission lines are very costly to build or even upgrade, disproportionately impact rural communities like the Homestead Valley communities, introduce line losses and unsafe emissions that increase with line length, and pose threats to our national security. We should be working to decentralize our transmission infrastructure and this century old technology – not expand it or add to its congestion.

A 4,000 acre area of Black Lava Butte and Flat Top Mesa in Pipes Canyon is being studied for massive windmills to be installed. The intermittency, inefficiency, costs (to build, maintain, and transmit the output), along with the adverse impact on area property values makes industrial wind a very undesirable option for California to increase renewable energy supplies and meet the 2020 goal of 30%.

We believe our current energy policies of supporting large scale remotely sited wind and solar projects, and the transmission lines they will inevitably require, is highly misguided. Centralized generating facilities on our publicly owned open spaces will be harmful to our communities by reducing the open areas and views that make our communities so unique, reduce our property values, increase our electricity rates, and not bring any appreciable new employment to our area (especially when you consider the large amounts of land that will be consumed). If increasing renewable energy supplies in California is the real objective, there is a better way.

Utilizing the already developed environments of residential/commercial rooftops and parking lots for solar PV panels is the fastest, cleanest, and least expensive way to ramp up renewable energy supplies. Germany integrates over 10 times the solar energy into their existing electricity grid as California does each year, despite the fact that they enjoy only half the solar resources. This has been accomplished by leading with energy policies based on fair compensation for home and business rooftop generation (feed-in-tariff), and readily available loans to cover the upfront costs (PACE/AB811). Los Angeles alone could benefit from 4,000 MW of new homegrown solar energy produced right in their own basin by implementing these 21<sup>st</sup> century Energy Decentralization policies.

The Homestead Valley Community Council strongly urges all our County, State, and Federal lawmakers to reject policies that favor centralized large scale solar, wind, and geothermal projects on our publicly owned open spaces. We instead encourage you to support sensible and responsible renewable energy policies that promote renewable energy generation sited in the already built environment. Market value compensation for home and business owners who participate in the renewable energy generation revolution, along with non-subsidy-based low interest loans are the proven method for increasing renewable energy supplies in a safe, timely, and least costly manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Harvey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim Harvey  
President, Homestead Valley Community Council



P.O. Box 3694 Landers, CA 92285

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San Bernardino County Government Center  
Supervisor Neil Derry  
385 N Arrowhead Ave, Fifth Floor  
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110

July 18th, 2011

Dear Supervisor Neil Derry,

In the question of San Bernardino County redistricting, the Homestead Valley Community Council wishes to comment on how beneficial we think it would be for Lucerne Valley to be brought into the Third District.

Lucerne Valley shares more land-use, socioeconomic and rural connections with Homestead Valley than with the heavily urbanized Victor Valley and Apple Valley to their west.

Similarities in geography, lifestyle and shared history are obvious and important. More and more often, we are working on issues in common with Lucerne Valley; their community leaders attend and participate in our meetings, and vice versa.

Additionally, Lucerne Valley and the Homestead Valley Community of Johnson Valley lie within the same school district; Lucerne Valley Unified School District (LVUSD).

Therefore we strongly endorse the inclusion of the entire area of Lucerne Valley into the Third District during the upcoming redistricting process.

Thank you for your attention,

Jim Harvey  
President, Homestead Valley Community Council

## ABX1 29

(A trailer bill is a bill that is attached to the state's budget (CA), meaning it bypasses the regular legislative process and could be passed in less than two weeks)

Existing law requires the state to have the primary financial responsibility for preventing and suppressing fires in areas that the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection has determined are state responsibility areas.

This bill would require the board, on or before September 1, 2011, to adopt emergency regulations to establish a fire prevention fee in an amount not to exceed \$150 to be charged on each structure on a parcel that is within a state responsibility area. The board would be required to adjust the fire prevention fee annually using prescribed methods.

The bill would require the State Board of Equalization to collect the fire prevention fees, as prescribed. The bill would require, within 30 days of the effective date of its provisions, and each January 1 thereafter, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to transmit to the State Board of Equalization the appropriate names and addresses of persons who are liable for the fire prevention fee and the amount of the fire prevention fee to be assessed by the State Board of Equalization.

The bill would require the State Board of Equalization to collect the fee commencing with the 2011/12 fiscal year. Commencing with the 2012/13 fiscal year, if there are sufficient amounts of moneys in the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund to finance the costs of specified fire prevention activities for a fiscal year, the bill would prohibit the State Board of Equalization from collecting the fee for that fiscal year.

The bill would establish the State Responsibility Area Fire Prevention Fund and would require the fire prevention fees collected, except that portion retained by the State Board of Equalization, to be deposited into the fund and to be available, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for certain specified fire prevention activities, which would benefit the owners of structures in state responsibility areas who are subject to the fire prevention fee, including, but not limited to, covering startup costs, and for the costs of administration, as specified.

The State Board of Equalization would be required to retain and expend, upon appropriation by the Legislature, the funds necessary to pay refunds and for its expenses incurred in collection.

This bill would require the board, on and after January 1, 2013, to submit an annual written report to the Legislature on specified topics.

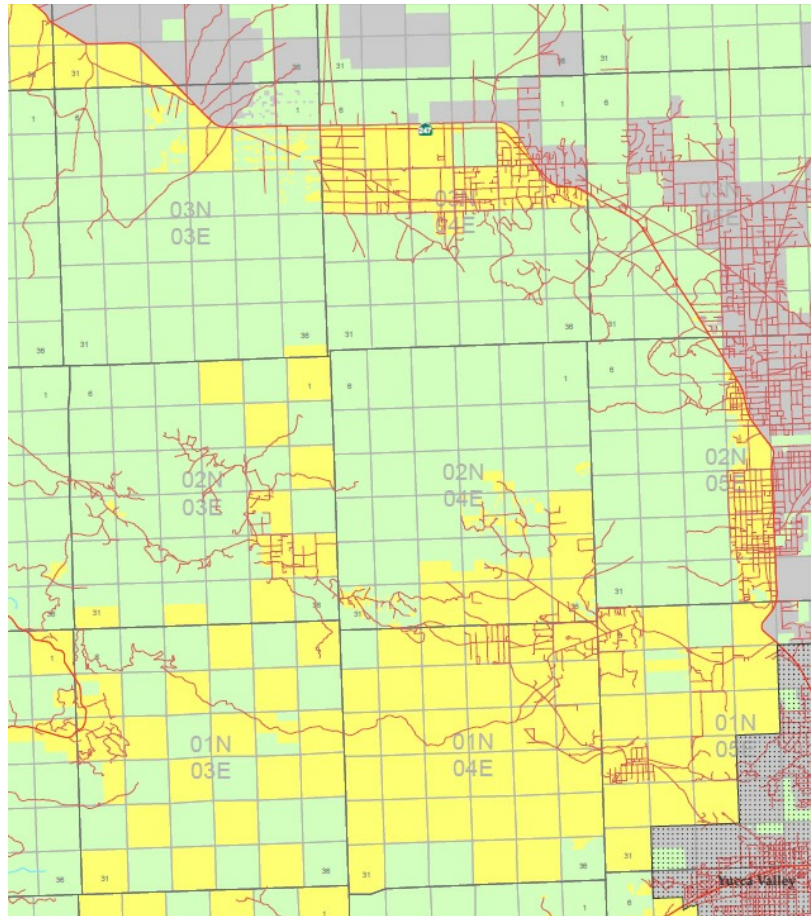
This bill would permit a person from whom a fire prevention fee is determined to be due to use an appeals process and, if applicable, a refund process that would be established by the bill.

The bill would appropriate \$1,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for administrative costs to implement its provisions.

This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as a bill providing for appropriations related to the Budget Bill.

# CAL Fire State Responsibility Areas (SRA)

Johnson Valley  
Flamingo Heights  
Pioneertown  
All in SRA (yellow)



Landers  
YuccaMesa  
Not in SRA

