

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: David Boesch, County Executive Officer
By John McEldowney, Program Manager

DATE: May 20, 2014

SUBJECT: Projects to be funded from the Secure Rural Schools & Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 and the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 and authorize 45 day public noticing of the County's intent to use these funds.

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Re-appropriate a \$10,000 BOS approved use of Secure Rural Schools & Community Self Determination Act of 2000 Title III discretionary funds from FY 2010/2011 from Defensible Space Inspections to now be used to manage fuels created by ongoing defensible space projects and the increase in fuels management projects created by the statewide drought. These dollars will be used as matching funds to support a Clean Air Grant for Green Waste Bins and biomass removal for public defensible space clearing and Firewise projects.
2. Approve two projects from the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, Title III discretionary funds, in the amount of \$55,000 for,
 - a. Fire mitigation program oversight - \$45,000
 - b. Search and Rescue on Federal Lands - \$10,000
3. Authorize a 45 day public noticing of the planned use of those funds for each project and return to your Board July 22, 2014 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 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 - | \$45,000 |
| • Search and Rescue on Federal Lands - | \$10,000 |
| • Biomass/Green Waste Bin Program | <u>\$10,000</u> |
| | \$65,000 |

45 Day Public Notice Period

Upon approval by your Board, staff will commence the required 45-day public noticing period and return to your Board July 22, 2013 with any input from the community and to request final approval of planned expenditures.

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 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: \$45,000

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: DEFENSIBLE SPACE CLEARING AND BIOMASS / GREEN WASTE BIN PROGRAM:

Issue/Background: As the impacts of the drought conditions in the County increase, the Placer County Fire Safe Alliance, Fire Safe Councils and participating agencies are encouraging the public to follow through on PRC 4291 requirements. To provide options to the public to complete their defensible space requirements and fuels management, the County has developed options for removal of dead or dying tree and brush trimmings, pine needles, and leaves. Options include Green Waste Bins for community projects or individuals with a large

amount of green waste. To fund this project the Placer County has applied for, and received confirmation of a \$30,000 Clean Air Grant from Placer County Air Pollution Control District. This request re-obligates PL 110-343 funds (\$10,000) to be utilized as matching funds for support of projects that promote woody biomass capture and usage through our biomass box program and our regional collection sites to the nearest biomass-to-electricity facility in the Placer County

Alternatives: Biomass material produced through defensible space and fuels management programs would be piled and burned or left in place to decompose, or residents may choose to not perform their defensible space because they do not have the means to remove the material from their property.

Responsible Office: CDRA/Planning Division

Funds to be re-Obligated: \$10,000