

## Delo Freitas

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**From:** Colin Fiske <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 12:51 PM  
**To:** Peter Lehman; Scott Davies; Christian Figueroa; Judith Mayer; Dan Tangney; Julie Vaissade-Elcock; Matthew Simmons  
**Cc:** David Loya  
**Subject:** Fire District Finances

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Planning Commissioners,

At your last meeting, there was extensive discussion about the Arcata Fire District's funding and how funding restrictions affect its firefighting capacity. I believe that the Commission may have been left with the incorrect impression that the parcel taxes which largely fund AFD are flat-rate - that is, that each parcel pays the same amount regardless of what is built on it. In fact, [the amount of the Measure F parcel tax](#) varies according to the relative cost of fire protection for different types of structures. Rates are currently set as follows:

Vacant parcel	\$30/year
Single-family home	\$118/year
Rural residential	\$192/year
Multifamily (2-4 units)	\$309/year
Multifamily (5-9 units)	\$388/year
Multifamily (10+ units)	\$465/year
Commercial	\$546/year
Industrial	\$910/year
Retail (10,000+ sf)	\$910/year
Mobile homes	\$90/year

I am not an expert in firefighting or fire protection policy, but I assume that AFD set these rates appropriately to reflect the cost of fighting fires in various types of different structures. Regardless, the ability of a fire district to charge a higher parcel tax based on the cost to defend the types of structure built on that parcel suggests a clear solution to AFD's apparent capacity problem. If the rates they have currently set are not sufficient for taller multifamily buildings, those rates can be reset in the future so that everyone is paying their fare share for fire protection and AFD can afford the staffing and equipment needed.

If there is a temporary gap in adequate funding for fire protection - as AFD's presentation suggests there might be for existing buildings like Sorrel Place - AFD also has the ability to issue bonds or otherwise acquire debt to allow adequate capacity in the near term, and then pay off that debt with parcel taxes or other revenues.

I hope this helps inform any future conversations on this issue.

Thank you.

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Colin Fiske (he/him)  
Executive Director  
Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities  
[www.transportationpriorities.org](http://www.transportationpriorities.org)

## Delo Freitas

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**From:** David Loya  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 2:03 PM  
**To:** Janette Heartwood  
**Subject:** RE: Form Based Code

Thank you, Janette.

Was that you on the meeting last night? I wondered.

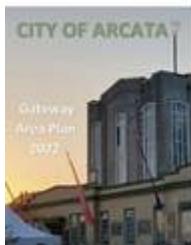
I appreciate your input. I acknowledge the challenge of avoiding the cookie cutter impact of a FBC, but I think we can rise to the challenge to ensure that buildings have thoughtful design.

David Loya (him)  
Community Development Director  
City of Arcata  
p. 707-825-2045

I acknowledge my residence in Goudi'ni (Arcata), part of the ancestral territory of the Wiyot peoples. I offer my reconciliation and respect to their elders past and present.

<https://www.wiyot.us/162/Wiyot-Placename-Video>

To grow opportunity and build community equitably.



Exciting work is happening in the **Arcata Gateway** – 138 acres once used for mostly industrial purposes. The **Arcata Gateway Plan** allows innovative residential development, using streamlined permitting while protecting working forests, ag lands, open space and natural resources. You are encouraged to take part in the public process that will affect the City for years to come.

**READ THE GATEWAY PLAN**

**Learn More About Public Meetings and Planning**

Some services, such as water bills and police services, are available on-call. Please check our website [www.cityofarcata.org](http://www.cityofarcata.org) for the latest information on accessing City services.

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**From:** Janette Heartwood [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2023 12:43 PM  
**To:** David Loya <dloya@cityofarcata.org>  
**Subject:** Form Based Code

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hello David,

I'm hesitant to support a Form Based Code for the Arcata Gateway Project because "Play by the Rules" could bring buildings that reflect cookie cutter designs rather than interesting, **site specific solutions** imagined by creative Architects.

For Developers, the alternative of full Design Review may seem unfair and too much hassle.

**Solar Orientation and Specific Location** have major impacts on individual buildings.

South and south/south/west facades can hold **Vertically Mounted Solar Panels**.

Residents benefit from **Wall Gardens for Edible Crops** when placed in easy to maintain locations.

Walls in other locations are great for **murals**.

All good wishes,  
Janette Heartwood