

**PLACER COUNTY
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY SERVICES**

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors

From: Thomas Miller, County Executive Officer
by: Rui Cunha, Emergency Services Program Manager

Date: January 12, 2010

Subject: **Adopt a resolution approving the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement for Fiscal Year 2009/10 in the amount of \$8,392,171**
Authorize the Chairman to sign five copies of the Agreement.
Authorize the extended period payments into next fiscal year in accordance with Exhibit C item 3B of the contract

ACTION REQUESTED

That your Board:

- Adopt a resolution approving the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) Cooperative Fire Protection Agreement (CAL FIRE Contract) for Fiscal Year 2009/10 in the amount of \$8,392,171;
- Authorize the Chairman to sign five copies of the Agreement.
- Authorize the extended period payments into next fiscal year in accordance with Exhibit C item 3B of the contract.

BACKGROUND

Fire protection in unincorporated Placer County is provided by twelve independent fire protection districts and by the County through a contract with CAL FIRE. The CAL FIRE contract provides the following fire protection services: wildland, structure and vehicle fire suppression, all-hazard accident, hazardous materials, and medical aid response, and provision of 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. Between the early 1950's and late 1970's, County fire protection grew to the point that services were being provided from six stations in Lincoln, Penryn, Foresthill, Bowman, Colfax and Alta. By 1979 the County's contract with CAL FIRE had grown to \$368,136 of which the General Fund contributed \$203,136 or approximately 55% of total contract value.

In the twenty years between 1980 and 2000 the County continued to contract for fire protection services and by the year 2000, fire protection was being provided by fully staffed stations in Lincoln, Bowman, Colfax and Alta, and from five volunteer stations in Dutch Flat, Fowler, Paige, Thermalands and Sheridan. The value of the CAL FIRE contract had likewise grown to \$986,886 of which the General Fund contributed \$443,653 (45%).

Placer County assumed fire protection services in the Dry Creek Fire Protection District area (now Zone of Benefit 165) in 2001 after voters approved dissolution of that District. But, as revenues accruing in Dry Creek were insufficient to fully fund fire protection, a loan from the General Fund was made to cover the difference between revenues and expenses for the period between 2001 and 2005. However, by Fiscal Year 2005/06 revenues began to exceed expenses and repayment of the loan began. The loan balance continues to be reduced and now stands at \$279,292 after the third \$100,000 annual payment was made in June 2009.

In early 2003, the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) solicited and ultimately entered into a formal agreement with Placer County for fire protection and advanced life support services for its Casino on Athens Avenue in the Sunset Industrial Area (Zone of Benefit 97). Services would be provided from a station the UAIC would build at the Casino which was ultimately completed in 2003. UAIC continues to fully fund annual operations and maintenance costs for the Station.

At the request of the Placer Consolidated Fire Protection District Board of Directors in 2006, Placer County Fire absorbed and assumed provision of fire protection services in the Placer Consolidated area as the newly renamed *North Auburn/Ophir Fire (NA/OF)* (Zone of Benefit 193). Fiscal Year (FY) 2006/07 was the first full year of operations for NA/OF but the addition of the North Auburn and Ophir stations, as well as an engine company at Station 10 in Bowman added over \$2,000,000 to the County's contract cost. However, revenues from the North Auburn, Ophir and Lone Star communities are adequate to cover the additional costs.

Finally in 2008, the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) in their continued emphasis on public safety at the Thunder Valley Casino and in the surrounding area, agreed to expand services at the Casino station. This expanded service added a two person engine company in FY 08/09 and further expands it this contract year (FY 09/10) to a four person Truck Company. Thunder Valley Casino fully funds personnel and operations costs, with Placer County and the rest of the Sunset Industrial Area contributing to command, management and apparatus replacement costs.

Current System

Placer County currently provides year-round, all-hazard fire and emergency services over approximately 475 square miles of unincorporated county area, or nearly one third of the County. The area served has a population of approximately 45,000, and service is provided by both full time and volunteer firefighters. There are 66 full time firefighters who operate 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.

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Approximately 100 volunteer firefighters operate from six volunteer stations in Dutch Flat, Fowler, Paige, Thermalands, Lone Star and Sheridan. Included in the estimated \$20,000,000 in County-owned property and equipment are over 50 County-owned fire engines, support vehicles and apparatus.

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.

EXTENDED PERIOD PAYMENTS

By authorizing the extended period payments in accordance with Exhibit C, Section 3B of the contract, your Board is authorizing Placer County to pay CAL FIRE invoices for fire service into that portion of the next fiscal year when this contract has expired and a new contract is pending State Budget resolution. It is staff's analysis that by signing this contract we are communicating our intent to continue service into the next fiscal year. However, the County retains the option to communicate by separate letter any intent to modify service as deemed appropriate.

FISCAL IMPACT

The \$8,393,171 contract value represents an approximate 14.66% increase over the FY 08/09 contract of \$7,319,780. The increase of \$1,073,391 is principally attributable to an increase in service level at the Casino Station. Specifically, the existing 3-person (paramedic) staffing is increased by an additional 4 firefighting personnel for a total of 7 person 24/7 staffing. These staffing costs and associated increased operational funding are responsible for the majority of the increase and are fully funded by the United Auburn Indian Community.

The projected General Fund contribution to the FY09/10 contract is approximately \$476,000 or 5.7% of the total contract value.

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

Placer County/California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Contract FY 09/10

Attachment Resolution

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

In the matter of:

Resol. No: _____

A RESOLUTION RENEWING A COOPERATIVE FIRE PROTECTION AGREEMENT (CONTRACT) WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010

The following **RESOLUTION** was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Placer at a regular meeting held **January 12, 2010** 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 all-hazard emergency response, including wildland fire response and structural fire protection in the unincorporated areas of Placer County is provided by 12 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 2009-2010 in the amount of \$8,392,171 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.