

PLACER COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

MEMORANDUM

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Thomas Miller, County Executive Officer  
by: Rui Cunha, Emergency Services Program Manager

**Date:** January 11, 2011

**Subject:** Adopt a resolution approving the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement for Fiscal Year 2010/11 in the amount of \$8,608,686.

Authorize the Chairman to sign four copies of the Agreement.

Authorize the extended period payments into next fiscal year in accordance with Exhibit C item 3B of the contract.

---

**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) 2010/11 in the amount of \$8,608,686, an increase of 2.5%;
- Authorize the Chairman to sign four copies of the Agreement.
- Authorize the extended period payments into next fiscal year in accordance with Exhibit C item 3B of the contract.

**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. The CAL FIRE contract provides the following fire protection services: wildland, structure and vehicle fire suppression, all-hazard accident, hazardous materials, and medical aid response, and provision of 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. Between the early 1950's and late 1970's, County fire protection grew to the point that services were being provided from six stations in Lincoln, Penryn, Foresthill, Bowman, Colfax and Alta. By 1979 the County's contract with CAL FIRE had grown to \$368,136 of which the General Fund contributed approximately 55%.

In the twenty years between 1980 and 2000 the County continued to contract for fire protection services and by the year 2000, fire protection was being provided by fully staffed stations in Lincoln, Bowman, Colfax and Alta, and from five volunteer stations in Dutch Flat, Fowler, Paige, Thermalands and Sheridan. The value of the CAL FIRE contract had likewise grown to \$986,886 of which the General Fund contributed 45%.

Placer County assumed fire protection services in the Dry Creek Fire Protection District area (now Zone of Benefit 165) in 2001 after voters approved dissolution of that District. But, as revenues accruing in Dry Creek were initially insufficient to fully fund fire protection, a loan from the General Fund covered the difference between revenues and expenses between 2001 and 2005. However, by FY 2005/06 repayment of the General Fund loan began and is currently continuing.

In early 2003, the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) solicited and ultimately entered into a formal agreement with Placer County for fire protection and advanced life support services for its Thunder Valley Casino on Athens Avenue in the Sunset Industrial Area. Beginning in 2003 services were provided from a station funded and built by the UAIC at the Casino, and the UAIC continues to fully fund annual operations and maintenance costs.

In 2006 and acting at the request of the Placer Consolidated Fire Protection District Board of Directors, Placer County Fire assumed responsibility for providing fire protection services in the former Placer Consolidated area which was subsequently renamed *North Auburn/Ophir Fire* (NA/OF) (Zone of Benefit 193). FY 2006/07 was the first full year of operations for NA/OF. The addition of the North Auburn and Ophir stations, as well as an engine company at the Bowman Station added over \$2,000,000 to the contract cost. Revenues from the North Auburn, Ophir and Lone Star communities were adequate to cover additional costs at the time that Placer County assumed service provision.

Lastly, in 2008 the UAIC agreed to expand services at the Casino station in order to ensure adequate resourcing of public safety at the Casino as well as in the surrounding area. This expansion, completed over time, currently provides 24 hour/day staffing by both a three person engine company and a four person truck company. The Casino continues to fully fund personnel and operations, while Placer County and the remainder of the Sunset Industrial Area contribute to the costs for command, management and apparatus replacement.

### **Current System**

Placer County provides 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 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.

Board of Supervisors  
CAL FIRE Contract 2010-2011  
Program Manager, Office of Emergency Services  
January 11, 2011

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, Lone Star 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.

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.

### **EXTENDED PERIOD PAYMENTS**

By authorizing the extended period payments in accordance with Exhibit C, Section 3B of the contract, your Board is authorizing Placer County to pay CAL FIRE invoices for fire service into that portion of the next fiscal year when this contract has expired and a new contract is pending signature. It is staff's analysis that by signing this contract we are communicating our intent to continue service into the next fiscal year. However, the County retains the option to communicate by separate letter any intent to modify service as deemed appropriate.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The contract amount of \$8,608,686 represents a \$125,164 reduction in the contract amount envisioned in Final Budget. This reduction is due to CAL FIRE employee negotiated benefit reductions. The final amended FY 09/10 contract amount was \$8,444,341. While the year-over-year contract costs are increased by \$164,345, these increases are principally attributable to this being the first full fiscal year where all increases in service level at the Casino Station are charged in the contract. In FY 09/10 these charges were applied to only 10 of the 12 months due to timing of service level increases. In addition, the FY 10/11 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 FY10/11 contract is \$550,615 or just under 6.4% of the total contract value.

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

Placer County/California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Contract FY 10/11

### **Attachment**

Resolution

# 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 2010-2011 (CAL FIRE CONTRACT)**

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **January 11, 2011** 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**, all-hazard emergency response, including wildland fire response and structural fire protection in the unincorporated areas of Placer County is provided by 12 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 2010-2011 in the amount of \$8,608,686 is hereby approved, and that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to sign four 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.