



Board of Supervisors
Meeting Date: June 11, 2019
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Regular Item

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Requested Action(s)

- a) Request approval of a letter to Senator Jeff Stone, California State Senate, in support of an amendment to Senate Bill 2, Building Homes and Jobs Act, exempting the recording of fees on mining claim holders

Financial Impact:

Tehama County processes very few mining claims so financial impact will be minimal.

Background Information:

California Senate Bill 2, the Building Homes and Jobs Act, was approved on September 29, 2017. It adds a \$75 fee to documents filed with the County Recorder's offices, which goes to support many existing state programs. The County Recorder is responsible for collecting and managing this fee, holding the funds and disbursing it quarterly. The Recorder's Office retains \$3.10 per every document filed with an SB2 fee.

Mining claim holders are required by the Federal government to file their mining claim each year with a \$15 recording fee; SB2 adds an additional \$75. According to a representative of the French Gulch Mining District, one of the results of this added fee is that many mining claim holders are abandoning their claims due to the increasing restrictions and costs to hold the claim. Mining claims are filed on public property and, without a mining claim in effect, the land is open to mining by the public. Some members of the public may be uninformed regarding proper and approved methods of placer mining, possibly resulting in damage to the environment. By contrast, most mining claim holders file a small miner's exemption each year, which requires them to do a minimum of \$100 of work improving their claim. This often consists of maintaining roads and trails, clearing brush, collecting and removing trash and other improvements to the claim.

Attachment List:

SB 2 Public Notice (PDF)
G.C. 27388.1 (PDF)
SB2 Support of Amendment (PDF)