

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: David Boesch, County Executive Officer
By Rui Cunha, Assistant Director of Emergency Services

DATE: May 21, 2013

SUBJECT: Projects to be funded from the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 and the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008.

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Re-appropriate a \$5,000 BOS approved use of Secure Rural Schools & Community Self Determination Act of 2000 Title III discretionary funds from FY2011/2012 from matching funding of a Clean Air Grant to now be used to support the existing Title III project "Biomass Strategic Plan Formulation".
2. Re-appropriate a \$15,000 BOS approved use of Secure Rural Schools & Community Self Determination Act of 2000 Title III discretionary funds from FY2009/2010 from matching funding of a Clean Air Grant to now be used to support the existing Title III project "Biomass Program Management".
3. Re-appropriate a \$7,000 BOS approved use of Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 Title III discretionary funds from the FY2009/2010 Chipper Program Augmentation to support Green Waste Drop-Off Days in the eastern portion of the county.
4. Approve two projects from the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Title III discretionary funds, in the amount of \$61,000 for,
 - a. Fire mitigation program oversight - \$51,000
 - b. Search and Rescue on Federal Lands - \$10,000
5. Authorize a 45 day public noticing of the planned use of those funds for each project and return to your Board July 9, 2013 with any input from the community and to request final approval of planned expenditures.

BACKGROUND

Public Laws:

The Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act HR 2389 aka Public Law (PL) 106-393, was enacted in October 2000 to offset the loss of revenues in rural counties due to

declining timber harvests and the decrease of income generation on federal lands. It provided qualifying counties with predictable funding for rural schools and roads for federal fiscal years (FFY) 2001 through 2006 and was extended by Congress through FFY 2007. Despite the extension, spending is limited to previously approved methods or projects.

In October, 2008, Congress enacted the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (PL 110-343) which included reauthorization of the "Secure Rural Schools" program. However, this law has a significantly lower level of funding and restricts the use of funds to supporting:

- Activities under the *Firewise Communities* program
- Reimbursement for search and rescue (SAR) on federal lands
- Development of community wildfire protection plans (CWPP)

Recommended use of funds:

PL 106-393: Request the re-obligation of funds to support the Placer County Biomass Program Management, the Placer County Biomass Strategic Plan update and the Green Waste Drop-Off Days program.

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|---|-----------------|
| • Biomass Program Management - | \$15,000 |
| • Placer County Biomass Strategic Plan Update - | <u>\$ 5,000</u> |
| | \$20,000 |

PL 110-343: Staff recommends the following uses of funds the result of which increases the protection of people and properties from wildfires and supports the Sheriffs' Office search and rescue operations on Federal lands. In summary, funds are to be allocated as indicated:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| • Fire Mitigation Coordinator - | \$51,000 |
| • Search and Rescue on Federal Lands - | \$10,000 |
| • Green Waste Drop-Off Days - | <u>\$ 7,000</u> |
| | \$68,000 |

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund as a result of these actions. There is adequate fund balance in Placer County's Forest Reserve Title III fund to support these activities.

Attachment

Description of recommended projects to receive Title III discretionary funds support.

ATTACHMENT

Description of recommended projects to receive Title III discretionary funds support

PL 106-393

PROJECT #1: PROJECT: BIOMASS STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE:

Issue/Background: This project re-obligates PL 106-393 funds (\$5,000) to be utilized for support in the update of the Placer County Biomass Strategic Plan. Combined with earlier BOS authorized funds, in 2011 and 2012 will now have a balance of \$14,719 with which to complete the update.

The original funds (\$5,000) from FY 2011/2012 were designated to support partial matching funds to a Clean Air Grant with the North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD). The NTFPD has been able to provide more funding than previously thought to support the required match for the grant, therefore a re-obligation to provide other critical support of the Biomass Program is requested.

Alternatives: The update needs the support of biomass subject matter expert consultants to complete and ensure that the direction is appropriate. While county staff has learned a great deal during that past few years, expert input and review is deemed critical to ensure that Placer County proceeds with the correct direction in this field.

Responsible Office: CDRA/Planning Division

Funds to be re-Obligated: \$5,000

PROJECT #2: BIOMASS PROGRAM MANAGEMENT:

Issue/Background: This project re-obligates PL 106-393 funds (\$15,000) to be utilized for support for the Placer County Biomass Program. Each year beginning in 2007 the BOS has supported this endeavor with a supplement of funds to allow for partial funding for a Biomass Program Manager or consulting support to him. This funding is meant to retain some certainty that this program will continue to be successful in implementing the BOS direction of finding greater uses for biomass and lowering the probability for the county from the possibility of catastrophic wildfires.

The original funds (\$15,000) from FY 2009/2010 were designated to support partial matching funds to a Clean Air Grant with the USFS Tahoe National Forest. The project has been able to provide additional funding from other grants and partners to support (even exceed) the required match for the grant, therefore a re-obligation to provide other critical support of the Biomass Program is requested.

Alternatives: Program management would have to be delegated to other staff as an additional duty with potentially detrimental effects on the program.

Responsible Office: CDRA/Planning Division

Funds to be re-Obligated: \$15,000

PL 110-343:

PROJECT #1: FIRE MITIGATION COORDINATOR

Issue/Background: This project continues to fund the Placer County Fire Mitigation Coordinator, a part time contract position, for 2013/2014. The Coordinator represents the County with citizen groups, fire safe councils, the Fire Safe Alliance and fire departments/districts involved in wildfire protection planning. He assists with public education, fire mitigation project planning and implementation as well as coordination between professional and community organizations in implementing fuel reductions. The Coordinator seeks is building a community-based fire mitigation vision with consistent goals.

Alternatives: Allow fire mitigation departments, districts, fire safe councils, etc. to operate alone. However, this method forfeits optimization of programming and scarce funding.

Responsible Office: Office of Emergency Services

Funds to be Obligated: \$51,000

PROJECT #2: SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR) OPERATIONS ON FEDERAL LANDS

Issue/Background: This project makes funds available to support search and rescue operations (performed primarily by Sheriff's volunteers) on federal land in 2013/2014. The funding covers SAR costs such as fuel, equipment and supplies, maps, and food for personnel as well as for search and rescue animals. This project has been funded at the \$10,000 level each year since 2006.

Alternatives: Conduct federal land SAR without reimbursement, but that puts future or other operational capabilities in jeopardy.

Responsible Office: Sheriff's Office

Funds to be Obligated: \$10,000.

PROJECT #3: GREEN WASTE DROP-OFF DAYS:

Issue/Background: This project re-obligates PL 110-343 funds (\$7,000) to be used to support a free Green Waste Drop-Off Days program in the eastern portion of Placer County.

This program was developed to assist local residents with the disposal of green waste generated through defensible space (PRC 4291) clearing and fire prevention projects. With a reduction in chipper services in the Truckee area, this program will provide alternatives to Placer County residents looking to remove green waste material from their homes.

Alternatives: While residents are encouraged to move their green waste material to local disposal/recovery sites, many will elect to pile and burn or leave the material in place.

Responsible Office: Office of Emergency Services

Funds to be re-obligated: \$7,000

Upon approval by your Board, staff will commence the required 45-day public noticing period and return to your Board July 9, 2013 with any input from the community and to request final approval of planned expenditures.