

**PLACER COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** David Boesch, County Executive Officer  
by Rui Cunha, Assistant Director, Emergency Services

**DATE:** October 23, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Authorization to Accept the *Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response* (SAFER) Grant in the Amount of \$1,197,134 with no Matching Requirements.

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Authorize staff to accept the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) award of *Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response* (SAFER) Grant No. EMW-2012-FH-00263 with a total project cost of \$1,197,134.00 and a total Federal share of \$1,197,134.00.

**BACKGROUND**

As the Board is aware, fiscal issues continue to plague North Auburn/Ophir Fire (NAOF) within the Placer County Fire system. Declining property tax revenues led to placing a vote for a special assessment on the last election ballot in order to ensure maintaining existing service levels. However, the item was defeated, and therefore the decision was made to close Station 182 in Ophir in order to meet existing NAOF budget requirements. Closure of any station impacts service levels and has the additional potential impact of causing steep increases in insurance rates to individuals within the fire service area. In an effort to delay an impact of this magnitude, Placer County Fire submitted an application to FEMA for a SAFER grant which provides fire staffing for Station 182 for two full years.

In a recent correspondence, dated October 5, 2012, the Assistant Administrator of the FEMA Grant Programs Directorate confirmed Placer County successful application of the 2012 SAFER grant. By accepting Grant No. EMW-2012-FH-00263, Placer County is committing to comply with: DHS Standard Administrative Terms and Conditions; Federal Financial Requirements; Programmatic Reporting Requirements and guarantee no layoffs within the Placer County Fire system during the period of the grant. Placer County complies routinely with all Federal administrative terms and conditions, financial and programmatic requirements through the various Federal grants that are applied for annually. Based on studies completed in 2011, staff has determined that the Board can make the "no layoffs" assurance based on projected levels of service and revenues throughout the Placer County Fire system.

As presented to the Board in December 2011, revenues in the Dry Creek Fire and Emergency Medical Services Zone of Benefit are not meeting the full cost of services and make payments against the zone's long term debt. Staff indicated that this condition would have to be confirmed and a course of action formulated in the FY 14/15 timeframe for likely implementation in FY 15/16. This is well past the end date of the SAFER grant for NAOF.

As presented to your Board on September 11, 2012, while it is possible that conditions could occur that are outside the control of the Board of Supervisors, the SAFER grant guidelines offer grant recipients the opportunity to request a waiver of assurances due to conditions beyond our control. FEMA's approval of a waiver would eliminate Placer County's liability associated with the grant.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no direct fiscal impact as a result of this action. It is staff's assessment that the risk of any potential future fiscal impact is very low and is largely mitigated through a FEMA waiver process.

**Attachment**

Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program Guidance -  
(Available for review at the Clerk of the Board's Office)