



COUNCILMEMBER LORIE ZAPF  
COUNCILMEMBER DAVID ALVAREZ

SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY  
EMERGENCIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 31, 2011  
TO: Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies Board  
FROM: Councilmember Lorie Zapf  
Councilmember David Alvarez  
SUBJECT: SAFE Grant Distribution and Motorist Aid Reform

*Lorie Zapf*  
*David Alvarez*

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At the most recent meeting of San Diego Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies, the Board approved the 2011/2012 operating budget and distribution of biennial grants, despite our disapproval. We continue to have strong reservations regarding the manner in which SAFE funds are spent, and have significant concerns with the process by which money is appropriated. We believe SAFE's current process for achieving its mission of callbox service and motorist aid is flawed, and easily allows the Board to stray, not just from the original intent of SAFE's creation, but from the appropriate use of DMV registration fees altogether.

After further investigation of SAFE's spending and funding distribution, our offices have discovered a large disparity between fees collected and service levels for various municipalities around the County of San Diego. Every vehicle registered in the County, regardless of the residence of the owner, is subject to the same \$1 SAFE fee. However, not every driver receives the same level of service from SAFE. The City of San Diego accounts for over 40% of the population of County of San Diego, yet consistently receives markedly disproportionate funding and aid.

Vehicle owners in the City of San Diego only receive approximately 1 cent of aid per vehicle in biennial SAFE grants, while drivers in cities like Carlsbad (\$.28 per vehicle), El Cajon (\$.67), Santee (\$1.79), Lemon Grove (\$3.35), and all others receive substantially higher amounts. Escondido, the second lowest amount-per-vehicle recipient, received over twelve times more funding per-vehicle than the City of San Diego in grants. In short, our constituents are supplementing the services of all other drivers in San Diego County to the tune of 99 cents on the dollar.

It is clear that SAFE needs to address both its current spending as well as its long term continuing operations. We are calling on our SAFE colleagues to join us in seriously reforming SD SAFE; most pressing the process by which SAFE distributes funding and also reexamining the current funding levels.

As a first step towards addressing this present inequity we are asking our fellow SAFE Board members to docket and support a matching grant to the City of San Diego for 1.7 million dollars for the replacement of the City's severely outdated fire alert system. The City of San Diego's fire alert system is a crucial element of rapid response to emergencies around the City and surrounding cities, as well as to emergencies and motorist aid on major County and State roads. Millions of drivers traveling on Interstates 5, 8, and 15 are in danger of delayed emergency responses and serious gaps in motorist aid as long as this emergency alert system remains in its current condition. The City of San Diego has already budgeted 1.7 million dollars to match SAFE's grant, allowing us to replace this outdated system immediately.

Additionally, SAFE's budget process must be fair to all county residents who register vehicles and all spending proposals must rigorously demonstrate how they improve and enhance motorist aid. Jurisdictions within San Diego County should submit spending proposals for motorist aid, and the SAFE board should award funding proportionate to the number of vehicles registered in each jurisdiction.

We strongly believe it is our job to be disciplined proper stewards of the tax dollars we are entrusted with. We believe we must work with our counterparts in our originating municipalities, as well as our partners in the State Legislature, to continuously seek out long term solutions and strive to operate government as efficiently and effectively as possible. Moving forward, we hope this will be the first of many actions taken by the SAFE Board to work with local governments and our State Legislature to strongly push for essential reforms, ultimately spurring a new direction for SD SAFE to help us to better serve the taxpayers of San Diego.

SAFE Bient Motor Aid Grants

Cities

	FY05/06	FY06/07	FY07/08	FY08/09	FY09/10	FY10/11	Total	Population*	Vehicles/Pop.	Apprx. Reg. Vehicles	Total Grant Aid/Reg. Vehicle
Carlsbad	\$ 25,000.00					\$ 25,000.00	105,328	0.8625	90,845	\$	0.28
El Cajon	\$ 8,672.09	\$ 19,476.00	\$ 7,383.67	\$ 1,892.25	\$ 37,817.00	\$ 57,293.00	99,478	0.8625	85,800	\$	0.67
Escondido						\$ 17,948.01	143,911	0.8625	124,123	\$	0.14
Imperial Beach	\$ 24,704.16					\$	26,324	0.8625	22,704	\$	
La Mesa					\$ 40,043.93	\$ 64,748.09	20,648	0.8625	17,809	\$	3.64
Limon Grove	\$ 24,316.00	\$ 24,995.90	\$ 23,489.00	\$ 11,585.00	\$ 31,802.00	\$ 57,065	57,065	0.8625	49,219	\$	0.65
National City	\$ 29,133.44	\$ 7,526.66	\$ 14,279.00	\$ 77,336.86	\$ 36,100.00	\$ 144,112	144,112	0.8625	127,634	\$	0.01
Oceanside	\$ 36,100.00				\$ 13,150.00	\$ 1,307,402	53,413	0.8625	46,069	\$	1.79
San Diego	\$ 12,085.24	\$ 10,363.69	\$ 33,256.81	\$ 26,743.19	\$ 82,448.93	\$ 59,999.95	93,834	0.8625	80,932	\$	0.74
Santee					\$ 21,389.95	\$ 38,610.00					
Vista					\$ 103,575.17	\$ 205,717.12					
Cities Total	\$ 160,010.93	\$ 69,745.92	\$ 103,575.17	\$ 205,717.12	\$ 539,049.14						

\*From 2010 Census Data

Rural Fire Depts

	FY05/06	FY06/07	FY07/08	FY08/09	FY09/10	FY10/11	Total	Population*	Vehicles/Pop.	Apprx. Reg. Vehicles	Total Grant Aid/Reg. Vehicle
Alpine FPD	\$ 23,311.84	\$ 9,985.83	\$ 16,214.45	\$ 49,512.12	15,000	0.8625	12,938	\$	3.83		
Bonrego Springs VFD	\$ 662.69	\$ 4,500	0.8625	3,881	\$				0.17		
Boulevard Fire & Rescue	\$ 10,125.71	\$ 15,580.00	\$ 25,705.71	3,000	0.8625	2,588	\$	9.93			
Campo Fire & Rescue	\$ 35,080.22	\$ 69,886.22	4,100	0.8625	3,536	\$	19.76				
County Fire Authority	\$ 35,323.98	\$ 50,000	0.8625	43,125	\$	0.82					
Deluz VFD *	\$ 35,173.00	\$ 43,981.00	N/A	#VALUE!							
Deer Springs	\$ 16,974.25	\$ 29,532.35	\$ 26,222.10	\$ 100,760.70	13,000	0.8625	11,213	\$	8.99		
East County FD	\$ 18,485.59	\$ 18,485.59	\$ 18,485.59	10,271	0.8625	8,859	\$	2.09			
Elfin Forest/Hr. Grv. FD	\$ 6,917.47	\$ 14,006.42	\$ 17,057.95	N/A	0.8625	#VALUE!					
Invermountain FD *					4,000	0.8625	3,450	\$			
Julian Cuyamaca	\$ 10,541.44	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 9,195.22	\$ 36,736.66	5,000	0.8625	4,313	\$	8.52		
Montezuma Valley VFD	\$ 17,518.00		\$ 10,000.00	\$ 17,518.00	N/A	0.8625	#VALUE!				
Mt. Laguna VFD	\$ 7,265.05	\$ 14,852.95	\$ 2,291.49	\$ 24,409.49	70	0.8625	60	\$	404.30		
North County FPD	\$ 18,859.27		\$ 18,125.36	\$ 36,984.63	45,000	0.8625	38,813	\$	0.95		
Ocotillo Wells VPD *	\$ 15,403.94		\$ 30,000.00	\$ 15,403.94	N/A	0.8625	#VALUE!				
Pine Valley FPD			\$ 10,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	2,200	0.8625	1,898	\$	21.08		
Palomar Mountain VFD						0.8625	#VALUE!				
Rainora FD	\$ 24,284.70	\$ 28,072.77	\$ 52,357.47	20,292	0.8625	17,502	\$	2.99			
Rancho Santa Fe FPD	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 18,485.59	\$ 43,485.59	27,000	0.8625	23,288	\$	1.87			
San Diego Rural FPD	\$ 34,751.25	\$ 19,255.93	\$ 32,406.26	\$ 86,313.44	26,500	0.8625	22,856	\$	3.78		
San Miguel Con. FPD	\$ 20,850.00	\$ 15,555.41	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 76,405.41	124,000	0.8625	106,950	\$	0.71		
San Pasqual FD	\$ 9,304.75	\$ 27,748.54	\$ 37,053.29	N/A	0.8625	#VALUE!					
Shelter Valley *	\$ 18,939.41	\$ 20,564.57	\$ 39,503.98		0.8625	#VALUE!					
Sunshine Summit VFD *					0.8625	#VALUE!					
Valmor Springs VFD *					0.8625	#VALUE!					

# SAFE Biennial Motor Aid Grants

\* Approximations from Fire Dist/Dept

Rural Fire Depts Total	\$ 198,347.90	\$ 231,223.02	\$ 269,888.09	\$ 189,012.74	\$ 888,471.75
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\* Now part of County Fire Authority

## Other

	FY05/06	FY07/08	FY09/10	FY11/12	Total	Population	Vehicles/Pop.	Apprx. Reg. Vehicles	Total Grant Aid/Reg. Vehicle
Accessible San Diego				\$	\$	-	0.8625		
CHP				\$	\$	-	0.8625		
Miramar College				\$	\$	-	0.8625		
CDJ	\$ 25,000.00			\$	\$ 25,000.00	N/A	0.8625		
Heartland Fire Dispatch				\$	\$	-	0.8625		
Viejas FD		\$ 24,783.60		\$ 21,299.00	\$ 46,082.60	-	0.8625		
Other Total	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 24,783.60	\$	\$ 21,299.00	\$ 71,082.60		0.8625		

Biennial MAG Totals	\$ 383,358.83	\$ 325,752.54	\$ 373,463.26	\$ 416,028.86	\$ 1,498,603.49
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## SAFE Special Project Grants

	FY05/06	FY06/07	FY07/08	FY08/09	FY09/10	Total
City of San Diego/Helo	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 375,000	\$ 1,562,500
San Diego County/Helo	\$ 132,833	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 269,966	\$ 1,354,704
SANDAG/Roving ESP Trucks	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000				\$ 1,000,000

2010 SD County Reg. Vehicles	2,669,579
2010 SD County Population	3,095,313
Registered Vehicles/Capita	0.8625