

**MEMORANDUM**  
**OFFICE OF THE**  
**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**COUNTY OF PLACER**

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Jennifer Montgomery, Supervisor District 5  
**DATE:** July 12, 2011

**SUBJECT: LETTER** – Authorize the Chairman to sign a letter on behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors requesting that the Department of Interior authorize the Bureau of Reclamation the use of Wildland Fire Management Funds for trail and fuel reduction work in the Auburn State Recreation Area.

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**ACTION REQUESTED**

Authorize the Chairman to sign a letter on behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors requesting that the Department of Interior authorize the Bureau of Reclamation the use of Wildland Fire Management Funds for trail and fuel reduction work in the Auburn State Recreation Area.

**BACKGROUND**

The Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) lies primarily in federal lands managed by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Auburn-Folsom south unit. In the past, the BOR had agreements with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) to provide fuel management and fire suppression for the trails in the (ASRA). Those agreements have expired yet the need for these services remains.

The Board is being asked to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter to Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior in support of the BOR to utilizing funds from the Wildland Fire Management Funds to provide trail and fuel reduction work in the Auburn State Recreation Area.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None

**ATTACHMENT**

Letter to Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior

# County of Placer Board of Supervisors

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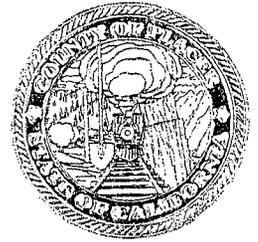
JACK DURAN  
District 1

ROBERT M. WEYGANDT  
District 2

JIM HOLMES  
District 3

KIRK UHLER  
District 4

JENNIFER MONTGOMERY  
District 5



July 12, 2011

Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

Re: Statement in support of BOR use of the Wildland Fire Management Funds

Dear Secretary Salazar,

As you are no doubt aware, the Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) lies primarily in federal lands managed by the Bureau of Reclamation Auburn-Folsom South unit, which does not have an agency Wildland fire fighting capability. For a number of years the Bureau of Reclamation had agreements with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) to provide fuels management and fire suppression in the ASRA, however those long term agreements expired several years ago.

Several years ago, a major fire in the ASRA resulted in direct costs of over \$1 million to CALFIRE which had to be paid out of dwindling operations and maintenance funds over a period of years resulting in cutbacks to normal operations. Had the Bureau of Reclamation been eligible to utilize the Department of the Interior's Wildland Fire Management Funds these vital normal operations and maintenance funds might not have been diverted.

Authorization for the Bureau of Reclamation to utilize the Wildland Fire Management Funds would have the benefit of permitting the Bureau to more easily participate in your recently announced America's Great Outdoors initiative by allowing youth organizations such as the California Conservation Corps (CCC) to assist in fuels management in the American River canyon and the maintenance and building of new trails in these public lands.

Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar  
Re: Statement in support of BOR use of the Wildland Fire Management Funds  
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Communities along the rim of the American River canyon in Placer and El Dorado counties face an ongoing threat of a catastrophic forest fire which could result in the loss of life and significant economic damage to the area.

Therefore, I appeal to you to make the Bureau of Reclamation eligible for use of Wildland Fire Management Funds as quickly as possible.

Respectfully,

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Robert M. Weygandt  
Chairman, Placer County Board of Supervisors

JM:RC:dw

