

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: David Boesch, County Executive Officer
by Rui Cunha, OES Program Director

DATE: April 9, 2013

SUBJECT: **Adopt a Resolution approving the 2013 update of the *Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the West Slope of the Sierra Nevada in Placer County***

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Adopt the attached resolution approving the 2013 update of the *Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the West Slope of the Sierra Nevada in Placer County*; and
2. Authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the signature page signifying agreement with the plan that supports a prioritized process for securing funding based on rigorously determined and documented risks and benefits.

BACKGROUND

On September 8, 2009 the Board authorized funding for Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) work associated with the newly formed Greater Lincoln Fire Safe Council planning area. On June 21, 2011 the Board authorized the remaining funding to complete west slope plan, encompassing all four Fire safe Council planning areas. The FSC areas include:

- 1) Iowa Hill/Foresthill FSC Planning Area
- 2) Placer Sierra FSC Planning Area (includes City of Colfax, and areas covered by Weimar-Applegate-Colfax Area Municipal Advisory Council and Meadow Vista Municipal Advisory Council)
- 3) Greater Auburn FSC Planning Area (includes the City of Auburn, and the areas comprising North Auburn/Ophir Fire, Bowman and Christian Valley)
- 4) Greater Lincoln FSC Planning Area (coincides with the existing Placer County Conservation Plan boundaries)

A contract was awarded to Anchor Point Group (APG) on March 2, 2012. APG, representing Placer County, in collaboration with the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance (Alliance) established a team to provide direction and input to the document. The first actions were to take input from pertinent fire agencies and districts, Fire Safe Councils and local groups associated with fire mitigation and resource management activities in Placer County. These actions included the establishment of a collaborative, information sharing web site (Base Camp) that included a County wide survey to solicit input from the local community members and organizations. The request for public input to the survey was distributed to local media, Placer Country web site and local Post Offices on May 25, 2012. From this survey, priorities and potential project needs were determined. A total of 41 individuals contributed to the first phase of the document development. After the first draft was released, the Fire Safe Alliance under Placer County OES leadership established a policy review committee consisting of one individual from each Alliance Core Team organizations (USFS, BLM, BOR, Cal Fire, and Placer County OES) and one member representing each of the FSC's. This core team acted as the gateway between APG

and the local contributors to the document. The second draft was released on October 18, 2012, the final draft on November 15, 2012, and the final printed document on January 14, 2013. Since the release of the final printed document, the Placer County Fire Mitigation Coordinator has presented the document to the Western Placer County Fire Chief's Association, each of the western slope Municipal Advisory Councils and all western slope Fire Safe Councils. Each organization voiced their support for the document, with each FSC and Alliance core team agencies signing the CWPP signature page.

Since the release of the original 2007 CWPP, Cal Fire data documents eight major fires totaling 25,645 acres, destroying 67 residences. The updated CWPP not only focuses on strategic fuel breaks to better protect these communities, but takes the effort of prevention and public education into the communities themselves. Each FSC area has identified specific community recommendations, detailed areas of special interest (ASI), and critical infrastructure.

Purpose of the CWPP

The CWPP is a collaborative effort between Placer County and our Federal, State and Local partners in fire prevention/mitigation. This rigorous planning effort is a guidebook to making all fire prone communities a little safer as identified projects are implemented.

The CWPP defines specific fire hazards in designated planning areas, assesses the values at risk and identifies/prioritizes specific mitigation projects to protect local communities. Projects include, among other things, rehabilitation and restoration of habitat, hazardous fuels reduction, and public education.

The completion of a CWPP for the West Slope of the Sierra Nevada is essential to gaining access to private non-profit, federal and state grant funds such as distributed under the Federal Healthy Forest Initiative and from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. As funding priorities are provided to communities with a completed CWPP, Placer County encourages and supports individual FSC in order for them to obtain grants to implement prioritized projects over time.

The Plan

The *Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the West Slope of the Sierra Nevada in Placer County* meets or exceeds federal and state requirements for a community-based plan. The plan discusses the many challenges in the planning areas and community preparedness, provides great amount of detail in hazard assessment, and lists 46 defense zones or urban lot fuel reduction projects, community preparedness and education projects.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no net County cost to the general fund as a result of this action. County OES will use this plan to prioritize future federal and state fuel reduction funding.

Attachments

Resolution

Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Western Slope of the Sierra Nevada in Placer County – **on file with Clerk of the Board for public review.**

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

**In the matter of:
A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2013 UPDATE
TO THE COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN FOR
THE WEST SLOPE OF THE SIERRA NEVADA IN
PLACER COUNTY**

Resol. No: _____

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **April 9, 2013** 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 participated fully in the mitigation planning process with Federal, State, local fire districts and fire safe councils to prepare this Community Wildfire Protection Plan; and

WHEREAS, adopting the 2013 Update to the Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the West Slope of the Sierra Nevada in Placer County is a best practice for acquiring future funding for mitigation projects under multiple federal, state and private grant programs; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 Community Wildfire Protection Plan was signed and approved by the policy review committee consisting of one individual each from the Alliance Core Team and one member representing each of the Fire Safe Councils.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Placer County Board of Supervisors does hereby adopt the 2013 Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the Western Slope of the Sierra Nevada in Placer County and directs the Placer County Office of Emergency Services to maintain the plan in full cooperation with the Fire Safe Alliance Core Team and community Fire Safe Councils.

