

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: David Boesch, County Executive Officer
by: John McEldowney, Program Manager, Office of Emergency Services

Date: June 17, 2014

Subject: Resolution approving the California Department of Forestry
and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Cooperative Fire Protection
Agreement for FY 2014/15

ACTION REQUESTED

Adopt a Resolution approving the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement (CAL FIRE Contract) for FY 2014-15 in the amount of \$8,897,472, and authorize the Chairman to sign 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. CAL FIRE provides fire protection; prevention; emergency medical services; hazardous materials and all hazard incident response in addition to 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

Residents and businesses of the Placer County Fire area contribute directly to year-round, all-hazard fire and emergency medical services over approximately 475 square miles of unincorporated county area, or nearly one third of the County. The area served has a service population of approximately 52,000 and fire service is provided by both full time and volunteer firefighters. The CAL FIRE contract pays for 63.25 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

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and from six community volunteer stations located in Dutch Flat, Fowler, Paige, Thermalands, Dry Creek and Sheridan. Included in the estimated \$27,000,000 in County-owned property and equipment are approximately 60 County-owned fire engines, support vehicles and trailers.

The Placer County Fire system provides overhead that supports all paid and volunteer fire stations. System overhead includes chief officer coverage 24/7/365; fire prevention staff; a mechanic; administration; procurement; communications and facilities maintenance support.

During Calendar Year (CY) 2013, Placer County Fire responded to 5,330 calls for service including 3,998 calls for medical aid of which 314 involved vehicle accidents with vehicle extrication being required in 12 of the 314 accidents. Placer County Fire was called to 771 fire related calls including structure, commercial structure, wildland smoke checks and debris checks. There were 73 hazardous materials calls, 41 investigations and 447 other types of calls including rescues, and public assist as examples.

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 14/15 contract amount of \$8,897,472 is increased by \$144,969 compared to last year's contract amount. The increase is due to increased administrative rates set by CAL FIRE in Sacramento. The final FY 13/14 contract amount was \$8,752,503.

The projected General Fund contribution to the FY 14/15 contract is \$533,775 or just under 6% of the total contract value. Last year the projected General Fund contribution to the FY13/14 contract was \$602,815 or just under 6.9% of the total contract value.

The contract is fully funded in the Fire Control Fund and all other fire service Zones of Benefit, except for two. For FY 14/15 the Dry Creek Fire and North Auburn Ophir Fire Zones of Benefit will not fully meet their respective service level costs with ongoing revenues requiring the use of limited reserves to balance in FY 14/15.

Zone of Benefit Funding Shortfalls – Dry Creek and North Auburn Ophir Fire

The Dry Creek Fire Zone of Benefit is projected to have revenue shortfalls of \$344,669 in FY 14/15. The Dry Creek budget is being balanced for FY 14/15 using reserves that have been accumulated over several years for contingencies and for facilities, apparatus and equipment replacement. The North Auburn Ophir Fire Zone of Benefit is projected to have revenue shortfalls \$256,183 which includes the use of a one-time Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant that runs through December 2014.

However, of significance for FY 14/15 is that we expect ongoing CAL FIRE labor

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negotiations to impact contract costs, depending on the outcome of said negotiations. This could lead to a contract cost increase of up to 11% during FY 14/15. Once these negotiations are complete and we have definite numbers on cost increases, our plan is to return to your Board and present a contract amendment that fully funds fire service for the remainder of FY 14/15.

Projections

We are projecting that Dry Creek North Auburn Ophir Fire, the Sunset Industrial Area, and the Fire Control Fund will be in deficit for the remainder of FY 14/15 due to these projected contract increases. Staff will bring service reduction options to your Board with the anticipated contract amendment as projected cost increases materialize.

Available for Public Review at the Office of the Clerk of the Board

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement for Fiscal Year 2014/15 in the amount of \$8,897,472 – available for public review at the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

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 2014-2015 (CAL FIRE CONTRACT)

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **June 17, 2014** by the following vote on roll call:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

Chair, 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 twelve 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 2014-2015 in the amount of \$8,897,472 is hereby approved, and that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to sign five 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.