

## **Yolo supervisors slam Sacramento 'crash tax' as mayor stands pat**

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<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/02/02/3370211/yolo-supervisors-slam-sacramento.html#>

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson held firm on the city's new "crash tax," even as Yolo County supervisors denounced the plan to charge out-of-town motorists \$495 when the Fire Department responds to accidents.

"At this point in time, I think we're going to stand true to where we are," Johnson said Tuesday. "If somebody has a better idea, certainly we would like to consider it."

The mayor said the city's budget woes necessitated the fees and he didn't "want to get caught up in a war of words" with neighboring critics.

Across the Sacramento River in Woodland, supervisors had some ideas for Johnson – such as urging Yolo residents to boycott Sacramento businesses.

They also had some choice words for the mayor and other Sacramento City Council members who voted 5-4 last week for the fees.

Supervisor Mike McGowan, a lifelong resident of West Sacramento, fumed on the dais. He called the fees "offensive," "punitive" to outsiders and "plain dumb."

West Sacramentans have long regarded Sacramento as an extension of their community, where they work, shop, dine and pay sales tax, McGowan said.

The supervisor and former city councilman said he's spent years in public life trying to develop collaborations between Sacramento and its Yolo neighbors. The crash fees have rendered vows of friendship meaningless, he said.

"With this single act they stick us in the eye, and they say, 'You know all that was B.S. That when we were looking down our noses at you way before and saying 'West Sac was only good for warehouses and truck stops,' that you still mean it."

McGowan called Sacramento City Council's vote "personally offensive to me and to my community and the people of West Sacramento who every day go across that river to work – every day go over there to go shopping and support their economy."

McGowan said he would no longer spend his money in Sacramento and urged others to do the same. "I'm boycotting 'em," he said. "I hope others will join me."

He suggested Yolo County should cease doing business with Sacramento vendors and that county officials should not attend regional board meetings in Sacramento.

Legal challenges and imposing a retaliatory crash fee on Sacramento residents were other options he said the supervisors could consider. His board colleagues agreed that some action was necessary.

Supervisor Jim Provenza, of Davis, called the fees an inappropriate scheme to raise revenue and suggested the board back a proposed state measure that would outlaw future crash fees.

"It's not about paying for fire services," Provenza said. "It's really a revenue-raising device."

He worried that fire trucks will show up at accidents, even when they aren't needed, to generate funds.

Supervisor Don Saylor, also of Davis, urged lobbying Sacramento council members to reconsider their action.

Board Chairman Matt Rexroad said "the idea of charging only people from outside jurisdictions and not your own residents is just wrong."

In the end, the supervisors agreed to send a formal letter to the Sacramento mayor and City Council asking them to rescind the action.

The board plans to discuss other measures at a future meeting.