

# ***EAST CONTRA COSTA*** FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

**Brian Helmick**  
Fire Chief



**SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF:**

Bethel Island  
Brentwood  
Byron

Discovery Bay  
Knightsen  
Morgan Territory  
Oakley

August 14, 2019

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 4085  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Senate Bill 13 (Wieckowski) – Oppose**

Dear Senator Wieckowski:

On behalf of the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District, we are writing to you to respectfully voice our opposition to Senate Bill 13. This bill would revise the requirements for an accessory dwelling unit (ADU) by providing that the accessory dwelling unit may be attached to, or located within, an attached garage, storage area, or other structure, amongst other changes.

Senate Bill 13 would prohibit local jurisdictions from imposing any impact fees on ADUs less than 750 square feet and limit the charge on ADUs over 750 square feet to 25 percent of the fees otherwise charged for a new single-family dwelling on the same lot. This completely disregards the Mitigation Fee Act (MFA), which strictly regulates how local agencies impose impact fees. Arbitrarily capping these fees would result in an inability to provide the public improvements and public services necessary to meet the needs of the residents living in the newly constructed ADU.

The East Contra Costa Fire Protection District serves about 115,000 residents and our service area covers roughly 249 square miles. Based on the national standards, fifteen firefighters are required to adequately and safely fight a structure fire, which is more staffing than the District has at any one time, even when partnering with neighboring Protection Districts and CalFire.

We understand that the State is making the production of affordable housing a priority. Our opposition is not a challenge to the need for affordable housing, but a validation of the need for local flexibility when it comes to provide critical public safety. For these reasons, we respectfully oppose Senate Bill 13.

Sincerely,

Brian Helmick  
Fire Chief

CC: Assemblymember Jim Frazier  
Senator Steve Glazer  
Rylan Gervase, Legislative Representative, California Special Districts Association  
Russell Noack, Public Policy Advocates, California Fire Chiefs Association and Fire Districts of California