

## **Yolo supervisors critical of Sacramento's 'Crash tax'**

Yolo supervisors oppose Sacramento money making idea

By KATHERINE JARVIS / Daily Democrat

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Yolo County Supervisor Matt Rexroad said he and the board intend to fight Sacramento over a proposed "crash tax." (Deo Ferrer/Democrat) The Yolo County Board of Supervisors will fight the city of Sacramento's so-called "crash tax," saying it offends and could hurt Yolo County residents.

The crash tax is an ordinance that was passed by the Sacramento City Council last week that requires out-of-town motorists who crash inside the city to pay the cost of the fire department's response. This cost starts at \$495 for a typical wreck and could increase depending on the size and severity of the accident. Insurance companies will decide who is liable for the charges.

During the board's meeting Tuesday, Chairman Matt Rexroad said the tax is "absolutely outrageous" and Yolo County should impose a similar tax on Sacramento residents.

"The idea of only charging people outside of your county and not your residents is wrong," he said.

While the board did not like Sacramento's crash tax, Supervisors Mike McGowan and Don Saylor said a similar measure in Yolo County might not be the best solution. But it deserves a conversation, McGowan said.

He further proposed the board send a formal correspondence to the Sacramento City Council to rescind the action. McGowan said he thinks Sacramento should address its budget shortfalls in a way that isn't a double standard.

"The politics are just plain dumb," he said, referring to what led to the vote.

McGowan also addressed the crash tax from the perspective as the supervisor for the West Sacramento area. He said many West Sacramento residents go to Sacramento to work, shop and dine and downtown Sacramento is seen as "an extension of (their) community."

There is also the potential for liability when county supervisors or other county employees go to Sacramento on business in the case there is an accident. McGowan, who is also first vice-president for the California Association of Counties, said he would try to move the meetings out of Sacramento.

Supervisor Jim Provenza also brought up the potential issue that Sacramento firefighters might respond to every accident, regardless of size or severity, because the crash tax is a revenue-raising device.

"I think this goes over the line what is a legitimate way to raise revenue," he said.

Provenza said the board should look at all options in addressing the tax, including writing a letter to Sacramento, and place the issue on a future agenda for further discussion.