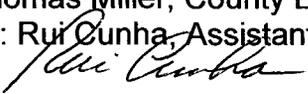


**PLACER COUNTY  
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Thomas Miller, County Executive Officer  
by: Rui Cunha, Assistant Director of Emergency Services  


**Date:** May 3, 2011

**Subject:** **Adopt a resolution approving the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement for Fiscal Year 2011/12 in the amount of \$8,633,428.**  
**Authorize the Chairman to sign four copies of the Agreement.**

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**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) 2011/12 in the amount of \$8,633,428, an increase of less than 0.3%;
- Authorize the Chairman to sign four 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. 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. 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**

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 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.

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 11/12 contract amount of \$8,633,428 represents a \$24,742 increase in the contract amount over last year. This increase is due to CAL FIRE benefit rate increases. The final amended FY 10/11 contract amount was \$8,608,686. In addition, the FY 11/12 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. The projected General Fund contribution to the FY11/12 contract is \$690,301 or just under 8% 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 \$193,279 and \$521,350 respectively. The budgets for both fire service zones of benefit are balanced for FY 11/12 using reserves that have been accumulated over several years for contingencies and for facilities, apparatus and equipment replacement. As both Dry Creek and North Auburn Ophir Fire have been significantly impacted by reduced property values in their respective areas, it is staff's assessment that property tax revenues will not meet service level costs for the foreseeable future.

Limited reserves in both Dry Creek and North Auburn Ophir Fire could be used to balance each zones budget through FY's 13/14 and 12/13 respectively. Use of

reserves to pay for ongoing operations this coming fiscal year and into the future, however, ensures that necessary apparatus and equipment will not be replaced as scheduled, adding to the fire service cost of operations.

**Next Steps**

As presented at the final Budget Workshop, April 5, staff will prepare two study efforts, one that focuses on the future of fire service in Dry Creek and the second that focuses on an assessment of North Auburn Ophir Fire's level of service and necessary revenues to support an appropriate service level. Simultaneously, staff will visit community groups and work on community outreach efforts to make all affected communities aware of fire service challenges. These actions should culminate with a presentation and recommendations for the Board at the final budget workshops this coming August. Staff will implement the Board's direction over the remainder of the fiscal year.

**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

# 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 2011-2012 (CAL FIRE CONTRACT)**

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **May 3, 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 2011-2012 in the amount of \$8,633,428 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.