



MEMORANDUM
COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES
County of Placer

TO: Board of Supervisors **DATE:** May 3, 2016
FROM: David Boesch, County Executive Officer
By: John McEldowney, Program Manager, Office of Emergency Services
SUBJECT: Obligate \$53,106.71 in Fiscal Year 2016-17 Secure Rural Schools & Community Self Determination Act of 2000 and the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 Title III program funding

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Obligate \$53,106.71 in Fiscal Year 2016-17 Secure Rural Schools & Community Self- Determination Act of 2000 and the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 Title III program funding to support the County Firewise Community Program and the Placer County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Program.
2. Authorize a 45 day public noticing of the planned use of these funds and return to your Board on June 21, 2016 with any input from the public and to request final approval of planned expenditures.

BACKGROUND

The Firewise Communities Program is designed to provide homeowners in fire sensitive ecosystems education and assistance with implementing techniques in home siting, home construction and home landscaping that can increase the protection of people and property from wildfires. The goal is to involve homeowners, community leaders, planners, developers, and others in the design of a safe community as well as effective emergency response. This is an authorized use of these funds under Title III code. The planned obligated allocation for this program is \$43,106.71.

The Placer County Sheriff's Office operates a robust search and rescue program and often performs search and rescue operations on United States Forest Service lands within Placer County. This funding would provide reimbursement for these search and rescue operations. This is an authorized use of these funds under Title III code. The planned obligated allocation for this program is \$10,000.

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 the three bulleted activities below:

- Activities under the Firewise Communities Program

- Reimbursement for Search And Rescue (SAR) on federal lands
- Development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP)

Obligation of these funds requires a 45 day public noticing to gather input and comments from the public before requesting 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 (340/285) to support these activities.