

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Holly L. Heinzen, Interim County Executive Officer
by: Rui Cunha, Assistant Director of Emergency Services

Date: April 10, 2012

Subject: **Adopt a resolution approving the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement for Fiscal Year 2012/13 in the amount of \$8,605,211.**
Authorize the Chairman to sign five copies of the Agreement.

ACTION REQUESTED

That your Board:

- Adopt a resolution approving the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement (CAL FIRE Contract) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2012/13 in the amount of \$8,605,211;
- Authorize the Chairman to sign five copies of the Agreement.

BACKGROUND

Fire protection in unincorporated Placer County is provided by twelve independent fire protection districts and by the County itself through a contract with CAL FIRE. CAL FIRE provides fire protection; prevention; emergency medical; hazardous materials and all hazard incident response in addition to dispatch services.

History

Fire protection services in the unincorporated county have been provided by Placer County since the late 1940's. Initially, the County funded a single firefighter operating principally in the Lincoln area who, while maintaining and operating a single fire truck, responded to fires with local volunteers. Over the years the system has grown with the addition of fire service zones of benefit, adding both volunteer and fully staffed stations to the Placer County Fire system.

Current System

Residents of the Placer County Fire area contribute directly to year-round, all-hazard fire and emergency services over approximately 475 square miles of unincorporated county area, or nearly one third of the County. The area served has a population of approximately 45,000, and service is provided by both full time and volunteer firefighters. The CAL FIRE contract pays for 62 full time equivalent firefighters operating from eight fully staffed, 24-hour/day fire stations located in Alta, Colfax, Bowman, North Auburn, Ophir, Lincoln, the Sunset Industrial Area, and Dry Creek.

Approximately 100 volunteer firefighters operate out of the paid stations listed above and from six community volunteer stations located in Dutch Flat, Fowler, Paige, Thermalands, Dry Creek and Sheridan. Included in the estimated \$20,000,000 in County-owned property and equipment are over 50 County-owned fire engines, support vehicles and trailers.

During Calendar Year (CY) 2011, Placer County Fire responded to 4,918 calls for service including 3,683 calls for medical aid, 81 vegetation fires, 58 structure fires, 553 other fire related calls (including vehicle fires and illegal control burns as examples) and 543 other types of calls including rescues, public assist, hazardous materials, as examples.

In addition, CAL FIRE manages the City of Colfax Volunteer Fire Department and assists the city with its fire inspection and land development functions. These services are fully funded by the City of Colfax in a separate agreement with the County.

FISCAL IMPACT

Overview

The FY 12/13 contract amount of \$8,605,211 is reduced by just over \$28,000 compared to last year's contract amount. The decrease is primarily due to nearly a half percentage decline in the administrative rate that is charged in the contract (11.96% to 11.51%). The final FY 11/12 contract amount was \$8,633,428. Similar to the FY 11/12 contract the FY 12/13 contract reflects a charge to manage the Foresthill bridge fire mitigation fuel reduction project which significantly reduces the risk of fire starting under the bridge while the retrofit project is ongoing.

The projected General Fund contribution to the FY11/12 contract is \$690,301 or just under 8% of the total contract value. The projected General Fund contribution to the FY12/13 contract is \$675,626 or just under 7.9% of the total contract value.

The contract is fully funded in the Fire Control Fund. Two fire service zones of benefit are no longer able to meet their service level costs with ongoing revenues requiring the use of limited reserves to balance in FY 11/12.

CSA, Zone of Benefit Funding Shortfalls

Both the Dry Creek and North Auburn Ophir Fire zones of benefit are expected to have revenue shortfalls of \$216,068 and \$359,843 respectively. The budgets for both fire service zones of benefit are balanced for FY 12/13 using reserves that have been accumulated over several years for contingencies and for facilities, apparatus and equipment replacement. Recently completed studies for both Dry Creek and North Auburn Ophir Fire had projected using approximately \$154,000 and \$270,000 from reserves in FY 12/13. While the proposed FY 12/13 budget shortfalls are higher than projected, these budget shortfalls do not account for the likelihood of fund balance roll-over from FY 11/12.

Board of Supervisors
CAL FIRE Contract 2012-2013
Assistant Director of Emergency Services
April 10, 2012

Next Steps

Measure D for North Auburn Ophir Fire is on the June 5 ballot. With passage of Measure D, the North Auburn Ophir Fire communities will ensure the long-term viability of their fire protection and emergency medical services. As the CAL FIRE contract requires Placer County to notice CAL FIRE one year in advance of any service reductions, Placer County delivered notice to CAL FIRE this past January, informing CAL FIRE that they are to reduce staffing effective January 1, 2013 if Measure D is not successful. If service reductions are required and approved by the Board, CAL FIRE is to reduce staffing so as to create \$285,000 in savings in FY 12/13 and \$570,000 in savings in future years. It is likely that these savings will reduce staffing in North Auburn Ophir Fire from 6 to 4 firefighters on duty.

Staff is not recommending any further action in Dry Creek through FY 13/14. Staff will continue to monitor fiscal challenges in Dry Creek Fire.

Available for Public Review at the Office of the Clerk of the Board

Placer County/California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Contract FY 11/12.

Attachment

Resolution

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement for Fiscal Year 2012/13 in the amount of \$8,605,211 – **available for public review at the Office of the Clerk of the Board.**

Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

In the matter of:

Resol. No: _____

A RESOLUTION RENEWING THE COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012-2013 (CAL FIRE CONTRACT)

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **APRIL 10, 2012** by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chair, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Clerk of said Board _____

WHEREAS, all-hazard emergency response, including wildland fire response and structural fire protection in the unincorporated areas of Placer County is provided by twelve independent fire districts and fire departments and as well as by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) under terms of its contract with the County of Placer; and

WHEREAS, your Board annually contracts with CAL FIRE to provide integrated, year-round fire protection and emergency medical response in approximately 475 square miles of unincorporated County area not protected by fire departments and independent fire protection districts; and

WHEREAS, fire protection in the area covered by this contract is provided through an integrated system comprising eight fully staffed 24-hour/day fire stations and six community volunteer stations at which CAL FIRE also provides operational supervision and training.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer, that the Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement between the County of Placer and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 in the amount of \$8,605,211 is hereby approved, and that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to sign five copies of the contract.

RESOLVED FURTHER, the Clerk of the Board of the County of Placer shall certify the adoption of this resolution, and thenceforth and thereafter the same shall be in full force and effect.