

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer
by Brett Storey, Senior Management Analyst

DATE: January 27, 2009

SUBJECT: Approve a Resolution for a Joint Placer/Nevada County USFS Tahoe National Forest Resource Advisory Committee to support the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 Title II (Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination) Program.

ACTION REQUESTED

That your Board approve by resolution to support a joint Placer/Nevada County USFS Tahoe National Forest Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) to be run by the Tahoe National Forest in support of Title II funding.

BACKGROUND

The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (which includes the new Secure Rural Schools program) was enacted in October of 2008. With this new program Placer County now has access to Title II funding which we did not have under the old law. Title II funding is to be used to support restorative projects on or beneficial to federal land in the county. This portion of the act (for federal fiscal years 2008 through 2011) was implemented in order to offset the effect of decreased revenues to counties from declining timber harvests and other income generating activities on federal lands. On November 12, 2008 CEO Tom Miller sent a letter to the USFS indicating that Placer County accepts the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act funding in the following apportionment; Title I 80%, Title II 13%, and Title III 7% of the total allocation. This allocation will be reduced annually until 2011 when the program is projected to end. The County will receive \$199,000 this year for Title II funding. Nevada County will have a separate amount of funding during this period.

This new legislation requires that a RAC be created and filled with a variety of stakeholders if a county chooses to utilize Title II funding. Due to the small amount of money and the large amount of work the USFS will need to create, manage, and monitor the RAC (and the projects) Placer County was approached by the USFS to consider a joint RAC, for the Tahoe National Forest which covers both counties. The alternative would be for the USFS to maintain a separate RAC, for each county.

Staff believes that this will serve in the best interest of all parties and be the most efficient solution. The Resolution clearly states that the RAC will be filled with at least 50% of Placer County residents or businesspersons and that the funding allotted for

Placer County will be used for projects in our county. Further it states that priority should be given to projects that are contained within any of the BOS approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plans and the Wildfire Protection, and Biomass Utilization Strategic Plan to ensure the funding is spent in accordance with the BOS previous priorities regarding fire mitigation.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of this action.

Attachments

Resolution

Letter from Tom Quinn, Forest Supervisor Tahoe National Forest Requesting action

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

In the matter of: **A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
JOINT PLACER/NEVADA COUNTY USFS TAHOE
NATIONAL FOREST RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FOR PURPOSES OF PROVIDING RECOMMENDATIONS
TO TITLE II FUNDING OF PROJECTS FOR THE SECURE
RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY
SELF-DETERMINATION PROGRAM OF 2008.**

Resol. No: _____

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **JANUARY 27, 2009** by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest:

Clerk of said Board _____

WHEREAS Placer County recognizes the threat that catastrophic wildfires pose and that undertaking fire mitigation actions will reduce the potential for harm to people and property from future wildfire occurrences within our communities; and

WHEREAS Placer County has participated fully in the fire mitigation planning process with multiple fire districts and fire safe councils for years to prepare and support the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, Community Wildfire Protection Plans and the Wildfire Protection and Biomass Utilization Strategic Plan; and

WHEREAS Placer County would desire that projects be funded as priorities in accordance with the above approved Placer County Board of Supervisors plans; and

WHEREAS Placer County recognizes that participating in the *Joint Placer/Nevada County USFS Tahoe National Forest Resource Advisory Committee* is the most efficient way to meet Emergency Economic Stabilization Act requirements associated with the allocation of Title II apportionments; and

WHEREAS Placer County's interests will be adequately represented on the USFS Tahoe National Forest Resource Advisory Committee with Placer County residents or businesspersons and that all of the Title II funding received on behalf of Placer County must be used within Placer County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the County of Placer that Placer County's participation and support for the *Joint Placer/Nevada County USFS Tahoe National Forest Resource Advisory Committee* is hereby granted to solely support the allocation of Title II funding through the termination period of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Tahoe
National
Forest

631 Coyote Street
Nevada City, CA
95959-2250
530-265-4531
530-478-6118 TDD
530-478-6109 FAX

File Code: 6540

Date: December 16, 2008

Brett Storey
Senior Management Analyst
Placer County Executive Office
2968 Richardson
Auburn, CA 95603

RECEIVED

DEC 17 2008

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Dear Mr. ^{Brett}Storey:

The purpose of this letter is to follow up on our phone call between you, Rick Haffey from Nevada County, and the Forest Service regarding the formation of a joint Nevada/Placer County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). In our discussion, there was general agreement for forming a joint Nevada/Placer County RAC, with some stipulations. It was also suggested that the County Boards of Supervisors formally approve the concept of a joint RAC.

We also discussed that both counties would generally like to keep the funding separate for projects in their respective counties, unless there were special circumstances agreed to by the counties and the RAC. This request could be made via letters to the RAC from the Board or in any resolutions passed by the Boards.

It is anticipated that it will take some time to formally appoint the RAC and to start the project approval process. See below for a rough time line and the steps necessary to formally appoint the RAC members by the Secretary of Agriculture:

1. Recommend a joint Placer/Nevada County Resource Advisory Committee. Suggest that both Counties formally approve the concept of a joint County RAC - Placer and Nevada County Resolution or letter of consent (possibly early January, 2009).
2. After the above approval, develop a news release inviting the public to apply to the Forest Service for position on the Resource Advisory Committee (possibly early January - include a 3-week application period) - Forest Service to complete.
3. Meet with representatives from both Counties to recommend members for the RAC (possibly early Feb) - Forest Service to initiate meeting.
4. Mail notification of nomination letters to potential RAC members and Department of Agriculture background check forms (AD755) (possibly mid February) - Forest Service.



5. Forward slate of nominees and AD755 forms to Forest Service Washington Office for formal RAC appointment by Secretary of Agriculture (possibly early March) - Forest Service.
6. Department of Agriculture to review background information and make formal appointments for each interest/category meeting the requirements of the legislation. (estimate 2 months) - Department of Agriculture/Forest Service Washington Office.
7. After formal appointments are made, notify newly appointed RAC members and schedule first meeting (possibly) for mid May. Purpose of meeting: to explain role of the RAC, develop guiding principles, and elect chair of RAC; Forest Service in consultation with Counties.
8. Hold first meeting to vote on RAC protocols, elect chair, decide on next meeting date at least 6 weeks later to vote on project proposals - Forest Service to host meeting in consultation with Counties.
9. Mail news release requesting proposals and project review date - Forest Service.
10. Schedule second RAC meeting to vote on proposals (possibly mid June) - Forest Service in consultation with RAC.
11. Hold second RAC meeting and vote on proposals. Schedule next RAC meeting if needed. Forest Service and RAC to host.
12. Forward proposals to the Counties for concurrence - (possibly end of July) - RAC Chair.
13. Approve projects for funding - Tahoe National Forest Supervisor for Secretary of Agriculture - (possibly end of July).
14. Work to begin initiating projects - grants/agreements developed, contracts initiated - (possibly in early August)

The RAC itself is composed of 15 members and 3 replacement members representing various interests. See the following table for a list of interests. If at all possible, RAC members should be appointed representing most all interests listed below.

Category A	Category B	Category C
— Organized labor or non-timber forest product harvester groups	— Nationally recognized environmental organizations	— Hold State elected office or their designee
— Developed outdoor recreation, off highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities;	— Regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations	— Hold county or local elected office
Energy and mineral development interests; or commercial or	— Dispersed recreational activities	— American Indian tribes within or adjacent to committee area

recreational fishing interests		
— Commercial timber industry	— Archaeological and historical interests	— School officials or teachers
— Hold Federal grazing or other land use permits, or represent non-industrial private forest land owners, within the area for which the committee is organized	— Nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups, wildlife or hunting organizations, or watershed associations	— Represent the affected public at large.

We are pleased to be working with both Nevada and Placer Counties for this new RAC. Since the first round of RAC's were established, many wonderful projects have been approved benefiting National Forest/county watersheds and ecosystems, improved roads, trails, and infrastructure, and restored wildlife and fish habitat. If you have any questions regarding the process or the legislation, please give me a call at (530) 478-6200 or contact Ann Westling, Public Affairs Officer for the Forest at (530) 478-6205. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



TOM QUINN
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures